



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2014

President's Message—Al Matecko

You represent the finest our nation has. You have dedicated your lives to what is truly The Greatest Good! All of you have had a hand in providing the goods and services our country has needed. When fires or volcanoes exploded, you were there; not only to address the immediate crisis, but more importantly to help those who were impacted. The highest calling we all face is taking the time to care about one another, and you exemplify that to the highest degree possible.

As your President, I am in your debt for all you have taught me, and I am honored to carry on the tradition passed on by all of you. One of you whom I'd like to thank is **Linda Goodman**, our Past President, for her fine work, helpful advice, and caring spirit during the past year.

One of the questions we always asked folks before we hired them was "What type of outreach did you do?" Of each of us OldSmokeys, I'd like to ask "How do you reach out to the current workforce?"

Many of you are already doing this. Others would like to, but can't. As your President, one of my goals is to increase the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's visibility with the current U.S. Forest Service workforce. I will work with our Membership Chairman and our Forest Representatives to ensure that we contact all the Forest Supervisors and Station Managers. Doing so has the dual purpose of (1) increasing membership and (2) helping pass on the legacy and stories of the past. Books have been written about our history, but I would surmise most of our current workforce hasn't heard of them or read them. Thus it becomes our challenge to reach out to them and help them flourish.

I cherish each of you and what you accomplished in your careers. Now is the time for others to hear our stories, understand our heritage, and reach for and attain new goals.

If you have thoughts, ideas, or suggestions, please let me know.

See you at the picnic!

Al Matecko

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

See Page 4 to Sign Up Now for August 8 Picnic!

Forum

An Agency to Match the Mountains Vision Seeks U.S. Forest Service Champions

Rarely—if ever—is a vision realized without a champion or champions willing to consider it, refine it, and advance it. Although the vision for “An Agency to Match the Mountains” was promulgated throughout the leadership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Forest Service, the concept seems not to be gaining traction in Washington, D.C., and no national-level champion has emerged.

It appears we must look elsewhere for champions. Since some of the positive responses to the vision were voiced at the regional office level, perhaps regional championship of regional implementation of the vision—reflecting a benefit of Gifford Pinchot’s decentralized bureaucracy concept—should be sought. Regional foresters certainly possess some prerogatives to provide for development of their personnel.

Right here in Region 6, just-retired Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** recognized the need for a revived a regional-level “new employee orientation” program. Of course, the Agency to Match the Mountains vision calls for a more in-depth approach than a weekend welcoming session at Skaminia Lodge. It calls for a U.S. Forest Service Academy that—as explained in the “An Agency to Match the Mountains” white paper published on pages 11-14 on your Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—would help transform new professional and technical Forest Service personnel into forest officers by “reviving and instilling traditional Forest Service core values [and knowledge and skills] to facilitate their development as able members of a corps of ‘forest rangers.’”

Successful championship and realization of this aspect of the Agency to Match the Mountains vision in one region might well provide the prototype for revision as needed and replication throughout the regions in a way that would achieve a national standard while accommodating regional needs.

Regional versions of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy might, at least for starters, be designed for presentation at underused or disused regional facilities—such as the old Region Six Personnel Training Station featured on page 31 of the Winter 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, or the historic Pringle Falls Experimental Forest compound on the Deschutes National Forest, or some similar place—in one month instead of three months. Or an even shorter version might be developed for presentation on a forest-by-forest basis by an appropriate traveling team of two or three instructors. Even today, there are ways to crack this nut!

Perhaps one or more regional foresters could champion the Agency to Match the Mountains vision at the regional level by sponsoring a small development team of committed and focused talent to develop and present an initial iteration of a U.S. Forest Service Academy curriculum such as that outlined in the proposal published in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and NAFSR’s *The Lookout* and sent to the outfit’s leadership.

--Les Joslin



Outgoing PNWFSA President Linda Goodman was flanked by incoming President Al Matecko (right) and incoming President-elect Jim Rice (left) at the May 18, 2014, Spring Banquet.

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokey Al Matecko Took Reins of PNWFSA at May 18 Banquet

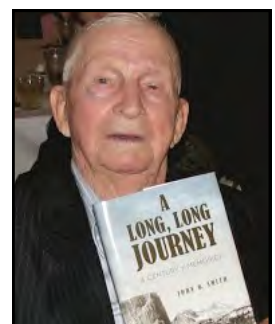
OldSmokey **Al Matecko** assumed the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association presidency from OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** as 78 members and four guests—having just enjoyed a delicious dinner—looked on with approval at the PNWFSA’s annual Spring Banquet on May 18, 2014.

In his brief inaugural address, Al focused on “the three R’s” of “renewing, reinvigorating, and reenergizing” the PNWFSA through aggressive new member recruitment and program development. OldSmokey **Jim Rice**, who took office as President-elect, echoed Al’s objectives in his own brief remarks.

Soon to retire after 36.5 years in the U.S. Forest Service, Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** spoke of the need to inspire new Forest Service personnel to aspire to be what OldSmokeys have been and to “make real differences” as OldSmokeys have made on behalf of the nation’s forests.

A big surprise at this year’s Spring Banquet was 101-year-old OldSmokey **Jack Smith** arriving with two copies of his just-published autobiography for which he and Grace were taking orders. *A Long, Long Journey: A Century of Memories*, Jack’s U.S. Forest Service memoir published in May 2014, is available and reviewed on page 8 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

—Photographs by Paul Enberg



Otherwise, at the May 18 Spring Banquet, the OldSmokeys shown in the OldSmokey **Paul Enberg** photographs below—as well as others not pictured—had a great time!



Debra Warren, Kent Connaughton, Sue Triplett, and across the table Mark Engdall make their selections at the banquet table (left). Ruth Voltz was obviously enjoying the party (right)!



Bob and Judy Hetzer



Lloyd and Betty Soule



Wendall and Jessie Jones



Audrey and Dave Scott



OldSmokeys Newsletter Editor Les Joslin joked with soon-to retire Regional Forester Kent Connaughton: "Please go through with it. I've already got the article written." The picture should have been taken just a couple seconds later!

OldSmokey Kent Connaughton Retired from U.S. Forest Service as Pacific Northwest Regional Forester on June 28, 2014

OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton**, who became Pacific Northwest Regional Forester on February 17, 2011, retired from the U.S. Forest Service on June 28, 2014, after 36.5 years in the Forest Service.

A farewell message

"I leave with a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment for having dedicated so much of my life to public service," Kent said in a Monday, April 21, 2014, announcement of his intention to retire. "How privileged I feel to have spent each day benefiting current and future generations by conserving the nation's forests. I also leave with an extraordinary sense of gratitude for having worked with and personally known so many fine people in and out of the Forest Service. We shall forever be friends.

"I return to private life with my wife, Sue. We met in our first year as new Forest Service employees. She has been as committed to the work and purpose of the Forest Service as I. I recognize it is time to acknowledge the true treasure I have and will enjoy. I shall be there for her each day, now and into the future.

"It is my honor to have worked with so many of you. Thank you and may you continue in the fine tradition of finding the greatest good, which is the legacy of those who have gone before us."

Kent and his wife, Susan M. Little, joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association on August 12, 2010. Susan is a forester and teacher.

A full career

Kent was Regional Forester for the Eastern Region when Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell tapped him for the Pacific Northwest Region top job.

Before his regional forester assignments, Kent was the Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in Washington, D.C. He also served as Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, Forest Supervisor of the Lassen National Forest, and as a scientist specializing in forest economics at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. He also was responsible for the economic assistance programs associated with the Northwest Forest Plan's implementation.

Kent earned a B.A. degree from Stanford University, an M.F. degree at Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. degree at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and was elected a fellow of that professional society in 1991.

Kent is the son of the late Charles A. Connaughton who capped a distinguished 43-year Forest Service career by serving as Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region from 1967 to 1971.

Prepared from Regional Forester Kent Connaughton's April 21, 2014, e-mail "A personal message on my future," Chief Tom Tidwell's February 17, 2011, letter "Leadership Change," and other sources.



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Summer Picnic in the Woods 2014

OldSmokeys Must Reserve for Summer Picnic 2014 by July 31!

Now's the time to reserve your place(s) at the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's annual Summer Picnic in the Woods on Friday, August 8, 2014, at BLM's **Wildwood Recreation Area** near Mt. Hood.

Do it now, with the reservation form 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 for just **\$12.50** each. Socializing will begin at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

As most OldSmokeys know, Wildwood Recreation Area is about 40 miles east of Portland on U.S. Highway 20 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've not already signed up, fill out and send in this registration form for the picnic now!

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

OldSmokeys Staffing Ranger Station at High Desert Museum for Sixth Consecutive Summer Season

OldSmokeys **Carl Anderson, Rico Burgess, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Don Doyle, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Joan Landsberg, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**, joined by additional volunteers Dave Gilbert, Valeri Jones, and Donna Noyes, have signed on again this summer to staff the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)-sponsored High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

For five hours daily from June 28 through Labor Day, these volunteers are providing a visible and informative U.S. Forest Service presence at this High Desert Museum exhibit at which they share the story of the Forest Service and the National Forest System with Museum visitors. If you'd like to join this dedicated group, several of whom are serving their sixth season, contact Les at 541-330-0331 or <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

OldSmokeys Played Big Role at Annual Friends of Fish Lake Meeting and Work Week

A record size group of 39 Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) volunteers—many of them Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members—showed up for their ninth annual June work week and annual meeting at the Willamette National Forest's historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot that took place June 9-15 this spring, according to FFL President and OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**.

The membership meeting on Tuesday, June 10, followed a lunch hosted by the McKenzie River Ranger District, featured a thirty minute talk by retired U.S. Forest Service national historian and OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** on the historic context of the Fish Lake Historic Site. In other business, OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** summarized the value of grants and volunteers to the project from 2010 through 2014, OldSmokey **Steve Mealey** explained the continuing evolution and marketing of the Fish Lake Cascade Institute concept, and OldSmokey **Dick Grace** presented FFL Board of Directors candidates and presided over the election of same. At the end of the meeting, McKenzie River Ranger District archaeologist Cara Kelley updated the membership on the Fish Lake Historic Site nomination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also during the meeting, a \$10,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust to fund a market analysis and economic feasibility study of the planned Fish Lake Cascade Institute to be conducted by the University of Oregon Community Service Center was announced. The focus of the planned institute is on youth and training in wildland management and the ecology of the Central Oregon Cascades. The two programs are being "beta tested" this summer.

During the rest of the week, FFL members and volunteers worked on five projects funded by PNWFSA and Kinsman

Foundation grants and several smaller projects on legendary Fish Lake Forest Guard Jim Denny's annual work list. The five projects included replacing the sliding doors into the tack room and front of the blacksmith shop (two projects), replacing the siding on the north side of the tack and saddle rooms and the west end of the oil and gas house (two more projects), and continued rehabilitation of the Hall House.

Prepared from inputs from FFL President Mike Kerrick.

OldSmokeys Attended April 23-25 "Smokey's Cascade Campout" in Bend

OldSmokeys were among the hundreds of members and visitors who attended the Smokey Bear Association (SBA) national convention—called "Smokey's Cascade Campout"—at The Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in Bend, Oregon, from April 23-25, 2014. Jack Winchell, SBA president, presided over the event.

At the opening morning session, OldSmokey **Les Joslin** presented his illustrated talk "The Bear and I" to stimulate each SBA member to reflect on his or her own relationship with America's iconic wildfire preventing bear. Other convention speakers included SBA founder Jim Van Meter, a retired California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection captain, of Fernley, Nevada; Don Hanson, who once ran the Smokey Bear program in the U.S. Forest Service WO, of Cumming, Georgia; and Bill Lawter, author of the 1994 50th anniversary biography *Smokey Bear 20252*.

A highlight of the convention was the Wednesday afternoon, April 23, Seventy Years of Smokey Bear celebration at the Des Chutes Historical Museum in partnership with the Deschutes County Historical Society, the Deschutes National Forest, the Sunriver Nature Center, and the Boy Scouts, among others. In addition to enjoying hundreds of pieces of Smokey's birthday cake, many took in the year-long "Smokey Bear is 70 Years Old!" exhibit on the Museum's second floor. Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, dozens of kids wore plastic Smokey hats.

Another highlight was the Thursday afternoon, April 24, public attendance at the convention's display and sales room at which non-SBA members—the general public—were welcome to browse Smokey collector's exhibits and purchase Smokey merchandise. Among OldSmokeys who dropped in for this were Chief Emeritus **Gail Kimbell**, PNWFSA NAFSR Representative **Ranotta McNair**, retired fire prevention professional **Pete Martin, Jeani & Paul Engstrom**, and **Pat Joslin**.

The mission of the SBA is "to preserve Smokey Bear's past, promote his present, and protect his future." Collecting and trading Smokey Bear memorabilia is a favorite member pastime, and large collections of Smokey items were on display. Vendors such as Woodland Enterprises of Moscow, Idaho, and members offered Smokey items for sale and trade, respectively. SmokeyZone of Bend, Oregon, which produces the six-foot, three dimensional, heavy-duty Smokeys increasingly seen at ranger stations and other land management offices as well as fire stations across the country, provided the centerpiece exhibit for the convention.



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

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The 1935 U.S. Forest Service fire truck on exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

Photo by Les Joslin

OldSmokey Pete Martin Ponders Future of the 1935 Smokey Bear Fire Truck

The 1935 U.S. Forest Service Chevrolet fire truck, exhibited at the High Desert Museum for 10 years, needs a new home. The current “long-term loan” agreement, under which it has been exhibited at the Museum, expires “at the end of this year,” according to Karen Curtiss, Deputy Fire Staff Officer, Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS), Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests and Prineville District BLM, and the Museum has “expressed interest in returning it to us.” The Deschutes National Forest has agreed to house the historic fire truck at its Bend compound.

“It’s great the Deschutes National Forest will take care of it for a while. But long term, this rare piece of Forest Service history needs a new home where it can be properly preserved and continue to tell its story to the public,” OldSmokey **Pete Martin** says of the historic fire truck he and OldSmokey **Gary Starkovich** painstakingly restored to celebrate Smokey Bear’s 50th anniversary in 1994. Hence the “Smokey Bear fire truck” moniker. “It’s an historic artifact that cannot be repaired or replaced if somehow damaged or stolen.”

The historic fire truck—to make a long story short—was restored from an old Forest Service truck cab and chassis found in a Lakeview, Oregon, back yard, and a second 1935 truck in Prineville, Oregon, both of which were purchased with private funds. It was given to the Forest Service which financed the restoration under contract by the Ochoco Manufacturing Corporation in Prineville in the winter of 1994 with numerous private donations of work, materials, and parts.

Now, after 10 great years at the High Desert Museum, it needs a permanent new home.

Prepared from multiple sources including May 27, 2014, e-mail from Karen Curtiss; May 29, 2014, e-mail from Pete Martin; June 3, 2014, interview with Pete Martin; Memorandum of Understanding No. NFS 04-MU-11060000-310 between USDA Forest Service and the High Desert Museum dated March 24, 2004; and “Smokey’s 50th Anniversary Fire Truck” by Pete Martin in the Spring 1996 Timberbeast: The Journal of Logging Archaeology.

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Took Trail Expertise to Patagonia in March

“The world is changing fast and never before has it been so easy to travel to the antipodes of the earth in such comfort and luxury,” OldSmokey **Jon Stewart** enthused on returning from a March 2014 trip to Patagonia, a barren tableland between the Andes and the Atlantic Ocean in southern Chile. “Jet travel has brought a surge of international travelers to remote corners of the world like Torres Del Paine National Park, a world biosphere reserve there where vertical peaks rise over 10,000 feet above the Patagonian plains near the Strait of Magellan.

