



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Spring 2010

## *President's Message—Bruce Hendrickson*

It happens that one year is not a long period of time. This is my final column as your President. Apparently I now fade into the background for a year as Past President. I encourage those who can to attend the annual Spring Banquet in May. There we will install OldSmokey **Bill Shenk** as our President, and begin OldSmokey **John Berry**'s learning year as President-Elect. We also will thank OldSmokey **John Nesbitt** for his services and retire him as Past President. I hope to see many of you there! The means of making your reservations are on page 12 of this newsletter.

Many of you will be interested in two events coming up in May and June this year. On May 20-22 the "1910 Fires: A Century Later" conference will be held in Wallace, Idaho. On June 11-13 the "National Smokejumper Reunion 2010" will convene in Redding, California. Information about these events is on page 9.

As you know, we are a tax-exempt organization. That status comes with obligations. One of these is to do good things for the world in which we live. One way we do that is to make cash donations to organizations that serve the public in ways we can support. An article on page 4 of this newsletter explains our donation policy and asks you to suggest some possibilities. Please carefully consider this and respond as you are able.

I thank the Board of Directors for its support and teaching during my term as your President. I entered this not sure of what I agreed to. It turned out to be rewarding and enjoyable. I have a new appreciation for the significance of this organization to which we all belong. Thanks for the opportunity.

*Bruce Hendrickson*

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

***Sign Up Now to Attend the May 16 OldSmokeys Spring Banquet!***

## Forum

### Two OldSmokeys: Men to Match the Mountains

Two OldSmokeys mentioned in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—the late **Andy Andersen** whose August 6, 2009, death at 93 was reported in the *Memories* section and 86-year-old **Ben Carson** whose being honored at the October 24, 2009, commissioning of USS *Makin Island* (LPD-8) was reported in the *OldSmokeys News* section—are two men who, as a favorite phrase puts it, matched the mountains.

As a World War II motor torpedo boat (PT boat) skipper, Andy was one of the expendables—just like those in W.L. White's 1942 book *They Were Expendable* that John Ford made into the 1945 motion picture by the same title—who, in small plywood combatants, gallantly held the line against great odds and at great personal sacrifice in the South Pacific and Mediterranean Sea.

And, as a young U.S. Marine, Ben was one of the 221 legendary Carlson's Raiders who stormed ashore and captured enemy-held Makin Island—for which the Navy's newest amphibious assault ship was named—on August 17, 1942. Ben also saw action at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Bougainville, and received the Purple Heart when wounded on Iwo Jima.

Both returned from World War II to successful U.S. Forest Service careers.

"Where do we get such men?" the admiral asked at the end of James A. Michener's *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*. It's hard to say. But one thing's sure. There are more OldSmokeys with stories—of military and other service—who are "such men" and women.

-- Les Joslin

### Should Concessioners Operate National Forest Campgrounds?

Reports that—as the Missoula, Montana, *Missoulian* headline put it on December 8, 2009—the "U.S. Forest Service looks to chop senior, disabled camping discount to 10 percent" have raised not only questions about the fairness of these discounts and the fairness of reducing them, but also about the appropriateness of concessionaire—the Forest Service term is *concessioner*—operation of National Forest System campgrounds and day-use facilities.

Three decades ago, Forest Service personnel operated and maintained most National Forest System recreation facilities. Then the Forest Service began experimenting with concession operation of its developed recreation sites. Today, most highly developed national forest campgrounds are managed by concessioners. That adds up to about 50 percent of national forest camping capacity, or 82 percent of the national forest campsites that can be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS).

The Forest Service administers about 150 permits for concessioner operation of government-owned campgrounds and related recreation sites under the Granger-Thye Act of 1950. Over the years, these permits have gravitated away from "mom and pop" concessioners toward larger, corporate outfits. The Forest Service anticipates that opportunities to camp and recreate at developed recreation sites will continue to be important to the public and that the Forest Service will continue to rely on concessioners to manage developed camping opportunities.

Why is this the case, and what is gained and lost through this arrangement?

This is the case, presumably, because the Forest Service determined it's less expensive—and, perhaps, less trouble—to let concessioners do the job. So, perhaps the gain is a fiscal one. There may be other gains, but the time this writer spent at such work didn't reveal them.

What's lost is more of the Forest Service presence on the ground, serving the public and building its reputation for good public service in the process. What's lost is putting a national forest brand on campgrounds and other facilities where the Forest Service once met its public but which now are becoming identified more with concessioners. What's lost is the public's sense of ownership and stewardship—which the citizen-owners of the National Forest System should have—to a sense of being exploited on these lands—their lands—by profiteers. What's lost is another chunk of the "serving people" part of the Forest Service job and, in many cases, the quality of service to visitors.

This last loss isn't lost on OldSmokeys and others whose comments about poor and even rude service by concessioner employees have been quoted in the press and expressed to this writer. As one visitor, quoted in the December 8 issue of Bend, Oregon's daily *The Bulletin*, put it: "Some of the people we've dealt with in these campgrounds aren't very friendly. ... It's sort of a take it or leave it deal, and it just rubs you the wrong way." This visitor said—as have many others—he would prefer the Forest Service stop using private companies to operate many of its campgrounds.

Does this list of losses answer the question asked at the top of this editorial for you? It does for me.

-- Les Joslin

*The Forum 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*

## OldSmokeys News



*OldSmokeys All—Left to right, Phil Hirl, Wendall Jones, Jerry Williams, Bruce Hendrickson, Linda Goodman, Dave Scott, Ron Walters, and Regional Forester Mary Wagner celebrated publication of Jerry’s The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History at the RO in Portland, Oregon, on January 11, 2010.*

*U.S. Forest Service photograph by Glen A. Sachet*

### OldSmokeys Meet with, Present Book to Region 6 Regional Leadership Team

A delegation of OldSmokeys—PNWFSA President **Bruce Hendrickson** and **Linda Goodman**, **Phil Hirl**, **Wendall Jones**, **Dave Scott**, **Ron Walters**, and author **Jerry Williams**—met with Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Mary Wagner**, Deputy Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Cal Joyner**, and other RO staff members on January 11, 2010, to present 100 copies of Jerry’s new book, *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History*, to the RO which funded the project.

Jerry described the history of writing a regional history—that included three or four false starts—and the process that culminated in Oregon State University Press publication of the book late last year. Jerry pointed out that the book would not have been possible without the strong support and funding through a cooperating agreement from the Region 6 top staff, especially former Regional Forester Linda Goodman and for-

mer Deputy Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Liz Agpaoa**, now Southern Region regional forester. The OldSmokeys contributed time in a dollar amount equal to the regional funds, and those of the “book group” who attended the meeting spent countless hours on the project.

Also at the meeting, Phil gave a pitch for Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association membership and Dave talked about the National Museum of Forest Service History project.

*Editor’s Note: The book is available from The University of Arizona Press, which distributes Oregon State University Press books, for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional book inside the United States. To order by telephone, call toll-free at 1-800-426-3797. Phone orders must be prepaid using a credit card. To order by mail, send order with check for the total amount due made out to “University of Arizona Press” to the University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Avenue, Suite 103, Tucson, Arizona 85719. User order form on OldSmokeys website if you wish.*

#### Election 2010

### OldSmokey John Berry Confirmed as PNWFSA President-Elect

OldSmokey **John Berry** has been confirmed by a vote of the membership as the next President-Elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

John will take office on May 16, 2010, at the annual Spring Banquet when OldSmokey **Bill Shenk** will relieve OldSmokey **Bruce Hendrickson** as President.

John is well known as both a forester and engineer in Region 6 and throughout the U.S. Forest Service from which he retired as forest supervisor of the Eldorado National Forest. His biography is on page 3 of the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

#### Banquet 2010

### OldSmokeys Spring Banquet 2010 is May 16 at Charbonneau Country Club

OldSmokeys from all over the Pacific Northwest—and perhaps beyond—will converge on the Charbonneau Country Club near Wilsonville, Oregon, on Sunday, May 16, 2010, for their annual Spring Banquet at which good company and good food you won’t want to miss are a tradition.

Complete information on and a registration form for this gala annual event are in the **Opportunities** section on page 12 of this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Registrations are due not later than May 5. Don’t wait! Send in the **Registration Form** on page 12 to secure your seats at the banquet now!



## OldSmokeys Offer Funding to Projects That Meet Donation Policy Criteria

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association stands ready to donate funds to projects that further PNWFSA objectives again this year. Organizations pursuing such projects must submit proposals by July 15, 2010.

The bulk of funds donated in recent years were generated by the Forest Service Centennial Reunion the OldSmokeys ran in Portland in September 2005. Book project funds are now available for donation.

“We have about \$12,000 in our book fund,” OldSmokey **Phil Hirl** explained. “We had set it aside to publish Jerry Williams’ new book, but Oregon State University Press publication of the book freed those funds for some other good use. We have already donated \$2,000 to the Mt. Hood Museum project from these funds, and are looking for a few additional good projects. We plan to donate up to \$5,000 this year.”

### *Donation policy*

Donations are made to organizations which satisfy the donation policy adopted by the PNWFSA Board of Directors at their February 27, 2009, meeting. This policy specifies “Grant or gift proposals will be judged on the following criteria:

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

Not all these questions may be applicable to every proposal we see, but running through the checklist should help us get the most bang for the buck.”

### *Donation record*

The last of the Forest Service Reunion 2005 funds were donated in 2009. Reunion funds were donated as follow:

- \$19,500 to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana
- \$12,500 to the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, for the High Desert Ranger Station project fully funded to completion by OldSmokeys as an organization and as individual donors
- \$2,500 to the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center in Wenatchee, Washington
- \$2,000 to the Civilian Conservation Corps statue in Salem, Oregon.

### *Donation outlook*

“We tried to keep the Reunion 2005 fund donations national in scope, since Reunion 2005 was a national activity,” Phil said. “But the book fund is a Pacific Northwest activity, and we plan to use those funds mostly for Pacific Northwest projects.”

PNWFSA’s status as an Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation requires use of funds earned for public service projects.

## OldSmokeys, Others Move to Form “Friends of Fish Lake” Non-profit

OldSmokeys **Rolf Anderson, Mike Kerrick, Doug Macdonald, Steve Mealy, and Phil Raab**, along with Forest Service retiree Randy Dunbar, met February 16, 2010, to take first steps toward forming an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation called “Friends of Fish Lake” to preserve the historic Fish Lake area on the Willamette National Forest and for other purposes including:

- Operating the associated Fish Lake Cascades Institute and Historic Center dedicated to excellence in teaching wildland backcountry skills and the ecology of the Central Cascades, and
- Interpreting the natural and cultural history of the site, and providing public use of its buildings and grounds.

Toward these ends, the group has drafted bylaws and a vision statement, is drafting an IRS application for non-profit corporation status and a memorandum of understanding between such a corporation and the Willamette National Forest, and is recruiting a board of directors and briefing Willamette National Forest officials on the process and the project.

A membership campaign is underway. OldSmokeys who know and care about the historic Fish Lake area are encouraged to contact Mike Kerrick for more information about membership and supporting the effort.

The incorporators will present a proposed slate of candidates for a board of directors to the members at the first annual membership meeting to be held at Fish Lake on the afternoon of June 14, 2010, the first afternoon of the fifth annual Fish Lake work week scheduled for July 14 to 18.

### *Fifth Annual Fish Lake Work Week*

“The fourth annual Fish Lake work week had the largest turnout yet and accomplished a huge amount of work under the watchful eye of ‘curator’ Jim Denny, a masterful planner,” Mike Kerrick reports. “We have yet to run out of work.”

“Let’s make the fifth annual work week scheduled for June 14 to 18 even bigger!” Mike urged. “Some will show up on the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> ready to work. RVs are welcome and there is a bunkhouse available. Folks are welcome for a day or two or for the whole week.” Let Mike Kerrick know if you plan to attend. And let District Ranger Mary Allison at <mallison@fs.fed.us> know if you plan to bring an RV or stay in the bunkhouse.

“Fish Lake is a treasure and deserves our efforts to preserve and maintain our heritage,” Mike says of his favorite Forest Service historic site.

## OldSmokeys Announce July 24, 2010, Mount St. Helens Eruption Reunion

This year will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens on Sunday morning, May 18, 1980.

“As part of the commemoration of that event, a reunion of those involved at the time of the eruption and those who have worked on bringing it to where it is today as the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is being planned,” OldSmokeys **Bob Williams** and **Bob Tokarczyk** have announced.

