



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2008

President's Message—John Nesbitt

Greetings to all! The first thing that comes to my mind is how does one adequately follow John Poppino? I first worked with John when he was Chair of the Portland Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and I was on the Chapter board. John does such an excellent job of staying unflappable when there is a contentious issue on the table. Thank you, John, for a great OldSmokeys year.

As I look at our 2008, I am reminded what the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association means to me and why I continue as a member. I never regretted a day I worked for the outfit and am still proud of the Forest Service and what it stands for. I am a member of the OldSmokeys to stay in touch with the outfit, and especially to stay in touch with all of you who made it such a great agency. We have lots of activities throughout the year, some of which make money. Most of the profit, if any, from those activities is given to other organizations of volunteers who honor historic natural resource efforts. Our day-to-day survival effort depends on dues, so if you haven't sent in your 2008 dues yet, please do so now. A small Bill for Collection coupon is provided on page 12 for this purpose.

Most of what I have to say probably will be more completely explained elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to mention briefly some of our upcoming activities. The big one will be seeing that the history of Region 6 gets written.

Each national forest has an OldSmokey representative who has agreed to be the communication between the PNWFSA and the folks from that forest area. As some information has been lacking from some areas, the Board of Directors will be encouraging Area Representatives this year to keep communications current. We are especially concerned that the forest supervisors receive the newsletter, and that it not be lost in the mailroom.

Our new bylaws will be published soon. Our "officer year" will then be the same as the calendar year.

One last thing: Don't forget the upcoming Spring Banquet on May 18.

John Nesbitt

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

Forum

Political Forces of Transformation and Consolidation are Defining the Future of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System

“Politics,” as I used to explain the term my American government classes at Central Oregon Community College, “boils down to sorting out who gets what.” Aspects of sorting out who gets what of what little the U.S. Forest Service gets and seems likely to get (more of which, it seems, will be allocated to fire) are the related processes of *transformation* and *consolidation*. These processes reflect reorganization concepts that affect the future of the Forest Service and the National Forest System as much as, if not more than, any. Both impinge directly on the size and shape of the forests and the outfit’s ability to carry out its charge of “caring for the land and serving people.”

Transformation is the continuing Forest Service effort to comply with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pressure to improve its efficiency by reducing costs. When the OMB proposed this be done by removing the regional office (RO) layer of management, the Forest Service countered with an agreement to reduce expenditures at the RO and Washington Office (WO) levels by 25 percent. The charge of the National Transformation Team is to figure out how to do this and, as reported on page 8 of this issue, its approach has changed since this newsletter’s first report on the subject (see “Transformation Program Process is Defining U.S. Forest Service Future” on page 6 of the Fall 2007 issue).

Consolidation is the continuing Forest Service effort to reduce costs and achieve other goals by combining ranger districts and national forests. The efficacy of consolidation has been reviewed by a team commissioned by the Executive Leadership Team. Although not perfect, the Unit Consolidation Review Project Report prepared by this team of six retirees assisted by three presidential management fellows and released by Chief Kimbell on October 10, 2007, “speaks truth to power” as much or more than any commission report yet read by this writer and represents a constructive contribution to defining the future of the Forest Service and its management of the National Forest System. Its findings and recommendations are summarized in “OldSmokeys Participate in U.S. Forest Service Lumping Review” on page 6 of this issue.

Because, as mentioned above, transformation and consolidation are related processes even though they address different levels of management, the authors of the consolidation review report correctly observe that “the work of the National Transformation Team [would be] much more valuable if it [were to take] a more holistic look at the Agency’s organization from the ranger district to the Washington Office.” Doing so could contribute to restoration of what this writer has called an “agency to match the mountains” that “the Forest Service *was* and *should be*.” And, I might add, *must be*.

-- Les Joslin

Consolidation: The Case of the Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests

It was interesting to read about the consolidation of the Siskiyou and Rogue River national forests in the Unit Consolidation Review Report released by Chief Kimbell on October 10. I was forest supervisor of the Siskiyou at the time of the consolidation in 1999, but wasn’t afforded the opportunity to meet with the review team when it assessed this consolidation. I have really mixed emotions about its outcomes, but not for most of the reasons cited in the report.

As noted in the report, the consolidation had been considered for a number of years. I disagree with the report conclusion that “the predominant attitude [of various people involved in this consolidation, both inside and outside the organization—of which I was one] was that the consolidation of the two forests was inevitable, an attitude held by even the relatively small number of people who thought the consolidation was not a good idea” and that, as a result, “little, if any, analysis was done before the Siskiyou forest supervisor took over the reins of the Rogue River.” There was significant reluctance and concern, but we did extensive analysis on the planned savings and action and presented it to the regional forester. John Lowe was never a strong supporter of the consolidation, but agreed to it ultimately. I remember explaining to him that we could save up to a million dollars in salaries and infrastructure once consolidation was complete. His response was that it was worth a million dollars to him to have a forest supervisor in both Grants Pass and Medford.

I also disagree that “the transition from two to one unit was evolutionary and, until the arrival of the acting forest supervisor in 2001, substantial confusion existed in the work force about the future of the forest(s).” We planned the forest supervisor succession

Continued on page 17

This page is for expressing your opinions or sharing your ideas.

Send your Forum inputs to the editor: Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or lesjoslin@aol.com.

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

— *Attributed to Voltaire*

OldSmokey News

OldSmokey Lyle Laverty Named Assistant Secretary of the Interior

OldSmokey **Lyle Laverty**, a 35-year U.S. Forest Service veteran who retired in 2001 and then served six years as Colorado State Parks director, was confirmed by the Senate as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks on October 29, 2007. He will oversee the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

President George W. Bush nominated Lyle for the position on March 26, 2007, but Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), in an effort to force Kempthorne to address ethical lapses within his department, placed a hold on Senate confirmation of the nomination until he was satisfied that such lapses would not happen again. Lyle's unanimous voice vote confirmation came when Wyden was in Oregon to be with his wife as she gave birth to twins on October 30, and not on the Senate floor to ensure his hold was heeded.

Lyle earned a B.S. degree in forest management at Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, in 1965, then embarked on a Forest Service career that included service as a district ranger, forest supervisor, and regional forester as well as RO and WO jobs. During his first WO tour, he earned a master's degree in public administration at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. He is a 1997 graduate of the Executive Leadership Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Lyle's service in Region 6 was as district ranger of the Skykomish Ranger District on the Mt. Baker National Forest in the 1970s and as Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources director in the RO in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Lyle retired from the Forest Service late in 2001 as an associate deputy chief. Throughout his career, he provided leadership of resource programs including timber management, fire and fuel reduction, and watershed, range, wildlife, and recreation.

Prepared from multiple sources including an October 30, 2007, U.S. Department of the Interior news release; an October 31, 2007 article in The Denver Post by Jeremy P. Meyer; an October 31, 2007, Oregon Public Broadcasting story by Colin Fogarty; and Lyle Laverty's statement before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate.

OldSmokey Carroll Brown's 100th Honored by Rogue River-Siskiyou

Last month, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest recognized OldSmokey **Carroll Brown**, supervisor of the Rogue River National Forest from 1957 to 1967, as he turned 100 years old on December 8.

On behalf of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest family, current Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy expressed wishes for a very happy 100th birthday. He acknowledged that Carroll's personal leadership is part of what continues to be handed down through generations of Forest Service personnel. He also inscribed a copy of James G. Lewis's centennial history, *The Forest Service and the Greatest Good*, with a birthday message.

Back on March 10, 2007, the Forest Service had already paid special 100th birthday recognition to Carroll at the Forest's celebration of its centennial on March 1, 2007. During the centennial event, he was presented with the Port-Brown Award for Excellence, the Forest's special annual award to recognize outstanding efforts in the fields of history, historic preservation, and heritage program management. The award, named in part for Carroll and for former District Ranger Lee Port for their respective pioneering efforts in preserving the Forest's history, was presented to Carroll for writing a two-volume history of the Rogue River National Forest.

Prepared from a Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest news release by Patty Burel.

OldSmokey Dick Buscher Helps Dedicate Congressman Lloyd Meeds Memorial



Congressman Norm Dicks addressed the crowd as OldSmokey Dick Buscher looked on at the September 17, 2007, dedication.

Photograph by Paul R. Hart

OldSmokey **Dick Buscher** proudly donned his Forest Service uniform to join U.S. Representatives Norm Dicks (D-Washington) and Dave Reichert (R-Washington) on September 13 to dedicate a memorial to the late Lloyd Meeds, Congressman from the 2nd District of Washington from 1965 to 1979, at the Snow Lake Trailhead entrance to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

The plaque erected at the trailhead stated in part that Congressman Meeds "worked tirelessly to protect these peaks, lakes, and forests for the enjoyment of all. His determination was instrumental in the passage of the Alpine Lakes Area Management Act of 1976, which forever protects this landscape in its unique natural state."

As planning team leader for the Forest Service's Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study, Dick was singled out for praise by Representative Meeds at the October 26, 1976, dedication of the 303,508-acre Alpine Lakes Wilderness as the prime legislative force behind development of the Alpine Lakes bill. After complimenting the Forest Service for its role in developing the

legislation, Meeds saluted Dick's extensive knowledge of the area and expressed gratitude for the assistance he provided the lawmakers in their deliberations.

Prepared from information provided by Paul R. Hart, Public Affairs Group Leader, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, and Hart's November 5, 1976, Region 6 Greensheet article "Alpine Lakes Wilderness dedicated to the people."

