



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees – Spring 2013

President's Message—

Wow! This past year as your President has been action packed and a lot of fun. It makes me proud to be part of this great organization, which now weighs in at 925 members!

We have some recent key changes in our Board of Directors positions. **Bill Funk** has assumed the huge job of Database Manager (that's keeping track of all our membership information) and **Dick Bennett** will be taking over as Treasurer.

Plus, at the annual Spring Banquet on May 19, we will be installing **Linda Goodman** as President and **Al Matecko** as President-elect. We'll give thanks to **John Berry** for his outstanding leadership as he completes his three-year term through the successive presidential chairs, too! Hopefully, you have already sent in your reservations. If not, act quickly! Remember, too, that we will have a silent auction this year, so get your auction items ready and bring your wallet.

It makes me proud to serve with the hard-working officers and committee members who keep us rolling and informed. I value and thank each and every one of them for the many hours they give us. It deserves mentioning again that this is undoubtedly the largest and most active of the Forest Service retiree organizations.

You know, in 1944 the Thirty-Year Club was founded, and that became our current Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)—OldSmokeys—organization. I'm certain that our founders would be pleased to see how we have flourished not only as a social organization but for the concrete things we are doing through our emergency fund disbursements and project grants that now total over \$59,000 and countless person-hours of volunteer work in the preservation of our Forest Service heritage.

Thanks for the honor of serving as your President. I look forward to working with Linda Goodman this next year.

Mike Ash

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

Sign Up Now for May 19 Banquet! See Pages 4 and 5!

Forum

Human resource progress?

U.S. Forest Service Recruiting and Hiring Must be Followed by Effective Personnel Training and Development

U.S. Forest Service recruiting and hiring have come a long way in the hundred or so years since, as Norman Maclean wrote—perhaps somewhat facetiously—in his novella *The Ranger, The Cook, and a Hole in the Sky*, the ranger examination “picked rangers for the Forest Service by picking the toughest guy in town” and told the story of his teenage years’ legendary boss Ranger Bill Bell on the old Selway National Forest to prove it.

Indeed, as the reported glitch in transitioning from Avue to eRecruit hiring (“U.S. Forest Service Transition from Avue to eRecruit Goes Badly” on page 16) indicates, Forest Service recruiting and hiring have come a long way since most OldSmokeys filled out and sent in the Civil Service Commission’s old Standard Form 57 “Application for Federal Employment.” In the half century since, a ten-cent application form and a four-cent stamp have been replaced by multimillion-dollar, computer-based, contracted-out systems called for by progress and called names I cannot repeat in print for reasons many who struggled with Avue and can’t use eRecruit know all too well.

Assuming the self-inflicted problems are solved and eRecruit works out or another “solution” is found, the Forest Service must be ready to take the essential next step.

That step must be appropriate investment in developing forest officers out of the people—I refuse to use the dehumanizing term “human capital” so popular inside the Beltway—the new multimillion dollar “solution” recruits and hires by orienting them to the Forest Service and their professional and public service roles at an on-the-ground basic course conducted by some version of the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy, not through Internet trainings and webinars or weekend orientations at swanky resorts. This, of course, is a lot to ask in an era of extreme fiscal constraints. Indeed, in any fiscal environment in twenty-first century American government, it seems a lot to propose any approach or project that wouldn’t directly profit politically-connected corporate contractors.

Nevertheless, a small cadre of OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees is proposing a range of affordable versions of entry-level as well as mid-career and senior-level educational experiences focused on leadership and management skills and perspectives informed by traditional Forest Service ethos and ethics that forest officers now and in the future need to master and employ to ensure efficient and effective management of the National Forest System for its citizen-owners.

This group is driven by a positive belief that a critical mass of Forest Service leaders can and will make the necessary decisions and allocate sufficient—albeit scarce—redirected and repurposed resources to at least begin to do the right thing. Not study it to death or outsource it, but do it!

--Les Joslin

Force multipliers?

U.S. Forest Service Should Return Smokey, Rangers, and Firefighters to the National Forests

As budgets dwindle, regional foresters, forest supervisors, and district rangers—U.S. Forest Service leaders—should consider low-cost force multipliers to maintain and improve the administration and stewardship of the National Forest System.

Force multipliers are tools that help amplify efforts in ways that significantly increase the effectiveness of an organization. Forest Service leaders have force multipliers they could use to dramatically improve accomplishment of many aspects of the national forest management mission—and do so within declining budgets and without disruptive changes—and would do well to recognize them and apply them.

Smokey Bear, appropriate uniformed personnel in the field, and firefighters positioned for rapid response to wildfires are but three of many force multipliers available that innovative Forest Service leaders may apply within their regions or on their forests or districts without significant—or possibly even any—additional cost, even as they head off additional costs.

Smokey Bear

Smokey, America’s forest fire—now wildfire—preventin’ bear for darn near seven decades, has taken a lot of undeserved heat for the past few decades, and is much less seen in the forests today than before he became the scapegoat of choice for the increasingly large wildfires that mark the current era.

The truth about Smokey, as I wrote in the March 1994 issue of *Wildfire* magazine, “is that Smokey Bear strives to prevent wildfires caused by human carelessness that threaten lives and property, not natural lightning-caused fires and professionally prescribed fires that—under appropriate conditions and competent management—do benefit some unpopulated forest areas.”

A visible Smokey Bear raises and maintains public awareness of the need to prevent costly human-caused wildfires that devastate productive forestlands and within the wildland-urban interface destroy lives and property.

Returning a visible Smokey Bear message to national forest landscapes is a cheap and effective way to counter the incidence and cost of human-caused wildfires that can and should be accomplished by motivated fire prevention personnel assisted by firefighter labor. Smokey is an existing and inexpensive tool—a force multiplier with proven potential to prevent wildfire losses and costs.

Rangers

Likewise, the visible presence of uniformed Forest Service personnel—“rangers” to the public—makes a positive impression on the citizen-owners of the National Forest System whose appreciation, understanding, and support the Forest Service needs to do its national forest management job for them. These days, however, rangers are scarcer in the forest than Smokey Bear.

Most uniformed Forest Service personnel the public meet in the field seem to be selling them a ticket or writing them a ticket instead of taking “friendly-face-and-helping-hand” time—as

they do resource management and facility maintenance jobs—to provide answers and assistance in a way that creates a positive impression and helps restore faith in government.