The July 24, 2010, reunion will be held at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument headquarters just north of Amboy, Washington. The day will feature a meal catered by the Timber Lake Job Corps Center culinary group, a short program, and lots of time to visit with old friends. To get on the mailing list for event details, e-mail your contact information to OldSmokey **Phil Dodd**. Details will also be passed by OldSmokey E-Notes.

Just about every OldSmokey remembers when this volcano on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest erupted, and many were there to witness and/or deal with the aftermath of the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in the history of the United States. This reunion offers a chance to recall with others involved the event that, within nine hours, reduced the elevation of the mountain from 9,677 feet to 8,365 feet; killed 57 people; destroyed 250 homes, 47 bridges, 15 miles of rail-ways, and 185 miles of highway; and blew down or buried under ash nearly 230 square miles of forest.

Many other May 2010 events planned for the 30th anniversary of the eruption are listed on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest website at <[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf)> and the Mount St. Helens Institute website at <[www.mshinstitute.org](http://www.mshinstitute.org)>.

## OldSmokey Tom L. Thompson Plans 2012 Reunion in Colorado

A small group of U.S. Forest Service retirees in Colorado led by OldSmokey **Tom L. Thompson** plans to host the next Forest Service retiree reunion. Their proposal received strong support from Forest Service retiree organizations.

“From all indications it looks like we will definitely host the 2012 Forest Service Reunion” in Colorado, Tom wrote on March 5, 2010. It will most likely be the third week of September, and we are working to select the location. We look forward to the chance to host this great get-together, and encourage folks to mark their calendars—if they can find 2012 calendars. If not, put a sticky note on the refrigerator.”

“It’s been nearly twenty years since [the Rocky Mountain Region] hosted the first such reunion in 1991 at Glenwood Springs, Colorado,” Tom wrote in a January 11, 2010, e-mail proposal. “We are excited about...doing this...during the peak display of fall aspen color while the elk bugle over the ridge.”

OldSmokeys will want to watch this space for information about Forest Service Reunion 2012 somewhere among Colorado’s fourteeners as plans evolve.

## OldSmokey Bob Devlin Penned Op-ed Supporting Active Management for Umpqua National Forest Health

Writing as a guest columnist in the November 10, 2009, issue of *The Oregonian*, OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** called for public support of a proposed timber sale on the Umpqua National Forest designed to address “forest conditions as bad as they get on our national forests.”

The proposed “D-Bug” project for “thick stands of spindly, stressed” lodgepole pines near Crater Lake National Park is intended “to slow the spread of bark beetle infestation and to create conditions such that, when wildfire does come to this forestland—as it will one day—many larger trees will remain alive and the area will continue to be a forested landscape.”

“This is a fuels management plan and is not cutting old growth stands, but rather harvesting and thinning dead, dying and insect-infested lodgepole stands...around...old growth mixed conifer stands to help prevent their destruction, not if but when a wildfire occurs in this area,” Bob emphasized. The plan also includes noxious weed reduction and reforestation measures. “The Umpqua National Forest is preparing an environmental impact statement under the authority of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to thin thousands of acres of diseased forestland, largely by using existing roads and modern forestry practices.”

Bob’s editorial pointed out that “effectively treating this forestland for fire resiliency and health won’t be accomplished by nibbling around the edges. Active management of many thousands of acres—thinning and some timber harvest—are an antidote to the kind of highly destructive fires seen in recent years.”

Bob is the former forest supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest. His op-ed was reprinted in *Evergreen Magazine* and may be read in its entirety at <<http://evergreenmagazine.com/index.html>> click on “Guest Columns.”

## OldSmokey Tom Mafera Named South Morrow County “Man of the Year”

OldSmokey **Tom Mafera**, until recently district ranger on the Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest, received the South Morrow County, Oregon, “Man of the Year” award at the January 14, 2010, Town and Country Event for the community of Heppner.

“Tom was recognized for his contributions to the Heppner community during his time as district ranger,” said Forest Supervisor Kevin Martin. “Tom embodies public service,” he continued, citing a long list of projects in which Tom played a key role. “All are evidence of ... the huge impact he has made on this community, the District, and the Forest.”

Tom recently transferred from the Heppner Ranger District to the position of vegetation management staff officer on the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests.

*Prepared from the January 29, 2010, “Chief’s Desk” issued by the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service in the WO and other sources.*

## OldSmokeys Helped Develop “Year of the Forest” Exhibit at High Desert Museum

This year—2010—is the “Year of the Forest” at the High Desert Museum on U.S. Highway 97 south of Bend, Oregon, where a year-long series of three exhibits explores “how forests are vital to life on Earth, our way of life in the American West, and the complex issues surrounding this important natural resource.”

The first of the exhibits, “Cultural Connections,” opened on January 16 and will continue until May 9. The remaining eight months of 2010 is scheduled to be split between the other two Year of the Forest exhibits to explore “Respectful Recreation” from May 14 to September 6 and “Healthy Habitats” from September 11 to December 12. Developed with support from the Deschutes National Forest, these exhibits focus on these aspects of the forests of the Intermountain West—which is the Museum’s stomping grounds.

OldSmokeys **Les Joslin** and **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, at the request of Deschutes National Forest Public Affairs Officer Sue Olson, served on the small team that developed the first exhibit. “Since the wooded and forested lands in this part of the West are largely within national forests, this just naturally became a National Forest System and U.S. Forest Service story,” said Les, the team leader.

In the first exhibit, Museum visitors are introduced to the general concept of the forest, then to the Intermountain West forests and their historic and current roles in the region’s life-ways.

## OldSmokeys to Participate in May 22-23 “Year of the Forest” Weekend at the High Desert Museum

OldSmokeys will staff the historic High Desert Ranger Station during the May 22-23, 2010 “Year of the Forest” weekend at the High Desert Museum on U.S. Highway 97 south of Bend, Oregon. Many visitors are expected to be attracted to the historic station by U.S. Forest Service firefighting units scheduled to be positioned in the adjacent parking lot during this two-day observation. Smokey Bear should be on hand, too.

Inside the Museum’s main building, the weekend’s forest stewardship theme will be carried by the current “Year of the Forest” exhibit sponsored by the Deschutes National Forest and staffed by Forest Service personnel.

### *Volunteers Needed!*

## OldSmokeys Gear Up for Summer 2010 High Desert Ranger Station Interpretation

OldSmokeys in Central Oregon are preparing to open and operate the historic High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum on U.S. Highway 97 south of Bend, Oregon, again this summer. After restoration of the one-room district ranger’s office building moved in June 2008 to the Museum from Nevada was completed in June 2009, a team of four OldSmokeys—

**George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Les Joslin, and Stan Kunzman**—and one other volunteer told the U.S. Forest Service and National Forest System stories at the station for 62 straight days during July and August.

The key to operating the High Desert Ranger Station is recruiting and retaining OldSmokeys and other qualified volunteers to staff it and interpret it for Museum visitors. Sixty-two operating days is quite a stretch for five volunteers. The operating schedule for the 2010 season will depend on and be built around the number and availability of OldSmokeys and other qualified volunteers recruited to do this job.

*OldSmokeys who live in or spend part of the summer in Central Oregon are needed for this project and are encouraged to contact Les Joslin by telephone at 541-330-0331, by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or even by snail mail at 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701 by mid June for more information and to sign up. If Les is out of town, as he will be part of the spring, please contact High Desert Museum volunteer coordinator Tracy Suckow by telephone at 541-382-4754, by e-mail at <TSuckow@highdesertmuseum.org>, or by snail mail at the High Desert Museum, 59800 South U.S. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon 97702.*

Les and Pat Joslin are pleased to offer the guest room with private bath in their Bend home to OldSmokeys from outside Central Oregon who volunteer to staff the High Desert Ranger Station for a series of consecutive days. Contact Les for details.

As reported in the Fall 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the High Desert Ranger Station was dedicated on July 30, 2009, “to its new mission of telling the stories of the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service and the vital roles they play in western American life.” Acquisition and restoration of this historic Forest Service structure was made possible by the generosity of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association as an organization and as individuals. Its continued viability depends on OldSmokeys

## OldSmokey Les Joslin to ‘Show-and-Tell’ Historic Ranger Stations at May 28 PNWFSA Luncheon

OldSmokey **Les Joslin** is scheduled to present a 15-20 minute illustrated talk “Uncle Sam’s Cabins: Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West” as part of the May 28, 2010, PNWFSA luncheon program at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104th Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon.

After the “three first” ranger stations, Les will focus either on several Region 6 ranger stations—about which you will have read in the *Uncle Sam’s Cabins* section of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—or, if members at the luncheon prefer, several historic ranger stations from other regions of the West that may be “new” to you. Which, the Region 6 or other regions’ ranger stations—will be up to the majority. How democratic is that!

Les currently is revising his 1995 book *Uncle Sam’s Cabins: A Visitor’s Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West* on which this short talk is based.

The luncheon begins at 11:00 a.m.



## Forest Service News

### President Obama Budgets \$5.8 Billion for U.S. Forest Service in FY 2011

While President Barack Obama's proposed \$3.8 trillion budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011 freezes most domestic spending—except for entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, his budget request for the U.S. Forest Service totals \$5.38 billion in discretionary appropriations. This is a \$23 million program increase over the FY 2010 enacted level.

There are, of course, winners and losers in this proposed budget the Forest Service says “reflects our Nation's highest priorities, acts to save and create new jobs, and lays the foundation of economic growth, especially in rural areas.”

“The FY 2011 budget for the Forest Service supports the Administration's priorities for maintaining and enhancing the resiliency and productivity of America's forests through five key initiatives: Restoring and Sustaining Forest Landscapes; Protecting and Enhancing Water Resources and Watershed Health; Making Landscapes More Resilient to Climate Change; Responsibly Budgeting for Wildfire; and Creating Jobs and Sustainable Communities.” These are the big winners.

One of the losers is forest trail and road funding which would be slashed by more than 20 percent under the White House budget proposal released on February 1, 2010. Roads and trails would be cut from \$556 million in FY 2010 to \$438 million for FY 2011.

This proposal, of course, is the first step in a months-long process for establishing the FY 2011 budget. Next, congressional committees in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate will craft spending plans that will have to pass both chambers and then be signed into law by the president.

*Editor's Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will follow and report on this process.*

*Prepared from a U.S. Forest Service website announcement “USDA Forest Service Budget” and “Forest trail, road funding would drop 20%” by Keith Chu in the Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper The Bulletin on February 2, 2010.*

### U.S. Forest Service Scheduled April 6 Planning Rule Roundtable in Portland

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced on February 24, 2010, a series of opportunities for public discussion of the development of a new Forest Service Land and Resources Management Planning Rule, usually referred to as “the planning rule.” The Forest Service will host a national science forum, three national roundtables, and nine regional roundtables.

The Pacific Northwest Region roundtable was scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon, on April 6, at the Doubletree-Lloyd Center, time to be announced in an OldSmokeys E-Note.

“We encourage broad participation in the creation of our new planning rule,” said Chief Tidwell. “Through collaboration we will be able to better address the current and future needs of the National Forest System such as restoration, protecting watersheds, addressing climate change, sustaining local

economies, improving collaboration, and working across landscapes.”

“Providing multiple opportunities for public participation ties directly to President Obama's call for open government that is transparent, participatory, and collaborative, and illustrates Forest Service commitment to engage the public in the development of a new planning rule,” according to the press release announcing these events.

*Prepared from February 24, 2010, U.S. Forest Service national news release “USDA Forest Service Will Host Public Events on Development of New Planning Rule.”*

### Senator Ron Wyden's Eastside Forest Compromise Bill Attracts Oregon Timber and Environmental Groups, Could Alter National Forest System Management

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) on December 16, 2009, prevailed upon some Oregon timber industry and environmental groups to join him in introducing legislation that would promote active management of 8.3 million acres in six national forests east of the Cascade Range.

Senator Wyden's proposed Oregon Eastside Forests Restoration, Old Growth Protection and Jobs Act has been praised for its potential, if passed and signed into law, to “resolve bitter disputes over harvest levels and watershed and old growth protection, and lead to a significant and sustainable increase in harvest in at-risk forests all across central and eastern Oregon” according to a press release from the senator's office.