OldSmokey Jack Smith Appears in OPB Program *Oregon At War*

OldSmokey **Jack Smith** related his World War II "home front" experience with the Japanese balloon bomb that killed six near Bly, Oregon, in 1945, on the Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) series *Oregon Experience* program *Oregon At War* that aired in late September and early October.

Jack was assistant district ranger to District Ranger Spike Armstrong on the Bly Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, during the latter half of World War II. Toward the end of the war, on Saturday morning, May 5, 1945, Jumbo Barnhouse, the forest road grader operator, sped into the ranger station and bailed out of his pickup. "There's been an explosion on Gearhart Mountain and several people are hurt," he reported.

Jack and Spike equipped themselves, notified the SO, and hurried to the scene. As they arrived, Reverend Archie Mitchell of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Bly pointed them to the site near where he'd dropped off his wife Elysee, 26, and five children ages 11 to 13 who attended his Sunday school, for a fishing trip and gone on to park his car. "Look what we found, dear," Mrs. Mitchell had called to her husband. Then there was a terrible explosion. A Japanese balloon bomb, one of about a thousand to reach the continental United States after drifting across the Pacific Ocean, had exploded and killed all six. Designed to ignite fires and otherwise spread terror and panic, only a few of these bombs did any real damage. As Jack mentioned on the OPB program, Mrs. Mitchell and the five children were the only known World War II fatalities in the continental United States as a result of enemy action. Jack didn't mention on the program that he was assigned to safeguard the six bodies until U.S. Navy investigators arrived to inspect the scene to ensure it was safe to remove them.

Jack's complete account of the incident is available on the OldSmokeys website at www.oldsmokeys.org by clicking on "History" and going to "Bly, Oregon, Balloon Bombing: Recollection by Jack Smith."

Prepared from OPB program Oregon At War, the OldSmokeys web site, and the Oregon Historical Society web site.

OldSmokeys, Other Retirees Back in Service for 2007 Wildfire Season

Several PNWFSA members were among the many Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management retirees back in service during the 2007 wildfire season.

For example, OldSmokeys **George Chesley** and **Mike Edrington**, members of National Interagency Area Command Team 3, deployed for 16 days to Nevada (Elko Area Command)

and for 32 days to Idaho (Cascade Area Command) where the team had oversight and supervision of incident management teams on four national forests. George also had a brief late season assignment to the San Bernardino National Forest during the wind-driven Southern California fires.

And OldSmokeys **Pete Peterson** and **Bill Selby** held down key operational slots on Carl West's Northwest Oregon Incident Management Team along with ten or more other retirees not on the PNWFSA membership roles. "We had four assignments in eastern Oregon," Pete said of his team. "We had an opportunity to head to Montana, but the great fire gods in Portland would not permit us to leave the region."

What are all these retirees doing on the firelines? Isn't this a job for younger folks? "My concern is that there are some great young folks coming up in the organization but still too few to meet the demand," Pete observed. "So I figure this group of retirees is just trying to fill in whatever gaps exist in putting a good team together. Most of these retirees are multitasked and can do a number of jobs. I'm trying to come up with a new ICS term that fills this need. What I've come up with is 'Team Sandbag' for old pile of dirt used to plug holes. This is not to be confused with 'dirt bag.'"

Certainly there were more OldSmokeys and other retirees on the firelines, and there will continue to be as long as the "new normal" of longer wildfire seasons and more and larger wildfires outstrips the supply of active duty wildfire professionals. In addition to plugging holes, these retirees are helping younger fire team professionals learn the ropes.

Editor's Note: Prepared from information that could be acquired through inquiries. Thanks to those who responded.

OldSmokeys Participate in U.S. Forest Service Lumping Review

OldSmokeys **Mike Ash** and **Ted Stubblefield** were members of a team of six U.S. Forest Service retirees assisted by three presidential management fellows who, at the request of former Chief Dale Bosworth, completed an assessment of consolidations of forests and districts in the National Forest System that have taken place since 1994. Lynn Sprague, former Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, was team leader, and OldSmokey **Tom Thompson**, a former Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, served as consultant to the team.

The team's Unit Consolidation Review Project Report was released by Chief Kimbell on October 10, 2007. Their report observed that many consolidations were intended to improve organizational performance and reduce costs. "In most of the cases observed by this team," their report concluded, "the decision to consolidate ranger districts and national forests has not achieved that objective. This unfortunate outcome reflects a decision-making process that is overly focused on cost efficiency, as opposed to effectiveness in delivering the Agency mission. It is also the consequence of a poorly functioning review process that has largely usurped the decision space of the Chief to ensure that proposed consolidations are in the best interest of the Agency as a whole."

“Where the focus on mission delivery was not management’s paramount consideration, unit consolidations have led to decreased capacity to carry out the district’s or forest’s basic stewardship responsibilities and have had unnecessary and sometimes dramatic negative consequences on local communities, as well as affected employees,” the report’s summary conclusion stated.

The team specifically found that:

- Unit consolidations can be beneficial.
- Success has been mixed in meeting stated objectives.
- Consolidations can have negative effects on agency performance.
- The process for approving unit consolidations is in adequate.
- Community presence generally suffers when units consolidate.

There are important tactical decisions to consider when unit consolidations are implemented.

Unit consolidations contribute to a high level of stress in the workforce.

The team specifically recommended that the Forest Service:

- Implement a moratorium on future unit consolidations until the National Transformation Team completes its work on the roles and responsibilities of the four levels of the National Forest System.
- Develop core role statements for district and national forest organizations that emphasize stewardship responsibilities as reflected by the work of the National Transformation Team.
- Periodically review opportunities for consolidation and/or adjustments to district and national forest administrative boundaries, ideally at a ten-year cycle.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Who Are We? OldSmokeys Facts 2007

How Many. At the end of 2007 our member roster stood at 925. Last year at this time we were 915 strong. That’s a net gain of 10. During the year, 47 new members signed up. This gain was offset by the deaths of 12 members, and 20 members were dropped for unpaid dues. Five requested to be dropped.

Age. Our membership keeps getting a little older. Our average age has crept up to 72.3 years, up 0.3 from last year. This is in spite of the 2007 new members whose average age is 62.7. There are 34 in our ranks who are nonagenarians (between 90 and 100). We gained one more this year.

Where. We are all over the map. Most of us live in the Pacific Northwest: 581 in Oregon and 185 in Washington. There are 26 in Arizona, 20 in California, 20 in Montana, 14 in Idaho, and 10 in Colorado. The balance is spread through another 24 states. We keep moving; however, there were only 24 address changes recorded this year. There were so many e-mail address changes we lost count.

Dues Status. Currently, 551 members/spouses have elected lifetime memberships, paying in \$41,303 over the years. (We still have 212 older members who paid out just \$50 for lifetime dues. Quite a deal! The balance of the membership paid annual dues worth over \$4,100 last year. As note above, we lost 20 members this year because of delinquent dues.

Donations. This year 10 members donated \$478 to the OldSmokeys (see “OldSmokeys Donations Down” below). This is considerably lower than in past years. The average for the past five years has been almost \$1,000 per year.

Finances. Our largest expense in 2007 was almost \$8,500 for the newsletter and directory. The complete PNWFSA financial statement for 2007 will be published in the Summer 2008 newsletter.

-- Vern Clapp, Treasurer and Data Base Manager and eMail Editor



OldSmokeys Donations Down in 2007

This year, 10 generous members donated \$478 to our Association. Two of those contributed \$100 or more.

This is considerably lower than in past years, the five-year average being \$998. One of the big advantages of our Association gaining IRS 501(c)(3) status is that members can take a tax deduction when contributing to the OldSmokeys.

This year’s donors are: **Rolf Anderson, Chet Bennett, Jr., Ray Crist, Bob Devlin, Duane Ecker, Francis Fiebiger, Fred Hall, Jill McLean, Zane Smith, and Frank Walter.**

OldSmokeys 2008 Membership Directory Included, E-Directory Available

The PNWFSA *Membership Directory 2008* is included at the center of this newsletter. This year it has a yellow cover, Pull it out and save it for a reference. Please review your listing and let us know of any errors or omissions.

An electronic version of the PNWFSA directory, updated quarterly, is also available to members. It is in PDF format, and can be e-searched. It is distributed by e-mail. If you want a copy, e-mail a request to vclapp@oldsmokeys.org.

Remember—Annual dues of \$20 are due and payable now!

Please write check payable to PNWFSA and mail to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

You may use the handy Bill for Collection coupon on page 12 for this purpose if you wish.

Evaluate proposed unit consolidations against [nine criteria listed in the report].

When conducting unit consolidations, adhere to [five guidelines listed in the report].

The team identified and addressed the related issues of the effects of consolidations on employee safety, a manageable workload for national forests and ranger districts, and the need for better coordination between the work of the National Transformation Team and locally driven unit consolidations. With regard to that third issue, the team recommended that the Forest Service “reformulate the charter of the National Transformation Management Team to look at the entire organization with a focus first on the work to be done and how best to do it.”

Case studies of nine unit consolidations including that of the Rogue River and Siskiyou national forests completed the report.

Prepared from October 10, 2007, Unit consolidation Review Project Report

OldSmokeys Recognized as 50-Year Society of American Foresters Members

OldSmokeys **Ron Koenig**, **John Ohman**, and **Bob Williams** were recognized as 50-year members of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) at the December 17, 2007, Portland Chapter meeting at the World Forestry Center in Portland. OldSmokey **Tom Ortman** was master of ceremonies.

