



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Fall 2011

## *President's Message—John Berry*

It was good to see and talk with so many of you at the Summer Picnic. Some I had not seen for years and I wished there had been more time to catch up. And it was a pleasure to see the great attendance by Regional Office and Mt. Hood National Forest leaders. It means a lot to have Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Kent Connaughton** and Forest Supervisor Chris Worth attend our functions. Both are very approachable and great listeners. It's good to see the Region is in good hands.

A big thanks to **Mike Ash** for donating one of his beautiful wood bowls for the raffle to support the PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund. And, no, I did not bribe Kent Connaughton to draw my wife's ticket! Thanks to **Rick Larson** for reserving the picnic area. Thanks to **Bev Pratt, Mary Moyer, and Deb Warren** for welcoming and doing the name tags. Of course, Dave Dalton and his crew did a great job of catering. Also, check out **Paul Enberg's** and **John Poppino's** photos on our website at <[www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)>.

The picnic reminds me what it means to be a member of the "Forest Service Family." Next to my own family, the Forest Service has been the single most important factor in my life. The Forest Service offered me incredible career opportunities as it provided outstanding education and training, good pay, and a retirement annuity that allows my wife and me to live comfortably. And, most important, it gave me chances to work with some of the brightest, most talented, and most caring people in the world.

When I say "Forest Service" I don't mean a faceless impersonal bureaucracy. The Forest Service was and is people. It was the people I worked for more than half of my life that shaped and molded me. These were great leaders and talented people, and it's good to see many of you at the OldSmokeys' annual banquet and picnic.

The Forest Service gave me much, and now I feel it's time to pay it back. That's why establishment and funding of the PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund—the development and growth of which you can read about on page 3—is so important to me. You'll recall from the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* the purpose of the fund is to help OldSmokeys and other Forest Service people when trouble strikes and existing insurances and reserves don't cover costs. We were able to collect over \$900 at the picnic which, added to additional donations, as brought the fund to almost \$2,500 of a \$5,000 fund raising goal I have set for this year.

I hope each of you will consider what the Forest Service Family has given to you and means to you, in the good times as well as the difficult ones. I hope you will be moved to use the new space on the annual dues bill for collection form on page 5 of this newsletter to contribute to the best of your ability to the Emergency Relief Fund.

*John Berry*

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

*Annual Dues for 2012 are due January 1. See page 4!*

## Forum

### Chief Tidwell's Cultural Transformation Needs U.S. Forest Service Academy

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell's continuing focus on Cultural Transformation within the agency he leads is focused to such an extent on the first half of the challenge—development of a workforce that meets a range of social engineering standards—that it essentially ignores the second half of the challenge—development of a workforce ready, willing, and able to carry out the charge of “caring for the land and serving people.”

“It seems the goal of the Forest Service is no longer forest management but cultural transformation [toward] making sure that the workforce is culturally diverse,” OldSmokey **Dick Deleisseuges** recently echoed the impression of many concerned Forest Service retirees.

The current Cultural Transformation focus emphasizes hiring people and filling positions on criteria other than competence and experience, and pulls the authority for filling key positions away from the Forest Service and back to the Department of Agriculture and its political appointees who don't have to live with and work with the outcomes and whose orientations and objectives differ from those of the Forest Service and do not reflect its mission.

This numbers game approach to Cultural Transformation is doubly tragic because it treats people like so many statistics, not as people with talents, potential, and dignity. This is a political move, not a move to help people and the land. And this is sad because this kind of meat axe approach to diversifying workforces has been tried and has failed many times over the past years—and often has ignored the needs of the public and their land.

Chief Tidwell's focus on Cultural Transformation is another serious justification for a U.S. Forest Service Academy. It is unfair to the people hired, their new colleagues, and the national forests to do less than fully prepare them as Forest Service officers who can succeed as efficient and effective implementers of the mission. To do otherwise says these new personnel, their colleagues, and the national forests are of no real value.

--John Marker and Les Joslin

### U.S. Forest Service and National Forest System Need Retirees' Support

All of us are concerned that our beloved U.S. Forest Service seems endlessly battered by the urban public, the courts, and elected officials at all levels. A dedicated workforce is doing its best and demonstrates remarkable will in sticking with it despite all these trials and tribulations.

Current examples of these are the numerous proposals to fragment the National Forest System with legislative actions that would prescribe management objectives for states or clusters of national forests in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and probably other states. Some would create trusts that would take over management of the forests. There is even talk of selling off the national forests to reduce the national debt. In the meantime, the Forest Service is stymied by inadequate funding, inability to overcome court challenges, and a decline in community support.

The Equal Access to Justice Act provides extremist nonprofit NGOs an opportunity to flood the courts with lawsuits. The courts, unable to handle the load, delay action while agreeing to injunctions that often result in agency inability to proceed in a timely manner. This can lead to agency abandonment of planned actions. Plaintiffs are not liable for costs if they lose. If they win, the agency is required to cover their court costs. This is a lose-lose situation for the agency and a strategy used by extremists to deny appropriate management.

Basically, the statutory purposes and mission of the Forest Service have been compromised. Many of these proposals are generated by the paralysis this situation begets.

Forest Service retirees nationwide are frustrated and in many instances place blame on the Forest Service itself. Such criticism is not helpful and, in fact, helps fuel the very initiatives that would destroy the National Forest System as well as the Service itself. A worst case scenario would be to sell off the commodity generating portions of the national forests to the states or private industry and transfer the rest to single-purpose agencies such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

No retiree would welcome such an outcome. We need some unifying entity to take the lead, with the support of all, to develop the strategy and actions necessary to return the Forest Service to its statutory mission and purposes. The Forest Service then, under the other Acts governing the environment, could proceed with appropriate land and resource plans to provide National Forest System stewardship consistent with current and future needs.

I believe the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is the entity that could do the job.

--Zane Grey Smith, Jr.

**“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 lined up for lunch at PNWFSA's August 12 picnic.  
*Photograph by John Poppino*

### OldSmokeys Enjoyed Sunny and Warm August 12 Summer Picnic in the Woods

A total of 133 OldSmokeys—including Regional Forester **Kent Connaughton** and Pacific Northwest Research Station Director **Bov Eav** and several other active duty members—enjoyed good company and good food in good weather at the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) annual Summer Picnic in the Woods on Friday, August 12, 2011, at the BLM's Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood.

Arriving OldSmokeys checked in with **Bev Pratt**, **Deb Warren**, and **Mary Moyer** at the reception table, and **Bonna Wilson** made sure all got much needed liquid refreshment as they dispersed throughout the area to see old friends and catch up on old times and new news before feasting on caterer Dave Dalton's traditionally delicious buffet.

PNWFSA President **John Berry**'s wife **Glenda** successfully bid \$397 to take home PNWFSA President-Elect **Mike Ash**'s carved wooden bowl and benefit the PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund by that amount. "Folks actually bought tickets for the wooden bowl," Mike feigned surprise. "Kent Connaughton drew Glenda's number from the hat. I'm not sure how much John had to pay Kent to draw that number!"

"It was a great picnic and I heard positive comments from many, many people," Mike said of the event.

### OldSmokeys President John Berry Makes PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund a Centerpiece of His Administration

"One of the things I would like to accomplish as president of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) is get our Emergency Relief Fund well established," OldSmokey **John Berry** said after he took the PNWFSA reins at the May 15, 2011, banquet. He and key members of the PNWFSA Board of Directors have taken major strides in that direction.

OldSmokey **John Marker**, an early proponent and strong supporter of the Fund, saw it "in the best tradition of the U.S. Forest Service and the OldSmokeys in a *Forum* page op-ed in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and is actively supporting President John's effort to achieve that goal.

"We were able to raise over \$900 for the Fund at the picnic," President John reported.

At the August 26 Board meeting, President John announced that PNWFSA was "close to the first \$1,000 mark" and observed "we still need a couple thousand more to make a solvent account." He then challenged the members of the Board to "step up and take the lead in funding this account. If each of you would donate \$30.00—just one fill-up of gas or less, we would have close to \$450.00." Then he put his—and the other John's—money where their mouths are. "John Marker and I will match every dollar donated by the Board by December 1 up to \$500.00. This would put us over the top."

Nine PNWFSA board members responded by contributing a total of \$640. This exceeded the two Johns' matching challenge, and each presented their \$500 checks to the fund at the October 29 board meeting. This brought the Emergency Fund total to \$2,487—almost half the \$5,000 goal set for this year.

"These initial fund raising successes have come from efforts of individual members of the board," President John said. "We are currently working with OldSmokey **Lloyd Musser** at the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp, Oregon, to host an old-fashioned ranger district pot-luck picnic in support of the Fund in the spring of 2012 when the roads and weather make it easy to reach the Center."

The PNWFSA Board of Directors was motivated to establish this fund by the July 11, 2010, fire that destroyed the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest visitor center and administrative offices. The OldSmokeys as an organization and as individuals provided \$1,050 to assist their colleagues there and the Emergency Relief Fund idea was born. You may contribute to the Fund by sending a check to the PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228.

#### Correction to Feature "Happy Birthday, Princess Winema" in Summer 2011 Issue

The editor regrets the sin of omission rather than commission of failing to include OldSmokey **Norm Gould** among the "remaining PNWFSA members of that 'first Winema crew'" in his note at the end of OldSmokey **Dan Abraham**'s excellent article on the Winema National Forest's fiftieth anniversary in which Norm was clearly mentioned as the forest's first timber staff officer. Sorry about that, Norm! Thanks to OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** for bringing this omission to the editor's attention.

--Les Joslin



*Lifetime Membership, Emergency Fund Donation Opportunities*

### OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2012 Are Due and Payable on January 1

It's that time of year for OldSmokeys who pay their Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members who pay **Annual Dues**. Please use the coupon below to sent in your \$20 to do just that by January 1.

This is also a good time of year to think about converting your annual membership to a **Lifetime Membership** for \$250 that lets you forget about paying annual dues ever again! You can also use the coupon to do just that.

And, also, this is a good time to make a generous donation to PNWFSA's **Emergency Fund** as mentioned in **John Berry's President's Message** on the front page of this issue! You can do that with this coupon, too!

What more is there to say but to invite you to please "Do it now!"

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association**

### **Bill for Collection for Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and Donation to Emergency Fund**

Please make your check(s) for \$20 Annual Dues or \$250 Lifetime Dues and for Donation to Emergency Fund payable to the PNWFSA and mail to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

Please check all that apply:

- First year of PNWFSA Membership -- \$0 (free)
- Annual Membership renewal -- \$20.00
- Lifetime Membership -- \$250.00
- Emergency Fund Donation -- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

While you're at it, why not share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the **Letters** section of the next newsletter? Use the space below, and add additional pages if necessary.

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## OldSmokeys Award \$6,100 in Grants to Support Three Projects

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) voted at its October 28, 2011, meeting to award grants totaling \$6,100 to three projects that further PNWFSA objectives.

The largest of these grants was for \$3,100 to the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) to reside the south wall of the open storage shed at the historic remount station within the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest. Other funds for this \$6,280 project will come from the U.S. Forest Service and the FFL.

A grant of \$2,000 was awarded to the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum near Cave Junction, Oregon, for signage: two brown Oregon Department of Transportation “point of interest” signs north and south of the entrance on U.S. Highway 199, an entrance sign on the highway, and a rock pedestal for the old Forest Service smokejumper base site sign near the historic base administrative building. Museum volunteers will do most of the sign construction work.

A grant of \$1,000 was awarded to Forests Forever, Inc., to support youth engagement and enrichment programs at the Hopkins Demonstration Forest south of Oregon City, Oregon. Many organizations sponsor this project.

## OldSmokeys May Reserve Rooms Now for Forest Service Reunion 2012 in Vail

OldSmokey **Tommy Thompson** and his “Rendezvous in the Rockies” team pass the word that now is the time to make room reservations at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort and Spa at Lionshead Square in Vail, Colorado, for the September 17-21, 2012, U.S. Forest Service Reunion. Meetings and lodging will be in that main reunion hotel. Rooms will be available for Sunday night, September 16, for those needing or wanting to come a day early. There are ADA accessible rooms available.

Room rates will be \$109 plus tax per night for all rooms. See the Forest Service Reunion 2012 website at <<http://fsreunion2012.com>> for complete online and telephone reservation instructions.

A dedicated booking website, created so you will be able to make, modify, and cancel your hotel reservations online, is provided on the Reunion 2012 website.