Why Patagonia? “This year the number of backpackers on the rugged backcountry trails of this remote national park jumped by over a fifth from 155,000 to over 200,000. This dramatic increase in use underlies the need for better facilities, including better trails than those sketched out by sheepherders over a century ago,” Jon explains. That’s why Jon, old Forest Service friend retired San Bernardino National Forest supervisor Gene Zimmerman, two other team leaders, and 18 volunteers from the Conservation Volunteers International Program were on the ground there for 12 days to help rebuild trails on both public and private lands accessing Torres Del Paine National Park.

Jon tells it best. “The volunteers worked a few hundred feet above sea level, rebuilding trails above fjord-like green glacial lakes that encircle the park. Using hand tools well known to OldSmokeys like pick-mattocks, rock bars, hoes, handsaws and axes, and loppers, they pruned brush, installed water bars, and removed boulders from over two miles of backcountry trails and constructed over 1,700 feet of graded tread that bypass steep sections of muddy, heavily eroded trail to make the route suitable for both backpacker and horseback travel.

“These volunteers came together from throughout the United States. Their average age was 57; three women and two men in the group were over 70. They were recruited and their travel was arranged through a partnership with REI. They and their leaders stayed in *refugios*—hostels for hikers—that include bunk beds, dining and washing facilities and are spaced about a day’s hike apart along trails in and around the park.

“Patagonia’s vertical stone peaks are laced with glaciers and topped with crumbling ice fields that regularly fill the air with the thunderous roar of avalanches. Even though it was late summer in the southern hemisphere, Antarctic winds often brought rain, sleet, and blustery winds that once exceeded 80 miles per hour. This erratic mountain weather was interspersed with days of brilliant sunshine and mid-day temperatures in the ‘70s.

“This remote corner of the world displayed a whole new world of fauna for the volunteers. Andean condors, nesting in clefts of the Torres del Paine spires, soared over the Patagonian plains searching for food left by puma (a larger relative of the cougar) that hunt native guanacos (wild relatives of the llama) and rheas (related to the ostrich). Traveling to and from the park between modern Chilean cities that line the coast just north of Tierra Del Fuego, they also visited penguin colonies and saw native fox.

“Volunteer trips like this are made possible by the Conservation Volunteers International program. Gene and another Forest Service retiree, Barbara Kennedy, currently serve on the board of this non-profit that recruits volunteers to tackle a wide range of projects from restoring archaeological sites at Machu Picchu in Peru to rebuilding trails in Yosemite and Virgin Islands national parks. An added benefit of volunteering for this non-profit and becoming an international emissary of conservation is the cost of your trip is tax deductible. Interested? Check out the website at <www.conservationvip.org>.”

OldSmokeys Mike and Rheta Johnson Among the Hundreds Evacuated from the Two Bulls Fire West of Bend, Oregon

As reported on the front page of the Sunday, June 8, 2014, issue of Bend, Oregon’s *The Bulletin*, OldSmokeys **Mike & Rheta Johnson** were among many immediately west of that city evacuated on the afternoon of Saturday, June 7, as the Two Bulls Fire—which burned over 6,900 acres—threatened their homes.

“Given an hour to get out,” as reporter Dylan J. Darling wrote in a sidebar to the “Twin blazes in Bend” headline story, “they had to quickly decide what was worth grabbing.”

Mike and Rheta gathered up “the baby books, the wedding albums” along with “their tax records, mortgage documents and other important paperwork and shoved them into their Volvo station wagon before leaving their home in the woods” of the Saddleback neighborhood, the article reported.

Not long after they reached safety, Mike realized he’d failed to grab his tickets for the July 17 Ringo Starr concert at the Les Schwab Amphitheater in Bend. When he tried to return home to get the tickets, he ran into an altercation with the authorities.

After two nights staying with friends, Mike and Rheta were able to return to their Saddleback home.

Prepared from “Twin blazes in Bend” by Dylan J. Darling in the June 8, 2014, issue of The Bulletin and information provided by OldSmokeys Dennis Dietrich and Mike Johnson.

OldSmokeys, Others Sponsored St. George, Utah, Ironman 70.3 Triathlete to Help Wildland Firefighter Foundation

Several OldSmokeys were among those who donated a total of \$800 to the Wildland Firefighter Foundation by sponsoring Wendy Joslin in the 2014 Ironman 70.3 competition in St. George, Utah, on May 3. The Boise-based Wildland Firefighter Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to fallen firefighters’ families and to firefighters injured in the line of duty.

Wendy completed the rugged 70.3-mile swimming-bicycling-running race in just over 6 hours and 40 minutes. A veteran of 15 years in fire management, Wendy is a 2002 forestry graduate of Oregon State University who earned a master’s degree in forestry at the University of Idaho in 2004. She currently serves as a fuels technician on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

OldSmokey Jack Smith Publishes His Memoir *A Long, Long Journey*

By Les Joslin

“Why wait?” I asked myself when I learned at the May 18 OldSmokeys banquet—after I’d written and set up the *Books* section for this issue—that OldSmokey **Jack Smith** had just published his memoir *A Long, Long Journey: A Century of Memories*.

“Why wait until the Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to bring Jack’s book to the attention of my readers when I can do the same thing in a more timely manner as a news report rather than as a book review?”

No good reason! Indeed, when a 101-year-old guy writes and publishes a book, that is news! So, I’m happy to report that, at age 101, Jack has become a published author. He’s published a 170-page, photographically illustrated memoir of his century of memories that—no surprise here—focuses on his fascinating 35-year U.S. Forest Service career. See, there he is, right on the cover in Colorado with his favorite Missouri foxtrotter Coco in what I like to call the “real office” of a real forest officer: the great outdoors of our National Forest System.

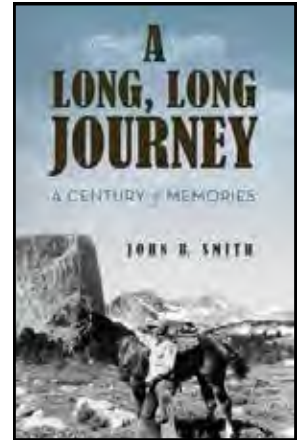
Just what made Jack’s Forest Service career so fascinating? Well, if you don’t know—and many of you do know, I ain’t gonna tell you. Instead, I’m going to urge you to buy a copy, read it, and find out for yourself. And, even if you do know, I’m going to urge you to buy a copy and read it, anyway, just so you get the story “straight from the horse’s mouth,” as the old saying goes.

And when you do, I’m sure you’ll agree with me, as I put it in the introduction to my own just-published autobiography, “everyone has a story.” I encourage everyone to share his or her story. Jack, of course, didn’t need my encouragement. But you may, and Jack’s book may provide the extra push you need to do just that. Just as I know Jack’s family and many friends and others who followed him in the Forest Service do, your family and friends and followers would appreciate your story, too.

Jack’s book, *A Long, Long Journey: A Century of Memories* (Paperback ISBN-13 978-1-62901-100-4/ISBN-10 1-62901-100-2; Hardback ISBN-13 978-1-62901-101-1/ISBN-10 1-62901-101-0; Kindle ISBN-13 978-1-62901-109-7/ISBN-10 1-62901-109-6) was published on April 24, 2014, by Inkwater Press, Portland, Oregon (<www.inkwaterpress.com>), and is available from that publisher at \$11.95 for the paperback edition. It’s also available from online retailers Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com, and Powell’s Books at slightly varying prices and shipping charges.

“To me, Jack is one of the last-living of a generation of unsung heroes that helped make this country unique in the history of the world. I hope you see this book as I do.”

—*Jack Dunbar*



OldSmokeys Treasurer Dick Bennett Presents 2013 PNWFSA Financial Report

“Financially, we did quite well in 2013,” said OldSmokey **Dick Bennett** whose tenure as Treasurer of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) began July 1, 2013. We published four outstanding newsletters and a membership directory, held a banquet and picnic for members, and funded three grants. We did all this and still increased our asset balance by over \$6,000—most of which came from gains in our investments.” Dick offers details in the following report and statements.

We granted \$5,680 from our Grants/Project Fund: \$2,000 to Friends of Fish Lake to restore siding on the storage building at the Fish Lake Historic Area; \$1,000 to help restore a trail in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness; and \$2,860 to help restore the Wild-horse Lookout and install a vault toilet.

We made a payment of \$500 from the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund to a Forest Service employee whose house was destroyed by fire.

During the year, members donated \$265 to our Operating Fund, \$1,949 to our Grants/Project Fund, and \$2,571 to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund. We sincerely thank donors to those funds for their generosity.

When our investment accounts were established, we took a conservative approach and invested most of our money in low – risk, long-term bond funds. Since then, interest rates have been falling, and our funds lost value. In order to decrease this loss, we decided to take two-thirds of our long-term bond fund investment and place a third each in a short-term bond fund and a stock index fund. Since this step was taken, our total investments have continued to increase in value.

I want to thank OldSmokey **Bill Funk** for the outstanding job he did in setting up our Quickbooks accounts and his patience in helping me learn how to manage our accounts and prepare reports.

—Dick Bennett

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2013

ASSETS

Checking	\$	10,379
Investments	\$	120,006
Total Assets	\$	130,385

EQUITY

Operating Fund	\$	6,892
Raffle/Auction Fund	\$	3,000
Grant/Project Fund	\$	7,948
Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund	\$	7,923
Lifetime Trust Fund	\$	104,622
Total Equity	\$	130,385

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

January 1 through December 31, 2014

GENERAL OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSE

Income

Dues Collections for 2013	\$	4,360
Banquet/Picnic Receipts	\$	5,854
Gifts and Donations	\$	265
Forest Service Participating Agreement	\$	4,000
Raffle/Auction Income	\$	1,662
Fund Transfer Income	\$	3,444
Total Income	\$	19,585

Expenses

Administration Expenses	\$	360
Bank and State Fees	\$	96
Tax Return Preparation	\$	430
Liability Insurance	\$	525
Newsletter and Directory	\$	8,335
Technology Expenses	\$	323
Banquet Expenses	\$	2,955
Picnic Expenses	\$	3,000
Gifts and Donations	\$	448
Fund Transfer Expense	\$	2,395
Total Expenses	\$	18,867

Net Income Less Expenses \$ **718**

RESTRICTED FUND INCOME/EXPENSE

Grant/Project Fund

Income

Hat Sales	\$	232
Book Sales	\$	315
Gifts and Donations	\$	1,949
Fund Transfer Income	\$	7,863
Total Income	\$	10,359

Expenses

Friends of Fish Lake Grant	\$	2,000
Siskiyou Mountain Club Grant	\$	1,000
Sand Mountain Society Grant	\$	2,680
Total Grants	\$	5,680
Net Income Less Expenses	\$	4,679

Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund

Income Donations	\$	2,571
Expense Emergency Payment	\$	500
Net Income Less Expense	\$	2,071

Lifetime Fund

Income

Lifetime Dues	\$	2,050
Interest/Dividends	\$	3,572
Realized Capital Gain (Loss)	\$	(928)
Total Income	\$	4,694

Expense

Transfer to Grant/Project Fund	\$	5,808
Net Income Less Expense	\$	(1,114)

OldSmokeys Say

Canopy Gap Forestry (Part 3)

Plants and Soils in Forestry

By Desi Zamudio

I tell kids who visit the High Desert Ranger Station (at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon), “Early rangers were top hand cowboys who knew their plants.” I sometimes point out that a missing item at that historic ranger station is a herbarium. The two-hundred plant list was an active part of ranger station history. This skill set goes back decades, and to illustrate it the station could use a collection sheet from Ranger Basil Crane’s (1984) pack trip to Table Mountain with professors Maguire and Holmgren during the Great Depression. It would show ranger skills as well as the history of the *Intermountain Flora* finished in 2012.

Being able to identify plants and describe their soils was a commonly held skill on the Toiyabe National Forest. In the 1980s Barry Davis initiated integrated surveys to build on the plant and soil tradition. One survey focused on riparian habitats, and in workshops many of us on the Toiyabe—including me—grew familiar with riparian plants. Collaboration extended to researchers. An early finding was the distinction between *Carix sp.* meadows and mesic *Juncus sp.* meadows that has helped up in ten years of research studies (Chambers and Miller, 2004).

On a geographic scale, soil and plant relationships were refined in Dust Bowl era studies, and in 1941 Hans Jenny showed the interwoven formation of soil and plant types. Consider deer brush, *Ceanothus sp.*, and sagebrush, *Artemisia sp.* *Ceanothus* species found in forest canopy gaps are bumblebee magnets and in the West, if you eat deer you eat *Ceanothus*, a shrub with rapid recovery after fire and great soil building nitrogen fixation. And you can read soils and geologic contacts with *Ceanothus* species. A hill-slope of snow brush, *Ceanothus velutinosus*, indicates a darn rocky soil, and *Ceanothus jepsonii* is associated with serpentine rock. *Ceanothus* provides a window to endemic habitats that depend on contact geology and distinctive soil chemistry. Half of the rare plants in California are associated with distinct geology and most others depend on fire dynamics (Kruckerberg, 2006). And buck brush, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, and fellow leathery, alternate leaf *Cerastus* subgenus are drought indicators (Burge, 2014). Similarly, sagebrush shows interwoven soil and plant formation where species and subspecies consistently indicate soil depth or clay content.

Rangeland vegetation types are often built in association with soil surveys. Two of five soil forming factors—material and climate—are used as a short-hand for naming vegetation types. For example, loamy 10-to-12 inch precipitation where grasses huddle in the lee of Wyoming sagebrush. Up alluvial fans, grasses extend out from Mountain sagebrush in loamy 12-to-16 inch precipitation zones. On warmer south-facing slopes, loamy 12-to-16 precipitation zone supports pinyon-juniper woodlands that have expanded with fire suppression.

After exploring riparian habitats, research collaboration on the Toiyabe National Forest extended to the woodland in a spa-

tial pattern similar to canopy gaps. Robin Tausch (YEAR) identified a three-phase spatial pattern in pinyon-juniper woodlands. Phase I is open woodlands with abundant grass sagebrush steppe ground cover. As younger pinyon or juniper trees fill in, there is a shift from ground cover to canopy cover. Phase II is an even mix of ground and canopy cover where fires burn along the ground or in mixed severity burns that trigger renewal of green manure plants and hydrologic functions. And in Phase III, canopies and roots overlap with minimal ground cover plants, and fires tend to consume trees and topsoil.

Collaboration expanded to 18 investigators in SageSTEP (2010) who are now testing woodland fuel reduction, fire dynamics, and plant species recovery across the geography of the *Intermountain Flora*. Recovery processes of ground cover plants that retain the soil capital may be of particular interest to growers in canopy gap forestry.

Ants and butterflies are used as indicators in SageSTEP (2010) to test woodland fuel reduction, fire dynamics, and plant species recovery. As indicators, insects span the geologic time line from cone plants to flowering plants to grasses, and they are the most abundant animals. Popular mammal and bird indicators correspond to the age of grasses. Insect indicators may be of particular interest to growers in canopy gap forestry. In central Nevada, I saw insect gradients correspond beautifully to aspen and woody type riparian condition gradients.

With endangered everything today, the Forest Service might profit from exploring insects as food web indicators, their associate plants such as *Ceanothus sp.* in canopy gaps and endemic habitats.

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- Tausch, R. [?]
- Editor’s Note: The author is one of a number of OldSmokeys who staff the High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum each summer. Interpretation beyond the basics of the role ranger stations play on national forests is often a function of the background of the staffing OldSmokey.*

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service News in this issue is presented in *National News* and *Pacific Northwest Region News* sections.

National News

U.S. Forest Service Personnel Lack Confidence in Leadership, Survey Reported in 2013

U.S. Forest Service personnel don't think very highly of their agency's leadership, according to survey results released on September 25, 2013, by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

The survey revealed strong doubts regarding management competence, integrity, and policies.

These results are found in a document called "Forest Service FEVS [Federal Employment Viewpoint Survey] Analysis and Recommendations" dated March 28, 2013, but circulated more recently inside the agency. Compiled by consulting company CI International, it summarizes agency-wide survey results.