A 1958 New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse graduate, Ron began his U.S. Forest Service career as a junior forester on the Olympic National Forest before serving in the U.S. Army as a Signal Corps officer. While in the Army, he met his wife Kriemhild. Ron returned to the Forest Service to work on the Mt. Hood National Forest and then serve as a district ranger on the Klamath National Forest. He retired in 1986 to Estacada, where he and Kriemhold work their three acres and produce six cords of wood a year for their own use. Both are active in the Lutheran church, where Ron works with the elderly.

John served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 as a staff sergeant in Korea and Japan before beginning a distinguished Forest Service career. After graduate studies and a research fellowship at the University of Minnesota from 1957 to 1961, he served in research positions of increasing responsibility before returning to the WO as Associate Deputy Chief for State & Private Forestry from 1980 to 1985 and Deputy Chief for Research from 1985 until he retired in 1988. In 1988, the SAF recognized his lifelong work and named him an SAF Fellow.

Bob enjoyed a 42-year career as a Forest Service leader and manager after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in forest management in 1957. He served as an assistant ranger and forester on the Payette National Forest, a district ranger on the Dixie and Boise national forests, and forest supervisor of the Beaverhead and Gifford Pinchot national forests. After being Deputy Regional Forester in Alaska, he returned to the Pacific Northwest Region in 1995 as Deputy Regional Forester and was Regional Forester from 1996 until he retired in 1999.

Although not able to attend, OldSmokey **Bob Harris**, named an SAF Fellow in 1975, was recognized for his approximately

60 years of SAF membership. A summer smokechaser in 1939 and 1948, Bob graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in forestry in 1941, did a year of graduate study at New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, served as a U.S. Marine Corps officer during World War II, and pursued a distinguished 32-year professional career in Forest Service research that culminated in service as Associate Deputy Chief for Research in the WO from 1976 until he retired in 1978. Bob and his wife, Joan, moved to Wilsonville, Oregon, where he served on the city council, served on the Oregon State Board of Forestry, and continued as an active SAF and Society of Range Management member.

Prepared from the December 2007 SAF Portland Chapter Forestry Update and information provided by Marguerite Harris Fitzpatrick (Bob Harris' daughter) via Michele Dacy of SAF and Don Nearhood.

OldSmokeys Among National Museum of Forest Service History Leading Donors

By Dave Scott

Contributions large and small continue to flow into the National Museum of Forest Service History capital campaign, and four OldSmokeys who have seen fit to make particularly large contributions ranging from \$5 thousand to \$50 thousand are among the leading donors. They will be specifically recognized in the Museum.

Major donations have been received from other individuals as well as from (in alphabetical order) Aspen Skiing Company Family fund, Ben Meadows Company, Big Sky Mobile Catering, Boone and Crockett Club, George L. Ohrstrom, Jr., Foundation, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Pacific Southwest FSX Club, Phos-Chek Fire Retardants, Sierra Pacific Airlines, Inc., the U.S. Forest Service, and Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program.

As a result of donations, the campaign has passed the \$1 million mark toward its \$6 million goal. That goal is still a long way off, so any gifts OldSmokeys can make are greatly appreciated, indeed. Capital campaign contributions may be sent to the NMFSH, P.O. Box 2772, Missoula, Montana 59806-2772. Contributions to the campaign are a great way to remember a friend or to cement your own conservation legacy in history.

Progress toward the NMFSH mission “to preserve the history of the U.S. Forest Service and to interpret the conservation story of the last 100 years...with integrity” during 2007 has included completion of the water and sewer infrastructure at the Museum site, completion of the preliminary building design and conceptual interpretive plan, and cataloging of over 19,000 historical items to date.

Among recent acquisitions is a 1938 Kenworth remount stock truck received from an estate in Montana. The truck, jointly designed by Kenworth and the Forest Service, was used at the Ninemile Remount Depot west of Missoula to transport mule pack strings used to pack supplies to Northern Region forest fires and project sites.

Editor's Note: OldSmokey Dave Scott is a Director of the National Museum of Forest Service History.



*This 1933 structure is destined for the High Desert Museum.
Photograph by District Ranger Steve Williams*

OldSmokeys Help High Desert Museum Develop U.S. Forest Service Exhibit

By John Marker

A generous donation from the PNWFSA and numerous contributions from individual OldSmokeys and others are helping the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, develop a permanent U.S. Forest Service exhibit to depict the role the National Forest System plays in the West.

Thanks to the great work of Forest Service retiree volunteers and staff members of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, an historic one-room ranger station from central Nevada is scheduled to be moved to the Museum in 2008 to be centerpiece of this exhibit. The last approval to move the building—that of Nevada's historic preservation office—has been requested by Alyce Branigan, Humboldt-Toiyabe forest archaeologist and one of the great Forest Service people making this project possible.

According to Alyce's report requesting Nevada's approval, "The Forest Service proposes to transfer the [structure] to the High Desert Museum.... The one-room building (Blanchard and Maher Plan F) was constructed in 1933 at the Bridgeport Ranger Station in Bridgeport, California, for the Mono National Forest. The Forest Service...moved the office halfway across [Nevada] ... in 1962 [where the] Fallon district ranger used it as a seasonal office until 1977. The Forest Service has no need for the abandoned building and proposes to transfer it to the High Desert Museum as a means of saving it from further deterioration or destruction."

"The Museum plans [to use] the structure [as the centerpiece] of its evolving permanent 'National Forests of the Intermountain West' interpretive site," Alyce's report continues. "Several other Forest Service structures from other forests, including a lookout, have been transferred to the Museum for the exhibit."

"The High Desert Museum's long-range plan to interpret the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Intermountain

West [between the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges and the Rocky Mountains] will focus on the role public lands have played and will continue to play in the region's life ways. A focal point is a planned historic ranger station where Forest Service and other public land management agencies and their work will be interpreted to as many as 130,000 visitors per year. [Honorary OldSmokey] **Bob Boyd**, Curator of Western History at the Museum, has identified the former district ranger's office as the centerpiece of this exhibit. ... The building has been abandoned [since] 1977 when ranger districts in Central Nevada were reconfigured [and left] vulnerable to destruction from the elements and vandalism. The Forest Service has no need for the building and recommends its decommissioning. The transfer of the structure to the Museum will ensure its care, restoration, and interpretation [by] an organization known for its high curatorial standards."

There is much to be done before the ribbon is cut to open the exhibit and the financial support and physical help of retirees is very important to reaching this goal. Contact **John Marker** or **Les Joslin** if you can help launch this important exhibit.

Responses to Chief's Speech Stimulate OldSmokey E-Mail Forum

The dozens of e-mails on climate change stimulated by U.S. Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell's September speech on "Climate Change, Kids, and Forests: What's the Connection?" and forwarded by eMail editor **Vern Clapp** through *OldSmokey eNotes* have moved him, with the concurrence of the PNWFSA Board of Directors, to establish a parallel *OldSmokey eForum* format for sharing comments and opinions on topics of interest.

Now, some 560 OldSmokeys who receive *OldSmokey eNotes* that contain notices and information for PNWFSA members also have access to the separate *OldSmokey eForum* for, in Vern's words, "members' opinions and views. This separation allows members to quickly appraise the contents of an incoming OldSmokey message and decide whether they want to read, file, or delete."

"The *OldSmokey eForum* permits an exchange of information and ideas," Vern explains. "It will permit members to voice their opinions, ideas, experiences, or ask questions. It will be operated under some basic guidelines. Any contribution to the eForum should be, first and foremost, civil—free of personal attacks and respectful of privacy. Contributions also must be free of obscenities or abusive language, professional and factual, readable and interesting, brief, and non-commercial." As eMail editor, Vern reserves the right to edit or not post any contributions that do not comply with these rules.

As members of a free society and a non-profit organization, OldSmokeys may express views about Forest Service or forestry issues. All eForum comments are those of the writer, and do not reflect approval or disapproval of PNWFSA. The forum is not available for partisan political advocacy.

The new *OldSmokey eForum* already is proving a popular mode of member communication.

Prepared from information provided by Vern Clapp and coordinated with Vern and John Marker.

Forest Service News

The 2006 and 2007 Wildfire Seasons: Harbingers of a “New Normal” and a “Mega-Fire” Future?

The fire season of 2006, during which over nine million acres burned, was the worst wildfire season in U.S. history, and the recent 2007 season, during which well over eight million acres burned, ran a very close second.

What does it all mean? To many it means a future of wildfires in the West that are bigger and hotter, burning in heavier and dryer fuels and into an expanding wildland-urban interface throughout half the year—a so-called “new normal” of longer, more-damaging, more costly fire seasons—in terms of resource damage watersheds, wildlife habitat, soil, timber, recreation and view sites, and health problems from smoke, as well as in terms of loss of life and property and suppression costs—a new era of so-called “mega-fires.” And it means more.

To Dr. Tom Swetnam, Director of the Laboratory of Tree Ring Research and Professor of Dendrochronology at the University of Arizona, it means “maybe more than half of the forest land converting to other types of ecosystems” and “that the American West could lose half its forests by the end of the century.”

To the Forest Service, now spending nearly half its declining budget on wildfire suppression, it means becoming “the Fire Service” to the detriment of the rest of its mission.

The severe fire seasons of 2006 and 2007 are part of a trend. Tom Boatner, the Bureau of Land Management’s Director of Fire Operations, cited records of the past 47 fire seasons that show “seven of the 10 busiest fire seasons have been since 1999.” He certainly sees a new era of bigger and more frequent fires. “Ten years ago, if you had a 100,000-acre fire, you were talking about a huge fire.... Now we talk about 200,000-acre fires like it’s just another day at the office,” he told CBS News just last October. Two fires in 2007 burned over 500,000 acres.