If you're not an online person or would prefer to make your reservations by telephone, please use the following dedicated Group Reservations phone numbers to access special block rates.

**Reservations Toll Free: 1-800-266-9432**  
**Reservations Local Phone: 1-506-474-2009**

Please use the numbers above if calling. Do not call the hotel directly.

If you experience any reservation problems, contact <[accommodations@fsreunion2012.com](mailto:accommodations@fsreunion2012.com)> immediately.

Registration for Forest Service Reunion 2012 itself will open in February 2012.

## OldSmokeys Welcomed 1,555 Visitors to High Desert Ranger Station in 2011

Nine OldSmokeys—**Carl Anderson, Gail Carbiener, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Don Doyle, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**—and non-OldSmokey volunteers Dave Gilbert and Donna Noyes welcomed 1,555 visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, between July 1 and September 5 this summer. That's just over three percent\* of the total number of visitors to the Museum during that period. That's an average of just over 23 visitors per day.

All these visitors learned something about their nation's National Forest System and U.S. Forest Service heritage. Wild-fire prevention information—including the traditional *The True Story of Smokey Bear* comic book—was provided along with visitor information about the Deschutes National Forest that surrounds the Museum.

A few visitors again this summer mistook the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit for a “real” ranger station. They got the help they sought, and volunteers quickly explained that, for decades, the building was a real district ranger's office and is representative of ranger station offices throughout the West from which Forest Service rangers managed and protected national forest resources. Virtually all found this exhibit fascinating and learned something about their National Forest System and the Forest Service that manages it that they didn't know.

Perhaps the High Desert Ranger Station is just a little too convincing. On one mid-August day, Carl was treated to a visitor's rant about “government employees sitting around wasting taxpayers' money.” After the rant, Carl calmly explained that the High Desert Ranger Station is a Museum exhibit paid for not by the Forest Service but by the Forest Service retirees' organization and staffed by volunteers—not a current U.S. Government installation staffed by paid civil servants. The ranting visitor left better informed than he arrived.

Among the summer's well-informed visitors were many OldSmokeys including former Regional Forester **Linda Goodman** who visited on August 1. Another was former smokejumper Joe Rumble who began jumping in Missoula during that bases' fateful 1949 season. Chuck Sheley, another former smokejumper and editor of *Smokejumper* magazine visited and bumped into an old smokejumper colleague. High Desert Ranger Station is becoming quite a meeting place!

OldSmokeys will staff the High Desert Ranger Station daily from July 1 through September 3 in 2012. New “tools” such as the “Ranger Station OPEN” signs introduced late this summer and a new educational handout card soon to be published should add to the visibility of and visitation to this exhibit that is “on the main road but off the beaten path” at the High Desert Museum. You are welcome to join the High Desert Ranger Station volunteer corps. For information, contact OldSmokey **Les Joslin** at 541-330-0331 or (better yet, since Les is often out of town) by e-mail at <[lesjoslin@aol.com](mailto:lesjoslin@aol.com)>.

\*Based on 1,419 visits to High Desert Ranger Station exhibit of the 44,478 visits to the High Desert Museum during July and August 2011.

## OldSmokeys Among Many Friends of Fish Lake Who Made Great Strides at Historic Site in 2011

The Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) enjoyed unprecedented success during 2011 on every front in their efforts to preserve and interpret the natural and cultural history of the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest according to reports received from OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**, president of the organization, OldSmokey **Phil Raab**, and others.

Topping the list of accomplishments was FFL's application for and receipt of Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Past progress was validated and future progress was mapped by the five-year Fish Lake Historic Area Master Plan completed this year and approved on June 29 by now-retired District Ranger Mary Allison of the McKenzie River Ranger District. This plan defines the "Fish Lake Historic Area" as "the area around Fish Lake, the Fish Lake Remount Station, the Fish Lake Special Interest Area (SIA), and the surrounding cultural and historic areas of interest, including the Santiam Wagon Road."

This year's June 7-13 sixth annual FFL work week kicked off an entire season of on-site accomplishments by dozens of FFL members assisted by Forest Service personnel who made significant progress on restoration of the site's 1920s structures, its CCC-era buildings, and its grounds.

All this important work, some of it supported by Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) grants, was topped off by near completion in August of a kiosk structure to be used to interpret the site. "As you can see [from the photograph] the roof is on, the 'floor' is 'finished' with the same material as the wagon road at this point, a rock retaining wall has been constructed around the back, and three of the posts have been covered with cedar facing and treated with boiled linseed oil," Phil summarized on September 7. "Next year expect to see installation of a ridge cap and a hip cap on the back side, finishing the column [cedar covering], facing the cement supports with lava rock, and installation of CCC-era siding on the gable ends on our work list."

"It fits the site like a glove!" Phil said of the kiosk.

"The plexi-glass viewers' screen project in the blacksmith shop and tack room was completed in late August," Mike said of another PNWFSA grant-supported project at the historic Fish Lake station. "It turned out great [and received] very good reviews from visitors."

Also, early in September, the FFL received a \$2,287.00 "capacity building" grant from the Kinsman Foundation pursued by OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** that will fund the membership brochure published in May, the fundraising brochure in preparation, grant writing training for three members of the board of directors, and development of a web-based communication tool.

Watch the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for the June 2012 dates of the seventh annual FFL work week.



*The newly-constructed but yet-to-be finished Fish Lake Historic Area kiosk as it appeared in September 2011.*

*Photograph by Mike Kerrick  
inputs by Mike Kerrick, Doug MacDonald, and Phil Raab.*

## OldSmokeys Inspected Historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station on Deschutes National Forest

OldSmokey **Don Franks** welcomed Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) President **John Berry**, Past President **Bill Shenk**, and Board of Directors members **Vern Clapp** and **Les Joslin** to historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station, not quite 10 miles north of Don's Fort Rock, Oregon, home, which he and many others would like to see renovated and returned to use, on July 25, 2011. Accompanying Don and the group was Fort Rock Historical Society President Jack Swisher.

Cabin Lake Ranger Station was headquarters of the former Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, from 1921 through 1945—during the heyday of railroad logging that supported Bend's two great sawmills—before the district ranger's office was moved to Bend and the compound was redesignated Cabin Lake Guard Station and used into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Long a landmark in northern Lake County where landmarks are far apart, Cabin Lake still has a place on the map and in the hearts of those who in the years past have chased smoke from this station," the late former U.S. Forest Service officer C.E. "Slim" Hein wrote in the March 24, 1973, "High Country" weekend supplement to *The Bulletin*, Bend's daily newspaper. Don, who retired from the Forest Service in 1976 as Deschutes National Forest fire control officer, was a contemporary of Hein's.

Five district rangers called Cabin Lake Ranger Station headquarters. Except for a bunkhouse and a pump house built in 1923, all the remaining station buildings were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1934 and 1938. Foremost among these are the ranger's residence, two other dwellings, and the fire warehouse. The office building was moved north to now-abandoned China Hat Guard Station decades ago. Ranger Henry Tonseth, Fort Rock district ranger



*OldSmokeys Bill Shenk, Don Franks, and John Berry inspected historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station on July 25, 2011.*

*Photograph by Les Joslin*

from 1934 to 1968, was the only ranger to occupy the residence.

Don told his OldSmokey colleagues the stories of the place, explained its value not only as a recreation and heritage resource but also as an administrative facility, and estimated what it would take to restore the station for continued use. In addition to a wide range of self-sustaining educational and recreational use possible under provisions of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005, OldSmokeys saw its potential for future administrative uses perhaps compatible with other uses. He noted that an area rancher has proposed using the station as a ranch headquarters.

The ranger’s residence was somewhat renovated during a Passport in Time (PIT) project several years ago, but little has been accomplished since. “We need a commitment from the Forest Service to save this historic station,” Don said.

Deschutes National Forest officers invited to join the visit were unable to participate because of a scheduled meeting “focused on some significant budget reductions, staff reductions, and hiring freeze in the agency” according to Forest Supervisor John Allen’s July 27 e-mail to PNWFSA President John Berry. “[District Ranger] Shane [Jeffries], his staff, and I visited Cabin Lake last year and are interested /focused on revitalizing the use of these facilities..., in hearing what the retirees think, and Shane is more than happy to find an agreeable date/time to meet with them about Cabin Lake.”

“I have a strong personal interest in the restoration and use of historic Forest Service facilities,” Forest Supervisor Allen continued. “The Deschutes and I would love to have retirees help us figure out a future for Cabin Lake.”

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

*— Anonymous*

## OldSmokey Mike Ash Outlined PNWFSA-Region 6 Historic Site Preservation Guidance for Board

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) has long been interested in and supportive of efforts to restore, preserve, and maintain U.S. Forest Service heritage sites—particularly administrative sites and structures that tell the Outfit’s proud story—throughout the Pacific Northwest Region.

Perhaps PNWFSA’s most significant accomplishment of this sort is the 2008 acquisition and restoration at the High Desert Ranger Station south of Bend, Oregon, of the historic Forest Service district ranger’s office building now called the High Desert Ranger Station and interpreted by OldSmokeys daily every summer since 2009. OldSmokeys are deeply involved in the continuing Friends of Fish Lake effort at historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest and helped restore historic Government Mineral Springs Guard Station now a recreation rental. Such projects are expensive and require expertise.

OldSmokeys’ interest in Forest Service heritage resources increases as those resources deteriorate and resources to save them and the stories they tell decrease. “We are the last generation that knows or appreciates the role these sites played in the development of Region 6’s forests and the leaders who worked in them,” observed PNWFSA President-Elect **Mike Ash** of their importance. “But there is no big picture [to help] focus our efforts and dollars” toward effective preservation of even some of them.

### ***A proposal for success***

To help the PNWFSA Board of Directors approach this issue, Mike in late August 2011 prepared a “Region 6 Historic Sites Briefing Paper” that proposed “a partnership with R6/PNW and PNWFSA to identify where to focus our resources for historic sites [that offer] opportunities [for] focusing limited dollars and sharing knowledge.

Mike proposed “a small working group of OldSmokeys and R6/PNW to bring a plan to the Board that would guide us to identify the ‘best of the best’ historic sites in the region that we should use in supporting this program through our grant process.”

Mike suggested criteria for identifying the “best of the best” historic sites:

- **Historic significance** of the site or structure(s) to Forest Service or its personnel and alumni or to the states of Oregon or Washington and the interpretability of its story
- **Physical condition** of the site or structure(s) that make successful restoration feasible (noting the unfortunate truth that small sites in good condition are more easily renovated/restored than are larger sites
- **Forest Service intentions** for the site or structure(s)
- **Rentability** of the site since those not reused for a funded administrative purpose will have to support themselves as rentals pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005 (accessibility of and proximity to recrea-

tional amenities in large part determine rentability)

- **Opportunities for partnering** with other organizations for restoration work
- **Possibilities of a long-term sponsor** to “adopt” the site or structure(s) reflected in willingness to bear a hand in renovation/restoration and partner in maintenance/management
- **OldSmokey sponsor(s)** to champion the project

#### *A recipe for success*

Mike also suggested parameters for achieving a successful program committee:

- Representation from each forest or “zone”
- At least one member with intimate knowledge of and passion for the heritage program
- Broad-minded members: no pet project approval without review
- Established site or structure(s) selection criteria
- Member visit(s) to site or structure(s) before approving grant
- Member follow up review and evaluation of grant use effectiveness
- Biggest bang for the buck attitude and approach
- Long-lasting effects instead of one-time “splash”

#### *Board response*

Mike briefed the PNWFSA Board of Directors on this proposal at its August 26 meeting. The Board subsequently appointed Mike and OldSmokey **Doug MacDonald** a working group to work with Regional Archaeologist Jeff Walker, Regional Historian Gail Throop, and Regional Public Affairs Officer Cathy Anderson to develop a plan to identify a short list of “the best of the best” historic sites on Region 6 national forests and to identify potential site stewards for these sites among the ranks of retirees.