A few uniformed “rangers” are force multipliers who can greatly enhance the effectiveness of small ranger district field staffs with little or no additional cost. Success at this added work can boost the morale of the personnel involved. But leaders know the reverse can also be true. The actions of uniformed personnel not competent to represent the Forest Service to the public in a credible way can have dire consequences. That’s why leaders must ensure proper selection of and training for those who would wear the pine tree shield, and make doing so a privilege instead of a requirement by setting a personal example they would have others emulate.

Firefighters

Wildland firefighters and their equipment are the most expensive aspect of national forest administration. Yet, in recent years on some national forests, stovepiping these potential force multipliers into organizations that resemble urban fire departments has sometimes decreased their overall effectiveness.

On some forests, firefighter assets have been concentrated at central bases with gymnasiums in which to work out rather than being dispersed at guard stations to get in shape and keep in shape by logging out the roads they need to get to fires and being closer to the lands they protect and thus able to respond to and control fires faster. Scarce funds are spent on these urban facilities while guard stations in the forests fall into disrepair.

Like Smokey and uniformed rangers, firefighters in the forests are a restorable tool—a force multiplier with proven potential to reduce wildfire losses and costs.

A smaller, smarter Forest Service

It would be a shame—for many reasons of efficiency and effectiveness—to squander force multipliers such as these and others when the benefits of using them are so real.

Leadership should recognize that such force multipliers would facilitate the smaller, smarter Forest Service likely to be necessitated by fiscal constraints as part of the “smarter government” called for by President Barack Obama in his February 12, 2013, State of the Union message.

--Les Joslin

Triple threat?

U.S. Forest Service Faces Possible Wildfire Season 2013 Disaster

I want to be so wrong about this! But this spring I can’t help thinking that three factors—climate change, sequestration, and the eRecruit affair—portend a disastrous wildfire season.

As articles in the *Forest Service News* section of this issue tell us, the effects of climate change on our wildfire future are recognized, and the agency struggles with sequestration management and an impaired ability to hire firefighters.

—Les Joslin

**“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 Approved Al Matecko as PNWFSA President-elect

In a strong vote of confidence at polls that closed on February 15, 2013, the OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) approved the Board of Directors’ nomination of OldSmokey **Al Matecko** as the next President-elect of the PNWFSA.

Al, still serving in the U.S. Forest Service as Region 6 Director of Legislative and Public Affairs, will assume that mantle at the annual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on May 19, 2013, at beautiful Charbonneau Country Club.

OldSmokeys Enjoyed First Monthly Meeting and Luncheon at New Venue: The Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland

Forty-six OldSmokeys braved the elements—well, it was February in Portland, so it was raining—to attend their first monthly luncheon—which followed the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA)—at The Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland on February 22, 2013.

Shakedown cruise that it was, this first meeting and luncheon at this new venue proved an enjoyable success.

“The new venue brought out a number of OldSmokeys we have not been seeing, so that was neat,” said PNWFSA President **Mike Ash**.

“The food and prices were great!” several OldSmokeys opined. The menu offered a wide variety of choices that all seemed to enjoy, and at \$6.25 to \$9.25 per person that included entree, dessert, and gratuity. The prices were right.



Happy and well fed, OldSmokeys left the Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland after their first monthly meeting and luncheon at this new venue on February 22, 2013. Paul Enberg photograph

The great service by The Old Spaghetti Factory staff received OldSmokey praise, too.

“We really got a chance to get a lot of visiting in!” exclaimed others. “We’ll be back next month!”

The first couple meetings at The Old Spaghetti Factory were held upstairs in the lounge and bar area. The good news is the views from the upstairs are breathtaking and there’s an elevator for those of us who feel aches and pains when walking upstairs. The only just a little bit bad news was the somewhat loud acoustics in the lounge area; however, that didn’t limit OldSmokeys enjoyment of each others’ company one bit.

Beginning with the meeting scheduled for April 26, the OldSmokeys likely will move downstairs to a quieter private room.

“This change will be good for us!” as one OldSmokey put it, seemed to be the group consensus.

The success of this change is due in large part to the collective coordination and logistics genius of OldSmokeys **Bev Pratt, Debra Warren, and Mary Moyer.**

This success was beautifully captured and commemorated in OldSmokey **Paul Enberg** photographs, one of which illustrates this article and all of which appeared in the OldSmokeys E-Note promulgated by OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** on February 24.

OldSmokeys Anticipate Spring Banquet in May and Summer Picnic in August

The social season approaches! As warmer weather graces the Pacific Northwest, OldSmokeys are looking forward to the annual Spring Banquet scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2013, at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, and the annual Summer Picnic in the Woods set for Friday, August 9, 2013, at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood.

Both will be catered by the OldSmokeys’ old friend Dave Dalton who always makes sure we are well fed.

Reservation forms for both the banquet and the picnic are on page 5 of this newsletter. Make your reservations for both these grand events now!

Spring Banquet

At the banquet, OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** will take over from OldSmokey **Mike Ash** as President of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA), and OldSmokey **Al Matecko** will be installed as PNWFSA President-elect.

OldSmokeys will enjoy each other’s company, a sumptuous buffet dinner, and the usual raffle. A super silent auction and door prizes will add to the excitement. The price of the banquet remains \$25.00 per person.

Doors and the no-host bar will be open at 1:00 p.m., and social hours with appetizer table will be under way by 2:00 p.m. The buffet-style dinner will be served beginning about 3:30 p.m.

OldSmokey President **Mike Ash** will contribute one of his beautiful wooden bowls as the raffle prize. Contact **Mary Moyer** about silent auction donations. Door prize donations may be given to **Bev Pratt** either before or on the day of the banquet. Proceeds from the raffle go to PNWFSA funding ef-

forts, and proceeds from the silent auction help pay for banquet facilities and overhead.

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

Summer Picnic

At the August 9 picnic, OldSmokeys will gather in their natural habitat—the forest—to eat, drink, and make merry together as they have every summer for as long as most can remember. The only significant change to this annual ritual is a slight economic one: the price for the picnic will increase from \$25.00 to \$27.00 per person. The good news is that grandchildren under 12 will be welcome for half that price!

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

More picnic details and another reservation form will be in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Sign Up Now!

Reservation forms for both the banquet and the picnic are on page 5 of this newsletter. That’s the page just to the right. Make your reservations for both these grand events now!