The warming of the earth—whether natural or man-caused or both—seems the main culprit. As average temperatures have increased by a degree or so, spring has come earlier, wildfire seasons have lasted longer, and the number of fires has quadrupled. “The fire season in the last 15 years has increased more than two months over the whole western U.S.,” said Swetnam.

But part of the blame belongs to 20th century forest fire suppression policy that resulted in increased fuel loads that feed more intense wildfires. “So now, when the fires get going, there’s a lot more to burn,” Boatner said.

The combination of global warming and heavy fuel loads portends a new normal of mega-fires in the West and a big job for fire ecologists, fire managers, and firefighters.

Prepared from multiple sources including BBC News, CBSNews.com, CBS 60 Minutes, and Science Magazine of August 18, 2006

See the review of Jim Paxon’s The Monster Reared His Ugly Head on page 17 for another look at the mega-fire future.

U.S. Forest Service Transformation Process Takes New Tack

The U.S. Forest Service’s “transformation” to comply with an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) mandate to reduce its size and costs by 25 percent has changed since the process was summarized in the Fall 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

As reported, the Forest Service countered OMB guidance to eliminate Forest Service regional offices “with the Transformation Program commitment to retain but reduce the size of ROs and also reduce the size of the WO to help achieve cost reductions.” This would, as summarized by Kathy Bowman in the November 15, 2007, *R6 Update*, “retain ROs but zone ‘mission support’ staff over geographic areas containing several regions. To address concerns [that this zoning] would create yet another level in the organization [a fifth between the WO and RO levels and the national forest and ranger district levels], the focus of the effort has been changed but ‘still focuses on the best possible level of efficiency and integration, with cost savings being realized from standardization of processes, reduced duplication, smaller organizations, reduced travel, and better use of technology,’ according to the WO.”

“Instead, work will be accomplished in the new organization by expanding shared services arrangements rather than creating ‘rigid’ zone structures. The agency will focus on existing and expanded shared services arrangements rather than zones. However, the zones as defined (Regions 5, 6, 10; Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4; and Regions 8, 9, NA) will be used to *evaluate* current shared services arrangements, including services shared with stations and other agencies, and existing and potential Washington Office shared services, regardless of locations.

“Other changes will be creation of consistent organizational structures (common staffs) and naming conventions that will be used nationwide in all regions. Some functions will be integrated within these conventions; however, the Deputy Regional Forester structure will be an individual [Regional Forester] decision.

“The design will include an alternative that integrates the management of hazardous fuels reduction into a consistent Vegetative Management Staff consistent for each Region, which will include integration of stewardship contracting.

“Service and technical activities currently performed by the WO will be integrated into National support organizations (not necessarily located in Washington) and some Regional shared service organizations.”

Interregional shared services called for by the Transformation effort became a reality for Region 6 with the November 2007 announcement that Sam Carlson will serve as shared Director of Engineering for both Regions 6 and 10. Sam will be stationed in Region 10, where he was engineering and aviation director at the time of the announcement. He will be assisted by a deputy director who will be stationed in Region 6.

Editor’s Note: Complicated? You betcha! Quoting Kathy Bowman’s R6 Update summaries of these changes is the best way I could find to fulfill the promise to “keep you apprised of this

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Feature

“What Every Forest Officer Should Know” (Part One)

By Stuart Bevier “S.B.” Show

S.B. Show was District/Regional Forester, California District/Region, U.S. Forest Service, from 1926 to 1946. Pursuant to his interest in—indeed, passion for—the professionalism of his ranger corps, Show shared his thoughts about “What Every Forest Officer Should Know” in this publication issued by the Public Affairs Office, California Region, in the early 1930s. A copy owned by pioneer Forest Service ranger and timber manager Walt Perry fell into your editor’s hands as he edited Perry’s writings, papers, and photographs into Walt Perry: An Early-Day U.S. Forest Service Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon published by Wilderness Associates in 1999. “The best thing I’ve seen—put across in the best fashion,” Perry wrote on the cover of his copy of Show’s publication. “What Every Forest Officer Should Know” by S.B. Show is published in four installments in the 2008 issues of your OldSmokeys Newsletter. Herewith, Part One.

To New and Old Members of the Forest Service...

The Forest Service depends for its prosperity and usefulness upon what the public thinks of it. What the public thinks depends upon the character of service rendered by Forest officers and their ability to make that character of service known.

As a Forest Service officer you are an employee of the public. You derive your authority to protect National Forests from laws passed by representatives of the people, and the people pay your salary. Your first duty is to perform efficiently, accurately, and honestly the duties assigned to you. Your next duty is to treat courteously and fairly those with whom you come in contact.

You are, to a large extent, your own boss. This places on you the responsibility for your conduct. If you make good, the Forest Service has made good, for you are, in the eyes of the public—the Forest Service.

To do your part successfully you must not only know your job, but have a general knowledge of the Forest Service and the National Forests, and their organization and activities. This can best be obtained by a study of the bulletins that will be furnished you by the Forest Supervisor.

There are, however, other intimate and personal features in the life of all Forest officers that are not usually covered in official instructions and manuals. Some of these are set forth in the following chapters, which I commend to your thoughtful consideration.

S.B. SHOW, Regional Forester

Chapter I: Whiskers

*“And his chin new reape’d,
Showed like a stubble-land at harvest time.”*

In the bright lexicon of youth there is no such thing as “whiskers.” Reference to it occurs, however, many times in the glossary of derogatory adjectives connected with masculine personal appearance.

Nature’s unfortunate attempt to beautify the male sex can be classified as beards, moustaches and whiskers, alias stubble.

Mustaches can be dismissed from our story by the simple statement that the walrus type is barred and the prophylactic or eyebrow effect is tolerated but not encouraged.

Beards are subdivided into spinach, shag, brush, and herbage. They are of many classes, from the flowing patriarchal chest protector to goatee and jaw draperies of the almost extinct rube. They have been in and out of style among all nations throughout the ages until the germ theory and the safety razor gave them an antiseptic kick in the pants as far as modern civilized man is concerned.

Whiskers, or stubble, as here defined, are the sprouts that appear on the human male map and may be caused by earthquakes, sieges, shipwrecks, trench warfare, polar expeditions, motion pictures, and forest fires. Usually, however, they are the result of neglect, indifference, and laziness. Very rarely they are caused by a bad case of sunburn. But this is no excuse in the Forest Service where field men are supposed to acquire a natural tan at the outset of their careers and retire with a permanent and non-fading color.

Getting down to cases: Whiskers are the cause of unkind remarks, both written and oral, by the public as well as the meticulous inspector. Our permanent force should know this, and our temporary men, especially forest guards who most often meet the public, should have it impressed on them in no uncertain terms. All clean-shaven men cannot be guaranteed to rate A-1 when it comes to the final accounting, but no Forest officer can hope for a “clean” record unless he has a clean face. Exemption is granted only to fire chiefs, sector bosses and crew leaders, depending on the size and duration of a fire, but not to camp bosses, R.O. men, or supervisors.

This story is not an advertisement for shaving soap, brushes, or any of the 57 varieties of safety razors. Like Aesop’s fables, it has a moral—which everyone can discover by looking in a mirror.

Coming in Part Two next time...

Regional Forester Show writes to his rangers in Chapter II on Passing the Buck and Chapter III on Good Manners. Don’t miss it!

Opportunities

OldSmokeys Spring Banquet Set for May 18 at Charbonneau Country Club

Co-hosts **Emil** and **Dorine Sabol** have announced that the 2008 PNWFSA OldSmokeys Spring Banquet will be held on the afternoon of May 18 at the beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville.

Complete information on and the reservation form for this great annual event will be in the Spring 2008 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. So, be sure to **put this date on your calendar now** and watch for complete details and reservation form in the next issue of this newsletter.

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process.” And, as Kathy noted, her summary “merely reflects the general direction of the changes, and does not describe the many Director-level organizational discussions about details that are currently underway to meet the March 31 [2008] deadline.”

Proposed Legislation Could End Recreation Fee Program

Just a week before the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* deadline, Bend’s daily newspaper, *The Bulletin*, reported that “More than 10 years after the U.S. Forest Service began charging fees to access trailheads and recreation areas, two powerful Western senators want to put an end to the practice.”

Senators Max Baucus (D-Montana) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) planned to introduce a bill on December 10 “that would cut off permission for the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other land management agency to levy the fees,” Keith Chu of *The Bulletin* reported.

“The Forest Service has called the fees, which bring in about \$50 million each year, a necessary way to make up for declining trail and recreation budgets.”

In 1996, as an alternative to authorizing adequate appropriations, Congress authorized the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program for three years. As outlined by the Omnibus Consolidated Recissions and Appropriations Act of 1996, this program allowed the Forest Service and other federal land management agencies to explore new ways to generate revenue to improve recreation services and protect recreation resources. The ensuing user fees soon became a major issue in outdoor recreation.

During the next several years, as the user fee controversy continued, Congress passed three two-year extensions of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Then, in 2004, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (a rider on the Omnibus Appropriations Act that President George W. Bush signed into law in early December 2004, made the Recreation Fee Program permanent.

The legislation proposed by Senators Baucus and Crapo would put the National Forest System recreation program in an even greater bind. “Without that funding, the quality of trails and recreation areas would suffer, said Deschutes [National] Forest Supervisor John Allen,” Chu reported, noting that “forest officials said recreation budgets have been cut nearly in half over the past eight years.”