The survey found that overwhelming majorities of employee respondents like what they do, believe it is important, and feel there is mutual respect with their immediate supervisors. Those positive perspectives are reversed, however, with respect to views expressed about Forest Service senior leadership:

- "Senior leaders are not well respected (only 37%). An overwhelming majority of employees do not agree with their policies and practices (only 29%);"
- "Just over half of employees agree agency is accomplishing its mission (55%) and is a good place to work (57%);"
- Leadership is unable to generate "high-levels of motivation and commitment in the workforce (only 30%) or as standards of honesty and integrity (only 45%)."

"This is one of the most resounding workforce votes of no confidence I have ever seen," stated PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch.

Support by Other Studies

The results of this poll are consistent with employees ranking the Forest Service 260 out of 300 federal agencies in the 2013 Best Places to Work survey conducted by the Partnership for Public Service. This survey ranked the Forest Service's senior leadership at 286 out of 300.

The impression that federal agency "supervisors have no conception of what is really going on" seems to apply to the Forest Service "whose supervisors ranked among the bottom 10 agencies" in a Federal Times analysis of the results of the Office of Personnel Management's 2012 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey of almost 690,000 employees of 292 agencies—by far the biggest response rate ever for that survey—reported in a March 31, 2013 posting on federaltimes.com. A September 2012 Forest Service retiree quoted in that posting said many managers and agency leaders don't understand the work employees have to do every day. "People come in with their agen-

das and pet projects, and they implement them without understanding what employees see as the real problems," that retiree said. "Instead of helping, many managers are obstacles to employees who want to do the best job they can."

"In order to begin winning back their employees," PEER's Ruch concluded, "the Forest Service needs to lop off management deadwood."

Prepared from "Forest Service Employees Vote No Confidence on Leadership" posted on September 25, 2013, on Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) website; "Feds rank worst bosses, best bosses" by Andy Medici posted on March 31, 2013, on federaltimes.com; Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Agency Report: Forest Service (USDA) for 2013 posted by the Partnership for Public Service; and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Recognized for Environmental Justice Accomplishments at National Conference

Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Butch Blazer, in his keynote address at the 2014 Environmental Justice Conference in Washington, D.C., singled out the U.S. Forest Service for its progress in environmental justice.

Environmental justice (EJ) is "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work," Under Secretary Blazer defined the term.

"Today, environmental justice at USDA refers to meeting the needs of underserved communities by reducing disparate environmental burdens, removing barriers to participation in decision making, and increasing access to environmental benefits that help make all communities safe, vibrant and healthy places to live and work. USDA's overall goal is not only to institutionalize environmental justice principles but to continuously make a positive difference in the lives of American people."

Expressing pride in USDA's EJ efforts, he said he was "even more proud of the EJ efforts by the U.S. Forest Service. They've made great strides, completing training guides and holding training meetings. Also, the Forest Service is launching its first (internal) EJ website to share best practices, lessons learned, and educational resources with employees across the nation."

"Showcase projects have been identified to demonstrate exemplary Forest Service projects that benefit EJ populations," he continued. "The intent is to do a better job at capturing the EJ activities that have been established and underway for years and highlight the strengths of those projects and the benefits they provide to communities." An example of that, which will be on the website, is the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment. That is a decision tool for so they can plan and manage their urban forest by monitoring current tree canopy closure and developing solutions to increase the forest health of their community.

“The Forest Service and USDA as a whole will continue to become a fully inclusive organization: an agency where everyone is welcome, respected, and has equal opportunity to contribute and succeed; an agency that reflects America. This is essential if it is going to serve our diverse communities and compete for the best and brightest candidates in the job market. If its programs are going to serve all Americans equally, fairly, and well.”

At the EJ conference, “the Forest Service had two panels of speakers highlighting the Conservation Education program’s outreach to the Hispanic Community and the urban outreach efforts of the Federally Employed Job Corps Alumni,” the Chief’s office reported on April 4.

The Forest Service EJ Board is chaired by Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System Tony Tooke and includes representatives from each deputy area.

Prepared from “USDA Deputy Under Secretary Promotes Environmental Justice Goals” posted on the UDSA Blog on April 3, 2014, and from “Deputy Under Secretary Butch Blazer keynote speaker” in The Chief’s Desk: People, Places and Things of April 4, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Firefighters Face Severe Climate Change Challenges

“We want to emphasize to the public, this is not some distant problem of the future. This is a problem that is affecting Americans right now,” President Barack Obama said on Tuesday, May 6, the day the third National Climate Assessment mandated by Congress was issued. “Whether it means increased flooding, greater vulnerability to drought, more severe wildfires—all these things are having an impact on Americans as we speak.”

The greatest—but certainly not the only—challenge climate change poses for the U.S. Forest Service and other federal, state, and local land management agencies as well as private landowners is the increasing frequency, size, and intensity of wildland fires.

Climate change and wildfire

Increased warming, drought, and insect outbreaks—all caused by or linked to climate change—have increased wildfires and impacts to people and ecosystems across the American West, the assessment reports. Bark beetle infestations, spreading because of warmer winters and longer, warmer summers, are leaving millions of acres of tinder-dry dead forestlands in their wake.

Nationally, climate change is blamed for lengthening the nation’s wildfire season, and scientists are predicting larger and more frequent wildfires. The Forest Service says the wildfire season now averages 78 days longer than it did in the mid-1980s. Fire models predict more wildfire and increased risks to communities across extensive areas of the West.

The frequency of large wildfires and the total area burned have been steadily increasing in the western states. Here’s what the wildfire future holds:

- **Longer fire seasons** will result as spring runoff occurs earlier, summer heat builds up more quickly, and warm conditions extend further into fall. Western forests typical-

ly become combustible within a month of when snowmelt finishes. Snowpack is now melting one to four weeks earlier than it did 50 years ago.

- **Drier conditions** will increase the probability of fire occurrence. Summertime temperatures in the West are projected to be 3.6 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher by mid-century, enhancing evaporation rates, while precipitation is expected to decrease by up to 15 percent. The southwest will be hit particularly hard, perhaps shifting to a more arid climate.
- **More fuel for forest fires** will become available because warmer and drier conditions are conducive to widespread beetle and other insect infestations, resulting in broad ranges of highly combustible trees. High temperatures enhance winter survival of mountain pine beetles and allow for a more rapid life cycle. At the same time, moderate drought conditions for a year or longer can weaken trees, allowing bark beetles to overcome the trees’ defense mechanisms.
- **Altered fuel loads** will result from shifts in vegetation patterns from forest to grassland, which is more combustible and has faster spread rates, while longer growing seasons and earlier snowmelt will result in additional combustible biomass and drier soils.
- **Increased frequency of lightning** is expected as thunderstorms become more severe. In the West, a 1.8 degree Fahrenheit increase in temperature is expected to lead to a 6 percent increase in lightning. This means that lightning in the region could increase by 12 to 30 percent by mid-century.

The bottom line is that the overall area burned is projected to double by late this century across the 11 western states if the average summertime temperature increases just 2.9 degrees Fahrenheit.

Climate change and wildfire dangers and costs

Longer and more intense wildfire seasons mean substantial increases in suppression dangers and costs. Forest Service and Department of the Interior officials this spring advised Congress they expect a combined \$470 million shortfall in their \$1.4 billion wildfire budgets this year as a direct result of the changing—and elongating—nature of fire season. Over the last 30 years, they said, the fire season has lengthened by 78 days and the amount of acreage burned each year has doubled. With continued encroachment of housing into wildlands, more property and people are at risk—especially in cases of prolonged droughts such as the one parching California.

And it’s not just this year. If projections hold, 2014 will be the seventh out of the last 12 budget years in which federal officials have had to scramble to cover unanticipated higher costs of fighting wildfires. To meet those shortfalls, agency officials borrow from budget lines meant to support thinning and controlled burning to restore forest health and mitigate wildfires, cutting forestry personnel to add firefighters. So fighting these fires affects more than just the burned zones. Since 2000, the federal cost of fighting wildfires has exceeded a billion dollars in all but three years.

Meanwhile, the fate of the proposed Wildfire Disaster Fund-

ing Act of 2014 that would move any fire suppression spending above 70 percent of the 10-year average cost of fighting fires to a disaster funding account separate from Forest Service and Interior Department budgets—and end the practice of “borrowing” other project funds for firefighting, as described in your Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—remains undecided.

As an opinion piece in the May 13, 2014, *Los Angeles Times* put it, “Welcome to the era of climate-changed fire seasons.”

Prepared from multiple sources including “U.S. Climate Has Already Changed, Study Finds, Citing Heat and Floods” by Justin Gillis in the May 6, 2014, The New York Times; “Report: Climate change has led to wildfire increase,” by Pat Holmes, KOAT Albuquerque; “Federal report links Colorado fires to climate change” by Ryan Maye Handy in the May 6, 2014, The Coloradoan; Report: Calif. To face higher temps, less water, more wildfires due to climate change” by Raju Chebium, Gannett Washington Bureau; U.S. report: Warming disrupting lives now” by Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press in the May 7, 2014, The Bulletin; “Climate Change Affecting U.S. Cities” by Janet Loehrke and Doyle Rice in the May 8, 2014 USA Today; “Welcome to the era of climate-changed fire” by Scott Martelle in the May 13, 2014, Los Angeles Times; “Budget office scrutinizes disaster funding proposal” by Phil Taylor in the May 13, 2014, E&E Daily; and “Global Warming and Wildfires” by Dr. Amanda Staudt, National Wildlife Federation website.

U.S. Forest Service, Interior Department Unveiled National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy on April 9

A long-awaited National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy intended to get communities and government agencies to work together to make landscapes more wildfire resilient was announced jointly by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell in Washington, D.C., on April 10, 2014.

The Strategy

The strategy was developed under the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Act of 2009, better known as the FLAME Act, that required the two cabinet departments to work together, in conjunction with other stakeholders, to develop a cohesive wildfire management strategy for the 21st century.

The strategy breaks the country into three regions: northeast, southeast, and western. “The forest and rangeland health problems of the West are widespread and increasing, affecting wildlife habitat, water quality and quantity, and long-term soil productivity, while providing conditions for uncharacteristically large, severe, and costly wildfires with increasing threats to human life and property,” the strategy states.

“The West needs large landscape-scale changes in vegetative structure and fuel loadings to significantly alter wildfire behavior, reduce wildfire losses, ensure firefighter and public safety, and improve landscape-scale resiliency,” the strategy continues. “Active management of public and private land holdings is needed, including harvesting and thinning operations to reduce hazardous fuels in and around communities and in the middle ground.”

The Intent

“Through more strategic coordination with local communities, the National Cohesive Strategy will help us better protect 46

million homes in 70,000 communities from catastrophic wildfires,” said Secretary Vilsack. “This effort, combined with the Administration’s newly proposed wildland fire management strategy [that, if passed by Congress, would treat the largest one percent of wildfires, which consume 30 percent of the federal firefighting budget, as natural disasters and fund their costs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) rather than borrowing from agency budgets], will allow USDA and our partners to more effectively restore forested landscapes, treat forests for the increasing effects of climate change, and help avert future wildfires.”

The strategy is designed to work with the Obama administration’s Climate Action Plan, added Mike Boots, acting chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. “As climate change spurs extended droughts and longer fire seasons, this collaborative wildfire blueprint will help us restore forests and rangelands to make communities less vulnerable to catastrophic fire,” he said.

Prepared from Andrew Clevenger “New wildfire strategy unveiled” in the April 11, 2014, issue of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper; “Federal wildfire strategy released” posted on Feedstuffs website on April 10, 2014, and other sources.

U.S. Forest Service Boosted Its Aerial Firefighting Fleet as Wildfire Season 2014 Took Off

The U.S. Forest Service in late May 2014 added four additional aircraft to its next-generation firefighting fleet as what promised to be a catastrophic wildfire season took off in California and the Southwest.

Addition of a DC-10 and three BAe-146s brought the agency’s total of large air tankers to 21. In addition, the fleet includes more than 100 helicopters, and additional aircraft may be borrowed from Alaska, California, Canada, and the Department of Defense. Among the latter, eight C-130s equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAAFs) completed training and recertification for the season.

“We continue to increase and modernize the fleet of aircraft available for wildland fire suppression activities,” Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said in a prepared statement. “These new planes will combine with our existing fleet to support our heroes on the ground fighting wildfires to keep our resources and communities safe.”

The DC-10, the second acquired for the fleet, carries up to 11,600 gallons of retardant and flies at 430 miles per hour. The smaller BAe-146s can deliver 3,000 gallons and fly at speeds around 350 miles per hour.

“The Forest Service has been steadily updating its firefighting fleet since 2012, when all but one of its 11 air tankers were more than 50 years old,” Andrew Clevenger reported in Bend, Oregon’s daily *The Bulletin*. “Two crashes that year grounded one plane and destroyed another, killing two Forest Service contract pilots.”

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release No. 0095.14 “U.S. Forest Service Increases its Firefighting Aircraft Fleet as Fire Season Begins” of May 20, 2014, and “Forest Service adds 4 planes to firefighting fleet” by Andrew Clevenger in The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon, May 21, 2014.



Robert Sallee, Last Survivor of Mann Gulch Fire, Died May 26, 2014

Robert Sallee, last of the three survivors of the deadly August 4, 1949, Mann Gulch Fire on the Helena National Forest in Montana, died May 26, 2014. Twelve smokejumpers and another U.S. Forest Service firefighter were lost when the fire blew up.

The other two survivors were smokejumper crew foreman Wagner Dodge and smokejumper Walter Rumsey. Dodge set an escape fire for himself, but couldn't get his crew to join him in the black it burned out. Sallee and Rumsey found shelter on a rock ridge.

The Mann Gulch Fire was Sallee's first fire jump. He was 17 at the time. Three weeks later, according to his son Eric Sallee, he jumped on another fire, and returned to smokejumping for the 1950 fire season as well. He spent most of his working life in the paper mill industry, but retained affection for the Forest Service and the smokejumper program.

Robert Sallee helped Norman Maclean with his 1992 book *Young Men and Fire* about the incident.

Prepared from Kriste Cates, "Last of 1949 Mann Gulch fire survivors dies," in the May 28, 2014, Great Falls Tribune. Photograph used with permission of the Great Falls Tribune.

Regional

U.S. Forest Service Anticipated Early and Intense 2014 Wildfire Season in the Pacific Northwest Region

Two fast-moving wildfires ignited west of Bend, Oregon, early in the afternoon of June 7, 2014, which merged to become the 6,900-acre Two Bulls Fire suppressed by firefighters from across the region, showed just how well the Northwest Inter-agency Coordination Center has read the signs pointing toward an earlier and more intense than usual 2014 wildfire season for the Pacific Northwest Region.

The epicenter of Region 6's 2014 wildfire season was expected to be in southern Oregon where, along with adjacent Northern California, the snowpack in mid-May was as low as 16 percent of its long-term average for this time of year. That means trees and downed wood—fuel for potential fires—was already drying out. Farther north, around Mt. Hood, the snowpack was 79 percent, while in Central Oregon—where the Two Bulls Fire took off—it was 53 percent.

Meanwhile, apparent development of an El Niño pattern in the Pacific Ocean could trigger warmer, stormier weather—and more lightning storms—as the wildfire season progresses.

While, on average, about half of all wildfires in the Pacific Northwest are caused by humans, the larger and more costly

fires tend to be ignited by lightning. That's because human-caused fires usually begin near roads and in developed areas and are thus easier to reach and contain, according to Tom Knappenberger at the Region 6 RO in Portland. But more lightning doesn't necessarily mean more fires; heavy lightning activity tends to bring moisture which offsets some of the fires.

Prepared from multiple sources including "Fire season's coming early and intense, fire officials say," by Lily Raff McCalou in the May 22, 2014, Bend, Oregon, The Bulletin, and "Wildfire west of Bend burns 250 acres, Saddleback evacuated" by Barney Lerten for KTVZ.com on June 7, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Plans Prescribed Fires in Region 6 National Forest Wildernesses

In "a departure from normal U.S. Forest Service practices of leaving these areas untouched," fire managers on the Deschutes and Willamette national forests continue planning to ignite prescribed fires in congressionally-designated wildernesses.