OldSmokey Bill Funk Assumed PNWFSA Database Manager Job, OldSmokey Dick Bennett to be Treasurer

OldSmokey **Bill Funk**, who relieved OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Treasurer in May 2011, has again relieved Vern of a critical PNWFSA job. Bill became Database Manager on February 1, 2013. Vern remains PNWFSA’s E-Mail Editor.

OldSmokey **Dick Bennett** on March 11, 2013, volunteered to serve as PNWFSA Treasurer. Dick was interviewed for and offered the position, and was quickly and unanimously confirmed by the Board of Directors.

Dick and his wife Myra have served in Region 6, the WO, and Region 10. Dick has excelled in many U.S. Forest Service positions that involved financial accounting, is familiar with the PNWFSA’s financial processes, and is highly qualified to serve as Treasurer, according to PNWFSA President **Mike Ash**.

Bill and Dick were scheduled to begin transitioning in April, and Dick assumes this critical office this month.



OldSmokeys May Sign Up Now for May 19 Spring Banquet and August 9 Summer Picnic

OldSmokeys may send in the reservation forms below to sign up for the Sunday, May 19, 2013 Spring Banquet and/or the Friday, August 9, 2013, Summer Picnic. Just clip them or copy them, fill them out, and send them in with the checks—either one now and one later or both at the same time to save a stamp—by May 5 for the Spring Banquet and by July 31 for the Summer Picnic to: PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SPRING BANQUET—MAY 19, 2013
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

Doors and bar open at 1:00 p.m.—Silent Auction bidding from opening until dinner—Diner served at 3:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Send this reservation form in to be received no later than May 10, 2013

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC—AUGUST 9, 2013
BLM Wildwood Picnic Area

RESERVATION FORM

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

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

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

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

Please send your reservation form in to be received no later than July 31, 2013!

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$13.50 each

OldSmokeys Assist House Fire Victim Forest Service Retiree Theresa Higgins

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) voted unanimously at their December 28, 2012, meeting to provide \$500 in PNWFSA Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund assistance to recent U.S. Forest Service retiree Theresa Higgins who was seriously burned in a December 17, 2012, house fire in which she lost her husband, her home, and her pets.

Theresa was treated at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon, for severe burns to her body and lungs. She was released from the hospital on January 3, 2013, and went to her son's home in Woodburn, Oregon.

Theresa was timber accountant on the Chemult Ranger District, Fremont-Winema National Forest, until her retirement.

Mike Lawrence, district ranger on the Chiloquin Ranger District and acting district ranger on the neighboring Chemult Ranger District, asked all who might help to "Please remember that an account has been established for Theresa's benefit at South Valley Bank & Trust, P.O. Box 831, Gilchrist, Oregon 97737 for anyone who wants to support her."

Donors to that account should make their checks payable to South Valley Bank, write "Theresa Higgins donation" in the memo section of their checks, and write "Theresa Higgins donation" on the envelope in which they send their checks.

Prepared from multiple sources including e-mails from Forest Supervisor Fred Way, Fremont-Winema National Forest, and District Ranger Mike Lawrence.

OldSmokeys Grant \$5,680 to Projects on Willamette and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA), acting on the recommendations of its grants committee at its January 25, 2013, meeting, unanimously approved three grant requests totaling \$5,680 to support three of four project proposals submitted.

A grant of \$1,000 to the Siskiyou Mountain Club (SMC) will help complete a Kalmiopsis Wilderness trail restoration project on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The trail was seriously damaged by the 2002 Biscuit Fire. "Now, eleven years since the Biscuit, we think we're through the worst of it!" SMC Director and Field Coordinator Gabe Howe said in a letter of thanks to OldSmokey Treasurer **Bill Funk**.

A grant of \$2,000 to the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) will fund siding of a storage building at the Fish Lake Historic Area on the Willamette National Forest. "We thank you for your continued support of our efforts at Fish Lake," wrote FFL President and OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**.

A grant of \$2,680 to the Sand Mountain Society (SMS) will help fund restoration of the historic Wildhorse Lookout and vault toilet on the Gold Beach Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. District Ranger Alan Vandiver was pleased SMS received this grant to help complete this project on his district.

OldSmokey President **Mike Ash** called the four organizations that submitted grant requests to advise them of these results and documented the awards in letters to the successful requestors.

Annual grants are awarded to projects that best meet PNWFSA criteria and standards. Since the program began, the PNWFSA has awarded \$59,000 in grants to such projects.

OldSmokeys Will Boost Eighth Annual Friends of Fish Lake June Work Week at Historic Ranger Station-Remount Depot

OldSmokeys, who make up a large percentage of the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL) membership, will gather at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest for the eighth annual FFL work week scheduled for June 10 through June 14 this year.

According to OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**, FFL President, major projects for this June's work week include:

- completing the restoration of the Remount Station open storage building, an historic 1935 CCC-built structure, by residing the east end, a project funded by a 2012 PNWFSA grant;
- replacing the sill and foundation on the northeast corner of and improving drainage and replacing bottoms of several vertical logs on the 1920s Hall House lived in by legendary forest supervisor C.C. Hall when the Fish Lake station was the old Santiam National Forest field headquarters;
- chinking the interior of the 1920s log Commissary Cabin;
- and a long list of other jobs on long-term Fish Lake guard Jim Denney's list.

As always, lodging in the bunkhouse is limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis. And, as always, RV sites are available. Contact Mike Kerrick at <makerrick@q.com> for more information.

"We had a great turnout last year and are looking forward to another big one this year," Mike said of the annual work week.

Futuring Workshop

Before the annual work week in June, the FFL will hold a "futuring workshop" on April 30 at the Willamette National Forest headquarters in Eugene, Oregon. "We have contacted a large number of potential stakeholders to participate in this day-long workshop to help shape the future of the Cascade Institute learning center concept," Mike said.

The goal of the workshop is to determine if there is sufficient interest in a center devoted to preserving and teaching backcountry and wildland skills and the natural and cultural history of the Central Cascades to move to the next step, according to the FFL's 2012 newsletter.

"The results will be shared with FFL members at the annual membership meeting on June 10" at the end of the first day of the annual work week, according to Mike.

The lifeblood of a nonprofit group is its dues paying members who also get out and work. The FFL ended 2012 with 63 members. Contact the FFL at 541-896-0345 or <fishlake05@gmail.com> for work week and membership information.