Ending the Recreation Fee Program “would have a fairly large impact on our ability...to deliver recreation programs to the public,” Chu quoted Allen. “The public would visibly notice the change.”

Prepared from an article “Bill would end fees for hiking, recreation” in the December 8, 2007, issue of The Bulletin and background information from Les Joslin, The Wilderness Concept and the Three Sisters Wilderness, published in 2005 by Wilderness Associates, Bend, Oregon.

Editor’s Note: This proposed legislation could pose yet another challenge to administration of National Forest System resources. Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will strive to keep you apprised of how it goes, too.

Housing Slump Hits Region 6 National Forest Timber Sales Program

“A Bush administration effort to boost logging in Northwest national forests has hit a snag,” Michael Milstein reported in the November 23, 2007, edition of *The Oregonian*. “The U.S. Forest Service is running short of money to draw up new timber sales. The shortfall is related to the national housing slowdown, which has depressed lumber prices about as low as they’ve ever been. That means the Forest Service—like private timber owners across the Northwest—is earning far less money for the timber it sells, so less money is flowing into accounts that help pay for future logging projects.”

Timber sales, a forest health and fuels reduction tool, depend on markets. “Unless Congress and the administration supply extra funds to help the Forest Service mount sales,” Milstein’s report continued, “national forest logging will begin dropping off again—hampering efforts to thin crowded and flammable timber. The problem validates concerns that some national forest managers expressed in April, when the administration sent Northwest forests nearly \$25 million—twice the previous year’s amount—to plan and carry out more logging. ... The Forest Service counted on some logging revenues, plus federal money allocated by the president and Congress, to pay for [planning of and preparation for] the accelerated logging. What the Forest Service did not count on was how sharply timber prices would fall, for how long, and how much that would reduce revenue.”

Condensed and partially quoted from Michael Milstein’s article “Forest Service shortfall hits timber sales—Housing slump means Agency is making less revenue off trees and has fewer dollars to plan projects: in the November 20, 2007, edition of The Oregonian.

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Changes *Compiled by Bev Pratt, Secretary, and Vern Clapp, Treasurer and Data Base Manager and eMail Editor*

Asher, Robert L. – Deceased, October 26, 2007; Barbara survives
Boddie, Kim & Carolyn – New members: Bend, OR 97702
Bracken, Ruth Eleanor “Peg” — Deceased, October 20, 2007; John Ohman survives
Caraher, David & Joyce – New members: West Linn, OR 97068
Casey, Bruce & Millie – New members: Grants Pass, OR 97526
Conibear, Jim & Deanne – Change email
Dils, Clifford J. “Cliff” — New member: Sutherlin, OR 97479
Fisher, Phil & Carol — Change address: Vancouver, WA 98665
Gabel, Louis M. — Deceased, September 22, 2007
Gant, Del & Norma — Change address: Milwaukie, OR 97267
Grubb, Jack & Jo Ann – Change email:
Johnson, Emil – Deceased, September 27, 2007
Lajoie, Donna — Email:
Laverty, Lyle & Pam – New members: Arvada, CO 80004
Lombardi, Drinda & Mile — Change address: Portland, OR 97214
Lunn, Mike & Callie – Change email:
Max, Tim & Bev – Change address (just city and zip code): Gresham, OR 97080
Metlen, Robert W. – Deceased, October 31, 2007; Ruth survives
Nautel, William G. – Deceased, November 7, 2007
O’Neal, Sonny J. — Deceased, December 2, 2007; Joyce survives
Pierce, Mary L. & Glenn — New members: Trout Lake, WA 98650
Porter, Doug & Dorothy – Change email & address: Damascus, OR 97089 (same house, new town and zip code)
Putman, C. Dale & Terree — New members: Bend, OR 97702
Robertson, Les & Betty – Change email:
Robertson, Mary Jane – Deceased, November 4, 2007; Dale survives
Ralph, Marlene — New email:
Schelhaas, James A. & Helen – Change address: Smithville, TX 78957
Sheehan, Jeanie & Jack – New members: Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Sloan, John & Linda – New members: Winchester, OR 97495
Sprenger, Carole – Deceased, September 22, 2007; Fred survives
St. Marie, Dale & Diana – Change email:
Stuck, Dean & Darlene — New members: Milwaukie, OR 97267
Welbourn, Laura D. – New member: Bend, OR 97702
Williams, Jim & Pat – New members: Springfield, OR 97478
Wood, Bonnie – New member: Boise, ID 83709
Wood, Marylou — Change address: Corvallis, OR 9730
Zamudio, Desi & Karen — New members: Lakeview, OR 97630

The actual changes are given in the new printed 2008 Membership Directory included in the Winter edition of the Newsletter or an electronic PDF version can be emailed to you from [Vern](#).

New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Fall 2007 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Kim & Carolyn Boddie of Bend, Oregon. Kim retired on January 5, 1997, as budget and finance officer on the Deschutes National Forest after 34 years of federal service. He spent 23 of his 31 Forest Service years in Region 6, 19 of those on the Deschutes and four on the Chemult Ranger District of the Winema National Forest as resource coordinator. He also worked in Region 2 and Region 3 and served three years as an officer in the U.S. Army. Joined in October.

David & Joyce Caraher of West Linn, Oregon. Dave retired from the Forest Service after three summers on the Coconino and Sitgreaves national forests in Arizona and 32 years in Region 6. He was district ranger on the Crooked River National Grassland and Paulina Ranger District on the Ochoco National Forest. His last assignment was as a watershed staff specialist in the RO in Portland. Joined in September.

Bruce & Millie Casey of Grants Pass, Oregon. Bruce retired on the last day of 2001 as assistant timber staff and contracting officer for timber sales on the Rogue River National Forest after 35 years of federal service, 30 of those in the Forest Service and all but one of those in Region 6, and five in the U.S. Navy as a helicopter pilot. Bruce also retired from the Naval Reserve in 1991. Joined in October.

Clifford J "Cliff" Dils of Sutherlin, Oregon. Cliff has been in the Forest Service for over 26 years and is currently forest supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest. Cliff is recently arrived in Region 6 from Region 3 where he was district ranger, Sandia Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, New Mexico, for some years. Joined in November.

Lyle & Pam Laverty of Arvada, Colorado. Lyle retired in 2001 after 35 years in the Forest Service which included Region 6 assignments as district ranger, Skykomish Ranger District, Mt. Baker National Forest, in the 1970s, and as Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources director in the RO in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He was a forest supervisor in Region 5 and regional forester for Region 2. After developing and implementing the National Fire Plan in the WO, he retired in late 2001, and served as Colorado State Parks director for six years. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks on October 29, 2007. Joined in October.

Mary L. & Glenn Pierce of Trout Lake, Washington. Mary retired on December 31, 2007, on the Silver Lake Ranger District, Fremont-Winema National Forest, after 24 years of federal service, 23 in the Forest Service and 10 of those in Region 6. That other year was in the U.S. Air Force. Mary and Glenn will live in Trout Lake until their new house is built at their farm in Glenwood.

C. Dale & Terree Putman of Bend, Oregon. Dale retired on July 2, 2007, as transportation planner on the Deschutes National Forest after 36.5 years in the Forest Service, all of them in Region 6.

Jeanie & Jack Sheehan of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Jeanie retired on July 29, 2005, as information receptionist on the Klamath Ranger District, Winema National Forest, after 25 years of federal service, all but one of her 22 Forest Service years in Region 6. Jack retired on July 3, 2007, as timber and planning staff officer on the Fremont-Winema National Forests after 44 years of federal service, all but seven of which were in Region 6. Joined in October.

John J. and Linda Sloan of Winchester, Oregon. John retired on August 6, 2006, at the Umpqua National Forest SO after 36 years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6, and 3 additional months of federal service. Joined in October.

Dean & Darline Stuck of Milwaukee, Oregon. Dean retired in April 1994 at the RO in Portland after 28 years of federal service, 20 of those in the Forest Service in Region 6. Joined in December.

Laura D. Welbourn of Bend, Oregon retired on November 30, 1993, at the Deschutes National Forest SO after 25 years in the Forest Service. Joined in October.

Jim & Pat Williams of Springfield, Oregon. Jim retired on September 2, 2005, on the Middle Fork Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, after 35 years of federal service, 32 in the Forest Service in Region 6 and three in the Peace Corps. Joined in October.

Bonnie Wood of Boise, Idaho. After 32 years in Region 6, Bonnie is now Forest Service business lead for the Interagency Fire Program Analysis Project. Most recently she was the National Fire Plan executive director in the RO in Portland. Prior to that she was forest supervisor on the Malheur National Forest from 1999 to 2002 and district ranger, Gold Beach Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, from 1990 to 1997. A second-generation Forest Service member, she joined in September.

Desi & Karen Zamudio of Lakeview, Oregon. Desi retired on October 31, 2007, at the Fremont-Winema National Forest SO after 30 years of federal service, 24 of those in the Forest Service and 6 in Region 6. Joined in December.

Please Pay Your Annual Dues of \$20 Now!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Bill for Collection for 2007 Annual Dues

Annual dues of \$20 are due and payable this month.

Please make your check payable to PNWFSA and mail to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, OR 97228-5583.

Name _____

Address, phone, or email (if different from that in directory)

Please include a note for the *Letters* section of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* if you wish.

Memories Compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist

Robert L. “Bob” Asher died October 26, 2007, at age 85, in Surprise, Arizona. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born June 8, 1922, in Ravenna, Nebraska. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. Bob served in the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years on the Rogue River and Winema national forests. A highly-regarded Region 6 fire control manager, he retired as Regional Dispatcher in 1976. He and his wife Barbara spent his retirement years in Ashland, Oregon, and Surprise, Arizona.