The proposed legislation is the product of eight months of negotiations between a handful of timber industry and environmental group representatives. As a result of compromises, both sides gained something and gave up something. Environmental groups would gain protection of trees more than 21 inches dbh and an end to construction of new permanent forest roads. Timber interests would get an accelerated “forest thinning process—doubling the Eastside acreage to be thinned from 40,000 per year to 80,000 next year and up to 120,000 within three years—and make it harder to tie up such projects with endless court challenges,” according to the December 24, 2009, issue of Bend, Oregon's *The Source Weekly*.

“Oregonians rightly wondered if this day would ever come, but thanks to the good faith and extraordinary perseverance of these fine men and women, timber and environmental interests are today standing side by side to move beyond decades of confrontation and improve forests and create jobs.” Senator Wyden said. “The road ahead to enacting this bill may be difficult, but when longtime adversaries demonstrate that they can sit together and find common ground, there is hope for a better tomorrow for Oregon.”

Senator Wyden, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, also stressed the importance of increasing funding for the U.S. Forest Service's management activities and said he would use his subcommittee chairmanship to conduct continuous oversight of the agency's implementation of the legislation.

Senator Wyden's proposed legislation also has been criticized by many including U.S. Forest Service Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Jack Ward Thomas** who wrote in *The Oregonian* on January 22, 2010, that Wyden's proposal would "prove to be neither feasible nor long-lasting while further confusing the situation" by creating a regime in which "the national forests become 'local forests' managed under separate laws and overseen by advisory panels financed with federal dollars and staffed with federal employees."

Recognizing the integrity, good intentions, and "willingness to step forward" of those who "cobbled together this 'compromise'" to address the "increasingly dysfunctional, expensive, inconsistent, confused and frustrating" governance of the National Forest System, Chief Emeritus Thomas explained that "the approach is flawed, inappropriate, less than fully informed and has implications for the management of the entire national forest system" and "should be debated in that context."

"The deal," he wrote, "assumes status-quo conditions—political, economic, ecological and legal" in an era of change. It "hinges upon trade-offs between interest groups," and depends on Senator Wyden's presence to monitor its progress and "cut the next deal." And, in terms of the entire National Forest System, he noted that Senator Wyden's proposal takes an approach similar to that being taken by Senator John Testor in his proposed Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009 that could result in "such individualized deals made into law for 154 national forests by uncoordinated actions of dozens of senators who come and go with elections."

"Clearly, the governance of national forests is dysfunctional due to numerous, overlapping, contradictory laws continuously and variously interpreted by the courts," Chief Emeritus Thomas concluded. Bills such as those introduced by Senator Wyden and Senator Testor are "sick canaries in the mine shaft" that indicate "something is dangerously amiss. Would it not be better to recognize and comprehensibly address that dysfunction?"

How much of the timber and environmental communities will support Senator Wyden's bill remains to be seen. One environmental group, the La Grande-based Hells Canyon Preservation Council, announced its opposition on February 16, 2010. Though the bill would result in positive changes to national forest management on the dry side of Oregon, the group told Senator Wyden, parts of the proposed legislation ran counter to those goals.

*Prepared from multiple sources including the December 16, 2009, Press Release "Wyden Brings Oregon Timber and Conservation Groups together for Central, Eastern Oregon Forests and Families, the article "Time to end war On east-side forests" in the December 22, 2009, issue of The Daily Astorian, the article "Wyden Achieves a Timber War Truce" in the December 24, 2009, issue of The Source Weekly, the article "What's wrong with the eastside forest compromise" by Jack Ward Thomas in the January 22, 2010 issue of The Oregonian, and the article "Oregon environmental group comes out against Wyden old growth bill" My Matthew Preusch in the February 16, 2010, issue of The Oregonian.*

*Editor's Note: Senator John Testor's proposed Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009 is another controversial proposal that could have far-reaching ramifications for the National Forest System and the Forest Service that bears watching. Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will strive to track both these bills.*

## Willamette National Forest, State of Oregon Cooperate to Ban Gas Motor Use on Waldo Lake

The Oregon State Marine Board on January 14, 2010, approved, by a four-to-one vote, a U.S. Forest Service and State of Oregon agreement to ban using gasoline boat motors on Waldo Lake in the Willamette National Forest.

The ban, which also applies to float planes and also will phase out gasoline generator use in campgrounds on the lake's shore, is intended to preserve the purity of Oregon's second-largest naturally-formed lake renowned for its clarity.

"Scientists have determined that [Waldo Lake] is among the most pure lakes in the entire world—more pure than...Crater Lake," former Democratic U.S. congressman from Oregon Jim Weaver wrote in a December 16, 2009, article favoring the ban. Weaver represented the state's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District from 1975 to 1987.

"For more than two decades the Forest Service has been working to decide how best to protect the pristine character of the lakes water and maintain the outdoor experience for lake visitors," Weaver wrote in an article supporting the proposed ban. "After years of discussion and public input, Willamette National Forest officials have decided to designate the lake and surrounding campground [*sic*] as semi-primitive and to begin phasing out motors on and around Waldo Lake. For the last two years, the gas motor regulation has been tied up in the courts over questions about whether Waldo is 'owned' by the State of Oregon or the federal government."

"Luckily, in the past few months, the state and federal governments have worked together toward a mutual accord, and the Oregon State Marine Board has proposed new rules to allow Forest Service plans to be implemented. This proposed rule will prohibit motorboats and float planes on the lake and gas generators on the lakeshore. It will also allow for emergency landings or watercraft used for official purposes such as search and rescue, law enforcement, and fire suppression."

Not everyone favored the ban. The most vocal opposition was voiced by former Marine Board director Paul Dornheffner who claimed Board approval of the ban was rigged and the Board was strong-armed into following Governor Ted Kulonogski's wishes that it be approved. Dornheffner resigned two weeks after the January 14 decision, ending 32 years with the Marine Board.

*Prepared from "Waldo Lake: for all and for the future" by Jim Weaver, in Oregon Live on December 16, 2009; "Gas motors gone from Waldo lake, but public fight lingers" by Eric Mortensen in The Oregonian on February 5, 2010; and "Movement to keep Waldo Lake pristine is common sense" by Bulletin guest columnist Patrick Kruse in Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper The Bulletin on February 8, 2010.*

**Many thanks to**

**Pat Joslin**

**for supporting production of the OldSmokeys Newsletter  
with her technical expertise.**

—Les Joslin, Editor



## Record Whitebark Pine Cone Crop is Boon for Region 6 Gene Conservation

A bumper crop of whitebark pine cones throughout Oregon and Washington will prove a big help to those working toward regional goals for gene conservation of this tree. Cones collected from a record 276 trees throughout the region during summer 2009 were sent to the Dorena Genetic Resources Center (DGRC) in Cottage Grove, Oregon, for processing.

A portion of the seed from each tree will be sent to the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Fort Collins, Colorado, for long term genetic conservation. This gene bank will be backed up with additional seed placed in long term storage at DGRC. Some seed will also be used for white pine blister rust resistance screening at DGRC.

Whitebark pine populations are in severe decline throughout the Pacific Northwest as a result of the current mountain pine beetle epidemic and successional replacement by shade tolerant species resulting from decades of fire suppression. But by far the most damaging impact on whitebark pine is the introduced disease white pine blister rust. Whitebark pine is highly susceptible to this fungal disease which kills young trees and kills the upper, cone-bearing branches in older trees.

Collecting cones from this tree is especially challenging; it doesn't begin producing cones until the tree is 50 to 70 years old, cone crops are sporadic from year to year, and the cones need to be protected from the Clark's nutcracker. This bird has a special relationship with whitebark pine. It is the primary dispersal agent for the large, nutritious seeds which, in turn, are its primary food source.

The nutcracker uses its strong bill to peck open the cones and remove the seeds, which it flies off and buries in the ground returning to eat them throughout the year. The seeds that aren't eaten germinate and grow into the next generation of trees.

To prevent the birds from getting all of the cones, the trees are climbed in July and wire mesh cages placed over the cone-bearing branches. The trees are climbed again in September to harvest the ripe cones.

Whitebark pine grows at tree-line, where it is a keystone species in high-elevation ecosystems. Much of its habitat is in wildernesses. The remote and often rugged places where it grows adds yet another challenge to cone collection, but there's usually no shortage of personnel willing to venture into these beautiful areas to help preserve this tree.

*Adapted from "Record whitebark pine cone crop boon for regional gene conservation efforts" by Andy Bower, Geneticist and Oregon Whitebark Pine Coordinator based at the Umatilla National Forest SO, published in the December 23, 2009, issue of The Thursday R6 Update.*

## Region 6 Mourns Robin Udey's Death

Robin Udey, Workforce Manager for Region 6 Fire & Aviation Management, was killed in a traffic accident on U.S. Highway 26 on the morning of January 25, 2010, about 10 miles east of Government Camp, while commuting to work in the RO from her home in Pine Grove, Oregon. Robin died at the scene. She was 54.

According to the Oregon State Police, as reported in Salem-News.com, at about 7:44 a.m. the driver of "a commercial truck pulling two tankers loaded with malt, eastbound on packed snow/ice...lost control and slid into the westbound lane where the truck collided head-on" with Robin's Toyota 4Runner. Robin "was ejected from her vehicle.... Troopers investigating the crash believe she was wearing safety restraints."

A 1973 graduate of Wasco County High School, Robin attended Mt. Hood Community College for two years and had worked on the Mt. Hood National Forest as personnel officer of the Bear Springs Ranger District and administrative officer of the Clackamas River Ranger District before moving to the RO in Portland to work in civil rights. She had recently taken over as Workforce Manager for Fire & Aviation Management.

"Robin was not only a true professional at her work, she was a valued co-worker, a close friend to many, and a key member of our RO," Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Mary Wagner** said of this tragic loss of a valued colleague so full of energy and enthusiasm. "We are a close-knit group in the Forest Service and when tragedy strikes one of us, we all feel it."

*Prepared from information provided by OldSmokey Mike Ash, Salem-News.com, and the Region 6 RO.*

## "1910 Fires: A Century Later" Wallace, Idaho, May 20 to 22, 2010, Conference to Focus on Fires' Impacts

The 1910 fires that burned over 3.1 million acres of forests in northern Idaho and western Montana were a pivotal event in American forestry and forests. These fires' impacts, with which we live today, will be examined at the "1910 Fires: A Century Later" conference scheduled to be held May 20 through 22, 2010, at the Wallace Civic Auditorium in Wallace, Idaho.

"I think this conference will be of interest to many Forest Service retirees," said David Baumgartner, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Washington State University. Actually the 2010 Inland Empire Society of American Foresters annual meeting, the conference sponsored by several U.S. Forest Service units and the Forest History Society is open to all who are interested.

Details and registration information are available at <<http://www.iesaf.org/pages/events.asp?PageTextID=13>>. Be sure to attend!

*Editor's Note: Timothy Egan's new book about these fires, The Big Burn, is reviewed in Books on page 21.*

*Forest Service News continues on page 11*

### **National Smokejumper Association announces...**

#### **NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER REUNION 2010**

Celebrate 70 years of smokejumping at the 2010 reunion. All current and former smokejumpers, pilots, associates, wildland firefighters, and contractors are invited!

**June 11-13, 2010**

**Redding Convention Center, Redding, California**

<http://www.smokejumpers.com/reunion2010/index.php>

## Feature

### The Value of Oral History

By Les Joslin

Recently, while putting together a reading list for an educational project, I discovered that two of my favorite books about two of my favorite U.S. Forest Service characters are out of print.

One of these is Basil K. Crane's *Dust From an Alkali Flat: A Forest Ranger Remembers Central Nevada*, published by the University of Nevada Press in 1984. This book relates his nine years as a forest ranger on the Toiyabe National Forest in central Nevada from 1938 through World War II. There, instead of trees and forest fires, most of his time was devoted to roundups, grazing permits, and the cowboys who drifted into that country looking for work.

A 1935 graduate of Utah State College, Basil Crane spent 38 years in the Forest Service as a forest ranger, forest supervisor, assistant regional forester, and deputy regional forester in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming before he retired in Idaho where he died in 2007.

The other is Professor R.T. King's *The Free Life of a Ranger: Archie Murchie in the U.S. Forest Service, 1929-1965*, correctly termed "a clear, unadorned narrative based on over fifty hours of interviews with retired ranger Archie Murchie" on its dust jacket, published by the University of Nevada Press in 1991 and later reissued in paperback.