The purpose of the planned fires is to mimic the effects of natural fires—suppressed over the decades—to restore a more natural landscape and slow the spread and intensity of wildfire. Such fires are ignited when weather conditions are right for a low-intensity fire that creeps through the undergrowth.

Wilderness managers who, along with fire managers, have sometimes used naturally-ignited fires—once termed "prescribed natural fires" or PNF—to burn within prescription to benefit the landscape and its fire resiliency, have struggled with the concept of management-ignited fires. Critics contend prescribed fires "go against the spirit of the Wilderness Act of 1964 by manipulating the wilderness ecosystem."

But prescribed fires in wilderness also have supporters in the environmental as well as the fire management communities. George Wuerthner, Bend, Oregon, author of the 2006 book *Wildfire: A Century of Failed Forest Policy*, told *The Bulletin*, Bend's daily newspaper, "he thinks it is great to get more fire on the land, particularly prescribed fires. He supports the plans by the Willamette and Deschutes national forests to light prescribed fires in wilderness areas." The plans are also backed by Rich Fairbanks, who served as a fire planner on the Willamette National Forest from 1989 to 2003. "We really do need to put fire back into these forests," he told *The Bulletin*.

"The two forests have been working on plans to light prescribed fires in wilderness areas on both sides of the Cascades since about 2011," *The Bulletin* reported. "The Willamette plans to start with woods in and just outside the Mount Washington Wilderness Area [sic], southwest of Sisters, and the Deschutes plans to start in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area [sic] along the Cascade Lakes Highway west of Bend."

Both national forests have experienced delays in planning for prescribed wilderness fires. After postponements, both are targeting Fall 2014 ignitions.

Editor's Note: Since passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964 the word "area" is not part of the names of National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) units designated under that act.

Prepared from "Prescribed burns set in wilderness" by Dylan J. Darling in the April 19, 2014, edition of Bend, Oregon's, The Bulletin.

Forest Service News continues on next page and page 24

U.S. Forest Service Marks Fifty Years of the National Wilderness Preservation System and Wilderness Stewardship

Almost fifty years ago, on September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act that established the National Wilderness Preservation System, and the United States of America became the first nation in the world to pass a law to protect wilderness.

This year, the U.S. Forest Service—members of which pioneered the concepts of wilderness preservation and management embodied in the Wilderness Act—joins the other three federal wilderness management agencies—the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management—and the American people in celebrating the “enduring resource of wilderness” promised by that act.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 declared it to be the policy of Congress “to secure for the American people of present and future generations an enduring resource of wilderness.” To implement this policy, the Act (1) defined wilderness, (2) established the National Wilderness Preservation System, (3) provided management guidance for that system, and (4) provided for growth of that system.

The Wilderness Act defined wilderness, “in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape,” as “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Further, by the Act, congressionally-designated wilderness was specifically defined as “an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, and which is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions...” The definition reflected Congress’ recognition of the need to balance ideal, untrammelled wilderness through management that accommodates reality by stating that these areas “generally appear” to be “primarily affected” by nature with man’s imprint “substantially unnoticed.”

In addition to defining wilderness, the Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System that instantly incorporated 9.1 million acres of the 54 units on the National Forest System that had been administratively designated as wilderness areas, wild areas, or roadless areas under the U Regulations of 1939 or as primitive areas under the L-20 Regulation of 1929. Administratively protected lands became statutorily protected wildernesses.

The Wilderness Act provided management direction for National Wilderness Preservation System lands that “shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection



of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for...their use and enjoyment as wilderness.”

The Wilderness Act also provided a process for the growth of the National Wilderness Preservation System on appropriate federal public lands. In the ensuing half-century, passage of over a hundred additional wilderness laws has increased the system to about 110 million acres. Although, today, the National Park Service administers the most wilderness acreage, most of this is in Alaska; the Forest Service manages the most wilderness in the lower 48 states. About 18 percent of the National Forest System is congressionally-designated wilderness.

Passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, Forest Service chief Edward P. Cliff claimed in 1965, “made it plain that Congress approved of the areas [the Forest Service had set aside] as ‘wilderness’ and ‘wild’ areas...” and “endorsed in principle the wilderness concepts and management practices the Forest Service had been pioneering for four decades.”

That’s right. As Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell put it in his November 13, 2013 “50th Anniversary of Wilderness” message: “The Forest Service has a rich history of wilderness stewardship. As an agency, we were protecting land for wilderness values well before the signing of the Wilderness Act, beginning with the 1924 designation of what would become the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. Our rich wilderness legacy is testimony to the foresight of visionary leaders such as Aldo Leopold, Arthur Carhart, and Bob Marshall,” all of whom were Forest Service officers. “This anniversary year provides a wonderful opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to wilderness stewardship.”

Prepared from multiple sources including Chief Tom Tidwell’s November 13, 2013 “Message from the Chief: 50th Anniversary of Wilderness; The Wilderness Act of 1964; and Les Joslin, The Wilderness Concept and the Three Sisters Wilderness (Revised Edition), Wilderness Associates, Bend, Oregon, 2005.

U.S. Forest Service’s Frederick Cleator Pioneered Access to Pacific Northwest Wilderness in the 1920s and 1930s



Frederick William “Fred” Cleator (1883-1957), at left above with Bob Marshall in the 1930s, ran out of money at the University of Minnesota, left just short of a degree, and went west to become a forest ranger. He did. By 1919 he was the first Recreation Examiner—planner—in the old North Pacific District (the Pacific Northwest Region after 1930) of the U.S. Forest Service.

Cleator’s alpine trails for “scenic recreation values” began when he surveyed and posted the Oregon Skyline Trail in 1920 and live on throughout the region. Some call Fred Cleator the “father of the Pacific Crest Trail” which eventually incorporated his Oregon Skyline Trail and now extends from Mexico to Canada.

Feature

Smokey Bear is 70!

By Les Joslin

Smokey Bear turns 70 years old on August 9, 2014. This third article in the “Seventy Years of Vigilance” series takes a look at Smokey’s future.



Part III: Septuagenarian Smokey Faces Future with Media Mandated Mellowing Millennial Makover

Smokey Bear turns 70 in August with orders to...well...mellow out.

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going,” may still apply to wildland fire prevention in what a *Los Angeles Times* writer recently named “the era of climate-changed fire seasons” in which human carelessness may have even more catastrophic consequences. Firefighters are going to continue to be tough. But what about fire preventers? What about good, old, tough Smokey Bear?

As Alan Farnham of ABC News tells it, Smokey at 70 will not be “the bear he was when he was 20 or 40 or even 65. The difference will be apparent to anyone who watches a new series of PSAs (public service announcements) released to mark his birthday by the U.S. Forest Service, the Ad Council, and the National Association of State Foresters.” Other media folks echo Farnham’s assessment.

“Smokey has mellowed.

“Gone is the bear who once reprimanded fire-careless campers with a disapproving look and a pointed finger. It used to be that when Smokey warned ‘Only you can prevent forest fires,’ the emphasis was on the ‘you’—the im-

plication being that anybody who broke the rules would have to answer personally to a giant, no-nonsense, pants-wearing bear.

“Septuagenarian Smokey is all about giving back, about warmth and emotional rewards: You put out your campfire, Smokey hugs you.” That’s right. Check out the posters below.

And that’s not all. The kinder, gentler, hugging Smokey, despite his seven decades of service, is being given what *Los Angeles Times* reporter Meg James calls a “younger and fresher look” to make him “fit in with the millennial generation of teenagers and young adults.”

“The nice thing about Smokey is that he has evolved,” said Loren Walker, acting national fire prevention coordinator with the Forest Service and Smokey Bear’s primary caretaker. This evolution has been orchestrated by venerable advertising agency Foote, Cone & Belding which has represented Smokey on a pro bono basis since he was a cub. The purpose of the makeover is “to make Smokey relevant again.” The new Smokey for the new generation has “a softer image. He doesn’t growl as much, and now he gives our bearhugs.”

What do you think? I just wonder why Smokey’s hat brim is “wrinkled” instead of flat. Please share your opinions of “Mellow Millennial Smokey Bear” for publication in the Fall 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter.



Above, mellow millennial Smokey gets hugs from a girl scout, a birdwatcher, campers, a firefighter, and a forest ranger.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Smokey Bear, nearly 70, gets a millennial makeover” by Meg Jones in the May 13, 2014, The Los Angeles Times; “Firefighting Smokey the Bear Mellow at Age 70” by Alan Farnham, ABC News, May 13, 2014; and “Smokey Bear is getting softer in his old age, offering bearhugs in new PSA” by Abby Phillip in the May 13, 2014, The Washington Post.

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Please update your *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2014* to reflect these membership changes since that directory was published and distributed with the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

- Anderson, Carl F.** -- Change telephone: 541-279-4030 (cell only); add e-mail: swedeanderson1@gmail.com
- Armes, William T. & Janet** – New members: 1810 10th PINE, East Wenatchee, WA 98802
Telephone: 509-670-6475 E-mail: wtarmes@aol.com
- Bambe, Daina L.** – New member: 4040 Green Mountain Dr, Mt. Hood, OR 97041
Telephone: 541-352-9350 E-mail: dainabambe89@gmail.com
- Benfield, Lorri (Heath) & Mike** – New members: 3560 NW Ice Ave, Terrebonne, OR 97760
Telephone: 541-749-8071 E-mail: lorribenfield@gmail.com
- Deinema, John W. & Helen** – New members: 1441 S Ivy St, No. 601, Canby, WA 97013
Telephone: 503-263-8944 E-mail: deinema@canby.com
- Denslinger, Richard D.** – New member: 4040 Green Mountain Dr, Mt. Hood, OR 97041
Telephone: 541-352-9350 E-mail: bambdens@gmail.com
- Files, Roscoe T.** – Deceased April 2, 2014
- Fisher, Jason R. & Marlo** – New members: 1508 NE 11th St, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-948-5367 E-mail: fisherja65@hotmail.com
- Glazebrook, Rita Jane** – Deceased May 23, 2014
- Kreachbaum, John & Becky** – New members: 5111 SE Hilltop Rd, Prineville, OR 97754
Telephone: 541-447-4718 E-mail: jkreachb@aol.com
- Krump, Don & Laurie** – New members: 400 Rupp Ave, Worland, WY 82401
Telephone: 218-303-8424 E-mail: dpkrump@gmail.com
- Marshall, Merle** – Deceased May 9, 2014
- Miles, Charles R. & Alice A.** – New members: 64548 Joe Neil Rd, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-389-9694 E-mail: am_pm2001@yahoo.com
- Olson, Lloyd W.** – Deceased November 12, 2012; Lucy survives
- Page, Doris M. & Jerry L.** – New members: 63260 Deschutes Market Rd, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-693-4578 E-mail: dp.yellowrose@gmail.com
- Parker, Walter T.** – Deceased June 10, 2014
- Plank, Marlin Edward** – Deceased March 29, 2014; June survives
- Robison, Anita M.** – Deceased January 18, 2014
- Scharpf, Raymond W.** – Deceased May 19, 2014; Linda survives
- Seamans, Arthur L.** - Deceased June 12, 2014; Joyce survives
- Thompson, Allen Eugene** – Deceased March 16, 2014; Barbara survives
- Warren, Debra** – Change e-mail: debrawarren69@gmail.com

- Webb, Della M.** – Change e-mail: dwebb@gmail.com
- West, Laura Jo** – New member: 1707 Hutchison Rd, Addy, WA 99101
Telephone: 509-936-2312 E-mail: azlaurajo@msn.com
- White, J. Everett & Pamela Lynn** – New members: 4902 Yaksum Canyon Rd, Cashmere, WA 98815
Telephone: 509-393-4174 E-mail: ewhite.white13@gmail.com
- Wilson, Bonna** – Change e-mail: bonnaw128@gmail.com
- Wood, Ruby E.** – Deceased March 16, 2014
- Zimmerman, Beckie G.** – New member: P.O. Box 1031, Sisters, OR 97759
Telephone: 541-549-9338 E-mail: beckiez@sistersnet.com

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Spring 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press. This is the first new member class to benefit from the recent change in the PNWFSA Constitution, Article III, Section 1.a. which extended PNWFSA membership eligibility to include “Any current or retired employee of the U.S. Forest Service” regardless of accrued years of federal government service.

William T. & Janet Armes of East Wenatchee, Washington. William retired from the U.S. Forest Service on April 2, 2008, at the Wenatchee National Forest SO after 31.5 years of federal service, 21 of those years in the Forest Service and 19 of those in Region 6.

Lorri (Heath) & Mike Benfield of Terrebonne, Oregon. Lorri retired in February 2009 after 30 years of federal service, the first 24 in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6 and the last four with the Prineville District of the BLM. Lorri began her fire management career in 1979 at Rager Ranger Station, headquarters of the Paulina Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest; served four years on the Prineville Hotshots; then returned to the Paulina Ranger District as a coop student. After completing a master’s degree in fire science and obtaining a permanent appointment, she served a year as fuels technician on the Paulina Ranger District; a year on the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest; 10 years as fuels planner/AFMO fuels on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest; and from 1998-2000 as fire management officer on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes. When formation of Central Oregon Fire Management Services (COFMS) combined the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and Prineville District BLM fire organizations, she became FMO for the Cascade Division until 2004, when she became assistant fire staff officer of COFMS East, a BLM position. When, in 2008, she and Mike moved to Utah, she became budget and fire planner for the Utah BLM State Office in Salt Lake City for a year before she retired. She and Mike moved back to Central Oregon in 2012, and in 2013 built a new house on 38 acres of farmland near Terrebonne where they are “adjusting to farm life.” Lorri is also a planning section chief for a Type 1 Incident Management Team (PNW Team 3).

John W. “Jack” & Helen Deinema of Canby, Oregon. Jack retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1978 as Deputy Chief after 34 years of federal service, 30 in the Forest Service and four in the U.S. Marine Corps. Jack and Helen were born and raised in Iowa, where Helen earned a B.A. in home economics from the University of Northern Iowa and Jack a B.S. in forestry from Iowa State University. Helen taught school in Iowa, Utah, Idaho, and California, and managed a fabric store in Virginia. Jack served in the Marine Corps from 1942 to 1946 during which he participated in the battles of Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. During his 30 years in the Forest Service, he served as a smokejumper on the Payette National Forest, a district ranger on the Challis and Teton national forests, forest supervisor of the Challis National Forest, and regional forester of the California Region before going to the WO. In 1964, he helped originate the Job Corps as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty. After retirement, Helen and Jack built a log cabin in Idaho which was two miles from the nearest road and close to Yellowstone National Park. They later lived in Borrego Springs, California, and Springfield and Eugene, Oregon, before moving to Canby in 1996 and to Hope Village in 2005. They moved 35 times and lived in nine states since their June 1, 1946, marriage. They had three daughters.

Richard D. Denslinger & Daina L. Bambe of Mt. Hood, Oregon, are both U.S. Forest Service retirees. Richard retired on January 3, 1998, from the Republic Ranger District, Colville National Forest, after 36 years of federal service, 34 of those in the Forest Service in Region 3. Daina retired on April 1, 2013, from the Hood River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, after 32 years in the Forest, 28 of those in Region 6 and four in Region 1.

Jason R. & Marlo Fisher of Bend, Oregon, are both active duty U.S. Forest Service personnel serving on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. Jason, a veteran of 15-plus years in the Forest Service, serves as developed recreation supervisor on the district. A 1996 graduate of Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, where he majored in environmental science, he is completing a University of Idaho M.S. degree in natural resources this summer. Before transferring to the Deschutes in 2007, Jason served primarily as a wilderness ranger, horse packer, trail crew leader, and firefighter—and in range and timber management—on national forests in Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, and Montana. Marlo, a 2002 graduate of Indiana University with a degree in environmental management, completed post-baccalaureate study in botany at Oregon State University in 2010 and 2011. She has worked in Washington and Oregon in recreation, fire, botany, and timber management, and is currently a district botanist.