OldSmokeys volunteers welcomed a very special visitor to the High Desert Ranger Station last summer.

High Desert Museum photograph

OldSmokeys are Signing On Now to Staff High Desert Ranger Station for the Summer 2013 Visitor Season

The summer of 2013 will be the OldSmokeys' fifth consecutive summer staffing the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon. This summer's 66-day staffing season will start Saturday, June 29, and run through Monday, September 2.

Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, the restored one-room 1933 U.S. Forest Service district ranger's office building is staffed daily by OldSmokeys who tell the National Forest System story one-on-one to about 1,500 visitors every summer. Last summer, as in previous summers, about a dozen volunteer staffers served five or six days each to keep the station up and running for five hours each day.

During those five hours, the volunteer of the day—visible in his or her green Forest Service retiree polo shirt—welcomes Museum visitors to the ranger station and interprets the ranger station in a way that helps visitors grasp the role such old stations played and modern ranger stations still play in administering national forests and managing their resources.

New this year, each young visitor to the High Desert Museum will be given a "passport" to be stamped at each exhibit visited. When kids visit the ranger station, the volunteer on duty will stamp the High Desert Ranger Station page in their passports with Smokey Bear's face or paw print. This should attract families and increase ranger station visitation significantly as kids tend to want to get all pages stamped in such passports.

Volunteer team leader OldSmokey **Les Joslin** schedules each volunteer based on availability and convenience. All sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers. First-year staffers attend Museum volunteer training, pass a criminal background check, and receive on-the-job ranger station orientation. Contact Les by telephone at 541-330-0331, e-mail at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or letter to 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.



Historic Peterson Prairie Guard Station burned to the ground on September 10, 2012.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

OldSmokeys Can Help Replace Historic Peterson Prairie Guard Station

On the morning of September 10, 2012, while the Cascade Creek Fire raged on the south slope of Mt. Adams, another fire struck the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. An accidental fire burned Historic Peterson Prairie Guard Station to the ground.

Save for the brick chimney, the historic cabin was a total loss. Built between August and December 1926 by District Ranger Harvey A. Welty and Forest Guard Eilert Skaar, the 87 year-old U.S. Forest Service building nestled between Mt. Adams and Indian Heaven was—after decades of guard station service—used as a recreation rental and popular with hikers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and huckleberry pickers.

People who loved to visit this year-round destination felt a need to help fill the void left by the fire. "We received an outpouring of interest from local communities and numerous partners and volunteers expressing willingness to help us rebuild a cabin at the site," said District Ranger Nancy Ryke.

The Mt. Adams Institute is raising money to move an existing historic Forest Service building from Willard, Washington, to replace the burned Peterson Prairie Guard Station cabin. This would save another historic structure and fill the void left by the fire. The replacement cabin would eventually be a rental.

OldSmokeys who want to help with this project may contact the Mt. Adams Ranger District office at 509-395-3402. Donations to the project may be made via the Mt. Adams Institute website <www.mtadams-institute.com/support/peterson-prairie-cabin-replacement-project>.

Peterson Prairie Guard Station before the September 10, 2012, fire.

U.S. Forest Service photograph



OldSmokey Nora Rasure Named Regional Forester for Intermountain Region



U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced on January 4, 2013, that OldSmokey **Nora Rasure** would replace retiring Harv Forsgren as regional forester for the Intermountain Region. Nora assumed those duties in Ogden, Utah, in mid January. As regional forester for Region 4, she oversees 14 national forests and one national grassland in five states.

Nora, who was Pacific Northwest Region deputy regional forester from August 2011 to September 2012, joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association on August 2, 2012. “Even though I am moving to Ogden,” she wrote, “I still want to maintain my connection with the OldSmokeys.”

Nora, who earned a B.S. degree in forest management at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1980, was acting regional forester for the Eastern Region before reporting to her new job in Ogden, Utah. Before her RO assignment in Portland, she was acting deputy regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region. She served in the WO for two years as Deputy Director for Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources, and as Acting Director of Forest Management. She has been forest supervisor on the Coconino and Colville national forests, deputy forest supervisor on the Coronado National Forest, and district ranger on the West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest. Nora began her career as a Youth Conservation Corps crew leader on the Toiyabe National Forest and subsequently served in several positions in fire, lands, and recreation on that forest’s Carson and Las Vegas ranger districts.

Prepared from the January 4, 2013, “Leadership Changes” letter from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell; the January 4, 2013, Associated Press article “U.S. Forest Service selects Nora Rasure as Intermountain Region forester; and Mike Koshmri’s January 5, 2013, article “Rasure named regional forester” in the Jackson Hole News & Guide; and Nora’s LinkedIn profile.

Editor’s Note: It’s been hard for this newsletter editor to keep up with Nora! In the Winter 2013 issue I apologized for welcoming her to PNWFSA membership as a “retired” Forest Service member when she was, in fact, serving as Region 9 acting regional forester following just over a year as Region 6 deputy regional forester; then, just as that issue went to press, she was named Region 4 regional forester and will have been in that job for three months before you read this! Hope I got it right this time! Congratulations, Nora!

**Many thanks to my wife,
Pat Joslin,
whose incomparable combination of patience
and technical skill ensures realization of my vision
for our OldSmokeys Newsletter.**
—Les Joslin

Old Smokey Dr. Bov Eav, Director, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Retired in December 2012

OldSmokey **Bov Eav**, Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station for almost seven years, retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 28, 2012. Dr. Rob Mangold is the Station’s acting director.

Bov began his Forest Service career as an operations research analyst with the Method Applications Group (MAG) in Fort Collins, Colorado. He later served concurrently as associate director of MAG and head of its quantitative techniques program. In 1994, he was named director of the National Center for Forest Health Management (NCFHM) in Morgantown, West Virginia. In 1995, NCFHM and MAG evolved into the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team and Bov served as its first director. In 1998, he became director of the Northeastern Research Station in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, until 2001 when he became Associate Deputy Chief of the Forest Service for Research and Development in the WO.

Before he joined the Forest Service, Bov was a principal scientist with Lockheed in Houston, Texas, where he worked under contract with the Forest Service’s National Forest Application Program. He later served as a mission support manager of scientific payloads for NASA’s space shuttle program.