Mike and Doug met in late September and began work toward accomplishing that goal. To help, they are asking OldSmokeys to think about historic sites on each national forest that meet the selection criteria mentioned above and who potential site stewards for each site might be. Your input would be appreciated. Please e-mail Mike at <mmnash@comcast.net> to nominate potential sites and site stewards. Mike and Doug will keep OldSmokeys informed on the progress of this effort through channels including your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

## **OldSmokey Cliff Dills Transferred from Umpqua National Forest SO to Southwestern Region RO**

OldSmokey **Cliff Dills**, who joined the PNWFSA in November 2007 shortly after arriving from the Cibola National Forest in New Mexico to be Forest Supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest, returned to the Southwestern Region in August to serve as Director of Forest Vegetation Management, Forest Health, and Cooperative Forestry in Region 3’s Albuquerque RO.

As much as Cliff enjoyed the Umpqua National Forest, the need to be near and support his family in the Albuquerque area tipped the scale in favor of the transfer.

## **OldSmokey Linda Duffy Retired from U.S. Forest Service on 33 Years**

OldSmokey **Linda Duffy** retired from the U.S. Forest Service on July 29, 2011, after 33 years of service. Linda and her Forest Service retiree husband OldSmokey **Tom Dew** have been lifetime PNWFSA members since Tom’s retirement nine years ago.

“With the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority recently offered by the Secretary of Agriculture, I can retire early at age 51 and join my Forest Service retiree husband,” Linda noted the day before she retired.

Linda retired as Minerals, Environmental Planning, Silviculture & Timber Staff Officer on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Before that she was district ranger on that forest’s Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District based at Star Ranger Station.

## **OldSmokeys Field Tested PNWFSA Cap**

One hundred mid-August miles on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) between Santiam Pass and Timberline Lodge proved a good field test for OldSmokey **Bob Williams’** super Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) ball caps. OldSmokeys **Les Joslin** and **Jim Leep** wore the caps on this summer’s section of their trans-Oregon PCT trek. Both the caps and the testers passed with flying colors.

These OldSmokey ball caps looked as good as new after those 100 miles. The sweat bands absorbed all the sweat Les and Jim could muster along those steep—and often not maintained—trails and across many long and lingering snowfields. Les’s cap wasn’t at all bloodied by his clumsy face-plant in the rocky trail tread. And the OldSmokeys insignia on the caps stimulated fascinating conversations with fellow PCT trekkers.

Les and Jim, proudly wearing their OldSmokeys ball caps, will complete the final 45 miles of their 458-mile PCT trip through Oregon next summer.

## **OldSmokeys May Order PNWFSA Cap from OldSmokey Bob Williams**

OldSmokeys may order the official—and now field-tested—PNWFSA ball cap for \$10.00 each (plus mailing) from OldSmokey **Bob Williams** at <rwms35@comcast.net>.

Revenues from the sale of these great ball caps are donated to the PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund.

Order yours today!

## **OldSmokeys Ponder Possible Bus Travel to U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2012**

OldSmokeys who may prefer the comfort and convenience of chartered coach transportation to and from U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2012 in Vail, Colorado, next September are asked to make their interest known as soon as possible to OldSmokey **Bev Pratt** at 503-255-3265 or <prattpratt@aol.com> to help determine if enough are interested to make this feasible.



## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Named Joe Meade as Retiree Liaison

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell designated Joe Meade, Director of the National Partnerships Office in the WO, as the Forest Service Retiree Liaison, National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) Executive Director and OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** announced on July 14, 2011.

After Chief Tidwell's action, Darrel visited "with Joe...to discuss NAFSR's goals, objectives, and current 2011-2012 work plan" and to "define working relationships and protocols."

"We view this as a positive development which helps the 'outfit' and retirees who remain interested in today's challenges, opportunities, and timely communication [and] working relationships. Linking with Joe on matters of importance and future opportunities is welcomed," Darrel said. "Joe has extensive U.S. Forest Service experience and we look forward to working with Joe and Forest Service colleagues."

Joe Meade became Director, National Partnerships Office, on February 1, 2010. He was previously Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest, Alaska. Joe is visually disabled and works with the help of a talking computer and a guide dog. He joined the Forest Service in 1977, and was later instrumental in ensuring that the Forest Service became a leader in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

*Prepared from a June 15, 2011, e-mail from Darrel Kenops and other sources.*

### U.S. Forest Service Cultural Transformation Effort Boosted by President's Executive Order

President Barack Obama signed an Executive Order on August 18, 2011, "to promote equal employment opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce" according to a not copyrighted <www.fedsmith.com> website news release headlined "Obama Signs Executive Order Instructing Agencies to Improve Workforce Diversity." This order supports U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell's continuing focus on Cultural Transformation reported in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The order directs the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director John Berry [That's the *other* John Berry!] and Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Jeff Zients, in coordination with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Chair Jacqueline A. Berrin and the President's Management Council (PMC), to establish a government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce; develop a government-wide strategic plan and guidance for agency-specific plans within 90 days; identify best practices to improve agency efforts; and establish a system for reporting on agency progress.

The plans should identify strategies to remove barriers to equal opportunity in federal government recruitment, hiring,

promotion, retention, professional development and training. Within 120 days after the government-wide plan is released, each agency must issue its own agency-specific Diversity and Inclusion Plan.

"President Obama's Executive Order reinforces the leadership that federal agencies can play in ensuring that every qualified worker has an equal opportunity to succeed and advance in the workplace," Chair Berri n said. "The Executive Order will help the nation fulfill the promise of equal employment opportunity in every workplace, beginning with the federal government."

#### *Done Deal?*

### U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Pledged No "Redraft" on Planning Rule

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said on June 14, 2011, he had no plans to scrap the agency's draft planning rule for the national forests and national grasslands as urged that month by 59 lawmakers who warned the proposal could draw unwanted lawsuits.

Among those were U.S. Representative Greg Walden (Republican-Oregon) and U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader (Democrat-Oregon) who sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack objecting to the proposed planning rule. "It sucks," U.S. Representative Mike Simpson (Republican-Idaho) said of the rule on June 14.

But the Chief also hasn't said he'd follow the recommendations of environmental groups who argued the proposed planning rule lacks regulatory teeth to protect wildlife and their habitats.

He did say the Forest Service was hard at work analyzing more than 300,000 comments received during the three-month public comment period that followed release of the draft in mid-February 2011. The agency still expected to finalize the rule by the end of 2011.

"As we look through the comments, if there's something we missed, we'll make those changes," Chief Tidwell said. "What I'm not OK with is the status quo. The planning rule back in 1982 was a very good rule, yet so many things have changed... that we need a different rule...to move forward and restore these national forests and provide for the services that these communities need."

#### *Congressional and industrial critics*

But the 59 lawmakers fear that broadening the Forest Service's requirement to manage wildlife habitats in a way that includes plants, fungi, and insects, the new rule would invite litigation that would drain funds from managing the national forests.

"The proposed rule moves the agency further away from a simple, concise rule that can be understood by both agency personnel and the public and implemented with a minimum amount of contention among stakeholder groups. By adding more process requirements and introducing new technical terms, you are increasing the likelihood that like previous attempts at reform, the proposed rule will be tied up in courts for years to come," their letter stated.

“We are concerned that the proposed rule seeks to elevate vague, undefined new concepts and categories of analysis such as ‘species conservation,’ ‘restoration,’ ‘social sustainability,’ and ‘ecosystem resiliency’ above its primary multi-use statutory mandate,” which requires the Forest Service to prioritize multiple use of the national forests and sustained yields of their resources.

The forest products industry also finds fault. “As drafted, the proposed rule has the potential to keep the Forest Service from managing our forests by forcing all financial and personnel resources to be focused on planning, rather than implementing projects; will provide even greater opportunities for opponents of timber management to delay projects and sue the Forest Service; and further distance the agency from affected local communities,” the American Forest Resource Council’s May 2011 newsletter stated. “...The proposed rule further complicates the planning process in ways that will be extremely costly in an era of shrinking federal agency budgets.”

### **Completion on track?**

The planning rule seeks to revamp how the Forest Service updates land management plans for the national forests and grasslands that comprise eight percent of the United States territory by speeding planning efforts, incorporating best available science, engaging the public, and ensuring the forests’ resilience to climate change, wildfire, insects and disease, and other threats.

Revising the planning rule is a difficult, complicated process to track. Reliable current information is scarce. Even “Project News” on the Meridian Institute website is lacking. Meridian Institute—in partnership with Rocky Mountain Collaborative Services—is the lead contractor assisting the Forest Service “in conducting an open, collaborative process to create and implement a new regulation governing forest planning in the National Forest System.”

Perhaps your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will be able to offer a more definitive progress report in the Winter 2012 issue.

*Prepared from several sources including “Forest change worries Walden” by Andrew Clevenger in the June 12, 2011, issue of Bend, Oregon’s daily, The Bulletin; “New Planning Rule: Less Litigation? More Defensible” by Phil Taylor posted on June 14, 2011, on the A New Century of Forest Planning blog; and the Meridian Institute website.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Seeks to Upgrade Ageing Air Tanker Fleet**

As the 2011 wildfire season began, the U.S. Forest Service continued efforts to fix a persistent problem: an ageing and increasingly unsafe air tanker fleet. The large planes leased to fight wildfires have been flying, on average, about 50 years, and their numbers are dwindling. This year there were only 14 large air tankers—down from 44 in 2002—in the inventory. Many of those likely will leave service after next year and today’s “tanker gap” will widen.

Aero Union, which earlier this year had eight P-3 Orion air tankers on exclusive use contracts with the Forest Service for wildland fire suppression, had their contracts for six cancelled for safety reasons, OldSmokey **John Marker** reported in the September 2011 issue of *The Lookout*. Since then, Aero Union

has declared bankruptcy, and the company that had been in the aerial firefighting business since 1961 has closed its doors.

According to “Wildfire Today,” an Internet site, the loss of Aero Union left 11 large tankers—P-2V Neptunes, also former U.S. Navy antisubmarine warfare aircraft older than the P-3s that replaced them—on exclusive contract to the Forest Service. To help fill this tanker gap the Forest Service contracted for three Convair 580 air tankers for the 2011 wildfire season. The 580s, which carry close to 3,000 gallons, brought the heavy air tanker inventory to 14. But the P-2s likely will be forced out of the inventory after the 2012 wildfire season. By that time, according to the Department of Agriculture’s inspector general report “Forest Service’s Replacement Plan for Aerial Firefighting Resources” issued in 2009, they will be too expensive to maintain or no longer airworthy. The tanker gap will widen.

The Forest Service has a couple options for addressing this gap. It could buy its own planes for about \$2.5 billion and provide its own pilots and maintenance crews. Or it could request bids for large contracts for newer-model planes that meet certain specifications.

Air tanker contractors make a case for the second option. Rick Hatton, president and chief executive of a firm that has flown 360 missions on 50 fires in the past four years, says for the Forest Service or contractors to purchase new planes would be a mistake. “There’s no reason to have a \$100 million airplane sitting on the ground all but a few hours of the year,” he said. That likely would be the case for new, Forest Service-owned, purpose-built air tankers. Hatton maintains his newer, cheaper DC-10s with an external tank can do the job.

Hatton says, in the long run, a plane costs more to maintain than it costs to purchase. Forest Service pilots and maintenance crews would be expensive. “It’ll cost them, and it’ll cost the taxpayer. They should put out a competitive bid and lease them.”

Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will strive to keep abreast of this topic and apprise you of its outcome.

*Prepared from “Firefighting planes have perhaps been too long on job” by Darryl Fears of The Washington Post published in The Bulletin (Bend, Oregon) on June 13, 2011, and “Airtankers” published in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) newsletter The Lookout of September 2011.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Looses Pioneering Woman Jane Westenberger**

“Jane was a pathfinder for women in the Forest Service and tried hard to help the Forest Service adjust to the new age of the 1960s and 1970s,” said OldSmokey **John Marker** of Jane Westenberger who died June 12, 2011, at age 90, just after the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

W. Jane Westenberger was born April 2, 1921, in Buhl, Idaho, and grew up and graduated from high school in Long Beach, California. She enlisted in the Woman’s Army Corps in 1942 and served in North Africa and Italy toward the end of World War II. After the war, Jane decided to become a teacher. She taught at Orange High School, became principal, and eventually got into outdoor education which eventually led her to

*Forest Service News continues on page 12*

## Feature

# Christmas 1917 at Pine Mountain Ranger Station

By Harold E. Smith

*Harold E. Smith was the first U.S. Forest Service ranger on the old Pine Mountain Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest in Central Oregon. He and his wife Angie lived in a tent house at the Pine Mountain Ranger Station at Antelope Springs, south of Pine Mountain, until 1914 when he and another ranger built a small frame house at the station.*

Of the 80 odd Christmas holidays that I have observed, perhaps the most outstanding was in 1917. The amazing part is that we got so much out of the meager resources we had to work with.