These wonderful books, one a memoir and one an oral history, helped inspire my own Toiyabe National Forest memoir, *Toiyabe Patrol: Five U.S. Forest Service Summers East of the High Sierra in the 1960s*, the revised edition of which was published by Wilderness Associates in 2006.

Googling around in vain hope of credible contradiction of the untimely demise of these two books, I ran across a fascinating recent review of *The Free Life of a Ranger* by John Thomas, Jr., on the Western Institute for Study of the Environment (W.I.S.E.) website. I don't know Mr. Thomas, but I do know he got both Archie Murchie and the value of oral history right.

I knew Archie Murchie. Not well, but I knew him. He was the Toiyabe National Forest range staff officer during the early 1960s when I was the Bridgeport Ranger District fire prevention guard on that forest. Always a field man, he sometimes called at the Bridgeport Ranger Station to share what he knew—and he knew plenty—with the district ranger and the range conservationist. Professor King's book portrayed Archie's 36 years in the Forest Service in Region 4—when, as Archie put it, "You had to live a Forest Service life..."—well.

"Archie tells a tale of hard work, trying conditions, long hours, even longer days and weeks" in a Forest Service that, Thomas wrote, "is no longer recognizable in any form except maybe badges." Archie's Forest Service, he continued, "was more fit, more task oriented, less concerned about working conditions, wages, unions and who could say what to whom."

Archie's story—like Basil Crane's story and my own—is, in short, a story of the Outfit that was. A product of the University

#### "You had to live a Forest Service life..."

When I first started out the Forest supervisors were involved in ranger's lives far more than they are now. For one thing, we had to have our hair cut a certain way, and we weren't allowed to wear a mustache [or] sideburns. Of course, we had our uniforms, and anytime we were in the office we were supposed to be in full uniform, period. Our dress was always up for inspection, but out of the office we would wear our forest-green pants and green shirt. And our dwellings, whether Forest Service cabins or privately rented, had to be kept up neat and clean. You got called on it if you had a dirty house, even if it was your own property...because, say some permittee comes in and sees your house in a mess—that's the impression that he's going to get of the Forest Service.

You had to live a Forest Service life night and day, whether you were on work or off. There was good reason for that....

--Archie Murchie in *The Free Life of a Ranger*,  
pages 369-370

of Nevada Oral History Program, it's also a story that likely would have been lost forever had it not been captured by the oral history approach before he died in 1999.

"The value of oral histories is that we get to see a segment of time from the perspective of one person's unique experience and vision," Thomas concluded. "How Archie saw the world, and how he interacted with it represents not only his part in the grand scheme of things, but these bits of recollection, insight, and personal perspective are what make history. From this type of first person telling, future historians can paint a more accurate picture of what that time was like.... It is a bridge from then to now, even with the 43 year blank from the end of Archie's career to today, which will be filled with another's oral history we would hope, of someone in the same capacity [in the Forest Service] who started about when Archie retired, and another starting from when that person retired until sometime in the near future."

And then came Thomas' challenge. "Perhaps the retired USFS folks can get that job done."

#### *The Region 5 Oral History Project*

Quite a few retired Forest Service folks—including 16 OldSmokeys who served in Region 5—have helped the Pacific Southwest Region Oral History Project meet this challenge by helping produce two volumes of Forest Service retiree interviews.

In preparation for the Forest Service's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2005, Region 5 retirees, with financial aid and logistical support from the regional forester, established an oral history committee. Committee members conducted over fifty oral interviews from selected members of the region's past workforce. The committee entered into an agreement with the University of California at Berkeley's Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) that readied these interviews for publication.

The first of these, *The Lure of the Forest: Oral Histories from the National Forests in California*, was published by the Pacific Southwest Region in June 2005 in time for the Forest Service Centennial. This volume focused on five themes: how interviewees started out in the Forest Service, the multitasking nature of their work, their definitive struggle with wildfire, their sense of community, and memorable people and events of their era.

The second, *The Unmarked Trail: Managing National Forests in a Turbulent Era*, published in September 2009, explores the Forest Service experience of the 1960s—a decade of change in the timber program, the workforce, the approach to fire, and portrayal of the Outfit’s image in the media—as experienced by the interviewees. How dedicated people who cared deeply about the Forest Service and the National Forest System found their ways along that decade’s “unmarked trail” is the story that runs through this new book.

If the oral history approach to telling the Forest Service story requires vindication, these volumes provide it in spades.

The online interviews and downloadable copies of the books are located on the ROHO website at <<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/ROHO/projects/usfs>>. Both books are also available for purchase from Cornerstone Copies, 3132 Dwight Road Suite 700, Elk Grove, California 95758-6456; e-mail <[files@cornerstone.com](mailto:files@cornerstone.com)>; telephone (916) 393-9700.

### *The Region 6 Oral History Possibilities*

Region 6 Forest Service retirees—that’s us, the OldSmokeys—have taken a somewhat different tack in telling their stories.

Instead of emphasizing the oral history approach, we published the centennial anthology *We Had An Objective In Mind* of over 300 anecdotes of “the life and times, and the humor and spirit of Forest Service life in Oregon and Washington from 1905 to 2005” that let the reader “experience the beginnings, the growth spurts, and everyday life as told by Forest Service employees and their families.”

More recently, we and the Pacific Northwest Region supported the writing by OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** and publication by Oregon State University Press in late 2009 of *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History* reviewed in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

We have taken a couple swings at oral history. Most recently, at the August 11, 2006, OldSmokeys Picnic in the Woods, Honorary OldSmokey **Bob Boyd**, Western History Curator at the High Desert Museum near Bend, recorded interviews of OldSmokeys about their Forest Service experiences east of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges in the Intermountain West dominated by the eastern part of Region 6 and Region 4.

Before that, in 1999 and the early 2000s, I recorded and transcribed about a dozen oral history interviews of Pacific Northwest Research Station research foresters and allied scientists and technicians—several of them OldSmokeys—as part of the effort to write *Ponderosa Promise: A History of U.S. Forest Service Research in Central Oregon* published by the Research Station in 2007.

I see this as a start. I can’t help thinking that we OldSmokeys might think about continuing along the oral history trail before it is too late. We wouldn’t have to publish right away, but we could and should—to paraphrase Ian Tyson’s song “The Gift” about western artist Charles M. Russell—get it down before they go.

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*Forest Service News continued from page 9*

## **U.S. Forest Service Faces Possible Costly Station Fire Aftermath Recriminations**

Angry local officials blamed the U.S. Forest Service for the January-February 2010 mudslides that damaged 43 homes in the Los Angeles County communities of La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta in the wake of the September-October 2009 Station Fire that blackened over 160,000 acres of the adjacent Angeles National Forest followed by winter rainstorms.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich claimed on February 8 that these communities “were suffering for the activities of the U.S. Forest Service.” The storm damage, he said, “could have been avoided had the Forest Service not botched the Station Fire containment” by calling off air support after the first day of the fire. A review by the Forest Service concluded in November that aircraft would have been ineffective because the fire was burning in a canyon too hazardous for ground crews to take advantage of water dumps.

In a complaint similar to Antonovich’s, La Canada Flintridge Mayor Laura Olhasso blasted the Forest Service for allowing mud to flow from the Angeles National Forest into residential neighborhoods. Her “call on the federal government take responsibility” for the fire’s aftermath was echoed by some other local officials who demanded that the federal government pay for mud removal. She and these others blamed the mudslide damage on the Forest Service for scaling back firefighting efforts too early after the Station Fire broke out.

Touring the mudslide area, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger promised to “appoint a blue ribbon commission to look into” those claims.

Mudslides and washouts within the Station Fire perimeter have closed the 40-mile long Angeles Crest Highway over the San Gabriel Mountains of the Angeles National Forest from La Canada to Wrightwood. Predictions that it may open by the end of March may have proved out by the time you read this.

The good news is the Chilao Visitor Center—27 miles up the Angeles Crest Highway from La Canada—and its historic 1900 West Fork Ranger Station, moved to the visitor center in the 1980s and restored as a memorial to pioneer forest rangers of the old San Gabriel Timberland Reserve, did not burn.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Official: Storm Damage Could Have Been Avoided” by Scott Coopernsmith, [www.myFoxla.com](http://www.myFoxla.com), February 8, 2010; “La Canada mayor blames Forest Service for slides” by Tony Castro in *Los Angeles Daily News*, February 7, 2010; “Mayor tells feds: You caused mud, you pay” in *The Los Angeles Independent*, February 8, 2010; “Parts of Angeles Crest Highway washed away, to be closed until March” by Dan Abendschein, *Pasadena Star News*, February 3, 2010.*

*Forest Service News continues on page 20*





## Opportunities

### Reserve Now for May 16 OldSmokeys Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club!

Just about a month from now OldSmokeys from all over will converge on beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association annual Spring Banquet!

***The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2010, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Don't miss it!***

Reserve your places or place **now** at one of the two big OldSmokey gatherings at the year to visit with your friends, get updates on what they've been up to, see our new President **Bill Shenk** and new Vice President **John Berry** installed in office, and enjoy an excellent meal at the 2010 Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet.

The banquet will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a **social hour** and no-host bar and appetizer table at 4:00 p.m. to help you get started. The buffet-style **dinner** will be served at 5:00 p.m. The price for this feast will be **\$23.00 per person**, gratuities included. As usual, our old friend Dave Dalton will cater, so you can be sure of a great feed again this year.

**Door prize donations** may be given to Banquet Co-chairs **Don and Jean Loff** either on the day of the banquet or before if you cannot attend. Don and Jean will pull numbers out of a hat during the dinner hour, and present the prizes to the lucky number holders. Telephone Don and Jean, e-mail them or write to them at 32514 SW Juliette Drive, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070 for additional information.

**To get to the Charbonneau Country Club** from Portland or other points north, exit I-5 at Exit 282B (Charbonneau District) just after crossing the Willamette River bridge. Turn left (east) at the first stop sign onto NE Miley Road, and go .4 mile to French Prairie Road. Then turn left on French Prairie Road, and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn right onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau Country Club, Building 3200. From Salem or points south, use Exit 282 (Canby) just north of the rest stop. Turn right (east) at stop sign on NW Miley Road, and go .3 mile to French Prairie Road. Then turn left on French Prairie Road and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn right onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau Country Club, Building 3200.

***Send in the form below to make your reservations not later than May 5, 2010!***

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association  
**SPRING BANQUET—MAY 16, 2010**  
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

### RESERVATION FORM

**Social Hour 3:00 p.m. (No Host Bar)—Dinner 5:00 p.m.**

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$23.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:  
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at **\$23.00** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

***Send your reservation form in to be received no later than May 5, 2010!***

**Changes** *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt and Treasurer-Data Base Manager Vern Clapp*

Note that most personal addresses and phone numbers are deleted from this website version of the newsletter. All of this information is available to members in the latest membership directory. Just send an email to Vern Clapp asking for the latest electronic copy of the directory.

- Bennett, Stanley Mertz “Stan”** – Deceased March 21, 2009; Norma Jean survives
- Brown, Mary Ellen** – Change address: Vancouver, WA
- Cleveland, Richard B. & Lorena Corzatt** – New members: Klamath Falls, OR
- Curtis, Richard L. “Rick”** – Deceased January 21, 2010; Liz survives
- Frasier, Dennis L. & Margie** – Correct telephone number:
- Gano, Ellis W. & Betty** – Change e-mail:
- Grace, Richard E. & Loleta** – Change e-mail:
- Grevstad, Rosalie** – Change address: Gresham, OR
- Gyorgyfalvy, Robin Lee & Martin** – New members: Bend, OR
- Hathaway, Richard John “Dick”** – Deceased August 4, 2009; Sherry survives
- Herzstein, Leonard E. & Sharon Sinderbrand** – Correct e-mail:
- Kelly, Patrick J. & Joan** – Change e-mail:
- Levering, Thomas T. “Tom”** – Deceased December 18, 2009; Barbara survives
- Lucore, Loren Lee** – Deceased January 22, 2010; Kathryn survives
- Mateer, Bruce T. & Suzanne**: Add e-mail:
- Miller, Roger & Karen** – New members: Portland, OR
- Mills, Shirley** – Change address: Long Beach, CA
- Parker, Walt** – Change e-mail:
- Patchen, Gerald N. & Bobbe** – Change e-mail:
- Peterson, Judy A. & Devan** – Change e-mail:
- Pierce, Mary L. & Glen** – Change telephone:
- Schramek, Robert W. & Dorothy** – Change telephone:
- Smith, Jack** – Add: Grace D. Smith (as spouse)
- Sprinkel, Darlene E. & Lonnie** – Change e-mail:
- Stem, Richard C. & Karen** – Change address: Evergreen, CO
- Unruh, Bud & Ann** – Change e-mail:
- Wood, Bonnie** – Change address: Boise, ID
- Wood, Marylou** – Change address: Corvallis, OR
- Wulf, Robert F.** – Change e-mail:



You never know where an OldSmokey will be found. Here is Susan Triplett playing at a noon concert at The Old Church in downtown Portland, December 2009.