As a forester, Bov specialized in forest engineering, biometrics, and remote sensing. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Agronomic Science in Cambodia and his master’s and doctorate degrees from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and the Senior Executives Association as well as of the PNWFSA.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release “Forest Service Chief Fills Two Top Positions in Research & Development” of February 9, 2006; and communication with Yasmeen Sands, Public Affairs Specialist, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

OldSmokey Debra Mafera Recognized by Oregon Department of Agriculture for Noxious Weed Leadership

OldSmokey **Debra Mafera**, Invasive Plant Coordinator for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests, received the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Special Recognition Award at its December 4-6, 2012, Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium in Corvallis.

Deb received the award for leadership in and contributions to noxious weed management in the state by leading the two forests’ revised Invasive Plant Treatment EIS to completion, managing invasive plant control efforts, and developing extremely effective partnerships.

“I was touched and grateful to receive the award from the ODA weed management group,” Deb said. “Being recognized by such a top-notch group of individuals is very rewarding.”

Prepared from “Two Botanists Receive Honors” by Paul Galloway and Shawna L. Bautista in the January 23, 2013 issue of the R6 Update: Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service.



Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (left) presented the Refuge System Volunteer of the Year Award to OldSmokey Dave Govatski (right) last May 24 in Hartford, Connecticut.

OldSmokey Dave Govatski, an Active U.S. Forest Service Retiree, Had a Big Year Back East in 2012

The year 2012 was a big one for OldSmokey **Dave Govatski**, the only OldSmokey who lives in New Hampshire, and not just because that's the year he joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

Early in the year Dave received the coveted Refuge System Volunteer of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The award, for significant service to the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire, was presented by then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Among his many contributions during over 11,000 volunteer hours at the refuge, Dave refined a new technique of trail maintenance for wetland trails that is now used by other trail organizations.

Later in the year, the book *Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests* that he co-authored with Christopher Johnson, was published by Island Press. This book, which describes the history of the Weeks Act of 1911 that led to the creation of the eastern national forests, was reviewed in the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which Dave and his wife Kathi were introduced as new PNWFSA members.

A retired U.S. Forest Service forester, Dave is active in the Forest History Society and served on the boards of the Museum of the White Mountains, White Mountain History, New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, New Hampshire Audubon, and the Friends of Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

And, back on the White Mountain National Forest where he served most of his 31-year Forest Service career as a silviculturist and fire and aviation management officer and is now an active volunteer, Dave leads the effort to restore the historic

1923 Fabyan Guard Station log cabin set in some of that national forest's most beautiful scenery. A lover of great scenery, as most of us are, Dave is particularly interested in the history behind the scenery. And on the White Mountain National Forest, as on most national forests, much of that story is Forest Service history.

Prepared from multiple sources including National Wildlife Refuge Association news release "Lifetime Dedicated to Public Service Describes NWRS Volunteer Recipient" of February 1, 2012; The Conway Daily Sun article "David Govatski to Speak on Scenic Areas of the White Mountain National Forest May 5" of May 3, 2012; and multiple communications with Dave Govatski.

Editor's Note: Dave and Kathi Govatski have family in the Pacific Northwest and visit Bend, Oregon, regularly. I met Dave on August 17, 2012, and enjoyed showing him around the Deschutes National Forest and its historic Elk Lake, Fall River, Deschutes Bridge, and Paulina Lake guard stations.

OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Profiled in U.S. Forest Service Website Series "Faces of the Forest" in January

OldSmokey **Robin Lee Gyorgyfalvy**, whose election as an American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) fellow was announced in the Fall 2012 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, was profiled early in January 2013 in the "Faces of the Forest" series on the U.S. Forest Service website home page.

A member of the Forest Service since 1987, Robin is a landscape architect and scenic byways program leader on the Deschutes National Forest.

The "Faces of the Forest" series is a project of the U.S. Forest Service Office of Communication to showcase the people, places, and professions within the agency.

Editor's Note: I have had the privilege of working with Robin on many outstanding recreation and heritage resource projects over the years, and am a great admirer of her personal and professional qualities and her first-rate public service as a U.S. Forest Service member.

A few still available!

OldSmokey Bob Williams Reported PNWFSA Ball Cap Project Will End

OldSmokey **Bob Williams** reported on January 28, 2013, that he's about to wrap up the OldSmokey Ball Cap project he started a couple years ago to raise funds for Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association sponsorship of projects through grants.

At the time of his report, 147 caps had been bought and paid for, 125 caps had been sold, 22 caps remained in stock to be sold, and the project had raised \$500 for the grant fund.

So, if you want one, you'd better hurry and order one from Bob. His plan is to continue to bring them to the OldSmokeys monthly meetings/luncheons at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Portland and to fill mail orders until the remaining supply is exhausted.

Contact Bob at <rwms35@comcast.net> to order one or more for just \$10.00 each plus a small charge for postage.

OldSmokey Jerry William's History of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Remains Available from OSU Press

OldSmokey Gerald W. “Jerry” Williams’ book *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History* published by Oregon State University Press in late 2009 remains available for \$29.95 plus shipping charges from OSU Press, OSU Press’s new distributor, and other sources listed below.

Jerry’s definitive, 448-page, softcover book about the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest is largely your story of your Forest Service and the Forest Service you inherited from the Thirty-Year Club members and their predecessors who made Region 6 what it was then and what it is today. It’s *the book* for any OldSmokey’s bookshelf. It’s also a book your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and the Pacific Northwest Region partnered with Jerry and OSU Press in publishing.

You can order Jerry’s book online from the OSU Press web page for the book at <http://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/us-forest-service-in-pacific-northwest> or from the Chicago Distribution Center whose toll-free order number is 1-800-621-2736 or from Amazon.com.

Prepared from information provided by OldSmokey Phil Hirl and Tom Booth, Associate Director, OSU Press.

Who says there’s no free lunch?

OldSmokeys Day at Historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum Set for September 21, 2013; Sign Up!

As announced in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (SSB) Museum south of Cave Junction, Oregon, has scheduled a special OldSmokeys Day on September 21, 2013, to share with Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) members the progress made in restoring the historic base and developing the historic SSB Museum that opened to the public last summer.

“I think the OldSmokeys will be pleased with what we have done to preserve U.S. Forest Service history,” said Chuck Sheley of the National Smokejumper Association who is organizing the special OldSmokeys Day.