My wife, Angie, and I were wintering at the Pine Mountain Ranger Station 36 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon. Sandy, our little daughter, was fourteen months old. That was during World War I. Prices were high, salaries were low, and commodities hard to come by,

The station was located at the edge of the High Desert, at an elevation of 4,800 feet. Winter temperatures of -25 degrees were common. Average snow depth of sixteen to eighteen inches immobilized motor traffic. Yet we were by no means isolated. Three or four good saddle horses provided reliable transportation when needed. We had telephone communication, but the nearest trading center was fifteen miles away. It was also fifteen miles to the nearest neighbor. On an average of once a week, I would saddle a horse and ride to the Millican Valley store for mail and supplies. The round trip required about six hours. As I was dressed in angora chaps, wool mackinaw and other winter accessories, the cold was of no serious consequence to me.

As the holidays approached, we asked ourselves, "What do we do for Christmas?" After some consultation the answer was, "We will stay at home." That settled, Angie thought we should



*Pine Mountain Ranger Station constructed in 1914*

have a tree for Sandy. I concurred and started out in quest of an evergreen. I was rewarded by finding a perfect specimen of lodgepole pine.

When I brought in the tree and mounted it atop the filing cabinet, Angie took over. With a pair of scissors, some tin foil and an assortment of highly colored postal cards, she transformed the little evergreen into a sparkling mass of multicolored beauty. Sandy was too young to long remember the tree, but the momentary effect was gratifying to behold. Her eyes danced with wonderment as she gazed at the tree glittering in the light of the wood fire.



*Angie and Lorene (Sandy) on front porch of Pine Mountain Ranger Station*

I do not remember what we had for dinner but I am sure it was adequate, wholesome and appetizing. The cost of the whole program, as I recall, was less than two and a half dollars.

As we turned out the kerosene lamp that night, our happiness was complete. Furthermore I believe we had learned something from that experience, a lesson that others might find useful and rewarding: that mere wealth is not necessarily a prerequisite to happiness. Happiness, on the other hand, can spring from mutual love, companionship and understanding.

The sad part of the story is that it was our last Christmas together. The flu epidemic of 1918 took our loving and beloved Angie from us.

*This story first appeared in the September 1979 Timber-Lines published by the U.S. Forest Service Region 6 Thirty-Year Club—predecessor of our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association—of which Harold E. Smith was an active member until his death at 102 in 1987. It was published as an OldSmokey E-Note at Christmas 2007, and is offered again this Christmas to inspire OldSmokeys anew.*

*The rest of the story is that Harold, after Angie's death, transferred to Craig, Alaska, and took Sandy—Lorene—with him. Angie, his late wife, was Angelina Young of Bend, who gave birth to Lorene at Pine Mountain Ranger Station on October 22, 1916. Later postings in Alaska took Harold to Sitka, Juneau, and Cordova, among other places.*

*Harold was provided with ranger boats for his work, and a deal was struck whereby Lorene could often ride along with him on his work as long as she kept her grades up. Both parties evidently took the contract seriously—she graduated as class valedictorian at the age of 16. Harold's last ranger boat, Chugach, built in 1925, visited Portland in September 2005 for the Forest Service Centennial Reunion and remains in the Forest Service inventory based in Petersburg, Alaska.*

*Harold served out his Forest Service career in Alaska. At some point during his service in Alaska, he married Ella, his*

second wife, whom he also outlived.

The third of ten children of Fred and Eva Smith, Harold was born at Irma (near Carpenterville), Curry County, Oregon, in 1885, and attended school there before the family moved to Josephine County when he was 14 or 15. The family base was a homestead on Horse Creek in Briggs Valley. In addition to a little subsistence-level farming, the family was supported by hunting (five-deer limit per hunter at the time), trapping, mining, and operating a string of pack horses to supply mines in the area. Various of the children finished school at the Galice elementary school.

Harold logged in southern Oregon for some time. Having determined logging an uncertain enterprise, he applied to the U.S. Forest Service, was accepted, and was posted on the Deschutes National Forest in 1911. His service there is well documented in Forest Service lore as well as his own writings including the article "The Horse Known as Lady" published in the Spring 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter and in Timber-Lines, its predecessor, as well as other publications. For a man largely self-educated, he was a remarkable writer.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to Mr. Chet Smith, Harold E. Smith's nephew, for the July 6, 2011, information on which this "rest of the story" biographical note was based, and to Chet's cousin, Mr. Steve Petit, who provided the photographs.*

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### **Forest Service News** continued from page 10

the U.S. Forest Service in which she developed a very visible career.

Jane's first Forest Service experience was a 1954 seasonal job. In 1956, she completed the a master's degree in geography at what is now California State University at Long Beach. Her growing interest in conservation education led to a 1966 seasonal appointment at the Eldorado National Forest's new visitor center at Lake Tahoe and the 1967 beginning of a 20-year Forest Serviced career in environmental education and public communications.

After retiring from the Forest Service, Jane lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She served on the board of directors of the National Museum of Forest Service History and was a member of the Southwestern Region Amigos.

*Prepared from an e-mail from John Marker; the 2009 Pacific Southwest Region publication "The Unmarked Trail: Managing National Forests in a Turbulent Era" (R5-FR-011); an obituary posted online by the Berardinelli Family Funeral Services of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and other sources.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Confronted by Oregon Sheriffs in Jurisdiction Dispute**

The sheriffs of Josephine and Grant counties in Oregon have responded to citizen complaints of "harassment" by U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers (LEOs) in their counties by contacting local district rangers and forest supervisors. The alleged harassment involves such issues as public access to national forest lands for various purposes, LEO treatment of citizens, and road closures the sheriffs say limit their search and rescue and law enforcement capabilities.

*Forest Service News continues on page 18*

## **Changes** Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt and Data Base Manager Ken White

**Anderson, Alvin Glen "Ag"** – Deceased June 27, 2011

**Brady, Paul J.** – Deceased September 3, 2011

**Buckman, Marie Louise** – Deceased October 18, 2011; Bob survives

**Burgess, Elizabeth M. "Betty"** – Deceased July 1, 2011; Ted survives

**Burgess, Rico & Leah** – New members: 1032 NW Stannium Rd, Bend, OR 97701

Telephone: 541-389-9828

E-mail: ricoburgess@bendbroadband.com

**Esterholdt, Karen** – Change e-mail: karen1010@clear.net

**Freedman, Lisa & Jim** – New members: 1146 NW Mayfield, Portland, OR 97229

Telephone: 503-296-7921 E-mail: lewf56@gmail.com

**Fridde, Francis G. & Elda** – Change e-mail: Lazrver@gmail.com

**Herzstein, Leonard E. & Sharon Sinderb** – Change e-mail: 2002leonard@gmail.com

**Hilbruner, Michael and Roberta** – New members: 4170 SW Parkview Ave, Portland, OR 97225

Telephone: 443-326-6487 E-mail: rmhilbruner@gmail.com

**Hughes, Dallas R. & Sharon** – New e-mail: dallashughes@q.com

**Kain, Margaret "Peggy"** – New member: 15314 NE 35<sup>th</sup> Cir, Vancouver, WA 98682

Telephone: 360-600-6505 E-mail: peggykain@msn.com

**Kreger, Myrna** – Deceased October 14, 2011

**Krell, Robert K. & Patricia** – Change e-mail: pbkrell@hotmail.com

**Kuppler, Herman C.** – Deceased August 18, 2011

**Lankford, Nancy** – New member: 39564 Scenic St, Sandy, OR 97055

Telephone: 503-407-3177 E-mail: nanksl@msn.com

**McCormick, Ron & Carol** – Change address: 1242 SW Ironwood Dr, Grants Pass, OR 97526

**McLoughlin, George F. & Maureen** – Change e-mail: mgmac@thegeo.net

**Merzenich, James P. "Jim" & Karen J. Wilson** – New members: 8370 SW 74<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97223

Telephone: 503-246-4202 E-mail: Merzenich@comcast.net

**Michaels, Norm & Dawn Pozzani** – New members: 56268 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie B ridge, OR 97413

Telephone: 541-822-3528 E-mail: nmichaels2@yahoo.com

**Paulson, Neil R.** – New member: P.O. Box 36, Drummond, WI 54832

Telephone: 715-739-6745 E-mail: npaulson@cheqnet.net

**Pederson, Don & Darcey** – Change e-mail: donped@q.com

**Pomeroy, Richard M. & Olive** – Change address: 10081

SE 136<sup>th</sup> Blvd, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Change telephones: 503-653-9192 (home), 503-329-8878 (cell)

**Reeves, Richard A. & Sandra** – Change e-mail: richsandy

reeves@gmail.com

**Reifenberg, Marie Doris** – Deceased October 18, 2011; Arno survives

**Robertshaw, Norwood Franklin “Woody”** – Deceased July 22, 2011; Patricia survives

**Robinson, Betty M.** – Pacific City, Oregon

**Sabol, Emil & Dorine** – Change e-mail: edsabs01@gmail.com

**Santiago, Marty** – New member: 5435 SW 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, OR 97221

Telephone: 503-293-8088 E-mail: martysantiago@q.com

**Seiger, Thomas W. & JoAnn** – Change address: The Craig, 5500 W 9th Ave, Apt 219, Amarillo, TX 79106

Change e-mail: tomjoanns@yahoo.com

**Simes, Harold Lee “Hal”** -- Deceased September 16, 2011; Natalie survives

**Smith, DeWilton C. “De”** – Deceased June 7, 2011

**Steffans, Robert Wayne “Bob”** – Deceased August 20, 2011; Dee survives

**Swank, Gerald William “Jerry”** – Deceased June 21, 2011; Jean survives

## ***New Members*** *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new members who have joined the PNWFSA since the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Rico & Leah Burgess** of Bend, Oregon, joined as lifetime members on July 18, 2011. Rico retired from the U.S. Forest Service as a law enforcement officer (LEO) on the Deschutes National Forest on June 1, 2010, with 23 years of federal service. Those years included four in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as a combat correspondent, and—after earning an associate’s degree in forest technology at Central Oregon Community College followed by 10 years as a log scaler and logging supervisor with the Brooks-Scanlon Company in Bend—service as a Deschutes National Forest timber sale inspector before 20 years as a Forest Service LEO.

**Lisa & Jim Freedman** of Portland, Oregon, joined August 8, 2011. Lisa is Regional Forester Kent Connaughton’s Chief of Staff. Lisa, who has served as the Director of Strategic Planning (now called Resources, Planning, and Monitoring) and also in a long term detail as one of two deputy regional foresters, is adept at juggling several plates at one time. Lisa and Jim are the proud parents of two adult daughters.

**Charles Hill** of Portland, Oregon, joined recently. Charles is the Pacific Northwest Region’s Director of Acquisition Management. Charles, who also served as Region 9 Director of Acquisition Management, is an Arkansas native. Charles is a true connector of people, having made working relationships a reality with diverse groups including NISH, the Portland Habilitation Center, and H2B guest workers. The son of a minister, Charles is a lover of the blues and has traveled far and wide to hear what he describes as “good tunes.” A U.S. Army veteran, he is the proud father of one adult daughter.

**Michael & Roberta Hilbruner** of Portland, Oregon, joined as lifetime members on May 30, 2011. Mike retired from the U.S. Forest Service as in the WO after 30 years of federal service, 24

of them in the Forest Service and 11 of those years in Region 6.

**Margaret “Peggy” Kain** of Vancouver, Washington, joined on May 28, 2011. Peggy retired from the U.S. Forest Service in the Region 6 RO after 34 years of service, all of them in Region 6.

**Nancy Lankford** of Sandy, Oregon, joined recently. Nancy is Forest Silviculturist on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

**James P. Merzenich & Karen J. Wilson** of Portland, Oregon, joined October 1, 2011. James retired from the U.S. Forest Service in the Region 6 RO’s Resource Planning and Monitoring office in February, 2010, after 34 years of federal service, 31 in the Forest Service and 22 in Region 6.

**Norm Michaels & Dawn Pozzani** of McKenzie Bridge, Oregon, joined January 17, 2011.

**Neil R. & Patsy Paulson** of Drummond, Wisconsin, joined on April 2, 2011. Neil, who served on the Mt. Adams Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Coconino National Forest on December 31, 1989, after 32 years of service, 18 of those years in Region 6.