John & Becky Kreachbaum of Prineville, Oregon. John retired from the U.S. Forest Service in January 2008 after 33 years of federal service: 31 in the Forest Service, 20 of those in Region 6, and two in the U.S. Army. John worked seasonal jobs with the Forest Service in Colorado in 1967 and 1968, and from 1969 through 1976 spent two years in the U.S. Army serving at White Sands, New Mexico, in Vietnam, and at Fort Carson,

Colorado. After several years working in construction, he returned to college and earned a University of Idaho forestry degree in 1976. After seasonal work on the Salmon National Forest, he began full-time service as a forestry technician on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in 1978. Next came a 1981-1988 stint on the Dixie National Forest in presale and sale administration, and a 1988-1991 tour on the Malheur National Forest in presale. John spent the rest of his career on the Ochoco National Forest, on the Big Summit Ranger District from 1992-1999, then in the SO as measurements specialist from 2000-2008. Somewhere about 2004 he took on that job for the Deschutes National Forest as well. Now he works around the house, does part-time jobs, and fishes and hunts.

Don & Laurie Krump of Worland, Wyoming. Currently serving as Assistant Field Manager for Minerals and Lands in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Worland, Don has served 21 years of his 32.5 years in federal service in the U.S. Forest Service in various timber management positions, 17 of those years in Region 6. Don started in the Forest Service on the Chippewa National Forest in 1973; then served on the Powers Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest from 1974-1977; on the Wind River Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, from 1977-1979; then back at Powers where he resigned from the Forest Service in 1980. After eight years in the self-employed sector during which he and Laurie married in 1987, Don returned to the Forest Service in 1988 to work on the Republic Ranger District, Colville National Forest; the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest from 1990-1991; and then eight years in the Deschutes SO in Bend, Oregon. In 1999, he went to the Forest Management Service Center (WO Detached Unit) in Fort Collins, Colorado, as National Timber Measurements Specialist. He joined U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, as County Executive Director; and in 2006 began his current BLM job. He figures on working another couple years until both their daughters graduate from the University of Wyoming.

Charles R. Miles, Jr., & Alice A. Miles of Bend, Oregon. Pete, as he’s known to all, retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 18 years as the activity database administrator for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and flying aerial fire detection for those forests. Pete continues to fly fire detection as an AD; otherwise, he spends time target shooting and reloading, visiting kids and grandkids.

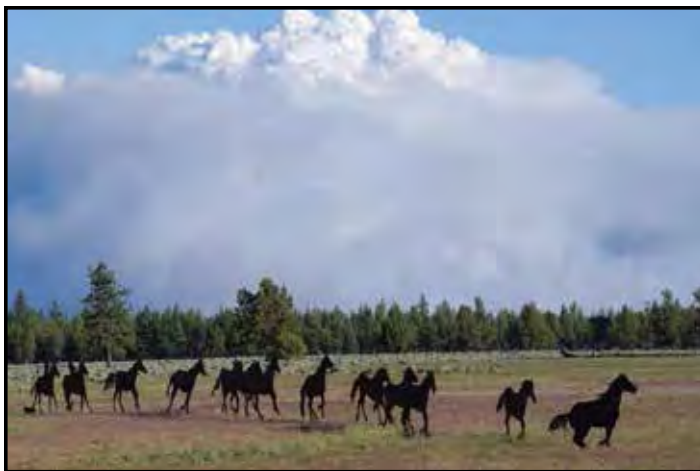
Doris & Jerry Page of Bend, Oregon. Doris retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the Deschutes National Forest SO in Bend, Oregon, where she worked in purchasing, on March 31, 2010, on 23 years of federal service, 21 in the Forest Service. She began her Forest Service career at the Bend Pine Nursery in 1988 where she served for nine years, first at the front desk and then as a purchasing agent. She then worked in purchasing for four years on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District before working at the SO from 2001 to 2010. She is active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Laura Jo West of Addy, Washington, is Forest Supervisor of the Colville National Forest headquartered in Colville, Wash-

ington. A 1984 graduate of Utah State University where she earned a B.S. degree in resource management and public lands policy, Laura Jo began her U.S. Forest Service career in October 1989. She served as a land management planner and planning staff officer on the Ashley National Forest from 1989 to 2006, then as district ranger on the Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott National Forest before she arrived on the Colville National Forest.

J. Everett & Pamela Lynn White of Cashmere, Washington, are both U.S. Forest Service retirees. After graduating from college, Everett worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Laos for a year and worked a season in the woods near Darrington, Washington, as a choker setter. In 1970 he joined the Forest Service as an engineering technician, then worked 18 years in timber management on the Darrington Ranger District before 19 years as team leader for the Washington Land Zone serving the Olympic, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Wenatchee-Okanogan, and Colville national forests from which he retired on October 1, 2009. During his Lands years he met Pam Smith, a title examiner in Lands in the Wenatchee National Forest SO who'd served for five years in the U.S. Department of Labor before transferring to the Forest Service to work 23 years in timber, personnel, and finally the lands position on the Wenatchee National Forest from which she retired. Everett and Pam married, retired on 37.5 and 28 years federal service, respectively, and now live outside Cashmere on land that was part of Pam's family's apple orchard. Everett still works part time as a project manager for the State of Washington with Western Rivers Conservancy, and he and Pam enjoy gardening, tending fruit trees, and travel.

Beckie G. Zimmerman of Sisters, Oregon. Beckie retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Ochoco National Forest on November 1, 2011, after 33.5 years of federal service, all in the Forest Service in Region 6. Beckie spent most of her career in timber sale administration, had a detail as a contracting officer, and also served as a supervisory dispatcher on fires. Her active life now involves bowling, yoga, sailing, running, reading, gardening, travel, photography, and spending time with the family. Below, Beckie photographed metal sculpture horses along U.S. Highway 20 near Sisters "fleeing" the recent Two Bulls Fire.



Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

Donald "Don" Corn died April 11, 2014, at age 80, when he crashed the small plane he was piloting about three miles north of the Mariposa-Yosemite Airport in California. A part-time resident of Mariposa who pursued twin passions of aviation and tennis, Don was retired from the U.S. Forest Service. A Utah State University graduate, Don began his Forest Service career on the Mt. Hood National Forest, served for a long time on the Ochoco National Forest, and served on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest before retiring in the mid-1990s as range conservationist on the Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. A lifelong bachelor, Don enjoyed flying aircraft and riding motorcycles. No further information is available.

Donald Raymond Erickson died March 24, 2014, at age 92. Don was born June 13, 1921, graduated from high school in Nestucca, Oregon, in 1939, attended Oregon State College, and served a professional career in the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Kathryn Catlow Erickson; daughters Bonita Erickson and Betty Jean Erickson; and a grandson.

Roscoe T. "Ross" Files died April 2, 2014, at age 96. He was a PNWFSA member. Ross was born July 31, 1917. His varied U.S. Forest Service career included service as district ranger, Glacier Ranger District, Mt. Baker National Forest, and as a snow ranger on both the Mt. Baker and Snoqualmie national forests. Later in his career, he pioneered Region 6 visitor information services (VIS) efforts in the 1960s as RO project manager for the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center on the Siuslaw National Forest and the Lava Lands Visitor Center on the Deschutes National Forest as well as interpretation coordination for many other projects including the Dee Wright Observatory on the Willamette National Forest. In 1970 he served as Forest Service liaison with MGM Studios for the filming of the hour-long NBC television documentary *Wildfire!* on the Wenatchee and Okanogan national forests which featured the late OldSmokey Don Peters as fire boss on what was then "one of the worst forest fire disasters in the history of the Pacific Northwest" according to a February 3, 1971, Forest Service radio, television, and motion picture office news release. No further information is available. Survivors include his son Tod; daughter Linda Gross; stepdaughter Sheila Cowden; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Lawrence Christian "Larry" Gangle, Jr. died January 12, 2014, at age 75. Larry was born November 5, 1938, in Corvallis, Oregon; grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon; earned a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology at Oregon State College; and served in the U.S. Forest Service as a wildlife biologist in Oregon and Washington. Larry enjoyed travel and duck hunting, and after retirement traveled and hunted ducks internationally; he had an extensive collection of domestic and foreign duck species. He was a member of Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, and the National Rifle Association. He also loves sports, and was an avid Oregon State Beavers, Portland Trail Blazers, and Seattle

Seahawks fan. Survivors include his sons Lawrence III and Kenneth; daughters Kathleen Gangle and Barbara Ledbetter; and nine grandchildren.

Rita Jane Glazebrook died May 23, 2014, at age 92. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of Tom Glazebrook, 1983-1984 president of the Thirty-Year Club, forerunner of the PNWFSA. Rita Jane Carlson was born August 28, 1921, in South Chicago, Illinois, and grew up in Whiting, Indiana. She graduated from Sacred Heart School in Whiting, Catholic Central High School in Hammond, Indiana, and DePaul University in Chicago. At those schools, she edited newspapers and year-books and, upon completion of college, became a reporter and feature writer at the *Gary Post Tribune* in Gary, Indiana. She also worked for the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Washington, D.C., in 1945. Rita Jane married Thomas B. Glazebrook on April 12, 1947; Tom served in the U.S. Forest Service, and he and Rita moved to Oregon in 1959. Tom died in 2003. Rita Jane was a member of many church- and college-related organizations over the years, and of the U.S. Forest Service Women's Club in Washington, D.C., and Portland, Oregon, as well as the Forest History Society and the National Museum of Forest Service History. Survivors include her daughters Mary Anne and Catherine; three grandsons; and a great-granddaughter.

Richard Alexander "Dick" Henry died April 1, 2014, at age 75. Dick was born September 28, 1938, in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey; graduated from Point Pleasant Beach High School; and earned a B.S. degree in Forestry at Penn State in 1962. After graduation, Dick and his wife Nancy moved to Willows, California, where he began his U.S. Forest Service career on the Mendocino National Forest. After assignments at many rural California stations, Dick ran the fuels program in the WO; directed the National Advanced Resource Technology Center in Marana, Arizona; and in 1984 became forest supervisor of the Lassen National Forest in Susanville, California. Six years later he became Director of Fire and Aviation management for Region 5, the position from which he retired in 1984 and moved to Tucson, Arizona, and later to Chico, California. Survivors include his wife Nancy; daughter Rebecca Lynn Rodgers-Hazlett; sons Christopher and Scott; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Patterson Bruce "Pat" Int-Hout died May 31, 2014, at age 89. Pat grew up in Cashmere, Washington, and was long-time fire staff officer on the Wenatchee National Forest. No further information is available.

David William "Bill" Jones died March 11, 2014, at age 67. Bill was born in the back seat of his parents' 1939 Buick on June 15, 1946, lived his early years in Twentynine Palms, California, and grew up in Los Angeles. Active in the Boy Scouts, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. In 1968 he earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Humboldt State College, married college girlfriend Ruth Morehouse, and a few short months later was drafted to serve in the Vietnam War. After Vietnam, he returned to his work with the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Oregon, where their first son and a daughter were

born. In 1975, Bill joined the U.S. Forest Service to begin a 30-year career as a silviculturist that he loved and at which he excelled. Bill retired from the Forest Service in 2005. Survivors include his wife Ruth; daughter Elizabeth Jensen; sons Jeffrey and Timothy; and two grandchildren.

Merle Marshall died May 9, 2014, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Merle was born December 19, 1922, in Estacada, Oregon, grew up in the hills above Estacada, and graduated from Estacada High School in 1940. During World War II, Merle served in the U.S. Army in the 801st Engineer Aviation Battalion on the Azores Islands and on Okinawa. After the war, while working as a carpenter on the Grand Coulee Dam, he met and married Dorothy Jess, and the couple built a home in Estacada. Merle worked at a variety of jobs before he joined the U.S. Forest Service. In 1956 he was transferred to the Barlow Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, in Dufur, Oregon, where he served as fire control officer until he retired in 1978 and lived the rest of his life. Dorothy died September 10, 2013, just a month short of their 66th wedding anniversary. Merle was a past commander of the American Legion, a past master of the Masonic Lodge, a past patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and a member of Al Kader Shriners. Survivors include their daughter Judy Marshall, son Jerry, a granddaughter, and two great-grandchildren.

Eileen June Oatman died April 15, 2014, at age 80. Eileen was born June 2, 1933, in Bend, Oregon, and had a career working for the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include her husband Bennie Oatman; sons Nick and Neal; and daughter Roxie Montoya.

Lloyd W. Olson died November 12, 2012, at age 80. He was a PNWFSA member. Lloyd was born October 24, 1932, in Centralia, Washington, graduated from high school in Centralia, and later attended the University of Washington College of Forestry where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1954. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1957 to 1959, and in July 1962 married Lucille Pond with whom he had three sons. Lloyd served in the U.S. Forest Service as a forester in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and the WO. Survivors include Lucy and sons Daniel, Patrick, and Joseph.

Editor's Note: News of Lloyd's death was received only in May 2014.

Walter T. "Walt" Parker died June 10, 2014. He was a PNWFSA member. No further information is yet available.

Marlin Edward Plank died March 29, 2014, at age 80. He was a PNWFSA member and President of PNWFSA in 2005 and 2006. Marlin was born December 15, 1933, in Clinton, Iowa, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Iowa State College. He served in the U.S. Army and in 1962 married June Ledford, with whom he raised five children. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1993 after a long and distinguished career; he was serving with the Timber Quality Research Unit at the Pacific Northwest Research Station when he retired. Marlin spent his leisure time playing golf and was an avid bird-watcher. Always a fan of spectator sports, the Chicago Cubs was one of his all-time favorite teams. Marlin was a pillar in

the church community and “the volunteer’s volunteer” at St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Portland, Oregon. Survivors include his wife June; sons Corey, Edward, and Andrew; daughters Diane Steagall and Karen Bravo; and seven grandchildren.

Anita M. Robison died January 18, 2014, at age 95. She was a PNWFSA member. Anita Hendricks was born in 1918 in Seattle, Washington, and graduated from Franklin High School. She married James Robison who preceded her in death; they had a son and three daughters. Anita enjoyed many years of service in the U.S. Forest Service at what is now the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest SO, and also enjoyed bowling, dancing, traveling, and gardening. Survivors include her son Jim Robison; daughters Linda Robison, Susan Carlsen, and Kathleen Robison; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

D’Marus Rumsey died May 12, 2014, at age 76. D’Marus was born in July 1938 in Roseburg, Oregon. He graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in accounting, served in the U.S. Forest Service in fiscal management positions at the Okanogan National Forest and Gifford Pinchot National Forest SOs, and retired from the Forest Service in 1996 after 25 years of service. D’Marus lived for fishing and trips to Reno with “a few select friends.” He loved dogs, and was an avid collector of old, empty whiskey bottles. “There has been some discussion among his friends as to his capabilities as a golfer,” Ray Steiger recalls. “But they all agree he was an expert at sinking a basketball behind him over his head. D’Marus was tall!”