“Lunch will be provided to OldSmokeys at no charge,” says Chuck. To plan for the event—still six months off, but time flies—Chuck needs to know how many OldSmokeys and their guests to plan for. *So, if you plan to attend, please let your OldSmokeys Newsletter editor know so he can help Chuck with the planning process.* RSVP by e-mail to lesjoslin@aol.com; by snail mail to Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701; or by telephone at 541-330-0331. He will pass your response on to Chuck. This way Chuck can make sure nobody goes hungry!

Opened in 1943, the SSB was the first aerial firefighter base in Oregon history and one of the four bases established when the smokejumper program began. It is the only one of the origi-

nal four bases still standing in its original location and condition, and contains one of the most complete assemblages of historic smokejumper base structures and artifacts in the nation including the nation’s oldest smokejumper parachute loft. Smokejumpers from this base jumped fires in Oregon and California. The base closed in 1982.

Over the past 10 years, SSB alumni have devoted thousands of hours to the restoration of the historic structures—including that oldest smokejumper parachute loft in existence—and developing a museum to preserve this U.S. Forest Service heritage resource and tell the smokejumper story. OldSmokey labor and PNWFSA grants have assisted this project.

Tours on OldSmokeys Day will start at 10:00 a.m. and lunch—again, *free* to OldSmokeys—will be served at noon. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the day.

The historic SSB is located at Illinois Valley Airport on U.S. Highway 199 about four miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon.

Coordinated with Chuck Sheley, Editor, Smokejumper Magazine

OldSmokeys are Invited to July 20, 2013, Silver Lake, Oregon, Community Reunion

Silver Lake Ranger Station is a vital part of the small community of Silver Lake, Oregon, and U.S. Forest Service folk who work or who have worked at that station are invited to the July 20, 2013, Silver Lake Community Reunion that kicks off at 10:30 a.m. at the Silver Lake Community Park and Fire Hall.

“Everyone who has ever lived, breathed, attended school, had children attend school, worked at the school, works/worked at the Forest Service, the ZX, Cliff, Iverson, Emery and Lane ranches or logging companies, and/or local businesses, owned/operated a business in Silver Lake, please plan to attend,” is the way the invitation flyer put it.

Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served for a minimum fee. Those who will attend should respond to this invitation and register so they will know how much food to have on hand.

Contact Elaine Condon at 541-576-2379 or Roxanne Hand at 541-576-2789 for information.

Register at silverlakereunion.blogspot.com or by e-mail at silverlakereunion13@yahoo.com or on Facebook at Silver Lake Oregon Reunion.

Forest Service News

A primary mission of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is to help you keep up with what is going on in the U.S. Forest Service to which you dedicated much of your life. This is done in the *Forest Service News* section that follows. This is a larger than usual issue of your newsletter, but still not large enough to include all the Forest Service news written for it. The most significant of those articles were selected for this issue.

Other excellent sources of Forest Service news include Jim Perterson’s online *Evergreen Magazine* at www.evergreen-magazine.com published by The Evergreen Foundation, a non-profit forestry research and educational organization, and Terry Seyden’s online seyden.net which is the “reliable, independent source for up-to-the minute news headlines about the U.S. Forest Service” it claims to be.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Sent Sequestration Reassurance to Forest Service Personnel

Across-the-board U.S. Government spending cuts—known as “sequestration”—cut the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s funding for Fiscal Year 2013 by almost two billion dollars when President Barack Obama and Congress failed to act by March 1, 2013. In anticipation, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell offered reassurance to Forest Service personnel in a February 13, 2013, “Sequestration Message.”

“While we at the Forest Service will receive the same cuts as other agencies across government, because of the way we manage our budget we have flexibility and should be able to avoid furlough if sequestration occurs,” the Chief said. “We will use a combination of efforts including cutting back on contracts and purchasing, delaying filling vacancies, and reducing our seasonal employment in order to manage the budget reduction.

“As the Secretary [of Agriculture] said in his note [of February 8 to all Department personnel about potential spending cuts], ‘In planning how to implement a possible sequestration, our guiding principle is to protect our ability to perform our mission on behalf of the American people. As public servants, this is our first and foremost responsibility.’ It is our plan to do that to the best of our ability without resorting to furloughing employees,” Chief Tidwell ended his message.

Sequestration and agency impacts

As time to head off sequestration began to run out, Department of Agriculture leadership began extensive planning on how to deal with the impacts of across-the-board spending cuts. In the case of the Forest Service, sequestration would cost \$134 million in wildland fire management as it faces another severe fire season and \$78 million in essential services to the public on the National Forest System during the spring and summer peak use seasons. The consequences of these cuts are not pretty.

While the Forest Service may avoid furloughing permanent full-time personnel, it likely will have a hard time ramping up for the severe wildfire season Chief Tidwell expects. The funding cut occasioned by sequestration will mean about 500 fewer firefighters and 50 fewer engines with crews, according to an Associated Press report filed after interviewing Chief Tidwell on March 12. The agency will also have to rely more on aircraft that are not on contract with the federal government, a measure the Chief said could lead to higher firefighting costs. Additionally, some 200,000 acres would not receive hazardous fuel treatment, further increasing the risk of wildfire.

Congress did not act by the end of February to prevent sequestration, and at your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* information deadline lawmakers anticipated more political jostling ahead of another budget showdown in late March which could determine whether the \$85 billion in cuts to domestic and defense spending stick. If sequestration will have continued past March 27, people close to the process predicted it and its impacts would

probably remain for at least the rest of the fiscal year. And even if Congress will have taken action to head sequestration off by the time you read this, all agencies will have been negatively affected by diverting time and effort and money from mission accomplishment to prepare for its impacts.

Sequestration and industry impacts

In addition to fire management and visitor services impacts, the amount of lumber produced on national forest lands could drop by 421 million board feet, from 2.8 billion to 2.379 billion, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack warned.

National forest timber plays a vital role in keeping sawmills open, Senator Jeff Merkley (Democrat-Oregon) said, according to the March 1, 2013, issue of Bend’s daily *The Bulletin*. “Last year, thanks in part to a joint effort by members of Oregon’s congressional delegation, the Forest Service pledged to send up to 60 million board feet to the Malheur Lumber Company mill during fiscal year 2013 to keep the company’s John Day, Oregon, mill open.”

“We are desperately trying to keep a supply of timber to keep our mills open’ and keep the infrastructure in place to maintain the timber industry in Oregon, Merkley said. ‘The cut coming off of public lands is essential. Reductions in the planned sales of timber could be devastating.’”