**Marty Santiago** of Portland, Oregon, joined recently.

*Editor’s Note: Complete information on new members Nancy Lankford, Norm & Dawn Pozzani, and Marty Santiago, not received by press time, will be published if and when received. Thanks to Region 6 PAO for inputs on new members Lisa & Jim Freedman and Charles Hill.*

## ***Memories*** *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

**Alvin Glen “Ag” Anderson** died June 27, 2011, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Ag was born April 25, 1922, in Sutherland, Nebraska. He spent his early years in and around North Platte, Nebraska, and in 1937 moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1942. He went to work in the U.S. Forest Service the day after he graduated from high school, spending the summer on Old Baldy Lookout as a lookout-smokechaser. He enlisted the U.S. Naval Reserve that fall, and was sent to the University of Kansas for machinist school and then to Rhode Island for motor torpedo boat (PT) school where one of his instructors was future President John F. Kennedy. Ag was assigned to Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 34, sent to England, served in PT-498 during the D-Day invasion at Normandy, and patrolled the English Channel. In the Pacific after VJ Day, he served on the prize crew aboard the Japanese battleship *Nagato* until he was released from active duty in 1946. After the war, Ag attended Oregon State College on the GI Bill and graduated from the School of Forestry in 1950. Throughout his college years he worked for the Forest Service. Ag was recalled to naval service in 1950 for the Korean War in which he served in USS *Magoffin* (APA-199) until released from active duty in 1951. Ag returned to Oregon and married his college sweetheart, Marceline May Moore, on December 29, 1951. He received a Forest Service appointment as a forester in 1952 and served on the Rogue

River, Siskiyou, and Siuslaw national forests. He fought forest fires in Oregon, Washington, and California. While stationed in Powers, Oregon, Ag designed and oversaw construction of the Powers High School football field. He received a meritorious award for timber sale actions to salvage blowdown from the October 1962 Columbus Day storm. In 1965, Ag and his family moved to Cloverdale, Oregon, where he served on the Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, until he retired from the Forest Service in 1977 after 32 years of government service. After retirement, he served as the first board chairman of the Cloverdale Water District and oversaw installation of a modern water system. His many hobbies included bowling, hunting, bird carving, and carpentry. Survivors include his sons Willard and Richard and his daughter Lisa Anderson.

**Paul J. Brady** died September 3, 2011, at age 83. He was a PNWFSA member. Paul was born July 22, 1928, in Chicago, Illinois, where he grew up. He loved the outdoors, and spent summers working for the U.S. Forest Service in the West. After starting college at the University of Illinois, Paul transferred to the University of Idaho in 1948 to study forestry. There he met Connie Teed, and they began their 55-year marriage in 1951. Paul was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952. He was sent to Washington, D.C., to teach surveying. After his Army service, Paul and Connie returned to Idaho where he completed his forestry degree. Paul joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1957 and served his 33 year Forest Service career on national forests in Oregon and at the RO in Portland. After assignments at Lake of the Woods, Klamath Falls, and Tiller, Paul served as district ranger in Mill City and later in Cottage Grove before transferring to the RO in Portland in 1977. After he retired from the Forest Service in 1990, Paul pursued his lifetime hobby of fishing. He and Connie also traveled and spent time with their family. He took on caretaking roles for his parents, aunts, and in-laws, and when Connie was diagnosed with cancer in 2004, Paul cared for her until she died in 2006. Survivors include his children Lenora Westbrock, Jean Brady, and Steve Brady, and four grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: This memorial was provided by one of Paul's daughters.*

**Marie Louise Buckman** died October 18, 2011, at age 86. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Bob Buckman. Marie Eidenschink was born March 16, 1925, in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, and grew up on a farm in Erie Township, near Detroit Lakes. Marie met Robert Buckman while both worked at a small manufacturing company in Minneapolis, and they married on December 29, 1950. The next several years brought moves related to Bob's military service, education, and career. Bob's career in the U.S. Forest Service took them to northern Virginia for six years; Beaverton, Oregon, for four years, and back to northern Virginia for 11 years. Bob retired in 1986, and they settled in Corvallis, Oregon. Marie's life revolved around her family. For more than 20 years, she volunteered as a tax preparer with the AARP Tax-Aide program. Survivors include Bob; children Mary, Bob, Pat, and John; and five grandchildren.

**Elizabeth M "Betty" Burgess** died July 1, 2011, at age 93. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Ted Burgess. Betty Morris was born December 12, 1917, in Kansas City, Missouri. She attended Iowa State College where she earned a bachelor's degree in home economics. Betty married Ted in San Francisco, California, on December 6, 1945. Ted and Betty moved to Gold Beach in 1961 where Betty worked for more than 20 years as a bookkeeper with Wilson Firestone Tires. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Gold Beach and the Curry General Hospital Auxiliary. Betty enjoyed playing bridge, dancing with Ted, taking walks, attending Elderhostels around the United States and Canada, and being with her family. Another special part of her life was Campfire Girl reunions with girlhood friends. Survivors include Ted; daughters Kathleen, Beverly, and Terry; son Alan; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: Betty's husband Ted provided this memorial.*

**Myrna Kreger** died October 14, 2011, at age 81. She was a PNWFSA member, widow of the late PNWFSA member Al Kreger, and mother of OldSmokey Dick Kreger. Myrna lived with her husband Al at U.S. Forest Service compounds at Cascadia and Blue River on the Willamette National Forest and at Dale on the Umatilla National Forest during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. While at Blue River she had the janitorial contract for the district office. After Al retired from the Forest Service in 1976, he and Myrna moved to Pendleton, Oregon, where they were partners in the Furniture Doctors refinishing business. They moved to Roseburg, Oregon, in 2005. Survivors include daughter Starla Sprague, son Dick, eight grandchildren and one great-grandson.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Nancy Kreger for submitting this memorial.*

**Herman C. Kuppler** died August 18, 2011, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. Herman was born September 4, 1924. After graduating from Roosevelt High School in Port Angeles, Washington, in 1942, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Herman married Thelma L. Lindgren on August 30, 1947, and their marriage lasted for 53 years until Thelma died in 1999. Herman graduated from the University of Washington in 1952 and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey until 1959 when he transferred to the U.S. Forest Service and settled in Portland, Oregon, with his family. Herman was an ardent supporter of the Boy Scouts and a 50-year member of the Masonic Order who served as Oregon Grand Master of Masons for 1984-1985. Survivors include sons Chris, John, George, and Robert; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Vernon Edward Oberg** died August 25, 2011, at age 78. Vernon was born January 9, 1933, in Shelburn Township, Minnesota, grew up on a farm, and graduated from high school in Walnut Grove, Minnesota, in 1951. After four years service in the U.S. Navy near Seattle, Washington, and Honolulu, Hawaii, Vernon earned a degree in forestry at the University of Minnesota and moved to Oregon to begin his U.S. Forest Service career. Among his assignments, Vernon worked on the Tiller Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest, in the 1960s. Vernon

married Patricia (Lull) Dungan of Central Point, Oregon, in 1995; she died in 1996. He married Jolene Bayne of Medford, Oregon, in 1999. Vernon enjoyed hunting and fishing, was a member of the Oregon Hunters Association and the National Rifle Association, and was a member of Lutheran churches in the Rogue Valley. Survivors include Jolene; stepchildren; and seven step grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Jerry Wojack for submitting this memorial.*

**Marie Doris Reifenberg** died October 18, 2011, at age 95. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey Arno Reifenberg. Marie was born August 23, 1916.

*Editor's Note: This is all the information available at press time.*

**Norwood Franklin "Woody" Robertshaw** died July 22, 2011, at age 77. He was a PNWFSA member. Woody was born July 18, 1934, in East Penn Township, Pennsylvania. After graduating from Pennsylvania State University, Woody joined the U.S. Forest Service and served in various assignments in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C., and finally California where he retired in 1989 as Director of Lands and Real Estate Management for Region 5 in San Francisco. Among his many career experiences, Woody staffed a Forest Service fire lookout and fought forest fires throughout the western United States. He dressed up as Smokey Bear for appearances at grade schools to educate children about the importance of fire prevention. He designed campgrounds. He generously mentored innumerable people. After retirement, Woody worked for the Trust for Public Land and then as a land and natural resources consultant. He was responsible for brokering numerous land exchanges with private parties to help preserve wildlands for public use. He served on the board of directors of the Tahoe Land Conservancy and the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust. A knowledgeable raconteur and storyteller, Woody enjoyed gardening, genealogy, history, fishing, snowshoeing, camping and traveling. He was fluent in German. Active in the Unitarian Church and in little theater, he was a member of Tau Phi Delta fraternity, the Penn State Alumni Association, the Pennsylvania German Society, the Society of American Foresters, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, and the Sons of the American Revolution. Survivors include his wife Patricia Le Van; daughters Ann, Amy Hafner, and Sue; and three grandchildren.

**Betty M. Robinson** died August 11, 2011. She was a PNWFSA member.

*Editor's Note: This is all the information available at press time.*

**Harold Lee "Hal" Simes** died September 16, 2011, at age 83. He was a PNWFSA member. Harold was born July 15, 1928, and served in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force before he earned a bachelor's degree in forest management at Oregon State College and joined the U.S. Forest Service. Harold served as timber management assistant on the Blue River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, and the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, and as district ranger on the Pow-

ers Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, and the Entiat Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. He retired from the Forest Service in 1983. Survivors include his wife Natalie, four children, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: This memorial is based on an obituary published in The Columbian on September 21, 2011, and subsequent research. Although well-remembered by many (see **Letters** section on pages 16 and 17), many details about his life and career are not available. This is what had been developed by press time.*

**DeWilton C. "De" Smith** died June 7, 2011, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. De was born November 14, 1919.

*Editor's Note: De lived in Medford, Oregon, at the time of his death. The only additional information developed is during the 1970s, De was Chief, Plans & Inventories Branch, Division of Timber Management, Eastern Region (Region 9), U.S. Forest Service.*

**Robert Wayne Steffens** died August 20, 2011, at age 68. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born April 13, 1943, in Holland, Michigan, where he grew up and graduated from Holland Christian High School in 1961. He earned a degree in forestry at Michigan State University in 1965. Bob had a fulfilling 33-year career in the U.S. Forest Service that began with summers on a fire lookout outside John Day, Oregon. During assignments in several small towns in Oregon, Bob developed expertise in budgeting and administration. Advancements brought relocations to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, and Rolla, Missouri. He retired from the Mark Twain National Forest in Rolla in December 1997. Bob enjoyed traveling and pursued a special interest in lighthouses. During retirement, he and his wife Dee visited countless lighthouses on all coasts of the United States. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, and following Michigan State football. He was a Boy Scout leader in Oregon and Colorado. A devout Christian, Bob took leadership roles in churches wherever he lived. Survivors include his wife Deidra (Dee).

**Gerald William "Jerry" Swank** died June 21, 2011, at age 78. He was a PNWFSA member. Jerry was born October 1, 1932, near Washington, D.C. He attended the University of West Virginia on a football scholarship and graduated with a B.S. degree in forestry. He was an Air Force ROTC student and, upon graduating, was commissioned a second lieutenant and rose to the rank of captain while serving in the U.S. Air Force. Jerry then joined the U.S. Forest Service from which he retired in 1990 following a 37-year career. His first assignment was on the Ochoco National Forest where he specialized in fire control. He transferred to the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest where he conducted the Green River barometer watershed program. From 1965 through mid-1977 he was the Region 6 Regional Watershed Specialist and from 1977 was Water Group Leader until he retired in 1990. Survivors include his wife Jean, three daughters, two stepdaughters, a stepson, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note: OldSmokey Dallas Hughes submitted this memorial on behalf of Jerry's wife, Jean.*

**Ward Charles Williams** died September 4, 2011, at age 85. Ward was born November 18, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, and moved with his family to Portland, Oregon, in 1930. He earned a B.S. degree in forest management with a minor in journalism at Oregon State College, then joined the U.S. Forest Service as a forester in Oregon and Alaska and snow ranger in Washington. Ward left the Forest Service for journalism and publishing, specializing in writing and editing on forestry and forest products. Survivors include his wife Catherina, two sons, three daughters, and six grandchildren.