Raymond W. “Ray” Scharpf died May 19, 2014, at age 79. He was a PNWFSA member and PNWFSA area representative for the western Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Ray was born April 11, 1935, in San Jose, California, to 1925 immigrants from Germany. As a youth, he spent summers in the forests and along the rivers of Yosemite National Park with his family. He graduated from Willow Glen High School in 1953, served in the National Guard, and earned a degree in wildlife biology at San Jose State College. Ray worked college summers at Crater Lake National Park as a park ranger; it was there he met Linda Hunt whom he married in Salem, Oregon, in 1961. Ray and Linda then moved to the Mt. Hood National Forest where he began his U.S. Forest Service career. Among his assignments was service on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Outside of work, Ray dedicated his time to coaching high school track and pursuing his many interests including family and friends, birding, fishing, and gardening. Survivors include his wife Linda; son Mike; daughter Karen Gamble; five grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Arthur L. “Art” Seamans died June 12, 2014, at age 78. He was a PNWFSA member. Art was born October 6, 1936, in Lebanon, New Hampshire. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire and earned a master’s degree in forestry at Yale University. While attending a Yale Forestry School course in Arkansas, Art met Joyce LaFran Barnette of Crossett, Arkansas; they married on December 25, 1960. Art and Joyce moved to Idaho where he started the U.S. Forest Service career that

took him to positions on the St. Joe, Clearwater, Bitterroot, Nez Perce, and Wallowa-Whitman national forests. He served in the National Guard during the Berlin Crisis of the early 1960s. He was work programs manager at Trapper Creek Job Corps Center near Darby, Montana, in the late 1960s. His position as district ranger on the all-wilderness Moose Creek Ranger District within the Selway-Bitterroot National Forest, a job he felt honored to hold, led Art to a very different type of wilderness in Oregon and Idaho’s Hells Canyon where he served as area manager of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area from 1980 until 1992 when he retired from government service. In retirement, Art applied his knowledge of Hells Canyon and expertise on its waters as a Snake River Adventures tour and fishing guide. He especially enjoyed taking school children on spring tours of North America’s deepest river gorge and teaching them about its environment and history. Art was also active in many Idaho outdoor recreation organizations and initiatives. Art enjoyed many outdoor sports with his family and traveling with Joyce as well as a group of high school classmates. Survivors include Joyce; daughters Cindy Schacher and Nancy Buttenhoff; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Allen Eugene “Al” Thompson died March 16, 2014, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member. Al was born August 31, 1931, in Cambridge, Nebraska, the oldest of three children. The family lived on a small farm, raising their own animals and produce, until harder times during the Great Depression and its Dust Bowl years took them to McCook, Nebraska. The family later returned to Cambridge, where Al attended, played sports in, and graduated from high school. After graduation, he served four years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After returning to the States, Al met and married Charlotte A. Palmer and they moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he earned a degree in civil engineering at the University of Nebraska. Al joined the U.S. Forest Service and served in Idaho, Utah, and Washington during his career of designing forest roads and campgrounds and inspecting ski areas. He fought major forest fires across the country. Transferred to the Wenatchee National Forest in 1973, Al did some design work on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the North Cascades. After he retired from the Forest Service in Wenatchee, Washington, in 1987, Al worked for Chelan and Douglas counties. Al and Charlotte had four children. In 1991, Al met and married Barbara Edison. Al loved the outdoors, always thought of himself as a farmer, and enjoyed working in his small cherry orchard. He coached his daughters in high school and AAU track, and when he was 60 joined Wenatchee’s senior softball league; in 2002 he started to spend winters in Arizona where he was able to play softball all winter long. Survivors include his wife Barbara; daughters Dawn Shreiner, Dixie Randall, and Dori Thompson; son Bill Thompson; stepsons Gregg Edison and Todd Edison; and four grandchildren.

Ruby E. Wood died March 16, 2014, at age 92. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late William C. “Bill” Wood. Ruby Plummer was born August 16, 1921, in Powell, Wyoming, and in 1924 moved with her family to Missoula, Montana, where she graduated from Missoula County High

School in 1939. She married Thomas H. Strong in 1942, and completed a degree in physical education at the University of Montana while he was serving in Europe during World War II; the couple lived in Spokane, Washington, with their five children. In 1957, Ruby returned to Missoula where she married Kenneth G. Richards; the couple had two sons, and spent the next two decades working hard and raising her seven children. Ruby taught school, served in Missoula's parks and recreation agency, and eventually became the city parks supervisor. In 1981, Ruby married former classmate and longtime friend William C. Wood and moved to Beaverton, Oregon, where she merged her existing family with Bill's family. In her retirement, she and Bill were socially active, attending reunions with friends and families, smokejumper gatherings, hunting and fishing trips, and traveling to Hawaii, Alaska, and throughout the country. Following Bill's death in 2002, Ruby returned to Missoula where she continued to enjoy square dancing, swimming, and Grizzly football games. Survivors include her children Marcia Strong-Dias, Barbara Moredock, Judy Guthrie, Paula Corrick, Tom Strong, Ted Richards, and Jim Richards; Bill's sons Gary and Tye; 17 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Other U.S. Forest Service Deaths

Miles Raymond "Mike" Howlett, former Chief Engineer, U.S. Forest Service, died April 27, 2014, at age 92. Mike served as a U.S. Army officer in the 47th Engineers Battalion during World War II, and 34 years as a U.S. Forest Service engineer. *Submitted by Chuck Lundeen.*

James L. "Jim" Stewart, former Pacific Northwest Region forest pathologist, died April 21, 2014, at age 75. Jim's 30-year U.S. Forest Service career included service as Director of Forest Pest Management from 1976 to 1986 and then Director of Forest Insect and Disease Research in the WO. *Submitted by Bill Ciesla.*

Letters

Ted Yarosh remembers Don Corn

Sorry to hear of Don Corn's tragic death. Don and I were in Prineville on the Ochoco National Forest in the early 1960s, he in range and I in timber. He was a great buddy. We sailed on his sailboat on the Ochoco Reservoir, skied at Mt. Bachelor. He had a dog, a Corvette, and an airplane. What a great smile and adventurous spirit he had!

Dale Farley remembers Ross Files

As a high school student about 1947 I was skiing at Snoqualmie Pass. An old heavy toboggan broke loose and was headed full tilt toward the lift line. Suddenly this green parka clad figure with a Forest Service shield came skiing across the slope and dived onto the sled and stopped it. This hero was Ross. Since I was headed toward forestry, this made a big impression on me about Ross and the Forest Service.

His career was a mix of tradition through the district ranger ranks and the early "snow ranger" days, the political aspects of

the North Cascades, fire bossing without a team, Visitor Information Services, and leading by example. I think they broke the mold.

Bruce Hendrickson remembers Ross Files

When I led the Building Design Group during planning, design, and construction of Cape Perpetua and Lava Lands visitor centers, that gruff old so and so Ross Files turned out to be very good at project management and at working with a variety of disciplines. I know that Ross and I and many others worked effectively together and the result was two successful visitor centers. Other contacts with Ross over the years were always enjoyable.

Fred Henley remembers Ross Files

I had the pleasure to work with Ross in the mid-60s while in the RO. At that time he was laying out the formation of themes and locations for visitor centers, most still operating today, throughout the region. Continuing on through the 60s I worked with him on numerous overhead teams on fires. In 1970 he selected me to be his "ghost" assistant to do liaison with MGM Studios during the filming of the 1971 documentary *Wildfire*.

Ross was a real pleasure to work with and for. He would use a simple word here and a gentle nudge there to help me learn, gain confidence, and know we had done a good job. I last saw him at the Portland reunion as he sat alone in the lobby, and I walked over to him. We remembered our times together.

Bob Hetzer remembers Ross Files

I had the pleasure of working with Ross on VIS (Visitor Information Services) programs during the 1960s. While on the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, he helped with the Dee Wright Observatory on McKenzie Pass. Next, while on the Deschutes National Forest, it was with Lava Butte. In later years, we shared our district ranger memories of the Glacier Ranger District, Mt. Baker National Forest. Ross was always a joy to work with.

Beth Horn remembers Ross Files

I was so saddened to hear about Ross Files. He was my boss for many years in the Regional Office. A gruff exterior hid a soft spot for people he cared about. I always knew he was in my corner. I still have the little wooden train and tractor he brought for our daughter after she was born. Now the grandkids play with them and I think of Ross when they pull them out!

Ken White remembers Ross Files

I knew Rosco. I went to college with his son Todd and my family followed his by living in the Forest Service house at Snoqualmie Pass where I was the snow ranger for over 10 years. If you ever knew him you would never forget him.

Pam Devereaux Wilson remembers Ross Files

For my very first naturalist talk at Tillicum Beach, Tom Harlan brought Ross Files to hear me. I was working as acting director of Cape Perpetua. I had revised an old slide show program and this was the first time it was to be shown. I was so nervous I remember thinking there might be some great accident that could happen that would mean I couldn't work that evening. Nothing did. I popped the popcorn, managed to light the campfire with one match, and apparently did OK, because after the

program Ross came over, shook my hand, and said “Good job.” I invited him and Tom to stay for popcorn, but they declined. I remember his kindness and good words, my relief that I still had a job.

Dick Chase *remembers Dick Henry*

Dick Henry was truly a unique person, and the opportunity to work with him in the RO, at NARTC, and when he was fire director in Region 5 was a privilege that I have cherished, for I learned much about how to deal with both people and situations from his focused, incisive, yet always personable management style. His contributions to the “old” Forest Service are myriad. I wish I could have said goodbye.

Ted Stubblefield *remembers Dick Henry*

Dick Henry and I were neighbor rangers on the Klamath National Forest in the early 1970s; he was at Happy Camp while I was the new “baby ranger” at Economy, down river at Some’s Bar.

Dick was a solid friend and together we must have given Forest Supervisor Dan Abraham and Deputy Forest Supervisor Bill Covey fits, since we were both outspoken and wanted some changes.

Dick was quite the character and I enjoyed his attitude, commitment, and counsel.

I know he was struggling with his health these past several years and my heart goes out to Nancy and their family.

Dave Anderson *remembers Pat Int-Hout*

Pat was a very special person and had a quiet confidence that inspired those around him. He also had a great sense of humor!

Bruce Brown *remembers Merle Marshall*

Merle was the classic “old time” FCO, tough when it was needed, but I never saw him without a smile. I spent only a year at Dufur, but Merle made me feel like I belonged there. He taught me a lot about how to live and work in a “transition” forest, and he was always willing to forgive the screw-ups of a young JF.

Lloyd Musser *remembers Merle Marshall*

I knew and admired Merle since he taught classes in the early 1960s at the annual guard school for new Mt. Hood National Forest employees. He always had a positive attitude and some good words of advice for us greenhorns.

I especially liked him because he had good history stories to share. When we opened the Mt. Hood museum he would come by and share Mt. Hood National Forest and CCC stories.

He donated some historical items to the museum collection. One item he donated was a correspondence course for an airplane pilot license he took while in the CCC at Zigzag. He also took an auto mechanics course. At Zigzag CCC camp he had neither an airplane nor an automobile, but he said the courses kept him out of trouble!

Bob Hetzer *remembers Marlin Plank*

What a shock! Marlin and I were classmates at Iowa State College. In 1956, Marlin, John Berger, and I were tent mates at ISC’s forestry summer camp on the then-Metolius Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest.

I always looked forward to our discussions at the monthly OldSmokeys luncheon. Marlin was one of the good guys and will be truly missed.

Fred Henley *remembers Anita Robison*

Anita Robison was one of those unsung heroes of the Forest Service, working behind the scenes to many, but who actually kept the work flowing. She was of great help to an unknown number of us with her insight and knowledge gained in the office.

Carole Holly *remembers Ray Scharpf*

Ray hired me as a coop student on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and I worked for him for ten years. He had more energy than anyone I ever knew. Thanks to him, I had a good career with the Forest Service. Being from Iowa, I could very easily have stayed at home in a career away from forest management, but Ray gave me an opportunity to return to and stay in Washington State.

Bruce Hendrickson *remembers Bob Tavernia*

When I started my career in 1960 at Rager Ranger Station on the Ochoco National Forest, Bob Tavernia was SO engineering staff officer that had a great influence on the start of my career as an engineer. I admit at the beginning I resented the control he had over my actions; after all, I was a graduate engineer. Didn’t I know enough to work on my own? Fortunately, I quickly learned I did not, and that Bob T. could teach me a great deal. For the remainder of my time on the Ochoco I came to deeply respect Bob’s abilities.

Stan Fouts *reflects on planting trees*

First I planted trees for/as a Forest Service employee in 1964. Those trees today average 24 inches dbh and over 100 feet tall. Then I became an engineer for the agency, retiring in 1994.

Don Nelson *appreciates the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Thanks for a great newsletter. I look forward to receiving it.

Janet Tyrell *appreciates the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

I very much enjoy the newsletter and often use the articles to “educate” various individuals!

Joan Landsberg *appreciates May luncheon and meeting photographs*

Thanks so much for all you do to keep us informed. Photos much enjoyed. I have right arm in a cast due to a fall; am one-finger left-hand typing.

Vince Puleo *appreciates May luncheon photographs*

Nice job. Though don’t know most of the people, good to see subjects identified.

Fred Zensen *checks in from Cudjoe Key, Florida*

Life in the Keys is delightful! Sunny, warm, great fishing, and a bit of rum.

Dale Farley *corrects caption in “Arlyn Beck’s U.S. Forest Service” article in the Spring 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter*

In the fire guard school instructors photograph caption in this article on page 23 of the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the person identified as “Les Wahlgren” is really named “Les Wahrgren.”

Forest Service News continued from page 15

U.S. Forest Service Study Finds Fuel Treatments Make Economic Sense

A new study released April 10, 2014, found investing in proactive forest management activities can save up to three times the cost of future fires, reduce high-severity fire by up to 75 percent, and produce added benefits for people, water, and wildlife.

The study, conducted in the central Sierra Nevada in an area just north of last summer's Rim Fire on the Sanislaus National Forest, was authored by the U.S. Forest Service, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy and was developed in consultation with a broad range of local and regional stakeholders.

"Sometimes it is useful to validate common sense with careful study," Steve Wilent, editor of the Society of American Foresters periodical *Forestry Source*, commented. "Here's a report that does so." It also supports the intent of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy reported above.

The Study

"Recent megafires in California and the West have destroyed lives and property, degraded water quality, damaged wildlife habitat, and cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars," said David Edelson, Sierra Nevada Project Director with The Nature Conservancy. "This study shows that, by investing now in Sierra [and, presumably other western] forests, we can reduce risks, safeguard water quality, and recoup up to three times our initial investment while increasing the health and resilience of our forests."

The *Mokelumne Watershed Avoided Cost Analysis* examines the costs and benefits of reducing the risk of high-severity forest fires through proactive techniques like thinning and controlled burns. Scientists modeled future wildfires with and without proactive fuel treatments. The results indicate that investing in healthy forests can significantly reduce the size and intensity of fires and save millions of dollars in structure loss, carbon released, and improved firefighting safety and costs.

Megafires have become much more common in the last decade. The average size of a fire today is nearly five times that of the average fire in the 1970s, and the severity is increasing. The Sierra Nevada is at especially high risk this year with only one-third of normal snowpack as a result of the drought. "Many scientists are predicting an increase in the size and severity of fires due to a changing climate," said Jim Branham, Executive Officer of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

The Goal

Last year, the U.S. Forest Service spent one billion dollars to cover firefighting shortfalls, taking money from programs that fund activities designed to reduce risk of such fires. As reported in the Spring 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, proposed bipartisan legislation called the Wildfire Funding Disaster Act seeks to address this problem by creating a reserve fund dedicated to excess firefighting costs, similar to the way the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEM) provides funds to respond

to other natural disasters.

"Our ongoing goal is to increase the pace and scale of our restoration work and this study strongly supports that," said Randy Moore, Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region. "Our current pace of restoration work needs to be accelerated to mitigate threats and disturbances such as wildfires, insects, diseases, and climate change impacts. That goal is to engage in projects that restore at least 500,000 acres per year. Many types of projects help us reach our restoration goals including mechanical vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, and managing wildfire for resource benefits."

For more information on the *Mokelumne Avoided Costs Analysis*, or to download the study, visit <www.sierranevada.ca.gov>.

Prepared from "Why Sierra Fuel Treatments Make Economic Sense" posted on April 10, 2014, on *A New Century of Forest Planning* blog.

U.S. Forest Service Action to Combat Insects and Diseases that Weaken Forests and Increase Fire Risks Announced

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced on May 20, 2014, "action to help 94 national forest areas in 35 states to address insect and disease threats that weaken forest and increase the risk of forest fires," according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture news release on that date. "These areas are receiving an official designation that will provide the Forest Service, working collaboratively with stakeholders, additional tools and flexibility to more efficiently plan and accomplish restoration treatments in those areas. Vilsack announced the designations in Denver where he discussed additional efforts to help better prepare for and combat the threat of wildfire."