If the cuts occur, *The Bulletin* reported, Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) “‘will focus on ensuring there is adequate funding for critical programs,’ his spokesman Keith Chu said. ‘In his role as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, that includes prioritizing landscape-scale forestry projects that put logs in mills and make forests healthier and more resistant to wildfire.’”

Prepared from multiple sources including the documents mentioned and “Stage set for war on sequester” by Zachary A. Goldfarb and Paul Kane of The Washington Post published in The Bulletin (Bend, Oregon) on February 25, 2013; “Forest Service braces for cuts in timber from Oregon and elsewhere” by Andrew Clevenger in The Bulletin on March 1, 2013; and “U.S. braces for another bad fire year” by Susan Montoya Bryan of the Associated Press in The Miami Herald on March 12, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Spoke on “Sustaining Forests in the Time of Climate Change” at Pinchot Institute

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell on February 14, 2013, delivered the 2013 Pinchot Distinguished Lecture “Sustaining Forests in the Time of Climate Change” in which he addressed Forest Service goals for restoration, the need to reauthorize stewardship contracting, the healthy forest-clean water nexus, and other topics.

Professor Char Miller, a senior fellow at the Pinchot Institute that sponsors the annual lecture, saw the Chief’s speech as an example of the second Obama administration’s new focus on the climate change issue. “The first signal of this shift came with Obama’s inaugural address. In it, he delivered some stirring words about why we cannot delay developing adaptive strategies for planetary survival.”

“What we need to do,” Chief Tidwell concluded his speech, is “address the effects of climate change...in a way to ensure

that future generations are going to enjoy the same range of benefits that we enjoy today.”

Prepared from “2013 Distinguished Lecture—Tom Tidwell: “Sustaining Forests in the Time of Climate Change” posted on Pinchot Quick Links, and “Forest Service Chief Talks Climate Change—in Washington and on the Ground” by Char Miller at on KCET Commentary at <www.kcet.org>.

Editor’s Note: Dr. Char Miller is the Director and W.M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis at Pomona College, and a Gifford Pinchot biographer.

U.S. Forest Service Report Forecasts Natural Resource Management Trends and Challenges for the Next 50 Years

A comprehensive U.S. Forest Service report released on December 18, 2012, projects significant forest loss during the next 50 years from suburbanization and land fragmentation.

The 198-page report, *Future of America’s Forests and Rangelands: Forest Service 2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment* (GTR-WO-87), assesses the status and trends of the Nation’s renewable resources on all forest and rangelands as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. The assessment “includes analyses of forests, rangelands, wildlife and fish, biodiversity, water, outdoor recreation, wilderness, urban forests, and the effects of climate change on these resources.”

Significant findings

Significantly, the report shows the potential for significant loss of privately-owned forests to development and fragmentation, which could substantially reduce benefits from forests that the public now enjoys including clean water, wildlife habitat, forest products and others.

“We should all be concerned by the projected decline in our nation’s forests and the corresponding loss of the many critical services they provide such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, wood products and outdoor recreation,” said Under Secretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman.

Sherman said the report offers “a sobering perspective on what is at stake and the need to maintain our commitment to conserve these critical assets.”

U.S. Forest Service scientists and partners at universities, non-profits and other agencies found urban and developed land areas in the United States will increase 41 percent by 2060.

Forested areas will be most impacted by this growth, with losses ranging from 16 to 34 million acres in the lower 48 states. The study also examines the effect of climate change on forests and the services forests provide.

Most importantly, over the long term, climate change could have significant effects on water availability, making the United States potentially more vulnerable to water shortages, especially in the Southwest and Great Plains.

Population growth in more arid regions will require more drinking water. Recent trends in agricultural irrigation and landscaping techniques also will boost water demands.

“Our nation’s forests and grasslands are facing significant challenges. This assessment strengthens our commitment to

accelerate restoration efforts that will improve forest resiliency and conservation of vitally important natural resources,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

Key trends

The assessment’s projections are influenced by a set of scenarios with varying assumptions about United States population and economic growth, global population and economic growth, global wood energy consumption, and United States land use change from 2010 to 2060.

Using those scenarios, the report forecasts the following key trends:

- Forest areas will decline as a result of development, particularly in the South, where population is projected to grow the most;
- Timber prices are projected to remain relatively flat;
- Rangeland area is expected to continue its slow decline but rangeland productivity is stable with forage sufficient to meet expected livestock grazing demands;
- Biodiversity may continue to erode because projected loss of forestland will impact the variety of forest species;
- Recreation use is expected to trend upward.

Additionally, the report stresses the need to develop forest and rangeland policies which are flexible enough to be effective under a wide range of future socioeconomic and ecological conditions such as climate change.

The Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 requires the Forest Service to produce an assessment of natural resource trends every ten years.

Produced from multiple sources including the U.S. Forest Service Resource Planning Act (RPA) Assessment website at <www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa> and a U.S. Forest Service Press Release “US Forest Service report forecasts natural resource management trends and challenges for next 50 years” of December 18, 2012.

U.S. Forest Service Takes Hits from Media and Public Over 2012 Fires

The record wildfire season of 2012 brought public and media criticism of U.S. Forest Service firefighting operations on some of the season’s fires.

The criticism of Forest Service fire control operations on the June 2012 Little Bear Fire on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico—a lightning-ignited wildfire which burned 44,330 acres including 35,300 acres of national forest lands on the Smokey Bear Ranger District and 254 structures, 242 of which were residences—gained national notice when U.S. Representative Steve Pearce (Republican-New Mexico) took the forest supervisor and the district ranger and Forest Service fire and land management practices in general to task both in New Mexico and in a June 22 speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Pearce said he believed the Forest Service could have done more when the fire began outside the resort town of Ruidoso on June 4. Transcripts of the response suggested firefighters attacked the blaze when it was a quarter of an acre in size. Days later the fire got away when high winds

that sent embers more than a mile, and the inferno grew to 59 square miles.

Pacific Northwest Region incident

The most severe criticism of fire control operations in the Pacific Northwest Region seems to have been leveled at the Deschutes National Forest for the late season Pole Creek Fire that burned more than 26,000 acres and cost \$18 million to fight.