## Letters

### *Ted Burgess remembers old friends*

Three of the people in the *Memories* section of the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* were people I really knew—Sparky Reeves, Roy Sines, and Marylou Wood.

In 1950 I spent the first six or seven months after graduating [from] Washington State University on the Entiat Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest. Roy was the FCO there. The TSO Bart Macaninch and I spent some time with Roy encouraging him to go to college which he did later.

I had great experiences with Sparky, Marylou, and Don Wood in my 21 years as a ranger on the Siskiyou National Forest, too.

### *Wendall Jones remembers Alvin “Ag” Anderson*

Ag was the personification of the old “get out the cut” ranger district timber management assistant. He was tough as a nut, but all who worked with him loved him. Dependability was his guiding light. When not getting out the timber sales, Ag enjoyed bowling with his fellow district employees. He spent a great part of his career on the Siskiyou National Forest, but came to the Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, in 1967 and retired there.

Ag spent a stretch in the Navy during World War II as a member of a PT boat crew. One of his instructors was a young naval officer by the name of John F. Kennedy. Ag was part of the D-Day operation where many PT boats were used as rescue craft for air and sea casualties. After the allies took over in France, Ag’s boat worked out of LeHavre. Later he went to the Pacific to serve in a ship that carried landing craft to near their destination then deployed them for the run to the beach.

Ag graduated from Oregon State College School of Forestry before becoming a career U.S. Forest Service forester.

### *Phil Hirl remembers Herman Kuppler*

I really enjoyed working with Herman in our mapping program. Always a positive guy.

### *Bob Blakey remembers Betty Robertson*

I knew Betty for only a few short years, but during that time I got to know her as a knowledgeable, dedicated, and hardworking employee who was a joy to work with. I could always rely on her for a good answer and a good perspective from either a forest or a fire perspective. She is one of the people who made the outfit both respected and a great place to work.

### *Allen Gibbs remembers Harold Simes*

Harold was district ranger at Entiat Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, in the late 1970s after Bob Benson moved to the SO. Harold and his spaniels, if I have the general breed correct. He among others encouraged me to look for a public affairs job.

Harold was a nice guy, and pleasant to employees and residents, and especially so when some permittees pushed back on grazing and property line issues. Difficult for them to be uncivil when Harold was listening respectfully and with a bit of smile when appropriate. I remember once when a couple notorious for landline issues stormed into the ranger station and made a bee-line without stopping into his office. Took a while for the visitors’ voices to not be heard throughout the building, and then a little bit of laughter and then more from the visitors and from Harold.

There were some special moments when employee needs required a beneficial “side rail” trip around some regs, and Harold was in those employees’ corners.

### *Kent Mays remembers Harold Simes*

Harold Simes was a terrific guy. He and I were classmates at Oregon State. He was TMA at Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, when I arrived in 1967. We enjoyed renewing old memories and then one day he said let’s go to a football game. That was the infamous Oregon State-UCLA conflict when O.J. Simpson played for USC. Every time Simpson had the ball everyone in the stadium jumped to their feet. It rained the entire game and Oregon State won three to zero. It was a fun time.

If my memory serves me correctly, Harold left the Waldport District for a district ranger job on the Siskiyou National Forest. He was a first class professional forester and a quiet but excellent leader.

### *Steve Mealey remembers Harold Simes*

I’d been down on the Rogue after “half-pounders” and missed the information about Harold’s passing. I came back home (here on the McKenzie near Leaburg) through Powers, Harold’s old district, and thought of Harold and Natalie. He was TMA on the Blue River Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest when Dad [the late Bob Mealey] was ranger and Zeck [Richard Zechentmayer] was a timber staff there, too. I was a student at U of O then but always hunted elk with Dad and Harold on the weekends.

Dad and Harold killed two bulls on the Augusta Creek side of Chucksney in fall of 1963 and Harold and I with one horse (Bingo, Dad’s big paint horse) packed them off the mountain in the dark in three trips. We finished the last run after midnight. Harold was great company and always in good spirit. I’ve had many similar adventures over the years but that one stands out because Harold was such a great partner and the meat was tough. Dad wasn’t along on the meat packing part because he had sprained his ankle stepping off the Box Canyon Guard Station porch.

### *John Poppino remembers Harold Simes*

Hal and I were classmates at Oregon State. Our paths crossed infrequently in our Forest Service careers. I remember that Hal



always had a smile and a good word.

**Richard Zechentmayer remembers Harold Simes**

Harold and I were classmates at Oregon State College. Later we worked together at Blue River Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest. He was really a good leader of a pack of GS-7s in fulfilling our mission of getting the “cut out.” It was a fun time to be a forester in the Forest Service. I remember meeting Harold later, after he transferred to Powers Ranger District on the Siskiyou National Forest. He said he was really surprised when friends found him at the end of the road.

**Dallas Hughes remembers Jerry Swank**

I met Jerry Swank in 1967, soon after I became the Umpqua National forest’s first hydrologist. Since 1965, Jerry was technical leader of Region 6’s fledgling hydrology program. National forests started hiring hydrologists to add expertise to their planning, design, execution, and monitoring of management activities. Jerry assisted national forests directly and also provided for or arranged training of hydrologists and others.

In 1977, Jerry was promoted to Region 6 Water Group Leader and I filled in behind him as Regional Hydrologist. We worked closely for over twelve years. Jerry was a pleasure to work for. I was very fortunate to have a supervisor who became my best friend.

Jerry and I and our wives Jean and Sharon did many activities together. Some of these were wine making, going to restaurants, steelhead fishing, and attending college football games. For a number of years the Swanks hosted Super Bowl parties which we happily attended.

Sharon and I greatly miss Jerry. He was one of the good guys.

**Bob McQuown went to college with Jerry Swank**

Jerry and his brother, Wayne, were both roommates of mine at West Virginia University, and I knew Jerry for over 58 years.

**Diana & Art Carroll support PNWFSA Emergency Relief Fund**

We were impressed with John Marker’s *Forum* article in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* about the OldSmokeys Emergency Relief Fund.

We concur most all said by John...and want to add our support to this Emergency Relief Fund to be used as needed.

*Editor’s Note: Diana & Art enclosed a generous donation.*

**Doug Porter comments on “Happy Birthday, Princess**

*Winema” feature in Summer 2011 OldSmokeys Newsletter*  
I read the “Happy birthday, Princess Winema” article in the summer edition of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* by Dan Abraham with great interest. Those are all names of staff that I remember when I went to work on the Chemult Ranger District in August of that same year, 1961. Yup, I chased fire with Dan Abraham and reviewed campgrounds, plowed snow with grader operator Doug Shaw (usually District Ranger) and rubbed elbows at the Halloween party, reviewed new road locations with Kjell Bakke and new building locations, and looked at right-of-way timber with Norm Gould. Brought back a lot of very good memories of some of the best years I had in the Forest Service. Great folks, great experience, great work, great time.

Doug was the ranger when I arrived and Jim Torrence was the ranger when I left in 1965 for the Mt. Hood National Forest, and I have some pretty good pictures to back it up. Just two of the very good people I worked with/for over the years and, as I look back, also lucky to get as start like that.

I sent several e-mail to the Fremont-Winema National Forest this spring asking if they were planning any event celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> as they did for the 25<sup>th</sup>. Sad to say I have yet [as of July 8] to receive any response.

I left a lot of footprints on the Winema National Forest, and remember having to wear the dress uniform in the office, with tie, in the winter while drafting road plans by hand, in ink, for SO review and approval. Times have changed.

**Dave Scott comments on “Rainbow Valley”**

Good to see the write-up of [the Forest Service film] “Rainbow Valley” [in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*]. Most of it was filmed on the Stanislaus National Forest. The lead was played by Vaughn Hofelt who was either district ranger or forest staff there. Vaughn took a lot of kidding for a number of years about his role.

He went on to serve in recreation in the R-5 RO, in the WO in recreation, and finally as forest supervisor of the Chattahoochee National Forest. He was retired for many years in Redding, California, then moved to Florida to be with his daughters. He was accompanied by his wife Kay for all these moves. I think I have the story right, but have a hard time remembering many things.

**Shari Blakey compliments the OldSmokeys Newsletter**

I read the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* “cover to cover” each issue. After particularly enjoying several articles in the recent edition, I thought it was high time I told you how much I appreciate the outstanding quality of the newsletter overall and many of the articles you write in particular. The excellence is not exclusive to the recent edition, but I did very much enjoy your vintage movie reviews and have enjoyed your book reviews as well. I also think [the] *Uncle Sam’s Cabins* articles [are] great reading.

You are an outstanding editor! Thank you!

**Bill Ciesla comments on “Satsop Guard Station, 1957”**

You did a great job with my *My First Forest Service Job* piece that appeared in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Many thanks for taking this on. I’m sure there are many others out there who have similar stories to tell.

Currently I am in the process of conducting aerial forest health surveys over portions of Colorado. I have a contract with the Colorado State Forest Service to fly portions of the state. The aircraft we use are either owned or contracted for by USFS. Anyway, I’m still part of the system, again have a summer job and I’m still having fun.

**Letters** is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. Some letters are sent directly to the editor or forwarded by the secretary. Others are reprinted from *OldSmokeys eNotes* and *OldSmokeys eForum*. You may send your letters direct to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or by e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>.

### *Forest Service News* continued from page 12

Some see these unfortunate rifts exacerbated by the “stove piping” of Forest Service law enforcement under WO rather than regional-level or forest-level leadership. According to Sheriff Gil Gilbertson of Josephine County, his attempt to contact the Wild Rivers Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest regarding citizens’ concerns was met with a claim that the district ranger “couldn’t, wouldn’t discuss anything about complaints with him, but he could file an FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request and they’d get back to him,” according to a July 2, 2011, NewsWithViews.com article by Sarah Foster.

In a May 5, 2011, letter to the district ranger, Sheriff Gilbertson wrote he “was somewhat taken aback by your legal department’s position advising you to not discuss issues with me,” and added he was “aghast” at the refusal to provide information without a FOIA “to find out what your agency is doing in regards to the citizens of this county.”

Sheriff Glenn Palmer of Grant County on March 31, 2011, sent what Foster characterized as a “similar letter” to Forest Supervisor Teresa Raff of the Malheur National Forest. “Within the confines of Grant County, Oregon, the duties and responsibilities of law enforcement will rest with the County Sheriff and his designees,” he wrote. He questioned the Forest Service’s authority to engage in law enforcement in Grant County, asserting “the presence of USFS ‘Law Enforcement’ violates Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.”

*Prepared from “Oregon Sheriff Stands Up Against the U.S. Forest Service” by Sarah Foster posted on July 2, 2011, in NewsWithViews.com.*

*Editor’s Note: Such situations threaten the traditionally amicable and mutually beneficial cooperation that has long characterized federal-local relationships in many parts of the country, and your OldSmokeys Newsletter will endeavor to follow and report on these and other such cases and on efforts to maintain and improve such federal-local relationships.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Added 6,695 Acres to Wallowa-Whitman National Forest by Nature Conservancy Transfer**

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in northeastern Oregon started a three-year trek to becoming 6,695 acres larger this year thanks to Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars that enabled the U.S. Forest Service to purchase a tract along the Imnaha River in Wallowa County from the Nature Conservancy, the *Wallowa County Chieftain* reported in June 26, 2011.

The land is primarily in the Imnaha River canyon, but some falls within the Wallowa Valley Ranger District. Purchased from Gazelle Land and Timber Company in 2008 for addition to the national forest, the transfer is taking place over a three year period as Congress makes funds available.

“The beauty of the partnership with the Nature Conservancy is that it allows us the time to go through the process (for congressional appropriations) to purchase the land,” the *Chieftain* quoted District Ranger Mary DeAguiro.

*Prepared from “NC transfers Imnaha lands to USFS” by Brian Addison in the June 16, 2011, issue of The Wallowa Chieftain.*

## **Books**

### **Philip Connors’ *Fire Season* Provides Poignant Perspective on U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Policy and Other Predicaments**

*By Les Joslin*

Within four days of reading Bettina Boxall’s review of Philip Connors’ *Fire Season: Field Notes From a Wilderness Lookout* I had purchased the book at Powell’s PDX, read it on the plane trip from Portland to Memphis, thought about it long and hard, and penned this review. Boxall, of the *Los Angeles Times*, summed up Connors’ work as “a quietly moving love letter to a singular place.” I see that—and more: much to be appreciated, some that is disturbing. Of the latter, some is intentional, and I think some not.