Survivors include Barbara, daughter Linda, son Terry, and 11 grandchildren. Another son, Mike, preceded Bob in death.

Ruth Eleanor “Peg” Bracken died October 20, 2007, at age 89. Peg was the wife of PNWFSA member John Ohman, retired Deputy Chief for Research and State and Private Forestry, and famous in her own right as author of the bestselling *I Hate to Cook* book, first published in 1960, and other books published in the '60s, 70s, and '80s. That first book sold more than three million copies and made Peg a national celebrity. She appeared often on television and radio, and in the 1960s and afterward was a spokeswoman for Birds Eye frozen foods. Peg was born February 25, 1918, in Filer, Idaho, and reared in Clayton, Missouri. She earned a bachelor's degree at Antioch College in 1940 and later worked as a freelance advertising copywriter. She and John married in 1991.

Survivors include her husband; stepchildren Ann Fragale, Jack Ohman, and John Ohman; and 11 grandchildren.

Louis M. “Lou” Gabel died September 22, 2007, at age 93. He was a PNWFSA member. He was born February 23, 1914, in Duluth, Minnesota. A forester in the U.S. Forest Service, Lou moved to the Portland area in 1955 where he specialized in timber sale administration at the RO. Lou married Anne Geiger in 1941, and they had three sons and a daughter who died in infancy. She died in 1990. His second wife, Elsie J., died in 1996.

Survivors include sons Allen, Wayne, and Bradley, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Emil Johnson died September 27, 2007, at age 94, in Bellevue, Washington. He was a PNWFSA member. Emil was born November 13, 1912, in Reuben, Oregon, which was near the present-day Goble, Oregon, and grew up on the family farm on Tide Creek Road south of Rainier, Oregon. Emil graduated from Rainier High School in 1931, and earned a forestry degree at Oregon State Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) in 1937. In the summers, during his college years, Emil worked as a fire lookout on the Deschutes National Forest. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Forest Service and served in various capacities before becoming a ranger and then moving on to work in timber sales. Relocating a total of 15 times in Oregon and Washington, Emil served on the Deschutes, Okanogan, Umatilla, Ochoco, Fremont, and Umpqua national forests during his career. In 1939, he married Carrie Jane Cracraft

of Rainier. Together, they raised two sons, and lived for many years in Roseburg, Oregon, before moving to Bellevue, where Carrie died April 28, 2005.

Survivors include sons James of Tucson, Arizona, and Donald of Bellevue, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

David A. “Dave” Linsdell died August 30, 2007, in Port Townsend, Washington, of cardiac arrest. Dave was born October 25, 1941, in Kincardine Township, Ontario, Canada, and graduated from high school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1959. He earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Florida in 1963, then spent two years in Nepal with the Peace Corps. Dave served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968. He then worked in the private timber industry in Florida until moving to Corvallis to attend graduate school at Oregon State University in the early 1970s. He worked for the Forest Service in Oregon on the Dufur, Rigdon, Oakridge, and Crescent ranger districts before retiring in 2002.

Robert W. “Bob” Metlen died October 31, 2007. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born in Townsend, Montana, and raised in Pocatello, Idaho. At 17, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and, as a B-17 ball turret gunner, was shot down on his fifth mission. He walked from Belgium to Gibraltar with the underground and was detained in England until he could be positively identified. World War II ended the day he was to fly from California to the Pacific as radioman on a B-36. After the war, Bob attended the University of Idaho where he met and married Ruth Walden and from which he graduated with dual range and forestry degrees. He retired from the Forest Service at age 55 after 35 years of federal service. He was a district ranger for 19 of those years: two at Joseph, Oregon, nine at Unity, Oregon, and eight at Mazama, Washington. The back country was always his passion. He was active in his communities. When he retired, Bob and Ruth built the house outside Vale, Oregon, where he lived the rest of his life.

Survivors include his wife; sister Janice Hovey; sons Kit, Kim, and Scott; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

William G. “Bill” Nautel died November 7, 2007, at age 81. He was a lifetime PNWFSA member. Bill was born August 10, 1926, in Ogdenburg, New York, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Oregon State College. He married Charlotte L. Thibault in 1948; she died in 2003. He was a U.S. Forest Service forester for 32 years, during which he was the timber management assistant on the Suiattle Ranger district of the Mt. Baker National Forest and a long-term silviculturist for the Mt. Hood National Forest, where he retired in 1983.

Survivors include daughters Vicki Nautel and Cheri Gallison, son Bill, brother Al, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Sonny J. O’Neal died December 2, 2007, at age 67. He was a PNWFSA member. Sonny was born July 23, 1940, in Murphreesboro, Arkansas. After earning a B.S. degree in forest

management at Arkansas A&M in 1963, Sonny began his 40-year Forest Service career as a junior forester on the Manti-La Sal National Forest and served as an assistant district ranger and district ranger on three national forests in Utah from 1964-74, in staff positions on the Caribou National Forest in Idaho from 1974-80, as deputy forest supervisor of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming from 1980-82, and as forest supervisor of the Medicine Bow National Forest & Thunder Basin National Grassland in Wyoming from 1982-87. He moved to Region 6 in 1987 as supervisor of the Wenatchee and then the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest for 16 years. Those were years of sweeping changes in national forest management during which Sonny responded to myriad challenges with research-based action, and helped plan the administrative combination of the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests in 1999 which he led until he retired in 2003. In 2005, as volunteer project manager for Hurricane Katrina, he assisted FEMA in allocating portable housing to coastal Mississippi hurricane victims.

Survivors include his wife Joyce and their three sons Mike Brent, Mark Barry, and Matt Bryce O'Neal.

Mary Jane Robertson died November 4, 2007, after a long battle with lung cancer. She was the wife of PNWFSA member and former Chief of the Forest Service Dale Robertson. Mary Jane and Dale spent the 1970s in Region 6 when Dale was deputy supervisor on the Mt. Hood National Forest from 1970-74, supervisor of the Siuslaw from 1974-76, and supervisor of the Mt. Hood National Forest from 1976-80 when he transferred to the WO. This is all the information that was available at press time.

C. Carole Sprenger died September 22, 2007, at age 74, in Gresham, Oregon, after a long bout with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). The wife of PNWFSA member **Fred W. Sprenger**, Carole was born August 23, 1933, in a small farmhouse outside Pomeroy, Washington, the oldest of three daughters. Carole graduated from Grand View High School in 1951 and earned a degree in education from Washington State University. She taught at several schools in different locations as she followed Fred as he pursued a long U.S. Forest Service career. Carole retired from teaching in 1991 and, as a retirement gift, traveled the length of the Baja Peninsula with Fred and other teachers. OldSmokey **Doug Hunt** led that expedition.

Fred survives Carole.

Joanne F. Strickler died October 14, 2007, at age 79, in La Grande, Oregon. She was the widow of Gerald "Jerry" Strickler, who beginning in the 1950s spent his Forest Service career working at the Blue Mountain Research Station. Although not PNWFSA members, Joanne and Jerry played a significant role in the Forest Service family. Joanne was born November 24, 1928, in Topeka, Kansas, went to high school in Denver, and earned a degree in early childhood development at Colorado State University in 1951. She married Jerry December 16, 1951, and they honeymooned in the remote Salmon Wilderness of Idaho as fire lookouts during the summer of 1952. In 1956 they settled in La Grande where they raised their four children.

Survivors include her son Jeff; daughters Nancy Moore, Becky Strickler, and Suzie Houk; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Ernest Bristol "Ernie" Wright died September 1, 2007, at age 78, in Coupeville, Washington. He was born January 5, 1929, in Asheville, North Carolina, and grew up in that state. After serving as an aviation electrician in the U.S. Navy from 1946 to 1949, he returned to North Carolina to begin college. He married Georgia Mae Wilson in 1952, and earned a B.S. in forest management at the University of North Carolina in 1954. Ernie and Georgia moved west where he served in the U.S. Forest Service in Klamath Falls, Union Creek, and John Day, Oregon, and in Marblemount, Ellensburg, and Wenatchee, Washington, before he retired in 1984. After retirement, he drove school busses in Ellensburg and then in Coupeville for the Oak Harbor School District until 1996.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years; their children David, Don, and Leslie; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

CORRECTION

Joe Price died July 17, 2007, not July 18, at age 64, not age 76, as erroneously reported in the Fall 2007 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. The editor regrets these errors.

Letters continued from page 15

Becki Heath *remembers Sonny O'Neal*

Sonny O'Neal was a remarkable leader and a fine human being. Sonny was a humble man, a caring mentor, who brought out the best in people around him. He was visionary, always seeking new approaches to managing the forest. He was always conscious of the public trust placed in him as a federal employee who cared for national forest land.

Editor's Note: Becki Lockett Heath is forest supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. She served nine years working for Sonny O'Neal as district ranger on the Leavenworth Ranger District in the 1990s.

John Marker *remembers Sonny O'Neal*

I can't claim to be a close friend of Sonny's, but I worked with him in both Region 4 and Region 6. To my thinking he was one of the outstanding forest supervisors in the Forest Service, and one of the finest human beings I have had the honor of knowing.

Letters is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. You may send your letters to Secretary Bev Pratt at P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon, 97228, or directly to newsletter editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

Thanks to Pat Joslin for her technical assistance in producing this issue of the OldSmokeys Newsletter!