"USDA and the Forest Service are working to improve the health of our national forests and reduce the risk of forest fire," said Secretary Vilsack. "The designations announced today, made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, will support the Forest Service's ability to work with partners to restore areas within the National Forest System that have been impacted by insects and disease."

The new Farm Bill amends the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to allow the Forest Service to more quickly plan projects for insect and disease treatment within designated areas, in an effort to increase the pace and scale of restoration across the National Forest System. Using the new tools in the Farm Bill, restoration projects in these designated areas have to be developed in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders and must meet environmental safeguards.

The Forest Service will use the authority to work collaboratively with states, tribes, partners, stakeholders, and the public to develop and implement restoration projects within designated areas that reduce the risk of insect and disease infestations along with drought. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell designated over 45 million acres of the National Forest System in response to requests from governors whose states are experiencing, or are at risk of, an insect or disease epidemic. Insect and disease damage makes forests more susceptible to wildfire.

"Working with local partners to combat insect and disease

infestation has long been one of our top priorities, and this new authority gives us additional tools to implement landscape scale projects,” Chief Tidwell said. “We will continue our commitment to involve the public as we develop and implement projects in these areas.”

Prepared from U.S. Department of Agriculture News Release No. 0096.14 “Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Announces Action to Combat Insects and Diseases that Weaken Forests, Increase Fire Risk” of May 20, 2014.

U.S. Forest Service Embroiled in Contentious and Complicated Controversy Over National Forest Recreation Fees

“A pair of recent federal court cases concerning fees for visits to national forestland [sic] could lead to higher fees and more concessionaires running day-use sites, warns a critic of the U.S. Forest Service,” the May 11, 2014 edition of *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper, reported the latest development in the continuing forest fees saga.

Recreation fee history

Fees have been charged to use some National Forest System campgrounds at least since Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964—this editor recalls a one dollar a night fee for some developed Toiyabe National Forest camp-grounds began the next year—and have been generally accepted by forest visitors. But charging fees for other national forest recreation opportunities in more recent decades has led to confusion and controversy.

The confusion and controversy picked up in 1996 when Congress approved the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo) that authorized the Forest Service to add day-use fees at some recreational areas including parking lots at wilderness trailheads. This fee program was implemented on a region-by-region and forest-option basis.

Many citizens objected to being charged fees to visit their public lands. Others couldn’t figure out how to pay the fees. Californians, for example, who purchased the Adventure Pass sold by four southern California national forests, wondered why it didn’t suffice in the Pacific Northwest Region where the Northwest Forest Pass was required. And within the Pacific Northwest Region, some wondered why, say, the Deschutes National Forest required fees and the Ochoco National Forest did not. Confusion and controversy led to public protests.

Fee Demo was replaced by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (FLERA). Among its many provisions regarding collection and use of recreation fees by federal agencies, FLREA contained a clause allowing third parties such as concessionaires to charge for goods and services “notwithstanding any other provision of law.” According to its critics, the Forest Service has interpreted that to mean that concessionaires don’t have to abide by the same legal requirements the agency must.

Court case decisions

Public perceptions of that Forest Service interpretation led to one lawsuit. Continuing objections to fees in led to another.

Recent decisions in these cases, according to one critic of

U.S. Forest Service administration of national forest recreation resources, could lead to higher fees and more concessionaires operating national forest day-use sites.

On March 28, 2014, U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras in Washington, D.C., ruled that concessionaires on contract with the Forest Service aren’t subject to the same fee restrictions as the agency itself, and that they don’t have to honor federal recreation passes.

Then, early in May, U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter, Jr., in California ruled that the Forest Service couldn’t charge parking fees to forest visitors who didn’t use restrooms, picnic tables, or other developed facilities.

““Together, the two court cases have set up a ‘perfect storm’ that could lead the Forest Service to rely more heavily on concessionaires,” said Kitty Benzar, president of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition” in Colorado, *The Bulletin* reported. ““If they are determined to make people pay for parking, they have a clear path to do that now,” Benzar said. The path would be having concessionaires rather than the agency itself collect fees at recreation sites.”

Whether these decisions will affect Pacific Northwest Region national forests anytime soon is unclear, according to Jocelyn Biro, Region 6 developed recreation program manager. Both decisions could be appealed. And the process of congressional reauthorization of the FLREA before it expires on December 8, 2015, could resolve the issues. Time will tell.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Are higher forest fees on the horizon?” by Dylan J. Darling in the May 11, 2014, The Bulletin; “Federal Judge Allows Privatization of All Recreation on All National Forests” posted in A New Century of Forest Planning blog on March 30, 2014; and experience.



U.S. Forest Service Website Gets Makover

The U.S. Forest Service website has a new look. As announced in “The Chief’s Desk: People, Places and Things” on June 13, 2014, the just-updated “new national headquarters website implements a new design for the U.S. Forest Service, while balancing USDA design standards.”

That means, as Andy Stahl put it in a June 6, 2014, comment in the “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog, the new Forest Service website “now conforms in appearance to those of all other USDA agencies, e.g., NRCS, Farm Service Agency, Food Safety and Inspection Service.”

The new header for the Forest Service’s new website (shown above) features the U.S. Department of Agriculture logo and the U.S. Forest Service shield. “Anyone for a blog pool on what date the badge will disappear from the FS’s new website banner?” Stahl asked, rhetorically reflecting the Winter 2013 attempt to scuttle the Forest Service’s historic insignia.

Prepared from “FS Website Gets a Makeover” by Andy Stahl, posted on “A New Century of Forest Planning” on June 6, 2014, and “The Chief’s Desk: People, Places and Things” on June 13, 2014.

John R. “Bob” Poet Wrote About *Fifteen Years at Imnaha Guard Station* and *Looking for Smoke*

By Les Joslin

John R. “Bob” Poet—who wrote as “JB Poet”—had the same thought I had while, on sunny April 18, 2014, I was bushwhacking on the Rogue River National Forest—now half of the lumped Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest—southeast of Prospect Ranger Station.

“Someone must have traveled from northeastern Oregon many years ago and named land features near Prospect, Oregon, based on their experience,” he wrote in the first sentence of his 2005 book *Fifteen Years at Imnaha Guard Station* I ran across while reviewing my day’s trip on the Internet. “There are three rivers in the extreme corner of our state: Imnaha, Willamette, and Whitman,” he explained. “Just southeast of Prospect there are three major creeks in the Rogue River National Forest with the same names.”

And for one of those three creeks historic Imnaha Guard Station—at which Mr. Poet served 15 summers from 1970 through 1984 and which I included in the original 1995 edition of *Uncle Sam’s Cabins*—is named. His explanation of the station’s name squared with what my research had turned up and I had published in that book: “It seems an early Butte Falls area settler, fresh from northeastern Oregon, brought the name Imnaha and others with him, applied them to area creeks, and they stuck.”

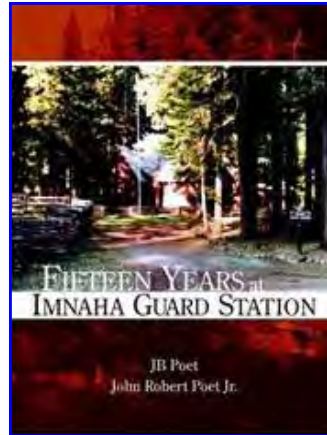
Always looking for another book good for this page, I contacted Bob who sent me a review copy of his 2005 book and a copy of his 2006 book, *Looking for Smoke: Adventures of an Aerial Observer*, as well.

About the author

“When people ask me what I did for a living I used to tell them I was a fireman for the Forest Service and in the off season I taught school,” Bob wrote in his *Imnaha Guard Station* book. He’d wanted to be a forester, but couldn’t afford to go away to the School of Forestry at Oregon State College so stayed at home, went to college, and became a math teacher and coach. Before he retired from 28 years of teaching and his seasonal Forest Service career in 1997, he’d:

- worked a road crew summer on the Mt. Hood National Forest;
- worked on a survey crew on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, and got some fire experience;
- spent 15 summers as a fire guard at Imnaha Guard Station on the Butte Falls Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest; and
- spent another decade of summers on the Willamette National Forest, two or three as an aerial observer and the rest as a dispatcher in Eugene.

With that background, many OldSmokeys who read this just have to know him!



*JB Poet’s books **Fifteen Years at Imnaha Guard Station** and **Looking for Smoke: Adventurers of an Aerial Observer** are replete with color photographs as well as colorful stories.*

About his books

Both of JB Poet’s books are colorful—both in terms of the stories they tell and the brilliant color photographs that illustrate these large format, personal accounts of a seasonal Forest Service career of which he is justly proud.

Fifteen Years at Imnaha Guard Station is nothing short of a love song to a forest, a place in that forest, and his place at that place in that forest to which many an OldSmokey can personally relate. At Imnaha Guard Station, Bob served the public while he and his wife raised four boys. Each of those boys worked for the Forest Service for a time. Bob shares his astonishment that a bureaucratic decision not to staff Imnaha Guard Station starting in the 1985 season made him Imnaha’s last guard.

“I will always feel like the guard station at Imnaha was a great value to the people who use the forest,” he wrote. “But nobody asked me.”

So Bob applied for and got a position on the Willamette National Forest as an aerial observer. That job provided the adventures related in and spectacular color photographs that illustrate his 2006 book *Looking for Smoke*. Flying in a small plane with a pilot on a prescribed route over the forest looking for smokes was the job. His oldest son, John, joined him as an aerial observer in 1987. Two years later, John, who worked year-round for the Forest Service, became lead observer. Bob was transferred to Eugene to be a radio dispatcher during the summer months.

JB Poet’s 74-page *Fifteen Years at Imnaha Guard Station* (softcover ISBN 1-4134-8511-1; hardcover ISBN 1-4134-8512-X) published in 2005 by Xlibris Corporation, and his 50-page *Looking for Smoke: Adventures of an Aerial Observer* (softcover ISBN 1-4257-0633-9; hardcover ISBN 1-4527-0823-4) published in 2006 by Xlibris Corporation, may be ordered online from Amazon.com (just Google the title) or from Alibris, Abebooks, Biblio.com, or Powells Books.

Coming in your Fall 2014 OldSmokeys Newsletter: Reviews of more new books by OldSmokeys!



Uncle Sam's Cabins

Imnaha Guard Station

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon

Story and photograph by Les Joslin

Historic Imnaha Guard Station, a Cascadian Rustic style house and garage built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1935 and 1937, replaced the old "Imnaha Tool Cabin" built between 1908 and 1910 on the old Crater National Forest as a tool cache and occasional shelter for seasonal trail and fire crews. In 1911, the Imnaha meadow was fenced to provide forage for Forest Service livestock. At the junction of several major trails, it was reached only by trail until sometime between 1925 and 1930 when the road from Prospect was built.

During the New Deal years, the CCC built not only the new Imnaha Guard Station buildings but also the adjacent Imnaha Campground. After the World War II years, access improved.

The guard station housed a seasonal Forest Service fire guard through 1985. This residence—complete with the pine tree logo on the gable ends, lava rock foundation and chimney, massive front door with wrought-iron hardware, and knotty-pine paneling inside—is a typical CCC-built guard station. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the guard station is available for rent from May 15 through October 15 for \$50 per night with a maximum of six occupants. Reserve toll free 1-877-444-6777 or on-line at <www.recreation.gov>.

To get there from Butte Falls, drive east on the Butte Falls-Fish Lake Highway (County Road 821). Less than a mile from town, turn left onto the Butte Falls-Prospect Highway (County Road 992) and go 9 miles to Forest Road 34. Turn right, go 8 miles until junction with Forest Road 37, and travel north-northeast 4.5 miles. Take Imnaha Campground turn-off and go through campground to the cabin. From Prospect, turn east off Oregon Highway 62 at the prospect turn-off just south of the Prospect Ranger Station, drive through Prospect, turn east onto the Butte Falls-Prospect Highway (County Road 992) at the Prospect Hotel, go 2 or 3 miles and take the turn-off onto Forest Road 37, drive about 7 miles to the Imnaha Campground turn-off. Wheeled vehicle access is possible only from late spring through early fall, depending on snow conditions.

The Way We Were

A U.S. Forest Service Wife Remembers Ranger Station Housing

By Lois Jones

In my time, when a wife of a U.S. Forest Service forester heard her husband was to be transferred, one of her first thoughts was about housing. Housing, in those days, could be anything from a tent to a boxcar to a prefab to a barn—or even a regular house. There was quite a variety!

Sisters Ranger Station in 1947-48

I was a new bride in 1947 and our first house at the ranger station in Sisters, Oregon, was a small prefab with a small wood stove. I was a city girl who knew nothing about such things!

Our house was across the street from Joe Graham's cabin. It is still standing. The city park and playground in Sisters is now where our house was. A huge boulder that was in our front yard forms part of the park boundary.

Bear Springs Ranger Station in 1948-50

Our home at Bear Springs Ranger Station was a prefab, the same as at Sisters Ranger Station except that a room had been added. This room was where the hot water heater and laundry facilities were located. Bottled gas was used for cooking. We used the small bedroom as the baby's room.

We came back from a Christmas break to a sagging ceiling in the front room. A forgotten hot water heater in the attic had frozen. What a place for a discarded hot water heater! Lots of scurrying around and mopping up followed.

One evening I opened the back door to put the puppy out and there was a huge porcupine on the door step. Apparently he thought I was his reception committee and walked right in. He was not eager to leave.

One day a woman came to our door and wanted to use our bathroom! She was very upset when I told her there was a public restroom a quarter mile back.

In the winter of 1948-49, Evan recorded 212 inches of snow at Bear Springs Ranger Station. Great skiing but difficult to get around.

Parkdale Ranger Station in 1950-55

Parkdale seemed like a huge city after Bear Springs. Our house was a converted barn! The whole house at Bear Springs would have fit into one of the barn's bedrooms. There was hardly any closet space in those bedrooms because the Forest Service believed in hooks!

We had a very cranky oil burner cook stove which I resented immensely as the bachelor quarters had a new electric range which was used three months out of the year. On Thanksgiving my range gave out and I had to haul my dinner to the bachelor quarters to complete the cooking. After that episode, we received a new range. How I enjoyed my new electric range!

Oak Grove Ranger Station in 1955-57

Our next move was from a huge house—the converted barn—to a very small one. The kitchen was Pullman style, actually just a path between the open shelves.

This place was heated with a furnace that was in a hole underneath the house. Access was gained by a trap door under the dining area. A skunk visited and left his calling card. We smelled like skunk forever!

Laundry was in a shed tacked onto the house. One day as I picked up some laundry a snake fell out! I was very leery after that and used a stick to pick up each piece of clothing.

Again there was a dearth of closets, but there were two eighteen-inchers at the end of the bunk beds. Thank heavens for hooks. Evan built a closet in our bathroom where the walls were so thin there was frost at times.

I offered to babysit for Clela and Roger Stamy who lived next door so they could go celebrate their wedding anniversary. It was a strange house, it was pouring rain, it was very dark, and I heard a thump, thump outside. I looked out the laundry room door, and there was this jet black horse staring at me. Apparently he was after the apples in the front yard. How he got out of the stable I'll never know, but there he was. I called Evan who returned the horse to the stable. What a fright!

Late one night everyone was in bed and I was reading a mystery book. I looked up and a bat flew out of the fireplace. Such realism! I woke Evan up and we had trouble getting the bat to exit. There was a bear rolling the garbage can around so we couldn't use the back door.