After eight seasons on Apache Peak Lookout\* on the edge of the Gila Wilderness in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico, mid-westerner Connors, who early this century wrote and edited copy for the *Wall Street Journal*, turned his writing talents toward sharing those seasons in *Fire Season* published earlier this year by HarperCollins.

The result is what dust jacket praise calls “a wonderful book” that is a “remarkable account” that makes for “profoundly absorbing, restorative reading” both in what Connors says and how he says it. Connors’ recounting, focused on the last of his eight Apache Peak seasons, is especially praiseworthy for his cogent summaries of U.S. Forest Service history, the Forest Service’s experience with fire, the wilderness movement within the Forest Service, and the Forest Service’s apparent continuing transition from “Pinchotism” to “Leopoldism” in its administration of the National Forest System that hasn’t gone unnoticed by others. And, although I haven’t been a lookout, I think it’s depiction of lookout life spot on.

As brilliant as his book is, Connors is no Hank Winton (the fictitious young 1940s fire lookout protagonist in Monty Atwater’s 1947 kid’s book remembered in the *Books* section of the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*). Perhaps too much under the influence of famous forerunners Edward Abbey and Jack Kerouac and the like to whom he pays homage, Connors comes across as cynical as Hank was idealistic.

Six decades after Hank won his first Forest Service place on Sliderock Lookout, toward which he trekked constantly making sure the “tiny shield with a pine tree stamped on its face” he’d been issued had not come unfastened from his pocket flap, Connors shows no such regard for what he twice refers to as the “United States Forest Circus”—a reference that’s disgusted me since I first heard it during a 1979 visit to my old eastern Sierra stomping grounds, and never mentions a badge. His admitted lack of interest in representing the Forest Service to the few members of the public hardy enough to visit his remote outpost reinforces this sense of change not for the better. In my mind, every lookout—perhaps the only representative of the Forest

Service a visitor may encounter—should “fly the flag” for the Outfit, not just from the flagpole but in the way he or she speaks and looks, to give it a much-needed credibility boost with a public now all-too-ready to expect something less.

Connors falls somewhere between the enthusiastic Hank and the disinterested Ben, the recent high school graduate hired as Apache Peak relief lookout who packs it in after his first four-day relief tour because he couldn't hack being away from town and out of cell phone range of his girlfriend for even a few days. “I know I've seen him for the last time,” Connors says as he watches Ben lumber off. “Unless my superiors find another relief lookout in a hurry—unlikely given the prerogatives of government paperwork [an apparent oblique reference to either the outsourced AVUE hiring process or the Albuquerque human resources train wreck, or both]—more extended tours and overtime await me.”

Connors needed a better editor to protect him from a couple grammatical errors involving lack of subject-verb agreement in number, and from references to the “high Sierras” instead of the “High Sierra” on page 135 and to “Forest Service lands” rather than “national forest lands” on pages 136 and 154. I know: picky, picky, picky.

And, perhaps it's just my problem. I'm not as sanguine as Connors seems with dogs chasing wilderness critters.

Despite my reservations, Connors' *Fire Season* will remain the definitive book on fire lookouts until OldSmokey **Roger Miller** might share his forty fire seasons as the eyes and ears of the Deschutes National Forest on Round Mountain Lookout. For all it does right, Connors' book should be read.

*Fire Season*, published by HarperCollins Publisher, lists for \$24.95 and is available at booksellers nationwide. Look for a deal. I got my copy at 30% off that price at Powell's Books at Portland International Airport; other booksellers offer discounts, too.

*\*Don't try to find Apache Peak on the map. Connors “changed the name of the mountain to at least attempt to confuse the curious,” he's quoted by Steven Kurutz in what I found a superficial New York Times News Service review of the book published in The Bulletin (Bend, Oregon) on Sunday, June 5, 2011, in an effort to preserve his personal solitude.*

### **Good Books Make Great Gifts!**

## **Give the Gift of U.S. Forest Service Heritage to Friends and Family this Year**

Both current and vintage books that tell the story of the Outfit in which you served can help friends and family understand your pride in being an OldSmokey as they enjoy some fascinating aspect of the Forest Service's history and tradition.

Many of the books listed below have been reviewed in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* within the last year or two. Some are even written by your fellow OldSmokeys, and your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association even had a hand in publishing one of them. So, when wondering what to give one or more special someone this year, consider some of these titles!

***The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History*** is exactly what its title says it is—the story of the Outfit in which you served and of the Pacific Northwest Region in which most OldSmokeys served substantial parts or even all of their Forest Service careers. In other words, it's *your story!*

What's more, it's your story told in a book by OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** which was jointly sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service and your own Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

Published in 2009 by Oregon State University Press, it can be ordered from The University of Arizona Press (which distributes OSU Press books) for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping for the first copy and \$2.00 for each Additional copy inside the U.S. To order by telephone, call 1-800-426-3797. Phone orders must be prepaid using a credit card. To order by mail, send order with a check for the total amount due payable to “University of Arizona Press” to The University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719. Or use the order form on the OldSmokeys website if you wish.

***Corks & Suspenders: Memoir of an Early Forester*** is Bill Hagenstein's story published in 2010 when the man many call “America's greatest living forester” was 95 years old. Order for \$18.95 per copy plus shipping and handling (\$4.50 for one copy, \$8.30 for two copies, \$12.00 for three to 12 copies ) by contacting Kristi at 541-345-2301 or P.O. Box 989, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

***James G. Cayton: Pioneer Forest Ranger*** is David W. Cayton's beautifully written and illustrated 230-page 2009 tribute to his grand-uncle who served in the Forest Service from the day it was born. Order online from the Cayton Ranger Station Foundation at <[www.caytonrangerstation.org](http://www.caytonrangerstation.org)> for \$64.95 plus \$7.50 postage and handling.

***Walt Perry: an Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon***, the story of Perry's life in the Forest Service published in 1998, sixty years after he wrote it, is both a fascinating adventure and an inspirational journey with a rough and ready gentleman of intelligence and integrity. Order from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708, for \$20.00.

***Ranger Trails*** is a 2008 reprint, with prologue and epilogue, of John Riis' 1937 book about the 1907-1913 Forest Service sojourn that took him to national forests in Utah and California before he finished up on the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon. Order from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708, for \$15.00.

***Plain Green Wrapper: A Forester's Story*** is OldSmokey **Ron McCormack's** memoir of his U.S. Forest Service career. Reviewed in the Fall 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, it is available for \$19.95 at <<http://www.lulu.com/content/5566327>>.

***Conflict in Our National Forests: The War Between Science and Politics*** is OldSmokey **Bob Schramek's** insightful analysis of how politics has trumped science to dominate the U.S. Forest Service policy process. Reviewed in the Summer 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, it is available for \$19.99 in paperback or \$29.99 in hardback online from Xlibris Bookstore.



The historic Glide Ranger Station office building was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938.

*U.S. Forest Service photograph*



The Forest Service, in cooperation with the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce, reopened historic Glide Ranger Station as the Colliding Rivers Information Center.

*Photograph by Les Joslin*

## Uncle Sam’s Cabins

### Glide Ranger Station

Umpqua National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

The historic Glide Ranger Station office, built by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees from the Wolf Creek CCC Camp in 1938, has served as a ranger station for Umpqua National Forest ranger districts headquartered at Glide, Oregon, as a residence, and eventually as an information center in the “front yard” of the newer headquarters of the North Umpqua Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest.

The T-shaped, one-story-with-basement, wood frame structure with a poured concrete foundation and medium-gabled, wood-shingled roof, was sturdily constructed of native stone and timber with simple ornamentation in the Pacific Northwest Region’s Cascadian Rustic style. Special features were hardwood floors, handmade sugar pine doors, and a one-of-a-kind sugar pine desk across which the district ranger and his assistant faced each other. The basement was used primarily to store supplies and wood to feed the furnace until converted to office space.

The exterior of the building has not changed. The interior has been altered over time to adjust to different uses. The stone and rail fence is a replica of the original.

“When I became ranger in 1957 there were about 14 full-time employees on the district,” the late OldSmokey **John C. “Jack” Price** recalled in 1998. Jack was ranger of what from 1953 to 1964 was the Little River Ranger District that became the Glide Ranger District in 1964 and was combined with the Steamboat Ranger District in 1984 to form the current North Umpqua Ranger District. There was a work camp at Little River from which a large crew of seasonal workers did timber management, road location and survey, and fire suppression jobs.

“Our little office was quite crowded in the winter time. The

wood furnace was converted to oil so there was no need to store wood” in the basement. “All space was utilized to work up the cruise data, mapping, road design, appraisals, lots of reports and plans. ... When the sun started to shine in the spring, we put black paper over the basement windows so road designers and appraisal writers wouldn’t get antsy about getting out in the field again.” OldSmokey **Dick Connelly** remembers working in the basement.

“In 1963 the old Glide Ranger Station office was converted into a residence since a new office had been constructed,” Jack wrote. “The ranger and his assistant were required to live in government housing at the ranger station until about 1969.”

“In 1988, Ranger Ned Davis [of what by then had become the North Umpqua Ranger District] started efforts to establish a visitor information center at [Glide]. He succeeded in getting the residence converted back to its old condition in 1990. In 1992, the Forest Service in partnership with the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce officially opened the old ranger station office as ‘Colliding Rivers Visitor Center’” to provide information to visitors and tell something of the history of the Umpqua National Forest.

*Editor’s Note: Historic Glide Ranger Station is located along Oregon Highway 138 in the town of Glide adjacent to the confluence of the North Umpqua River and the Little River at a place called “Colliding Rivers” at the behest of the RO in Portland.*

*Much of this article is based on information provided in a January 11, 1998, hand-written eight-page letter from the late OldSmokey **John C. “Jack” Price**, district ranger at Glide from 1957 to 1972, written “after many distractions, much procrastination, and laziness” to “try to give [me] some information on the old Glide Ranger Station as I knew it.” Jack had read my 1995 book Uncle Sam’s Cabins: A Visitor’s Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West in which Glide Ranger Station did not appear and thought I should know something about it. It will appear in the revised edition currently being readied for publication.*

## The Way We Were

### U.S. Forest Service Family Life at Union Creek Ranger Station in the 1950s and 1960s

Most OldSmokeys began their U.S. Forest Service careers at remote ranger stations. Many served as district rangers headquartered at such stations. Comments from three afford a quick glimpse at Union Creek Ranger Station life on the then-Rogue River National Forest half a century and more ago.

**Doug Shaw**, a junior forester just out of the University of Minnesota, and **Bess** began their 30-year Forest Service adventure at Union Creek Ranger Station in July 1953. Their daughter Sandi was born in Medford on September 3, 1953.

**Zane Smith** and **Betty** “were assigned to Union Creek fresh out of the University of Montana in June 1955. We lived in the west end apartment above the warehouse.” Zane, a third-generation Forest Service forester, certainly was used to ranger station life.

**Emil Sabol** and **Dorine** arrived at Union Creek Ranger Station in September 1962 where Michigan State University forester Emil served four years as district ranger. “The Sabols and their three children, including one born while they were living in Union Creek, initially rented an alpine cottage built by the Civilian Conservation Corps back in the 1930s,” Paul Fattig reported in the Medford, Oregon, *Mail Tribune* on September 7, 2006. Emil, who served in the CCC before becoming a U.S. Army Air Corps B-17 pilot in World War II, certainly felt at home in that CCC-built house.

“Emil was district ranger during the 1962 Columbus Day wind storm, which blew over some 80 million board feet of timber on the district,” Fattig wrote. “Their youngest daughter, Patty, was due to be born in mid-October. ‘With that storm, all hell broke loose,’ [Emil] said. ‘The highway was plugged with trees. But we finally got some crews going and they opened the road. We got in that car and headed out.’

“They made it to a Medford hospital just before Patty was born on Oct. 15. The Sabols were fortunate: One Forest Service couple had their baby in their car before they reached Shady Cove.”

That’s just another part of the way we were.