Letters

Bob McQuown *remembers Bob Asher*

I had the pleasure of working closely with Bob Asher (*Memories, page 13*) on two occasions when we were both assigned to the Winema National Forest in Klamath Falls. He and his family were next door neighbors to Ruth and me when we were first married.

On my second assignment to Klamath Falls, we actually purchased the Asher's home and while they were moving out, we passed them on the steps with our move in. I have known and respected Bob for 50 years. He was a true friend, and will be missed.

Doug Porter *remembers Bob Asher*

I did not know Bob Asher well, but met him several times at fire training events. I do remember the first time I met Bob. He was an instructor when I went through guard school at Lake of the Woods Ranger Station on the Winema National Forest in 1962. You can tell when folks are well thought of, and he was one of them.

Zane Smith *remembers Bob Asher*

I can certainly echo Bob McQuown's remarks about Bob Asher. Betty and I were with Bob Asher on the Rogue River National Forest in the 1950s and later on the Winema National Forest in the 1960s. Bob was an exceptional employee in the tradition of the Forest Service "can do" attitude. And he was able to accomplish way more than could reasonably be expected. He modeled that performance for his own staff and all his fellow workers.

Bob and family were very generous and supportive friends off the job as well. How well we remember the roller skating in Ashland with the entire "tribe." Having worked with both Bob McQuown and Bob Asher, we could relate several more stories about the two of them—all good!

Ted Yarosh *remembers Lou Gabel*

I learned so much from Lou Gabel (*Memories, page 13*) when I worked with him in the RO in timber sale administration during 1967-71. He knew so much about the timber sale contract and sale administration that what was left over would not fit in a thimble.

I haven't seen Lou in years, yet I still feel a loss as he was a master mentor to me.

Dave Kolb *remembers Lou Gabel*

Lou was my first Forest Service boss and taught me to scale logs at the Tiller "Shangrila" sawmill near the Divide Guard Station [on the Umpqua National Forest]. I was a summer student employee and had just completed my freshman year at West Virginia University. That was 60 years ago in the summer of 1947.

Jerry Patchen *remembers Lou Gabel*

When I read of Lou Gabel's death, many good memories of Lou came to mind. Among them were things like: "a gentleman"; a "gentle man"; "firm but not abrasive"; "a spirit of helpfulness"; "a consummate professional". They don't hardly

make them kind no more. And to my regret, I didn't share these with Lou before. He will be missed.

Ron Skrip *remembers Emil Johnson*

Emil Johnson (*Memories, page 13*) was on the Umpqua National Forest when I started in 1956. After his retirement, the Johnsons stayed in the area and participated in Forest activities until their health and mobility failed.

Zane Smith *remembers Bob Metlen*

I was saddened by Bob Metlen's passing (*Memories, Page 13*). He and I were fellow rangers on the Okanogan National Forest in the early 1960s. Bob, Ruth, and the boys were a wonderful family. Betty and I with our son skied with them at Loup Loup in the winter. I seldom saw Bob in the summer. He basically saddled up in the spring and came home when the snow flew on his back-country district. Fritz Moasio was the forest supervisor and in Fritz' usual calm manner accepted this absence.

Bob related his most harrowing experience. One summer, leading his pack string in the back country, he came around a bend to meet a bearded naked man. It frightened the horses and Bob had a rodeo on his hands. He never said what happened to the naked man, but it certainly made an impression on him and blew his schedule for the day. He reflected the kind of rangering that many of us wished we had.

Dave Jay *remembers Bill Nautel*

I remember Bill Nautel (*Memories, page 13*) like it was yesterday. I along with spouse Sara and Gayle (3 months) arrived in Darrington, Washington, one rainy day in January 1959 to join the Suiattle Ranger District on the Mt. Baker National Forest. Dick Pomeroy was the district ranger, and Bill was the TMA.

Bill was a quiet leader and so willing to coach young guys like Forrest Fenstermaker and me. He had long legs and could really cover the ground. He knew silviculture and, maybe more important, he understood and enforced the timber sale contracts, yet enjoyed the respect of the operators. His influence on my future role in these matters lasted my career of 34 years.

I hope his passing went easy.

Wendall Jones *remembers Bill Nautel*

Bill Nautel was a long-time silviculturist on the Mt. Hood National Forest, where he retired in 1983. He worked for me when I was timber management staff there. He was a dedicated, hard-working guy who led the silviculture and reforestation programs and was a great mentor to the younger silviculturists and reforestation people.

Dick Pomeroy *remembers Bill Nautel*

I can't remember the exact dates that Bill Nautel worked for me as my TMA. My best estimate is 1958 to 1960. I was the district ranger on the Suiattle Ranger District, located in Darrington. After a couple years he left for an assistant timber manager staff position, with promotion, at the Mt. Hood National Forest headquarters.

Bill was as professional in his practice of forestry as any person I have had the pleasure to work with. He was a quiet but very competent performer.

Letters continue on page 14

Forest Service News continued from page 10

U.S. Forest Service “Century of Service” Exhibit to Pendleton for Umatilla’s 100th

The “Century of Service” exhibit that celebrated the U.S. Forest Service centennial at the High Desert Museum in Bend for two years is going to Pendleton in April 2008 to celebrate the Umatilla National Forest’s centennial, according to Honorary OldSmokey **Bob Boyd**, Western History Curator at the High Desert Museum and creator of the exhibit.

Sponsored by the Umatilla National Forest, the exhibit that explores the lives of the men, women, and communities of the Forest Service as they have served the public in that distinctive part of the West called the High Desert will be open at the Umatilla County Heritage Museum in Pendleton from April 1 through September 30 to honor that national forest’s 1908 establishment.

Kent Connaughton is Named Regional Forester for Eastern Region

U.S. Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell appointed Kent P. Connaughton as Eastern regional forester on November 30, 2007. He has moved to Region 9 from the position of Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in the WO, and will oversee 15 national forests in 20 eastern states.

“Kent brings a wealth of experience in managing national forests and cooperating with state and private forestry programs that will serve him well in this new assignment,” Chief Kimbell said.

While in the WO, Kent was responsible for federal protection of the nation’s forests from fire, insects, and disease, as well as programs to support sustainable management of non-federal forests, conservation education, and tribal relations. He holds a B.A. degree from Stanford University, a M.F. degree from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters in 1991.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release No. 0724 of December 3, 2007

Deschutes National Forest Opens Wanoga Snow-Play Area

“Thanks to the Forest Service, children in Central Oregon will have a safe place to sled this winter,” an editorial in the October 31, 2007, edition of *The Bulletin*, Bend’s daily newspaper, commented on the announcement that the long-awaited Wanoga Snow-Play Area off the Cascade Lakes Highway west of Bend will be opened for this winter.

“A safe [and inexpensive] place to sled has been what the Bend area has been lacking for years,” the editorial continued, noting that such areas at Mount Bachelor and Hoodoo are quite expensive. “The only cost at Wanoga will be for a [State of Oregon] sno-park pass--\$5 a day or \$24 for the winter. That’s more than reasonable for a carload of gravity-fed thrills.”

Safety drove development of the new snow-play area. “With the opening of Wanoga, the Forest Service will officially close

Skyliner Sno-park [an “out-and-out dangerous place to sled” about a dozen miles west of Bend] to sledding. “It’s long overdue. An official closure will mean the Forest Service can issue tickets to people who do sled there.”

“The Forest Service never sanctioned sledding at Skyliner, but where else cheap were people to go?” The other nearest national forest sledding areas are at Santiam Sno-park on the Willamette National Forest or Mark’s Creek sledding hill 27 miles east of Prineville, both too far away for Bend sledders.

Noting that Wanoga Snow-Play Area will open with minimal amenities—a restroom and a temporary shelter pending a more permanent shelter next year, *The Bulletin* concluded “Kids aren’t going to care much about any of that. All they want is what the Forest Service has finally delivered—a great place to sled.”

Editor’s Note: This example of “caring for the land and serving people” is a pet project of Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District recreation forester Marv Lang.

Prepared from an editorial “A great place to sled” in the October 31, 2007, issue of The Bulletin.

Mountain Loop Scenic Highway Reopens on Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

After a four-year effort to repair more than \$10 million in damaged roads and bridges, Mountain Loop Scenic Highway reopened in the fall to give visitors access to many of their favorite trails and roads on the Darrington Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The 2003 flood damaged more than 40 roads, closing many of them, and restricted public access to popular spots. Many popular trails were also damaged and closed. The repairs were extensive, requiring engineers to realign sections of the roadway from the Sauk River and upgrade culverts. Snow usually closed the road from November until late spring.

The Mountain Loop Scenic Highway, which follows the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River over Barlow Pass and into the South Fork of the Sauk River drainage, connects the towns of Darrington and Granite Falls.

Adapted from article prepared by Renee Bodine, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, for the November 15, 2007, R6 Update.

Breaking News to Watch...

At deadline, several stories that will affect the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System in the Pacific Northwest were breaking. Watch for more news about these in your newspapers and for summaries in this section of the Spring 2008 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

County payments were cut from the Energy bill on December 13 when Senate leaders cut a four-year extension of the program that provides millions in federal subsidies that since 2000 have offset declining revenues from logging on federal lands. **Forest thinning** could speed up if a bill Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) plans to introduce in January is enacted into law. **Neglected roads** on national forests in Oregon and Washington are the target of a letter signed by Senator Wyden and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Oregon) requesting \$65 million a year to address a maintenance backlog of over \$1 billion.