**New Members** *compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Winter 2010 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Richard B. Cleveland & Lorena Corzatt** of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Richard retired from the Winema National Forest in September 1995 after 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service, 28 of those years in Region 6.

**Robin Lee Gyorgyfalvy & Martin Gyorgyfalvy** of Bend, Oregon. Robin is the Forest Landscape Architect and Scenic Byways Program Leader on the Deschutes National Forest. A native of Hawaii, she earned a B.A. degree in sculpture at Mt. Holyoke College in 1973 and a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Oregon in 1978. She joined the

U.S. Forest Service in 1987, and has served on the Deschutes National Forest since then. Martin is a partner in a Bend engineering firm.

**Roger & Karen Miller** of Portland, Oregon. Roger retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2007 as a permanent seasonal after 48 fire seasons, two on the Willamette National Forest and 46 on the Bend (later Bend-Fort Rock) Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest where he spent 40 consecutive fire seasons on the Round Mountain Lookout. The son of Vondis E. Miller, late forest supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest from 1954 to 1965, Roger earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology at Portland State University. Karen is a retired communications manager for Price-Waterhouse-Coopers.

## Memories *Compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist*

**Douglas “Doug” Baker** died June 3, 2009. Doug was a PNWFSA member until he and Jeri moved to Idaho in 2005.

*Editor’s Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey John Wilson who remembers Doug in the Letters section on page 17. No further information is available.*

**Stanley Mertz “Stan” Bennett** died March 21, 2009, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Stan was born August 16, 1919, in Los Angeles, California, and moved with his grandparents to Grants Pass, Oregon, when he was 12 years old. He graduated from Southern Oregon College of Education in Ashland, Oregon, and then from Oregon State College where he majored in forestry. While at Southern Oregon College, Stan met Norma Jean Wertz. They married in 1947 at the Wertz Ranch in Climax, Jackson County, Oregon, following his World War II military service in India and China. Stan’s 32-year career in the U.S. Forest Service began in his teen years, maintaining trails and manning lookouts in the lower Rogue River area of southern Oregon. After completing his forestry degree, Stan served as a forester on the old Chelan National Forest, moved to the Okanogan National Forest where he assumed engineering duties, and completed his career on the Siuslaw National Forest in engineering and land management positions. After he retired, Stan and Norma returned to her family’s ranch in Climax where Stan managed the family’s ranch and forest lands. Stan loved hiking and maps, was a Boy Scout and Scout leader, was a Kiwanis Club member in Corvallis, and was active in church affairs. Survivors include Norma Jean, son Steve, daughter Terri Hardin, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: This information was provided by Norma Jean Bennett.*

**Russell Marion “Russ” Betts** died December 6, 2009, at age 73. Russ was born February 10, 1936, in Moscow, Idaho, and attended high school in Wallace, Idaho. He served as a U.S. Army infantry officer during the Korean War and in a U.S. Army Reserve unit in Klamath Falls, Oregon, until 1969. Russ earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Montana. A skier and mountaineer, Russ as a student was ski patrol leader for three Missoula-area ski areas and in 1962 served in the National Park Service as the remote seasonal park ranger in Sequoia National Park. He received a commendation from President Lyndon B. Johnson for heroic efforts that saved a mountain climber during that 1962 job. After graduation, Russ served in the Bureau of Land Management in Carson City, Nevada, and the National Park Service in Rocky Mountain National Park and Lava Beds National Monument before he joined the U.S. Forest Service to serve on the Winema, Deschutes, Fremont, and Umatilla national forests before he retired in 1994. Survivors include his wife Connie; son Derek; daughter Shannon Nicole Tracy; and four grandchildren. He was previously married to Joan (Hedlund) Gregory, mother of his two children.

*Editor’s Note: Russ Betts’ death was reported in the Winter 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter. This follow-up entry provides*

*information on his life not available when that issue went to press.*

**Roger R. “Sky” Chamard** died December 18, 2009, at age 85. Sky earned a B.S. degree at Oregon State College in 1959 and an M.S. in operations research from George Washington University in 1966. Sky spent more than 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service as a forester and engineer. He served in positions of increasing responsibility in Region 6 and the WO, and established and served as director of the Forest Service’s Geometrics Service Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. After he retired from the Forest Service, he served as a consultant for several private firms and as an officer and national executive committee member of the American Society for Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing. Sky was an early appreciator of photogrammetry and remote sensing as labor saving technologies for transportation and forestry planning and a strong proponent of the technology. Sky’s wife Jeanette died August 20, 2006. Survivors include his daughters Judy and Skyla.

*Editor’s Note: This information was obtained from various sources including the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Bethesda, Maryland.*

**Richard L. “Rick” Curtis** died January 21, 2010, at age 73. He was a PNWFSA member. Rick was born August 3, 1936, in Prairie City, Oregon. He grew up in Canyon City, Oregon, and graduated from Grant Union High School in John Day, Oregon, in 1954. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force. Rick began his U.S. Forest Service career in 1960 on the Burns Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. He married Elizabeth “Liz” McEntire on Astoria, Oregon, in 1963. Rick transferred in 1965 to the Prairie City Ranger District where his and Liz’s two sons were born. In 1969, he transferred to the Heppner Ranger District on the Umatilla National Forest and served as district engineer there until he retired in 1985. While in Heppner, he served on the Heppner City Council, volunteered as a Pioneer Memorial Hospital emergency medical technician, and earned a private pilot’s license. An active runner most of his life, he and Liz also enjoyed hiking. They also traveled extensively, and visited 26 foreign countries. Rick earned a B.S. degree in general studies from Eastern Oregon University in 1997. Rick and Liz moved to North Bend, Oregon in 1991, then to Umatilla County, Oregon, in 2000, where Rick lived the rest of his life. Survivors include Liz, sons Steve and Ken, and two grandsons.

**Gary Daterman** died December 7, 2009, at age 70. Gary was born June 26, 1939, in Freeport, Illinois. After earning a bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of California, Davis, he earned a master’s degree and a doctorate in forest entomology in 1969 at Oregon State University. Gary served in the U.S. Forest Service for more than 30 years as a research entomologist and project leader for the Behavioral Chemistry and Ecology of Forest Insects and Disease Team. He married Theresa Larrabee on May 4, 1996, in Corvallis, Oregon. Survivors include his wife and sons Mark, Todd, David, Tyler Larrabee and Jonathan Larrabee.

**Richard “Dick” Gassner** died December 11, 2009, at age 66.



Dick was born May 20, 1943, in McMinnville, Oregon, and moved to Bend, Oregon, with his parents in 1954. Dick graduated from Bend High School in 1961, and attended Central Oregon Community College and Oregon College of Education. He began work with the U.S. Forest Service on the Redmond Hotshots in 1961, and went on to smokejumping. He married Anita on June 6, 1964, in Bend. His Forest Service career took him to the Deschutes, Willamette, Gifford Pinchot, Siuslaw, and Six Rivers national forests. He retired in 1994 as Six Rivers National Forest fire management officer. Survivors include his wife, son Brian, daughter Kimberly Gomez, and one granddaughter.

**Harvey J. Hall** died December 19, 2009, at age 75. Harvey was born April 3, 1934, in Butte, Montana. He was a U.S. Forest Service civil engineer and served on the Mt. Hood National Forest for many years. Survivors include his wife Elizabeth; daughters Ann M. Buczkowski and Katherine A. Brown; and son Harvey J., Jr.

**Richard John “Dick” Hathaway** died August 4, 2009, at age 75. He was a PNWFSA member. Dick was born February 3, 1934, in St. Anthony, Idaho. He worked for the National Park Service during the summers he attended the University of Nevada where he earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering. After graduation, Dick worked for the California Department of Transportation before he joined the U.S. Forest Service on the Challis National Forest in Idaho. Dick married Sherry in Challis in 1966. He then worked on the Dixie, Boise, and Helena national forests. Dick’s years in Region 6 were spent in Medford, Oregon, when he was forest engineer on the Rogue River National Forest for seven years. Dick then moved to the WO and from there to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was Region 9 regional engineer. Dick retired from the Forest Service in 1991, and he and Sherry moved to Roseburg, Oregon, to be near their son in Glide, Oregon. Survivors include Sherry and their son Morgan.

**Blake Michael Hendrick** died February 10, 2010, at age 60. Blake was born January 29, 1950, in Boulder, Colorado, where he grew up and excelled in sports. He played football and baseball at the U.S. Air Force Academy and served in the Air Force in Korea before becoming a contracting officer for the Department of Defense and later for the U.S. Forest Service. He worked in Region 6 on the Olympic and Okanogan national forests and in Region 1 on the Flathead National Forest where he retired in 2005. Survivors include his wife Shirley, daughter Kara Ann, and son Travis.

**Thomas T. “Tom” Levering** died December 21, 2009, at age 73. He was a PNWFSA member. Tom was born July 19, 1936 in Columbus, Ohio, where he graduated from Grandview High School. He attended Ohio State University for two years before he transferred to the University of Montana where he earned a B.S. degree in forestry in 1961. Tom joined the U.S. Forest Service and moved to Oregon where his 32 year career emphasized silviculture and forest planning on Willamette, Winema, and Siskiyou national forest ranger districts and in the Siskiyou National Forest SO in Grants Pass where he retired. Survivors

include his wife, Barbara; daughter Judy Vieira-Rea; son Mark; stepdaughter Debra McDonald; stepson Stephen McDonald; six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Loren Lee Lucore** died January 22, 2010, at age 72. He was a PNWFSA member. Loren was born March 4, 1937, in Bend, Oregon. When he was four years old, his family moved to Gresham, Oregon, where he grew up on his father’s small dairy farm. Loren graduated from Gresham Union High School in 1955, and in 1956 married his high school sweetheart, Kathryn Jean Johnson, of Boring, Oregon. Loren began his U.S. Forest Service career at Bear Springs Ranger Station, Mt. Hood National Forest in 1955, and studied forestry at Oregon State College from 1957 to 1959 while building and maintaining trails and fighting wildfires seasonally. In June, 1959, he transferred to the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, then spent a short time cruising timber on the Mapleton Ranger District on the Siuslaw National Forest, before transferring to Cle Elum and then Ellensburg ranger districts, Wenatchee National Forest as a forestry technician. He then served eight years on the Umatilla National Forest—five on the Heppner Ranger District and three in the SO in Pendleton—before transferring in 1972 to the Fremont National Forest SO as fire control officer where he was instrumental in establishing the Lakeview Tanker Base/Interagency Fire Cache. As fire management officer on the Lakeview Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, from 1975 until he retired in 1989, Loren served as an overhead team member and incident commander on several large fires throughout the western states including fires in Alaska and the Yellowstone National Park fires of 1988. He worked as a fire consultant until 1996. He also had water well drilling and livestock raising businesses, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Survivors include Kathryn; sons Kenneth and Eric; daughters Evelyn Taylor-Nelson and Wendy Fewkes; 10 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**William F. “Bill” Martin** died January 13, 2010, at age 78. Bill was born September 26, 1931, in Raton, New Mexico, and later moved to Taos where he met and married Dorothy Miller in 1950. After serving in the Korean War as a 1949 to 1952 member of the National Guard, Bill went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. He was transferred to Bend, Oregon, in 1974, where he was Deschutes National Forest fleet manager. Bill retired from the Forest Service in 1985 and worked for Trans 360 and Hap Taylor & Sons contractors. Survivors include Dorothy, daughter Sharon, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**John Boyett McCluskey, Jr.** died January 12, 2010, at age 80. John was born May 10, 1929, in Tucson, Arizona, educated in Tucson, and earned a B.S. degree at the University of Arizona. He served in the U.S. Forest Service from 1951 to 1991, and was an environmental coordinator on the Umatilla National Forest at the time of his retirement. He married Kathryn Coles of Jacksonville, Florida, in 1956, and they had four children. John worked in real estate for several years after retirement from the Forest Service, was a Republican Party precinct chairman, and a private pilot. Survivors include Kathryn; sons John

B. III and Kelly; daughters Mary Wehland and Valerie Calley, and 11 grandchildren.

**Patrick Keith “Pat” Petteys** died December 21, 2009, at age 68. Pat was born December 18, 1941, in Pendleton, Oregon, where he grew up and graduated from Pendleton High School in 1961. He excelled in athletics, and was a star fullback, line-backer, and catcher. Pat and Carol L. Schacher, a high school classmate, married in 1961. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service first as a surveyor and later, as a civil engineer, designed roads and bridges on the Mt. Hood National Forest. From 1979 to 1987 he co-owned Murry’s Auto Wrecking in Hood River. Pat returned to the Forest Service in 1987, retired in 1992, and contracted for several engineering firms. Survivors include his wife Carol; sons Mark, Kelly, and Jeff and two grandchildren.