Ripplebrook Ranger Station in 1957-61

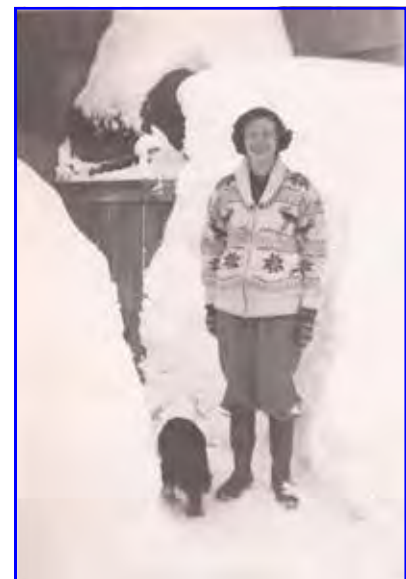
We had heard rumors that new housing was to start at Ripplebrook Ranger Station. It was true! We moved into a lovely new three bedroom house; each bedroom had its own closet! The ceilings were cathedral and the front room looked out to the forest. There was also a full daylight basement which the kids enjoyed greatly during the winter.

This was the last of our Forest Service houses; in all our other moves we purchased our own. I always checked for closet space! What adventures we had!

Editor's Note: OldSmokey Lois Jones married U.S. Forest Service forester Evan E. Jones (1915-2006) after both served in the armed forces during World War II, she as a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman and he in the U.S. Army Air Force. Evan served as a forester and district ranger on several national forests including the Willamette, Deschutes, and Mt. Hood. I haven't looked, but I'd bet the luxurious Bend home Lois shares with their daughter Valeri has plenty of closet space!



The rear of Evan and Lois Jones' house at Bear Springs Ranger Station (during the winter of 1948-1949 above).



Lois and Thanatopsis the dog and the Bear Springs Ranger Station house in January 1950 (right).

The converted barn at Parkdale Ranger Station that was the Jones' home from 1950-1955 (below).

All photographs courtesy of Lois Jones.



“The past belongs to the future, but only the present can preserve it.” —Anonymous

Think about it, and you'll agree that old Anonymous knows what he's talking about! And, as part of “the present” who knows about the U.S. Forest Service past, you'll agree that OldSmokeys can help preserve it by contributing ***Uncle Sam's Cabins, Out of the Past, The Way We Were, and My First Forest Service Job*** articles to their *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Out of the Past

The Northwest's Two Natural Disasters of 1964

By Bill Fessel

Fifty years ago, the Pacific Northwest experienced two big natural disasters. One, the Christmas flood of late 1964 and early 1965 which affected most of the region, is well remembered. The other, the Alaska earthquake and tsunami, is less well remembered outside Alaska, but still significantly affected the Oregon Coast.

The Tsunami

In the spring of 1964, I was in my first full year as District Ranger Bill Fessel, Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest. We were still recovering from the famous Columbus Day Storm of 18 months earlier, with nearly two billion board feet of blowdown salvage under expedited contracts.

I spent Good Friday, March 27, with Timber Sale Officer Jim Bull (now an OldSmokey) visiting active salvage sales on the south end of the district. It was a cloudless day, and when we returned to U.S. Highway 101—the Coast Highway—late in the afternoon to head back to the ranger station, the ocean was smooth and peaceful as far out as we could see. About that time, the sea floor was convulsing a few thousand miles to the north in one of the largest earthquakes of the Twentieth Century.

About 7:00 p.m. I was eating supper in my bachelor pad, aka the ranger's residence, when the phone rang. It was the U.S. Coast Guard in Newport. The earthquake had spawned a tsunami of uncertain magnitude that was headed down the West Coast and probably would reach Oregon during the night. They wanted us to scour the beaches and coves south to Heceta Head for beach campers and, because the tsunami was of uncertain height, thought we should also evacuate the coastal campgrounds.

With a few quick phone calls we divided the 30 or so miles of beach between national forest and state park folks and hit the beach under the light of a full moon. There were plenty of people to alert, many gathered around driftwood fires, enjoying the cool, calm, moonlit night. Meanwhile, we received a more accurate tsunami forecast. It would arrive at Waldport about midnight and peak at about 14 feet, about four feet above the usual highest tide of the year which usually occurs in December. We concluded that Tillicum Beach, the only national forest campground that was open, was high enough that it didn't need to be evacuated, but cautioned the campers to stay away from the beach. Some chose to leave anyway. Beachside State Park, a couple miles farther north, is lower lying and had to be evacuated.

We'd scoured the beaches by 10 p.m., but were asked to help at Waldport where the part of town fronting on Alsea Bay was expected to be in danger of flooding. We waited and

watched under the light of the full moon. Now and then, someone would holler "It's coming!" as a slightly higher wave entered the bay. There must have been a dozen such false alarms before the real thing came at about midnight. It wasn't like a crashing wave, but more of an abrupt lifting of the water level in the bay. The "Old Town" section of Waldport was flooded to a couple of feet deep. Worst hit was the marina, where the tidal surge lifted the docks above the top of the pilings holding them in place. When the water drained back down the bay toward the ocean, it carried the marina's dock system and about 50 moored small boats out through the mouth of the bay and into the ocean beyond.

The largest surge was followed by at least three lesser ones. The next day, the tide seemed to be constantly racing either in or out of the bay. The Coast Guard recovered the floating dock system and the attached boats about a mile off the beach and towed them to Newport, along with several rafts of logs.

The main outcome of the experience was a greater knowledge and awareness of tsunamis and a severe case of the jitters. Twice the next summer, we received advisories to evacuate the coastal area, including the campgrounds. Both occasions turned out to be false alarms. At that time, we were completely unaware of the "monster" lurking in the earth's crust just offshore. The theory of plate tectonics was mostly unknown. We thought tsunamis came from far away, not 50 or 100 miles offshore!

The Flood

Mid-December 1964 brought cold, snowy weather to Oregon's coast range. Two to three feet of snow accumulated down to below a thousand feet elevation. Then, a few days before Christmas, there was an abrupt change. On the 20th and 21st, Waldport measured 5.5 inches of rain and the temperature stayed in the low 60s all night. All the accumulated snow melted and all the main streams flooded. The worst flood damage was confined mainly to the area along the major rivers. The rain saturated the soil and, along with the normal rainfall of January, primed the area for another disaster about a month later.

It came the last week of January, when another very heavy rainfall soaked the area. This time, the smaller drainages flooded and the mountainsides came unglued. An aerial survey showed more than 50 major mudslides on the Waldport Ranger district between Table Mountain and Heceta Head.

Late in the afternoon on January 28, the state highway foreman for that part of the coast stopped to see me at the ranger station. From the highway, it had looked to him like there had been some kind of flash flood in Cape Creek, just south of Cape Perpetua. Cape Perpetua Campground, with about 55 units, lay along the creek, but was closed for the winter. I went down to check it out. I had trouble believing what I saw! A large debris flow had come from the north side of the drainage, hitting the creek a few hundred feet upstream from the upper end of the campground. The debris brought down by the slide had apparently blocked the creek until enough water was backed up for it to break loose. Then it had torn through the

campground, tearing out campsites and footbridges and leaving an incredible amount of woody debris behind. It seemed to have worn itself out by the time it hit Highway 101, although the big concrete box culvert under the highway must have been mighty full for a while. If it had plugged up, the state would really have had a problem, and we'd have had a lake!

I'd brought along my 35mm camera, and quickly took almost a roll of slides at various places. Back at the ranger station, I immediately called the forest recreation staff officer, Don Campbell, and alerted him that we had a disaster on our hands. I managed to get extra fast service on developing those slides and had them, with a write-up of the situation, in the mail in a couple of days. Cape Perpetua became a "poster child" for the forest's and region's appeal for flood damage repair funds.

At the Cape, the immediate need was to do something with the incredible amount of woody debris left behind. It was a simpler time than today! Unencumbered by things like NEPA, wetlands, issues, cultural resources concerns, etc., that today might keep things on hold for a year or more, we went to work. Armed with a promise from the forest supervisor that money would be coming, we hired a mobile yarder/loader who set up at strategic locations the length of the campground and started pulling in and piling debris and burning it just as fast as it was pulled out and piled. Most of the stuff was waterlogged Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and red alder. There was some skepticism that it would burn, but once we had a good fire going, and with the big tongs of the loader frequently chunking up and rearranging the fire, it burned quite well.

The flooding had literally wiped out every camp improvement from the creek to the campground road. Only the comfort stations, on the uphill side of the road, were undamaged. The only salvageable items in the flood zone were a few camp tables that somehow had ridden out the flood. The tables were all numbered, so we could see how far some of them traveled!

Once the woody debris was gone, we could get on with building a "new" campground. While the clearing and burning were still in progress, forest landscape architect Mike Clark prepared a new site plan. In addition to wood, the flood had filled the old stream bed with gravel and left the stream almost up to the level of the road in many places. Some thought that we should dig out a defined stream channel. Others advocated letting time and nature take its course, and that strategy prevailed. In a few years, Cape Creek had done its slow, steady job of cutting down through the flood accumulation to run in a channel that was several feet deep.

Establishing a new set of camp units and a new water system took some time. Fortunately, the Angell Job Corps Center came into being that next spring. Cape Perpetua was one of their first projects. I don't remember if the campground was open for public use in the summer of 1965, but it certainly was in 1966.

A few months ago, I walked the length of the campground, following the trail on the south side of Cape Creek, then back along the road. The creek flowed quietly in its well established channel under the shade of 40 year-old alder and hemlock. Disturbances heal quickly along the coast! I marveled at the mag-

nificent system of trails and interpretive sites that has been developed surrounding the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center, which was in the planning stage in 1964. It has to be one of the real gems of the National Forest System.

The so-called Christmas flood had an impressive effect on the ocean and beaches. At the peak of the flood, the ocean was brown as far out as one could see from all of the fresh water pouring down the rivers; fresh water is less dense than ocean water, so floats on top. In a day or two, huge masses of driftwood began to show up. The coastal current flows from south to north during the winter, so a lot of the drift came from the extreme flooding of the rivers farther south. Included in the drift were whole trees, pieces of houses, pieces of bridges, cut logs, cut firewood, wooden signs, furniture, docks, dead livestock—if it floats, chances are it was there! Someone brought a sign to the ranger station that was from the trailhead for the Rogue River Trail, west of Grants Pass. It had floated 100 miles down the Rogue, then more than 100 miles north in the ocean to come to rest just north of Waldport. A redwood trunk, probably 12 feet in diameter, came ashore at Big Creek, and is still there 50 years later, half buried in the sand.

Mud slides had shut the local loggers out of the forest road system for an indefinite time, so they took to logging the beaches. Some acted as agents for the owners of masses of cut logs that the flood had turned loose from as far south as Eureka. Others were after any unclaimed logs they could find. The tides controlled when they could work. From where I lived, I often could see floodlights on the beach in the wee hours of the morning as a crew took advantage of a low tide. The sand was hard on chainsaws and cats, but the unbranded logs were free for the taking. Local log buyers told me they'd received log species they'd rarely seen before—redwood, sugar pine, Port Orford cedar, and Jeffrey pine.

***OldSmokeys May Find These Two
U.S. Forest Service Retiree Lapel Pins
from Western Heritage Company in
Colorado of Interest***



Size: 1 inch.

Western Heritage Company of Loveland, Colorado, offers two U.S. Forest Service Retiree lapel pins, a brass one (top) and a green and gold one (bottom) on which the word RETIREE appears under the tree for \$7.95 plus shipping.

To order online, just google "Western Heritage Company" and go to "Forest Service products: USFS pins, patches, badges, key chains..." and add what you want to your basket.

*Announcement approved by
PNWFSA President Al Matecko*

My First Forest Service Job

Summer 1927: With Bigfoot on the Columbia National Forest

By Larry Mays as told to Kent Mays

I started work on the Columbia National Forest [now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest] as a fire guard at the beginning of the summer of 1927. I was assigned to Pine Creek Guard Station [the site of which is now under water behind the Swift Creek Dam]. On my first day I was told to report to the district ranger at Spirit Lake Ranger Station, so I walked from Pine Creek Guard Station by trail around Mt. Saint Helens to the ranger station.

One of my adventures that first summer was to be awakened constantly by trade rats scurrying across the roof of the guard station. One night, to solve that problem, I pulled out my Riesing .22-caliber semi-automatic pistol and shot at those rats on the roof. Of course, the bullets left some holes that required fixing before the next rain. It was only a temporary solution to the rat problem.

I ran into a number of Indian families who walked from the Yakima Indian Reservation to pick huckleberries in the berry fields near Mount St. Helens and along Mount Margaret north of Spirit Lake. I was rarely able to speak with these folks. Whenever I approached they simply vanished into the surrounding forest.

An event near Mount St. Helens that summer so disturbed the seasonal Forest Service employees working in the back country that all began to carry side arms. One weekend a family from the Longview-Kelso area drove up into the national forest for a picnic. When they returned to their automobile, it appeared the car had been partially picked up and jammed between two trees. And there were large footprints, like those made by a huge animal walking upright, at the scene. They made a hurried retreat to Longview and reported the incident to police authorities.

The next day officers and volunteer citizens armed with shotguns and rifles combed the area looking for a large apelike creature. This is one of the tales connected to the “Bigfoot” myth.

Although we were skeptical about apelike creatures, the Forest Service employees continued to pack their weapons. There was some suspicion among them that one of their own had been the culprit in the picnic auto incident. But the suspected person didn’t know how to drive, so they dropped the idea.

At the end of the summer, each employee turned in his pack. When they unloaded the suspected man’s pack, out came a pair of large carved feet. Although this was never reported to the press, the suspect and a friend who could drive had discovered the picnicker auto with the keys in the ignition. Being creative, one drove the car between the two trees so it appeared to be wedged. Then they wiped out the tracks and, with a large

branch, scratched a mark so it appeared the car had been partially picked up and jammed between the trees. Then the suspect put on his carved feet and left conspicuous tracks around the site.

OldSmokey Kent Mays remembers his dad...

Lawrence Kenton “Larry” Mays, my Pop, was born in Longmont Colorado on November 19, 1907, and at four moved with his parents to the Pacific Northwest. He graduated from Vancouver High School in Vancouver, Washington, and after a brief stint as a choker setter decided college might be a better option.

After the summer 1927 job on the Columbia National Forest in this story, he and the Brown twins Carroll and Carlos (Tom), high school friends who remained lifelong friends and U.S. Forest Service colleagues, went to Washington State College in Pullman to study forestry. In 1965, when I was district ranger on the Applegate Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, Carroll Brown was forest supervisor and my boss. He lived to be 100 years old.

Pop continued to work summers on the Spirit Lake Ranger District, but money was scarce and he was not able to finish his college education. Nevertheless, Pop took the forest ranger exam in the fall of 1930 and was appointed in the spring of 1931 and assigned as a scaler in Willard, Washington, north of Hood River, Oregon. Before leaving for the Willard assignment, he married his high school sweetheart, my mother.

Pop went on to serve as district ranger on the Silver Lake Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, from 1932-1935; fire control assistant on the Umatilla National Forest from 1935-1937, during which time I was born and my mother died; a fire control staff officer at the RO in Portland, where he met and married a young woman who worked on that staff and who became Mom to me and my older sister.

Pop was assistant forest supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest from 1941-1942; worked on the World War II “Emergency Rubber Project” in Klamath Falls from 1942-1943; was back on the fire control staff in the RO in Portland from 1943-1944; was forest supervisor of the Fremont National Forest from 1944-1946; served as chief of fire control and then chief of operations in the RO from 1946-1956 and then in the Region 8 RO until 1960.

He served the rest of his career in the WO, retired in 1966, and with Mom moved back to Atlanta. He died in 1982, and she in 1984.

My First Forest Service Job in your Fall 2014 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will feature two first job stories shared by OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson**. The first relates an incident in Butte, Montana, en route Rolf’s first *seasonal* job with the Forest Service in 1954 after his freshman year at Penn State, and the second is about his first *professional* position as a forester that began in July 1958 at White Sulphur Springs, Montana. In line for the Winter 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* are three brief first job accounts by OldSmokeys **Kent Mays**, **Fred Henley**, and **Ken Cochran**. *Where’s your story?*



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