Books**Jim Paxton's *The Monster Reared His Ugly Head* Tells the Story of the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire in Arizona and of Fire as a Tool of Nature**

The Rodeo-Chediski Fire began on June 18, 2002, and remains the largest, most expensive, and most damaging wildfire in Arizona's history. The Rodeo Fire was started by a person at the rodeo grounds in Cibique, hence the name. The Chediski Fire was started by another person two days later and many miles away. Within three days, they merged into the 460,182-acre conflagration that burned 491 structures (including 465 homes and six businesses) fought by 6,600 fire personnel at a cost of \$43 million and anticipated rehabilitation costs of another \$50 million or more.

Jim Paxton was the information officer on this wildfire. He kept the world and the firefighters informed on the situation in nearly-continuous reports, with official briefings twice daily for the duration of the event. Five years later, in *The Monster Reared His Ugly Head*, he put the fire's story together for those who were affected by it directly or indirectly as well as for those whose professional requirements were changed to meet the new challenge of what he calls the "mega-fire." But he doesn't stop with the fire that was. He looks to the past to explain the future.

"The magnitude of fire has changed dramatically in my 34 years in the Forest Service," writes Paxton, who fought his first wildland fire in 1969. He fought many more as he ranged the Southwestern Region districts until he retired in January 2003. Those years and those fires informed a perspective on fire he shares with his readers. "Fire has become the enemy, and it

never should have. Fire is nothing more than Mother Nature's 'broom' to sweep the forest floor clean periodically. If man had not cut out Mother Nature from the process for the last 130 years, and had been paying attention to the way things really work, fire would never have become the enemy."

"Will this be the last mega-fire the world faces, now that certain changes in land-management policy have been implemented?" Paxton asks. "No," he answers. "This was one of the first." And then he develops his thesis. "But it's not too late. In this, the telling of the story of one such event, perhaps some minds will be changed on the nature of what needs to happen to prevent future occurrences. Perhaps some will be affected positively and encouraged to support greater changes in our land management policies. Perhaps we can learn from this that, unless we commit to managing our lands the way Mother nature does it, we may have no choice but to stop visiting, enjoying and living in our forests and wildlands."

The Monster Reared His Ugly Head reflects nothing less than Paxton's personal, profound understanding of wildland fire.

The Monster Reared His Ugly Head (ISBN-13:978-1-933324-78-4), published in 2007, is available for \$39.95 per copy plus \$10.00 per copy for shipping and handling (Arizona residents add \$3.13 per copy for sales tax) from Jim Paxton, 1580 Stagecoach Circle, Show Low, Arizona 85901.

Thanks to Dick Buscher for the review copy of Jim Paxton's book.

Forum *continued from page 2*

that involved my retirement. We planned the physical move to Medford. And a labor-management partnership planned the combined SO organization. So I'm not sure where the comments about "evolutionary" came from. It was carefully planned from my perspective, and had been openly discussed and planned for a long time before it happened. That the move and the succession didn't happen as planned was a result of unforeseen circumstances. But it all happened as it happened, and the "Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests" are up and running as a consolidated unit.

I still don't know if consolidation was a good choice. I know I hate it, but that's because of the extremely strong feelings I have for the Siskiyou, and I think it lost a lot at least for a while. The cultures on the two units were very different. That's a big factor that often isn't considered. There were clear cost savings, lots of opportunities for the Forest Service to be both more effective and efficient: we shared the same publics, were connected within a river basin, had the same congressional delegations, and the SOs were 20 miles apart. In Region 6, this consolidation made more sense than just about any.

I do support the findings and recommendations of the review team. I wish they'd taken time to look me up because I could have provided a different perspective on the Siskiyou-Rogue situation.

I believe that the strength of the Forest Service is in our dispersed leadership in small towns, and we can ill afford fewer district rangers even if we have to go back to districts that have a ranger, a clerk, and a general district assistant. We never could do everything, so we need to focus on what we can do well.

-- Mike Lunn, Forest Supervisor, Siskiyou National Forest, 1990-1999, Rogue River National Forest, May-December 1999

Your OldSmokeys Newsletter Format Continues to Evolve

You may have noticed a somewhat different "look" to this edition of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. That owes to a return to a two-column format for most of the pages. And that owes to **Wendall Jones** advising your editor that two columns are easier for you to read. Thanks, Wendall!

-- Les Joslin

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Gotchen Creek Ranger Station Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington

By Rick McClure
Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager
Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mt. Hood National Forest

The historic Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, built in the summer of 1909 from a 1908 Forest Service standard plan for ranger cabins, is a small three-room cabin nestled in a grove of aspens at the edge of a meadow just a few miles from the Mt. Adams Wilderness. From 1909 to 1917, the cabin served as headquarters for the Mt. Adams Ranger District on the Columbia National Forest, now the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The ranger station was built along a wagon road that led into the national forest from the east and the primary “sheep driveway” by which tens of thousands of sheep annually entered the national forest en route grazing allotments on the southern slopes of Mt. Adams. It is the oldest historic structure within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, and the only one on that forest built during the 1905 to 1910 administration of founding Forest Service chief Gifford Pinchot, then known as “the Forester.”

It remained in use for another 84 years, first as an outpost for horseback rangers and then by other Forest Service personnel including fire and recreation guards. The fact that it was used almost continuously— at least seasonally—until 2001 accounts for the building’s excellent condition.

Gotchen Creek Ranger Station was formally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in late April, 2007. Dr. Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer for Washington, noted that the listing is a distinct honor, and that the station ranked among historic sites “recognized for their unique contributions to Washington’s heritage.” It may be the only surviving building in Washington based on the early standard plan.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest staff are currently exploring options for its long-term preservation including a proposal to add historic Gotchen Creek Ranger Station to the Forest Service’s popular historic recreation lodging program. More than sixty historic cabins and fire lookouts on national forests in Washington and Oregon are available to the public as nightly rentals through this program that generates fees for historic preservation.

Editor’s Note: Gifford Pinchot National Forest visitors wishing to see historic Gotchen Creek Ranger Station are encouraged to check in at the current Mt. Adams Ranger Station, 2455 Highway 141 in Trout Lake, Washington. Gotchen Creek Ranger Station is nine miles north of Trout Lake by unimproved Forest Service roads and three miles west of the Yakima Indian Reservation.

*Do you have a favorite Region 6 historic ranger station or guard station with a good story? If so, please send in the pictures and the story for this **Uncle Sam’s Cabins** section.*



Ranger Harvey Lickel raising the flag at Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, Columbia National Forest, in August 1911.

U.S. Forest Service photograph by Forest Supervisor H.O. Stabler, Columbia National Forest



Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, Columbia National National Forest. In 1935

U.S. Forest Service photograph by Ray M. Fillon, Columbia National Forest



Gotchen Creek Ranger Station, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, as it appears today.

U.S. Forest Service photograph by Rick McClure

Fire Lookout



Miss Jean Frey, only woman studying forestry at Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, as she appeared while acting as lookout in the Mount Hood national forest reserve.

Out of the Past

Lady Lookouts

The fascinating photograph at right, clipped from the December 17, 1927, issue of *The Bend Bulletin*, shows Miss Jean Frey, the only woman then studying forestry at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University), while serving as a U.S. Forest Service fire lookout on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Does any reader know anything of what became of Miss Frey? If so, your editor would like to know.

Miss Hallie Morse Daggett was the first woman lookout in the Forest Service. She served at the Eddy's Gulch Lookout Station atop Klamath Peak on the Klamath National Forest from the summer of 1913 through the summer of 1926. In her first season, Hallie reported some 40 fires and was praised by her supervisor, Ranger M.H. McCarthy. Out of that number of fires, fewer than five acres burned, McCarthy wrote, "due entirely to the fact that rangers and guards had such prompt warning that suppressive efforts were put forth before the fires could gain an appreciable headway. Had one been less faithful..., it might easily have been five thousand. The first woman guardian of the National Forest is one, big, glorious success." According to Ray Kresek, newspaper articles about Hallie "led to such a rush of applications from young, romantic women, the Chief of the Forest Service had to issue a letter to all districts ordering them to quit giving out publicity on women lookouts." Perhaps she inspired Miss Frey.

Miss Helen Dawes served on the Devils Head Lookout on the Pike National Forest, Colorado, from 1917 through 1921. Helen was hired because of a shortage men brought on by World War I. Her position drew national attention, too, making her a role model for women throughout the country. Perhaps she was Miss Frey's role model.

Or perhaps Miss Frey followed the trail blazed by pioneer lady lookouts right here in then-District 6. Just on the Deschutes National Forest in the early 1920s, Miss Virginia Barry served on the Paulina Peak Lookout, Miss Shasta Leila Hoover on the Pine Mountain and Bachelor Butte lookouts, and Mrs. Hazel McKinney on the Black Butte Lookout. There certainly were others on other forests.

By 1931, when the old California Region—Region 5—published its *Forest Rangers' Catechism*, a question-and-answer book on the Forest Service and the National Forest System "issued for general distribution as well as for official use" by Regional Forester S.B. Show, women seemed to have fallen out of favor as lookouts—at least, in California. The answer to the question on page 35, "Are women ever employed by the Forest Service as lookouts?" was a firm "No. They were employed at one time, but this practice has been discontinued."

They were back in great numbers during World War II when our Portland regional office announced "that 246 women have been hired to fill fire protective positions next summer in the national forests of Oregon and Washington." And they've been around ever since.

Prepared from multiple sources by Les Joslin.

*Editor's Note: Do you have a favorite photograph that shows how things were in Region 6 in the old days on which to base a **The Way We Were** or an **Out of the Past** article for this page? If so, please consider sending it and supporting story to Les Joslin, Editor, OldSmokeys Newsletter, 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701. Thanks!*

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