**Robert W. “Bob” Sassman** died February 6, 2010, at age 67. Bob was born September 28, 1942, and raised in Emporium, Pennsylvania. He studied forestry at Pennsylvania State University and later earned a master’s degree in forest economics at Duke University. He spent his professional career first with the U.S. Forest Service and later with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He retired from federal service in 1995 and, after a few years in York, Pennsylvania, moved to the Portland, Oregon, area in 2001. Survivors include his wife Sandy, son Steven, daughter Nicole, and a granddaughter.

**Fred Joel Stigall** died December 27, 2009, at age 74. Joel was born February 25, 1935, in Hartville, Missouri, and married Carol Sue Norman on December 28, 1959, in Parsons, Kansas. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve and attained the rank of master sergeant. Joel worked in the U.S. Forest Service on the Siuslaw and Willamette national forests for 37 years. Survivors include daughters Deborah Scott, Shelia Stigall, and Branda Simonson; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Jerry Sullivan, Jr.** died December 6, 2009, at age 79. Jerry was born August 29, 1930, in Winthrop, Washington, and attended school in Winthrop. In the summers of 1948 and 1949, he worked as a packer and a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service. He met Loretta (Lori) Harrison in 1950, and they married in 1952. Also, in 1950, Jerry joined the U.S. Army, attended the Army’s demolitions school, and served in an airborne division during the Korean War. Honorably discharged in 1953, he and Lori lived in Leavenworth, Washington, until 1948 when they moved to Winthrop to raise their family and where Jerry began his 1958 to 1982 Forest Service career. Jerry lost his left hand in a June 1971 dynamite explosion while working on a backcountry trail, but continued to work another 10 years after the accident. Also a saddle builder, Jerry built saddles still in use. After retiring from the Forest Service, Jerry pursued many interests that included horses, farming, ranching, camping, trapping, hunting and fishing, and also service as a Winthrop town councilman and other civic duties. Lori died in 1991. Survivors include his sons Jim and Jordan; daughters Jo Ann Kirk, Teri Alan, and Wendy Orvle; many grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Ed Syme** died February 24, 2010, at age 75. Ed was born August 17, 1934, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army as a non-combatant from 1957 to 1959, and married Betty Starkebaum in Alturas, California, on December 27, 1961. Ed served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, in timber appraisal for over 20 years. He was a member of the Medford Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors include Betty and their daughter Rachele Deininger.

**Nellie Mae Thomas** died January 13, 2010, at age 90. A former PNWFSA member, she was the widow of PNWFSA member Elbur Thomas who died in November 1989, and mother of OldSmokey Elton Thomas. Nellie Mae Stewart was born December 5, 1919, in Nyssa, Oregon, where she was educated and where on November 16, 1940, she married Elbur Thomas. Elbur started in the Forest Service as a lookout on Dixie Butte on the Malheur National Forest, served in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II, and returned to complete a Forest Service career of more than 30 years, mostly on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Elbur retired from the Forest Service in 1972 as fire control officer on the La Grande Ranger District. Nellie Mae, who had worked in retail sales and was a member of the VFW, was mother to their four sons—two of whom predeceased her. Survivors include her sons Elton and John, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

*Memories continue on page 23*

### **John R. Grosvenor, 1935-2009**

John R. Grosvenor, retired Regional Architect for Region 5 and for ten years editor of the triennial Pacific Southwest FSX Club newsletter, died August 22, 2009, at age 74.

John was born in the San Gabriel Valley of California in 1935. He grew up in and attended schools in Alhambra, and in 1959 graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor of arts degree in architecture. He joined the U.S. Forest Service that year as a draftsman in the Region 5 RO where he spent his entire Forest Service career until he retired as regional architect in 1998. He significantly influenced the image of California’s national forests during that career.

After 37 years in the Forest Service, John decided to write a history of Forest Service architecture. Encouraged by Region 5 Historian Linda Lux, he produced *A History of the Architecture of the U.S. Forest Service* published by the Forest Service Engineering Staff as EM-7301-8 in July 1999.

In retirement, John was active in the Pacific Southwest FSX Club and, as both secretary and editor, edited that club’s newsletter for many years.

“John was one of the unsung heroes of the traditions and integrity of the Forest Service.”

-- *John Marker*

*Prepared with information provided by OldSmokey John Marker and Frank Winer, Editor, Pacific Southwest FSX Club Newsletter*

## Letters

*Editor's Note: You may recall the old TV ditty from the 1950s that went "Letters, we get letters, we get tons and tons of letters." Well, so did the OldSmokeys this past quarter. Many of these below, of course, appeared in OldSmokeys eNotes, but are included for those who do not read or might have missed those great e-mails and for the historical record.*

**Ted Stubblefield** reflects on 2009 and Vern Clapp's service

As I look back over the year's events and goings on, it's time to reflect on those "who make a difference in our lives" and who, sadly, we all take for granted...not on purpose, but nonetheless we assume the service is going to be there for us.

Vern Clapp, yours is a service that immediately came to mind. I truly appreciate ALL that you do on our behalf: the forthcoming event notifications, the local happenings, the discussions on issues, the changes with e-mails and addresses, etc., etc., and the burden of sharing the information about those who many of us knew but have passed on.

Few among us would be willing to make such a sacrifice, and I'm sure you would be the first to say "It's not a sacrifice." But you take time out of your life to do these things and in my book that is truly SERVICE ABOVE SELF. I thank you and I appreciate all that you do for us.

**John Perkins** reflects on Forest Service change

When I was active in the U.S. Forest Service, 1957-1990, I was proud of the people, multiple-use management, and the ability to get things done on the ground.

Now, when I drive through the district I worked on the longest, I see no or limited maintenance, closed roads, and worst of all no one in "green" rigs out in the woods.

The ranger district was always the public's contact with the Forest Service. Is there any public contact now? Very little.

**Phil Hirl** comments on green rigs

Good comments in [Winter 2010] *OldSmokeys Newsletter* about green rigs. I was Assistant Director in Engineering [in the RO] 1975-1993. The regional fleet was my responsibility. And I liked it that way.

Every so often someone would request a waiver from the green vehicles. Forest Service green rigs are a presence in the forests and it was policy our rigs should be green. We checked with each new regional forester to be sure that was continued regional policy. All said yes.

We even got a green minivan for RO Engineering as a test vehicle for minivans. I used that one a lot. RO fleet was GSA, sorry to say.

**Zane Smith** comments on green rigs

I say "amen" to the green rigs, too!

**Allen Gibbs** remembers Merle Pugh

When I began my first U.S. Forest Service public information officer job (as then called) in 1978 at Okanogan, Merle was the regional press officer. I was an unknown to him and everyone else in the regional I&E shop (as some called it at the time) and

Merle later told me that he had some concerns about my lack of experience in this work, but told me he wasn't too concerned because I was on the Okanogan National Forest—not somewhere I could screw things up too badly at the time. Merle said this with a smile, of course.

The Okanogan had earlier, during [OldSmokey] **Ray Steiger's** time there, been a major focus by Seattle press with the building of the North Cascades Highway and the studies in the 1960s which led to creation of the North Cascades National Park complex. The Okanogan National Forest, which was led by Andy Wright and Don Campbell and Gary Nelson before my time, was a pretty active place! When McLaughlin became supervisor, and Aspen wanted to build Early Winters, the big city press dozed off for a few years. So, I arrived during that dozy time.

My first news release in March 1978 was about the remand by Chief McGuire of the Twisp-Winthrop-Conconully Land Use Plan. That went pretty well, considering that I knew nothing about land use planning and administrative review process, nor zip about the issues, being only two weeks on the job. Had good help from Irv Smith and [OldSmokey] **Bill McLaughlin**, as to content. I "XEROXed" my draft news release to Merle who reviewed it and reorganized a lot of the release; spoke rather loudly when he called me, "Don't bury the lead!" which he observed to be characteristic of bureaucrats; and hoped I wouldn't become one of "those."

When Okanogan's quiet time ceased, thanks to joining the Deschutes National Forest to become the first two Region 6 forests to issue draft forest plans, and the Okanogan to issue at the same time as the Early Winters DEIS, so much of Merle Pugh's counsel from previous years was put to good use, and he continued to help me after his retirement. When I went to the WO in 1992 to become the Chief's public affairs counsel, I called Merle once in awhile to thank him for what he had taught me years before when I was at Okanogan.

There were four critical times when he steered me and the Okanogan leadership away from "the rocks" as opponents juiced up their campaigns against the Early Winters development, also the forest plan. He resent to me a copy of the Society of Professional Journalists code of ethics. He highlighted a couple of them for my attention, when some Seattle reporters, who were literally sleeping with some of our critics, were writing stories loaded with both subtle and outrageously erroneous facts; stories which our critics preferred. Merle worked behind the scenes with me to end that nonsense! [OldSmokey] **Paul Hart** may have helped, too.

Merle was a lifetime member of the Society of Professional Journalists, an honorary professional society whose membership included only working journalists. For Merle, the *Associated Press Style Book* was his professional Bible, and he labored for years to get us field folks to use it and not the federal government's style guides.

I agree with Sylvia that Merle was a keeper of the professional flame for professional news media management in Region 6, and especially helpful to the writers! He was a great mentor and trainer to many of us.



**John & Bonna Wilson** *remember Doug Baker*

We've known Doug and Jeri since our early Forest Service days in Oakridge between 1955 and 1958. Doug worked on the Oakridge Ranger District and John was on the Rigdon Ranger District. Later, Doug was district ranger on the prospect Ranger District while John was district ranger "next door" on the Tiller Ranger District. They used to race to see who started burning slash first. Doug was a "good neighbor" ranger.

*Editor's Note: This letter, written by Bonna, was dictated by John; hence, the references to "John" and "they."*

**Fred Henley** *remembers Russ Betts*

I had the pleasure to work with Russ Betts on the Winema National Forest and later when I was assigned to Recreation in the RO. He volunteered to teach my wife and me some of the finer points of cross country skiing. We went to the base of Pelican Butte, strapped on our skis, then Russ said "Just follow me." Little did we know he was Olympic class in cross country. The last we saw of him until we staggered back to the rigs was him disappearing into the trees.

Russ came to the Forest Service via the National Park Service. He understood that management of the recreation resource required a good knowledge of knowing how to manage people. He was a pleasure to work with.

**Walt Knapp** *remembers Russ Betts*

I was sorry to hear about Russ Betts. Russ and I shared many memorable experiences.

Way back in the late 60s, I was serving my Army reserve obligation in Klamath Falls after a two-year active duty hitch. At the time [OldSmokey] **Kjell Baake** was the unit commander. Russ joined our unit, and I knew right away that I liked this guy. He was a bit reserved, but not averse to saying what needed to be said. At the time, he was working for the National Park Service at Lava Beds National Monument.

After a year or so, Russ had the opportunity to transfer to the Winema National Forest, working for Neil Suttell in recreation and related assignments. This was a natural for Russ, who had expertise and experience in climbing, skiing, and you-name-it.

That gave rise to some great times! The first that comes to mind was an early-season backpacking trip on the Pacific Crest Trail with Russ and Len Volland, at the time the forest ecologist for the Winema. We started out in the Fort Klamath area, hiking into Seven Lakes Basin, still choked in snow. I had volunteered to be the "foodie." Often wrong but never in doubt, I had ordered dehydrated stew and other stuff from Bernard, an outfit in California (hopefully now out of business). After all, the catalog said it was really GOOD STUFF! Despite advice from Russ and Len, I persisted that the menu would be just what we needed. Our first evening on the trail, we cooked the stew. As I recall, none of us ate very much. But being sensitive and caring outdoorsmen, we gave the leftovers to Rudy, Len's border collie, who was with us on the trip. Rudy refused to eat so much as a bite—which, as it turned out, was excellent judgment. The next day I suffered the "Pacific Crest 3-step"—two steps on the trail, one in the bushes. So much for trail cooking.