*Junior Forester Doug, Bess, and Sandi Shaw at Union Creek Ranger Station in December 1953.*

*Prepared from e-mails from Doug Shaw and Zane Smith and the article “Trees of heaven” by Paul Fattig in the September 7, 2006, Medford, Oregon Mail Tribune. Photograph courtesy of Doug Shaw.*



## My First Forest Service Job

### The Beginning of the End: the Unraveling of the Winter Rim (Part 1)

*Story and photographs by Jon Stewart*

Today, those driving Oregon Highway 31 between Silver Lake and Paisley see the volcanic cliffs of the Winter Rim rising 2,700 feet above Summer Lake underlain by a bleak landscape of talus, grass, and brush dotted by the tombstone-like snags of a forgotten forest. I haven’t forgotten that forest. In 1966, the first year I worked as a forest guard for the U.S. Forest Service, stately ponderosa pines shrouded the cliffs below “the Rim” in a cool green that clearly differentiated the Fremont National Forest from the dry lands to the east.



*Jon Stewart at Currier Guard Station in the summer of 1966.*

I helped lose the first battle to hold that corner of the Fremont National Forest together, and have watched it unravel ever since.

#### **A remote town**

My first season in the Forest Service was spent atop the Rim in the heart of the Fremont. During my freshman year at Southern Oregon College, I learned that, if I carefully managed my bank account, three summer months of Forest Service pay could cover nine months of college. I also learned the secrets to getting such a job: type my application, apply by mid-December, and apply to as remote a ranger district as possible.

Paisley was the perfect choice. Few of my classmates had heard of, let alone visited, what now proudly calls itself the “mosquito capital of Oregon.” With a dearth of young women, few young male college students would want to work there.

When I arrived in June 1966, Paisley was a dusty mill town of 350 cowboys, loggers, mill hands, and Indians. Our small cadre of college-boy forest guards soon learned to avoid local get-togethers. The Forest Service, after a half century controlling summer grazing and timber harvests, had recently accepted transfer of nearby Klamath Indian Reservation lands to national forest administration. After smiling at an attractive Native American girl at a Grange dance, a black eye proved I was definitely an outsider and fair game for local toughs.

#### **A remote station**

After a week at fire guard school, a guard station deep in the forest seemed like a safe haven. I was assigned to work with Leon Efford. He was a year older and, with a girlfriend in Lakeview and a car in which to visit her, many years wiser than I.



*Currier Guard Station, Fremont National Forest, in 1966.*

We had the Currier patrol area, 35 dusty miles from town. Its heart was Currier Guard Station, a two-room gray clapboard cabin in a stand of shady ponderosa pines near a small spring. A verdant, five-acre, fenced horse pasture hinted of previous forest guards who had protected the high forested plateau.

Beside the cabin and outhouse, a garage held our new bucking bronco: a brand new, Forest Service green, four-wheel-drive, Dodge Powerwagon. That rig packed a 200-gallon water tank, a gasoline-powered pump, a hose reel, and an extra couple hundred feet of cotton hose. Getting seven miles to the gallon, we worked hard to drain the Texas oilfields as we patrolled a hundred square miles of prime timberland. Every night we drove 20 miles to Skull Creek Work Center where the beef we'd bought for the summer and our gas supply was stashed. Skull Creek was home base for another patrol team, so the four of us fried up T-bone steaks and listened to the Beach Boys to the throb of the work center's generator. Around midnight Leon and I drove home to the sound of coyotes moaning to the moon.

Pine was the muscled right hand of the local economy. A patchwork of private Weyerhaeuser and national forest timberlands sloped gently westward from the Winter Rim toward Klamath Lake. Weyerhaeuser's management goals were beginning to change, much to the dismay of the local timber community. Within a decade the bulk of their once well-managed lands had been cut in huge square-mile blocks to fill corporate coffers, and their Klamath Falls mills were gone.

The strong left arm of the local economy was cattle—centered in the summer around Sycan Marsh where rich national forest grazing lands bordering the Sycan River sprawled into fields owned by the ZX Ranch, at the time Oregon's largest. The marsh bordered our patrol area on the west while the alkaline flats of Summer Lake marked our eastern boundary.

Our first job was to open the roads and trails that provided access on our high forest plateau. Leon drove the Powerwagon and I operated our temperamental McCulloch chainsaw. We made a good team, and every night we carefully used a bright red pencil to color in the maze of roads cleared until our fireman's map looked like a huge bloodshot eye. Then we repaired fences and added crinkly blue lines to our map. That rough

country rapidly aged our new Powerwagon. Mainsprings broke, a differential disintegrated, and clutches self-destructed. A half dozen times in the first month we had to call a tow truck. By the middle of July, when the roads were cleared, we were relegated to a battered Willys jeep pickup with a 55-gallon water drum strapped to its bed. Our ¾-ton battleship had been replaced by a ½-ton PT boat.

### ***A wildfire***

We were hosing out fly-besotted outhouses in campsites along the Sycan River when we got our first fire call. Every patrol rig on the forest was being sent toward Thompson Reservoir where an enormous cloud of white smoke was ballooning into the clear afternoon sky. Our Willys jeep whined like a buzz saw as Leon pressed the pedal to the floor. A B-17 air tanker from Lakeview roared overhead and dropped scarlet retardant. As we closed on the smoke, a DC-3 filled the sky with bright orange parachutes.

We roared into a sagebrush meadow filled with half a dozen patrol rigs and a lowboy unloading a cat. We could hear the roar of flames and see a red orange glow between the golden trunks of towering pines. Ordered to park our jeep and grab our fire shovels, we formed up into a 20-man crew behind the cat. Our job was to burn out the line with fuzees while stopping embers from jumping the cat line along the flanks of the fire.

A half hour later the fire blew up around us. Leon and I scrambled atop the cat, and sat beside the cat skinner as he backed out through a thicket of flaming pine. I gave him my leather gloves when his steering clutch handles got too hot to handle. We roared back into the meadow and jumped from the cat. The cat skinner madly loaded his cat back on his lowboy.

A dozen Forest Service firefighters gathered in confusion as the lowboy pulled out. The smokejumper squad leader took charge of this mix of smokejumpers, district fire patrolmen, and timber cruisers. He said we'd hold the fire at a road that paralleled the fire. He told us to each grab a shovel and jump in the back of a pickup. As we drove down the road, one of us jumped out every hundred feet or so to put out any spot fires that jumped the road. Two patrol rigs with water tanks would help.

I stepped out into a thick carpet of pine needles. After the initial excitement on the cat line, it was strangely quiet. I took a swig of water from my canteen and leaned back against a pine. I admired the golden smoke column now providing welcome shade. A huge cumulus cloud was forming atop it. The cloud glowed like an orange fireball in the late afternoon sun.

It didn't take long for that thunderhead to work its terrifying magic. The wind suddenly freshened and with it came a roar like a fiery freight train. Embers spiraled out of the sky. I ran from ember to ember, batting the burning pine needles with my shovel and covering fresh spot fires with dirt. A cannon blast exploded across the road behind me as a towering pine erupted into a pyre of flame. A burning rabbit bounded across the road. I chased it down, putting out half a dozen spot fires in its tracks until, with a shrill scream, it expired fifty feet from the road. A golden glow spread across the forest floor. I looked up as, with a whoosh, the forest canopy between me and the next firefighter exploded into flame.

### *A wild ride*

A horn honked in the distance, and I saw a green pickup roaring down the road through the tunnel of flame. Its bed was filled with firefighters shouting at me. I sprinted to the road and they hauled me in over the tailgate. We brushed burning embers from each other's backs as we picked up the last of our firefighters. We roared into the meadow where our rigs were parked.

"Grab a rig and let's get the hell outta here!" the squad leader yelled, then roared away in a cloud of dust. There were seven of us and seven rigs including the Willys jeep. I looked for Leon. He jumped into a one-ton stake side and yelled to me to "Grab our jeep!" as he lumbered away. I ran over to our jeep and jumped in.

I sat there for a moment looking blankly at the instrument panel. There was a problem. I did not know how to drive. Other than a short stint as a kid sitting on my grandfather's knee atop his farm tractor, I had never driven a vehicle.

The forest behind us was a wall of flame, and the fire was rapidly encircling the meadow and cutting off our escape route. Two pickups swung around my jeep and disappeared into a tunnel of dust. It took me a couple tries to realize I needed to push in the clutch and get the jeep out of gear to start the engine. I shifted into first and let out the clutch. The jeep jumped ahead and the engine died. It took half a dozen tries to get the jeep moving down the road—in first gear. I pushed the accelerator to the floor. The engine screamed and the jeep moved down the narrow track at a fast walk. I didn't dare try shifting into second.

Three rigs crowded in behind me. One bumped through the meadow, bouncing past me in a cloud of dust. The driver leaned out the window and screamed at me: "Get moving or get out of the way!" I tried to shift into second gear, let the clutch out too fast, and the engine died. Sweating, I got the jeep going again—in first gear. Two rigs were still tailgating me. We entered the forest. The road was narrow. The two rigs were honking wildly. Thick smoke and ash swirled around us.

It seemed an eternity that I crawled through that smoke-choked forest—in first gear. I wrapped a handkerchief around my mouth and nose. The jeep's engine screamed like a banshee. Two enormous hunchbacks appeared in the middle of the road ahead of me, waving wildly as I crawled up to them. They were two smokejumpers. Walking beside my screaming rig, they blessed my arrival with wide smiles. They tossed their towering elephant bags into the pickup bed. I did not let up on the throttle. With the engine still screaming, I plowed steadily ahead. They scrambled into the cab.

"Thank God you came along! We got caught in the smoke column and blown to hell and gone!" said the first. They sat there in silence for a moment as I leaned over the steering wheel, my jaw clenched, staring intently at the road ahead. The engine continued to scream as we moved ahead at a crawl.

"Hey, what gives? We're all loaded up. Let's get going!" the second smokejumper said. He stared at the tachometer. The needle trembled like a fire singed moth well into the red.

"Something's wrong with the gears. I can't shift out of first,"

I grunted in reply, hunching down over the steering wheel and pressing firmly on the accelerator like a NASCAR finalist. Horns blared behind us.

The two smokejumpers looked at each other. "Here, let me try! Jump in the back and let me drive!"

I gladly relinquished my seat, opened the door, crawled onto the jeep's running board, and let go of the steering wheel while slipping my foot slowly off the gas. The engine died down, but the jeep crawled steadily onward, bouncing down the road like a reluctant self-guided tortoise. The smokejumper scrambled into the driver's seat. It tumbled into the bed of the jeep as he quickly shifted from first gear into second, then into third and in an instant we were hurtling down that damned skid trail in fourth gear. We roared out of the smoke and flames in a cloud of dust.

Over the course of the summer, thanks to Uncle Sam's dusty fire roads and that old Willys jeep pickup, I learned to drive. But that first driving lesson on the Thompson Lake Fire was one to remember.

*Part 2 of Jon Stewart's "The Beginning of the End" will appear in the Winter 2012 OldSmokeys Newsletter.*

### *And this just in from the peripatetic Jon...*

Readers who've followed this issue's *My First Forest Service Job* contributor OldSmokey **Jon Stewart** on his Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide Trail treks in these pages and his recent book won't be surprised at his latest ramble.

Just as I was finishing up this issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* I got an October 29 e-mail from Jon sent from Boston, Massachusetts, welcoming me home from the six-week trip abroad that delayed production of this issue by a month and telling me he'd just "finished the Long Trail after 27 days of wet, rainy weather."

Vermont's 273-mile Long Trail follows the main ridge of the Green Mountains from the Canadian Border in the north to the Massachusetts state line in the south. Built by the Green Mountain Club between 1910 and 1930, the Long Trail is the oldest long-distance trail in the U.S. It inspired the Appalachian Trail which coincides with it for 100 miles in the southern third of the state.

"After the Long Trail, I feel very proud of the well-engineered trails of the West," Jon wrote. "Most of the Long Trail is barely more than an eroded moose path through the woods. I would never recommend it to anyone!"

Jon does, of course, recommend the Pacific Crest Trail—and does so emphatically in his 2010 book *Pilgrimage to the Edge: The Pacific Crest Trail and the U.S. Forest Service*, reviewed in the Winter 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and a title in addition to those listed in this issue's *Books* section you might want to add to your gift list...for giving or receiving.

*Pilgrimage to the Edge* is available in hardcover (ISBN 978-1-4535-9999-0) for \$34.95; soft cover (ISBN 978-1-4535-9998-3) for \$23.99; or E-book (ISBN 978-4568-000-00) for \$9.99; from Xlibris corporation toll-free at 1-888-795-4274 or online at <www.Xlibris.com> or by e-mail at <Orders@Xlibris.com>.

— *Les Joslin*



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