On another trip, Russ, Len, and I slogged up Mt. Shasta. Not a technical climb, but lots of rare air. This time, I left the food

to Russ or Len. A beautiful if uneventful climb with two of the best guys you could hope to meet.

Those were good times with good people. Although I hadn't kept in touch with Russ in recent years, I will miss him nonetheless.

**Zane Smith** *remembers Russ Betts*

After checking it out, I believe it was Russell Betts who worked the summers of 1951-53 with me at Shoshone Camp on the Wallace Ranger District of the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in Idaho. He was known to us as Marion, probably because his dad was Russell Marion Betts. He was a very nice young man full of energy, enthusiastic and a very hard and competent worker. As I recall, he, like me, was on a timber marking crew for the logging system of the day—Jammer Logging.

We both attended the University of Montana, School of Forestry, Russell three or so years behind me. I tried from time to time to find out whatever happened to him, but unfortunately was unsuccessful. He was well liked and a pleasure to work with. I always thought he'd be quite successful if he became a career Forest Service employee. Apparently he was. Sad to learn of his passing.

**Dave Jay** *hunted birds with OldSmokey Ben Carson*

I used to hunt ducks and geese with Ben and my father, Jim Jay. It was 1952. Dad had been transferred to the combined Murphysboro/Jonesboro ranger districts on the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois as the first GS-11 district ranger in Region 9. Ben was one of the assistant district rangers. What a character he is. He livened up every situation. The years 1953 and 1954 were big fire years in the winter months. A fire crew was organized in the high school and I became the crew boss and reported to Ben. I graduated in '54. Dad moved to the Lower Michigan Forest in '57. I do not know when Bend moved.

**Ray Bunster** *remembers Sky Chamard*

I really enjoyed Dave Kolb's recollection of time with Sky Chamard [below]. I can easily envision that ride with Dave, Sky, and Al Walls. I knew all three and worked with Al on the first automated timber sale accounting system. Al and I lived near each other in Cedar Hills (a suburb of Beaverton, Oregon) and we worked together for several years in the RO. Al was, indeed, very reserved!

I was, for a time, assigned to a cubicle on the same floor of the Multnomah Building as the engineering staff, so I rode the elevator with Sky and his colleagues each day. What I remember most about "Blue Sky" Chamard was his preference for red socks. One only had to look down when boarding the elevator to know Sky was aboard.

**Paul Enberg** *remembers Sky Chamard*

I'll miss Sky, a great guy to know and work with. He was acting regional engineer after [OldSmokey] **Ward Gano** retired in 1973. Sky offered me the regional transportation management job in 1973 after Russ Niblock retired. I talked to him on a Friday and said I would like a week or two to think it over. As usual with Sky he wanted to up the ante and show he was in the lead. He said I had just the weekend to think it over or he would begin steps to fill it on Monday with someone else. (He had

been sitting on this for over a month and I am sure he wasn't in any hurry to fill it until the day I came in and asked about the job.) That was Sky for you. Always a bit of drama in everything he did. Incidentally, I'm glad I decided to accept the job that weekend.

#### **Jack Grubb** *remembers Sky Chamard*

I was saddened to hear about Sky. I first met Sky in April 1950 on the Prineville Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest. I think we were both temporary employees. I know I was. We were working on the Maury Mountains part of the district pruning ponderosa pine and piling and burning slash. There were porcupines in the area and we killed them whenever they were found. One day Sky shot a porky out of a ponderosa and discovered it was a pregnant female. He proceeded to perform a cesarian and delivered the little one. He brought it back to the guard station. We whittled a plug to fit the end of an eye dropper and fed the baby milk. The baby porky was born with a complete set of quills so we had to be careful handling it. Sky kept the porky, which he named Cesar, until it grew up and got the natural urges, then released it.

Many years later, in 1968 or 1969, I believe, I was service chief on a fire on the Chelan Ranger District. We were unable to get a ditto machine for Plans, even after several requisitions. I called Sky, he cut the red tape, and we had a machine pronto. Sky will be missed by all who knew him.

#### **Phil Hirl** *remembers Sky Chamard*

I had known Sky from my years on the Malheur and Willamette national forests and always admired his ability to get things done. You wanted something done, call Sky. He was on the Malheur several times by our request. Always willing to respond. And he never left without leaving some good help. I went to Region 5 in 1970 and sort of lost touch with him, but then I replaced Sky as assistant regional engineer in 1975. He had moved to the Geometronics Service Center. It was not easy to follow him because he was a legend and our styles were different. I never had the same courage to take on the windmills he did.

Sky has to be the most unusual and interesting engineer I knew in my 32 years. He made his own way. Nobody else like him. He was so different that I wondered at times if he was really Forest Service, but just looked and it was clear he was. Glad he came our way.

#### **Dave Kolb** *remembers Sky Chamard*

Sky Chamard was a great guy and I enjoyed working with him. Neither he nor I were known for quiet conversations! I recall one trip we made together. Al Walls, director of management systems, was in the back seat. Al was a very reserved and soft spoken person. Unfortunately, Sky was driving and I was in the front passenger seat, so our "bad" ears were facing each other! We were having a rather spirited conversation on some subject where we had different views. I think Al might have bailed out if Sky had ever slowed down. When we reached our destination, Al hurriedly disappeared to a quieter environment.

#### **Cal Weissenfluh** *remembers Sky Chamard*

There are lots and lots of Sky Chamard stories, most of them

good, many of them funny. He and I (among about a hundred more) were in the Oregon State College forestry school graduating class of 1950. I worked with him on the Ochoco National Forest where he was the forest road locator and I was TMA on the Prineville Ranger District. We had many an animated discussion about road location sitting on my kitchen floor drinking beer over the weekends. Many good times, many good remembrances.

Most people who knew him never knew Sky's given name. It was Roger.

He was something of an amateur photographer. He had a Speed Graphic. He wanted to get a good close-up of a blast on a road construction project. Near the blast site was a pile of galvanized steel culverts in readiness for installation in the road. Sky crawled into a culvert with his camera, waited until the blast went off, tripped his shutter at the appropriate moment, and crawled crabwise deeper into the culvert which was his shield against falling rocks. Only later did he discover that he hadn't removed the end cap on his camera lens. We ragged him about that for years.

His porcupine, Cesar, was something of a legend.

But then, so was Sky. He was an original.

#### **Phil Hirl** *remembers Rick Curtis*

Rick and I were on the Malheur National Forest together. Rick was a good engineer who liked to stay in touch with the ground, an easy-going but hard-working guy. We stayed in touch over the years.

He went to Heppner, which is family country for me, and when my RO travels took me to Heppner I saw Rick. It was always good to get updated from him.

Rick got involved in city politics which seemed logical to me [and] typical of Rick's style, low-key but dedicated. He was a good friend.

#### **Phil Hirl** *remembers Harvey Hall*

The forest civil engineer job on the Mt. Hood National Forest came vacant, can't remember how, in 1965. I was working for Don Hart in RO engineering at the time, and my five years with the Forest Service were pretty pure civil RO stuff. I let it be known I was interested. I was interviewed by [OldSmokey] **Paul Neff** and [OldSmokey] **Bud Unruh**. Joy and I were living in north Portland, so checked out housing on far east side. We were ready to go. A week or so later Vance Blackwell called me into his office and said, "We have a job offer for you." I said to myself, "Oh, good." Then he said they wanted me to go to the Malheur National Forest as assistant forest engineer. Wow, what a surprise. I did not even know there was a job there. But Harvey had gotten the Mt. Hood job. I had to take a couple of days, but we took that job. That made a total difference in where my career went.

There is no question Harvey was the right choice for the job. Harvey was a pure engineer, and was very good at it, better than I would have been. Harvey and I had a few laughs over that during the years.

#### **Dick Mueller** *remembers Pat Petteys*

I was well acquainted with Pat Petteys. He and Carol lived here in Parkdale for quite a few years. Carol worked in our store in

Parkdale and was a good friend of Lennie's. I always enjoyed being with Pat on special occasions. Pat and Carol and son Kelly were all baptized into the saving grace of Jesus Christ by Rev. J. Collins just a few days before he died. Thanks be to the Lord.

**Mike Ash remembers Robin Udey**

Those who had the pleasure of working with Robin will agree that she was absolutely one of the best! Whatever job Robin was doing, she gave her customers simply the best in the way of service and management advice. I learned quickly that Robin told you like it was, had excellent solutions for problems, and got things done. She was an extremely valuable player [for] the R6 Management Team while I was there.

**Ed Elliott remembers Robin Udey**

I learned of Robin's death this evening [January 25, 2010] while looking at the KGW-TV website. I've known Robin and her family since Robin was about 9 or 10 years old. When I was working summers at the Bear Springs Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest at the beginning of my Forest Service career, Robin's parents operated the Pine Grove mercantile, and those of us living in the bunkhouses at Bear Springs went to Pine Grove to the restaurant for meals. The restaurant was next to the store, and I got to know the Udeys from going to the store. A great family. Robin had a wonderful way with people, and she told you how things were instead of guessing. She was well-liked and well-respected wherever she was.

**Richard Stem remembers Robin Udey**

This is absolutely tragic. While I was Ranger at the Barlow Ranger District, Robin was a "go to" person who always had a smile and always got results. She was always there to help, and had a wonderful way with people regardless of position. I cannot tell you how wonderful she was to work with (along with my district AO, Nancy Gibson) in solving issues, working together on adjacent districts, and just always "being there" across the Mt. Hood National Forest. She volunteered for many projects and assisted the FLT immensely as we tried to implement programs and solve problems. [OldSmokey] **Mike Ash**, [OldSmokey] **Gordie Schmidt**, [OldSmokey] **John Berry**, Donna Lamb, [OldSmokey] **Jim Schuler**, Tom Hussey, and all the rest of the gang knew her well and we respected her.

**Jerry Wojack remembers Ed Syme**

I supervised Ed when I was TMA on the Applegate Ranger District, and during those years his Parkinson's disease and suffering were always apparent but did not stop him or hinder him from doing an A-1 job.

**Don Franks checks in from Bend, Oregon**

We are living at Aspen Ridge assisted living home [in Bend] while Beverly recovers from her health problems. We still have our home in Fort Rock.

**Sherry Hathaway checks in from Roseburg, Oregon**

Richard passed away in August, but I still enjoy reading about old friends and Forest Service memories [in the newsletter]. Thank you so much.

**Jim Crates appreciates Secretary Bev Pratt**

I want to thank you for all the work you have done over the years to support the OldSmokeys. God bless you.

**Melba Saylor enjoys newsletter, reports on women retirees**

I enjoy *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and e-mail messages so much! It's a wonderful way to keep abreast of what's really happening in the Forest Service and a great way to keep up with old friends and co-workers.

Several of us Rogue River National Forest women retirees get together each summer for lunch. This summer we invited [OldSmokey] **Ron McCormick** to join us and he told about how he and Carol wrote his book. Some of us bought it and I so enjoyed reading it. The personal touch added to so much Forest Service history made it great reading. Anyone who ever belonged to the Forest Service family would enjoy reading it.

**Frances Sutherland appreciates newsletter**

Thank you very much for sending the newsletter. I love to read about what's going on and the people I know.

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*Forest Service News continued from page 9*

## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Cited in Fatal Helicopter Incident

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on February 8, 2010, cited the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest "for committing several safety violations during the August 2009 cleanup of a marijuana grow" in which U.S. Forest Service employee Steven A. Uptegrove, 52, of Unity, Oregon, was killed on August 20.

Steve Uptegrove's death was reported in the *Memories* section of the Fall 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

"Investigators believe 'rotor wash'—the wind generated by the helicopter's two rotors—toppled the dead tree that hit Uptegrove," the *Baker City Herald* reported on February 9. The tree broke near its base the day after "workers pushed over some dead trees by hand," the investigator said. "The primary problem was that they had some (other) trees out there that needed to be taken down before the operation was started. There were other dangerous trees in the area that they couldn't push over (by hand). ... OSHA investigators did not find any evidence that workers used a chain saw or other method to fall hazard trees before the helicopter arrived."

Other citations in the incident were issued for "allowing Uptegrove to wear a hard hat that didn't comply with current safety standards" as well as "failing to require an employee to wear 'complete eye protection' during helicopter operations, and "failing to conduct a briefing before each day's operations."

*Prepared from "Helicopter felled tree in fatal forest incident, OSHA finds" by Jayson Jacoby for the Baker City Herald published in Bend, Oregon's, daily The Bulletin on February 9, 2010.*

*Forest Service News continues on page 23*



## Books

### Timothy Egan's New Book *The Big Burn* is a Must Read!

One hundred years ago this August, in Idaho and Montana, the five-year-old U.S. Forest Service faced its make-or-break trial by fire. Betty Goodwin Spencer told the story in her 1956 book *The Big Blowup*, and Stephen J. Pyne did it great justice in his 2001 book *Year of the Fires*.

And late last year, on the eve of the centennial year of “the largest-ever forest fire in America,” Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Timothy Egan told it again—and perhaps best—in *The Big Burn*.

President Theodore Roosevelt's dislike of the nickname “Teddy” notwithstanding, Egan subtitled the book “Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America” and told his readers why.

“Egan narrates the struggles of the overmatched rangers against the implacable fire with unstoppable dramatic force,” the dust jacket copy rightly states before it shifts to the other half of the story. “Equally dramatic is the larger story he tells of outsized president Teddy Roosevelt and his chief forester, Gifford Pinchot. Pioneering the notion of conservation, Roosevelt and Pinchot did nothing less than create the idea of public land as our national treasure, owned by and preserved for every citizen. The robber barons fought Roosevelt's and Pinchot's rangers, but the Big Burn saved the forests even as it destroyed them: the heroism shown by the rangers turned public opinion permanently in their favor and became the creation myth that drove the Forest Service, with consequences still felt in the way our national lands are still protected—or not—today.”

It's a story and a legend OldSmokeys know well, “an epic” according to the dust-jacket copy, in which Egan “paints a moving portrait of the people who lived it, and offers a critical cautionary tale.”

And it's a must read, not just for OldSmokeys who will revel in this skillful retelling of a story they know so well, but for their successors in the outfit who need to appreciate this story of the past, its explanation of the present, and its message for the future.

Timothy Egan's *The Big Burn*, published in late 2009 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt—publishing houses are being lumped almost as fast as national forests and ranger districts—lists at \$27.00 and is available at book stores nationwide.

— Les Joslin

### Professor Samuel P. Hays Expounds on *The American People and National Forests*

Samuel P. Hays, University Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Pittsburgh, has penned what may well prove a “national companion” to OldSmokey Jerry William's *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History* reviewed in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Hays, as Jerry did, looks at the Forest Service's first century. He presents what the University of Pittsburgh Press that published the book terms “a cogent history of the role of American society in shaping the policies and actions of this agency.”

“From its establishment in 1905 under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture,” the publisher says, “timber and grazing management dominated the agency's agenda. Due to high consumer demand for wood products and meat from livestock, the Forest Service built a formidable system of forest managers, training procedures, and tree science programs to specifically address these needs.

“This strong internal organization bolstered the agency during the tumultuous years in the final one-third of the century—when citizens and scientists were openly critical of Forest Service policies—yet it restricted the agency's vision and adaptability on environmental issues. A dearth of ecological capabilities tormented the Forest Service in 1960 when the Multiple-Use and Sustained-Yield Act set new statutes for the preservation of wildlife, recreation, watershed, and aesthetic resources.

“This was followed by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, which established standards for the oversight of forest ecosystems. The Forest Service was ill equipped to handle the myriad administrative and technological complexities that these mandates required.

“In *The American People and the National Forests*, Hays chronicles three distinct periods in Forest Service history [The Silvicultural Imperative 1891-1920, Evolution of an Agency Clientele 1920-1975, and Confronting the Ecological Forest 1976-2005], provides a summary ‘legacy’ for each, and outlines the public and private interests, administrations, and laws that guided the agency's course and set its priorities. He demonstrates how these legacies affected successive eras, how they continue to influence Forest Service policy in the twenty-first century, and why Forest Service policies should matter to us all.”

*The American People and the National Forests* (216 pages, available for \$60.00 in hardcover or \$27.95 in paperback) may be ordered online from the University of Pittsburgh Press by googling same and clicking on “ordering information.”

Prepared from the University of Pittsburgh Press website description of the book and the Biblioscope entry on the book in the July 2009 issue of *Environmental History*.

### Other Recent Titles of Interest...

*The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest* by Jack Nisbet traces the 1823 to 1834 peregrinations of Scottish plant collector and naturalist David Douglas through what is now Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, and assesses his continuing impact. Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 2009. ISBN 9781570616136. \$23.95.

*Chaining Oregon: Surveying the Public Lands of the Pacific Northwest* by Kay Atwood, is the first comprehensive history of the early surveyors of the Pacific Northwest and their for the U.S. General land office between 1851 and 1855. Granville, Ohio: The McDonald & Woodward Publishing Co., 2008. \$27.95. Visit <[www.mwpubco.com/ChainingOregon.htm](http://www.mwpubco.com/ChainingOregon.htm)>.

## Uncle Sam's Cabins

### Pringle Falls Experimental Forest Headquarters Deschutes National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

Photographs by U.S. Forest Service

*Okay, you Research folks! It's your turn! After years of historic Forest Service ranger stations and guard stations, here at last is an historic Forest Service research facility!*

Shortly after the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest was established within the Deschutes National Forest on May 20, 1931, a young forester named Ernest L. Kolbe set about developing its physical infrastructure and research program.

The centerpiece of that physical infrastructure was a headquarters compound on the south side of Forest Road 43 about 10 miles west of U.S. Highway 97 and just west of the bridge across the Deschutes River. This was the operational center of the two-unit, 11,055-acre experimental forest for decades. Most of the structures comprising this compound remain on the site today.

Despite funding constraints, Kolbe constructed a headquarters building for \$450 during the summer of 1931. Funds and personnel from New Deal agencies including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) made possible the 1933 construction of an additional office building, a weather and fire hazard station, a combination workshop-garage-woodshed building, and a water system. Kolbe reportedly spent a lot of time after dinner pounding nails [on these buildings] because he was afraid the CCC guys weren't going to finish the job before the snow flew.

With passage of the Emergency Relief Act of 1935, Kolbe put carpenters to work on a residence (now called the cottage) and a new crew house (now called the administration building).

Although the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest was an important fieldwork venue for decades, economic and social factors as well as changes in science prevented realization of what the late Professor Lew Roth, an Oregon State University plant pathologist who studied the effects of dwarf mistletoe on ponderosa pine there for fifty years, termed "the greater dream" of a residential research center. That dream included a never-built director's residence across the Deschutes River from the main compound. Instead, over the years, the compound was reduced in size. Some of its buildings were moved for Deschutes National Forest use elsewhere.

In addition to limited funds and changed needs, Professor Roth emphasized a sociological reason for the demise of the greater dream. "Scientists didn't want to live out in the boondocks!" he told this writer in 2002. "The access road was very rough, electricity was undependable, and so forth. So the staff ended up commuting from Bend. After you've driven that far and worked hard in the woods all day, you're pretty tired."

Several OldSmokeys, including **Jim Barrett**, **Carl Berntsen**, **Barney Duberow**, and **Russ Mitchell**, are among those who once "worked hard in the woods" there. The late OldSmokey **Walt Dahms** was another.

The historic headquarters compound remains, sometimes used but generally "in mothballs" and cared for by Forest Service entomologist emeritus and former OldSmokey **Boyd Wickman**. Closed to the general public, it can be viewed from the locked gate across the entry road off Forest Road 43. It is beautiful.

*Adapted from Ponderosa Promise: A History of U.S. Forest Service Research in Central Oregon by Les Joslin, published in July 2007 by the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, Oregon, as PNW-GTR-711.*



*The headquarters building was constructed during the summer of 1931 for \$450.*



*The crew house, built in 1935, was later used as the administrative building and remains in use. Photo was taken in 1936.*



*Distinguished foresters and scientists, such as these in June 1937, met and worked at Pringle Falls Experimental Forest.*



*This November 1936 photo shows the Pringle Falls Experimental Forest headquarters compound from the same viewpoint near the entrance from which visitors may view it today.*



## The Way We Were



*The old Star Ranger Station office across Upper Applegate Road from the current office and old 1911-1914 historic office.*

## Having a Blast at Star Ranger Station

By Kent Mays

Photograph by Les Joslin

I was the district ranger on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, headquartered then as now at the Star Ranger Station, from June 1965 to June 1967. Bob Webb, now deceased, was the district fire control assistant during my tenure. Bob was the “dean” of the FCAs on the the Rogue River, and an institution unto himself. He had been on the district during legendary District Ranger Lee Port’s tenure that spanned the years from World War I to World War II.

When I arrived we occupied the “new office” located on the east—river—side of Upper Applegate Road that splits the ranger station compound as it winds up the Applegate River to Applegate Lake. The “old office,” located directly across the road on the west side, was being used as a bachelor residence.

Bob was not only an invaluable assistant but the “institutional memory” for the district. He once told me about the time they decided the old office—while it was still the office—really needed a basement. And so they dug one. The job was done by district personnel who crawled under the building and excavated with shovels. When they encountered rock, which was often—well, you guessed it, they used dynamite.

Bob said they were really careful and only used “a half a stick or less, at a time.” He chuckled when he confided they occasionally might load it a little heavy...and raised the desks and papers in the building above. The project was a good example of seeing a need and getting the job done expeditiously at low cost.

And the guys on the district “had a blast” doing it!

**Send in your “The Way We Were” story!**

*Forest Service News continued from page 20*

## Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack Honored U.S. Forest Service Member Stephan Thomas Stefani IV Killed Serving in Afghanistan

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Ambassador Karl W. Eikenberry on January 12, 2010, honored a U.S. Forest Service range manager killed in October 2007 by a roadside bomb while serving in Afghanistan with a team of U.S. Department of Agriculture personnel helping to solve agricultural problems.

Stephan Thomas Stefani IV—“Tom” to his family, friends, and Forest Service colleagues—was among the nearly 100 who have accepted the challenge” to deploy “as civilian agricultural experts to Afghanistan since 2003,” Secretary Vilsack said.

Tom Stefani was raised in Auburn, California, studied at the University of Nevada in Reno, and served as a range manager on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

“Tom loved the Forest Service and he loved the outdoors,” Secretary Vilsack said at the January 12 memorial service at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. “Naturally, the challenge of Afghanistan’s beautiful, hardscrabble landscape beckoned to him.”

“Tom requested to serve in Afghanistan because he wanted to work to improve the lives of the Afghan people...who have suffered through years of strife and conflict,” Secretary Vilsack continued. “While some people saw only denuded grazing land and wasted soil in Afghanistan, Tom recognized the opportunity to restore a once legendary agricultural region. He accepted his responsibility to serve as he had so many other challenges in this life—he embraced it in one great, big bear hug.”

Tom Stefani served above and beyond his job description. He decided to build a playground for kids, but was killed before he could start the project. His family collected contributions, and Secretary Vilsack announced “two containers of equipment are en route to this country.”

*Prepared from the transcript of Secretary Vilsack’s and Ambassador Eikenberry’s remarks at the U.S. Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan, January 12, 2010, released by the Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Agriculture, on January 12, 2010.*

*Memories continued from page 16*

**Robin Rae Udey** died January 25, 2010, in a traffic accident, at age 54. Robin was born August 27, 1955, in Dallas, Oregon. She grew up in Dallas, where she attended middle school, and Maupin, where she graduated from high school. She married Raymond Anthony Udey on May 12, 1975, and they resided in Pine Grove, Oregon, for 30 years. She was workforce manager for Region 6 Fire & Aviation Management at the RO in Portland. Survivors include Raymond, son Alex, daughter Ginny Wood, and four grandchildren.

*Editor’s Note: See news article about the accident on page 9 and letters about Robin on page 20*





We don't need the postage stuff for the web so here are photos of the CCC statue in Salem we helped create with our donations (see page 4). Photos by Les Joslin March 2010.

It would be good to have photos of other projects we have supported. If you have photos you would like to see here in the web version of the newsletter please email them to me. [Don](#)

## Spring 2010

**Join us for lunch on the last Friday of every month at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue, off Canyon Road, just east of Highway 217, at 11:00 a.m.**

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