In a December 24, 2012, article “Dispatcher botched fire call” Bend, Oregon’s, daily newspaper *The Bulletin* reported a dispatchers’ disregard of a fire report early in the morning of September 9 that “delayed by three hours firefighters’ response to the largest wildfire in Central Oregon this year.”

“The Pole Creek Fire went on to burn more than 40 square miles in the Deschutes, trigger possible evacuation warnings for neighborhoods near Sisters, cause the evacuation of about 30 hikers and campers from the Three Sisters Wilderness Area (*sic*), and destroy four cars parked at the Pole Creek Trailhead,” the article reported. “For weeks, it frequently enveloped Sisters and Bend in thick morning smoke that often reached unhealthy levels.”

In a December 27, 2012, editorial headlined “The virus in the national forest,” *The Bulletin* criticized “the experts in charge of the national forests in Oregon” for the delayed response and the spread of the fire and for the lack of sufficient explanation of how this admitted “human error” occurred, disciplining of those responsible, and policy and procedure changes to prevent recurrence. “The experts in charge of the forest have spoken and told Central Oregon very little.”

“It’s as if a virus has taken hold of national forest management,” the editorial concluded. “It protects employees. It shields discovery of mistakes and any corrective action that is taken. It ensures that the public knows less about how well its public lands are managed.”

Wildfire-fighting culture cited

Some citizens view the “wildfire-fighting culture” as part of the problem. In his December 19, 2012, op-ed “Wildfire-fighting culture has the wrong priorities” Scott Linden of Bend, Oregon, offered “a fundamental reason we should hope our lives and property aren’t at risk from future blazes: It pays to let fires burn.”

“There are few incentives for subduing a wildfire quickly,” he wrote. “But there are many reasons to prolong the ‘fight.’” He asked readers to “follow the money” and listed the many ways he says firefighters, fire managers, and the bureaucracy benefit “while a fire burns. The longer it burns, the more money they make.” Mr. Linden sees “at least the ‘appearance of impropriety.’ There is a built-in conflict of interest that in any other industry or government agency would come under more scrutiny than it does when the heat is on, so to speak.” It wasn’t this way, he wrote, before “the spotted owl logging ban” when “the value of marketable timber was reason enough to douse fires quickly and completely.”

“Don’t get me wrong,” Mr. Linden pleads. “I appreciate the hard work and dedication of firefighters, especially the Pulaski-smoking smoke-eaters who put their lives on the line. They

should be rightfully leading the effort for better fire management, as they are most vulnerable to bad management decisions. But they are also the front line in a multi-billion dollar industry built around a flawed model, administered by bureaucrats with little reason to fear real scrutiny.”

Dan Cosgro of Bend seconded Mr. Linden’s “excellent” op-ed in a December 28, 2012, letter to the editor of *The Bulletin* in which he concluded “Linden’s point is poignant. They are not trying to put out fires. Their goal is to spend the firefighting budget.”

Prepared from multiple sources including “U.S. Forest Service Was Challenged by Record 2012 Wildfire Season” in the Fall 2012 OldSmokeys Newsletter; “Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team White paper” for the Little Bear Fire issued by the Smokey Bear Ranger District, Lincoln National Forest, Ruidoso, New Mexico, July 3, 2012; “Dispatcher botched fire call” by Dylan J. Darling in The Bulletin, December 24, 2012; “Couple’s Pole Creek Fire tip disregarded, agency finds” by the Associated Press in The Eugene Register Guard, December 25, 2012; “The virus in the national forest” in The Bulletin on December 27, 2012; “Wildfire-fighting culture has the wrong priorities” by Scott Linden in The Bulletin on December 19, 2012; and “Excellent letter about fires” by Dan Cosgro in The Bulletin on December 28, 2012.

U.S. Forest Service Plan to Salvage Pole Creek Fire Timber Opposed

“It’s about salvaging what is burned and trying to get something from the fire,” District Ranger Kristie Miller said of the plan to sell and salvage burned timber on 1,051 acres of the 26,120 acres burned in September and October 2012 by the Pole Creek Fire on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest.

Chuck Burley, timber manager at the Interfor mill in Gilchrist, Oregon, agrees, but says it should be cut now rather than going to bid in September 2013 after the Forest Service finalizes an environmental review of the plan. “When that pine sits there for a hot summer it loses a lot of its value,” he told *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper. The timber is on national forest land designated for harvest, Burley said. “There is no reason they shouldn’t be harvesting this timber.”

It’s about the black-backed woodpecker, according to Chad Hanson, director of the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute, who claims the timber salvage would destroy precious habitat for the bird. His and other environmental groups are petitioning the Forest Service to consider Endangered Species Act protections for the at-risk bird. “Hanson said he plans to send in comments on the plan and will consider an appeal if the Forest Service doesn’t make an adjustment and leave more snags for the woodpecker,” *The Bulletin* reported.

Prepared from “USFS plans sale of burned timber” by Dylan J. Darling in The Bulletin on February 21, 2013.

Forest Service News continues on page 16



Feature

Gone, but not forgotten...

Closed Rager Ranger Station Left a More Than Hundred-Year Legacy

By Les Joslin and Kathleen Martin

Rager Ranger Station, headquarters of the Paulina Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest, and home to many an OldSmokey at one time or another in his or her career, was closed on November 30, 2012, after over a hundred years of continuous operation. Its buildings are now boarded up, and their future is uncertain.

What is certain is another district’s ranger and staff are off—and a long distance from—the land and resources they are supposed to manage.

The most remote district ranger’s office in the Pacific Northwest Region when it closed, Rager Ranger Station was in the Beaver Creek Watershed in the upper Crooked River country—called the “Upper Valley” by locals—of Central Oregon. Rager seems finished as a U.S. Forest Service ranger station. But its uniquely American story will live on.

That story may be said to have begun when young Charles S. Congleton arrived in that Upper Valley in 1904. Born on a farm near Slade, Kentucky, in 1884, young Charlie headed West by train that year. At the end of the line in Shaniko, Oregon, he traveled by stagecoach first to Prineville, then on to Paulina where he worked on his brother Billy’s ranch for just over two years. Then he decided to throw in with a new outfit called the U.S. Forest Service.

“In April 1907,” Congleton wrote after his 1927 retirement from the Forest Service, “three or four of the Paulina Valley ranchers signed a petition certifying as to my general reliability and qualifications for Forest Ranger and recommending me for this job in the Paulina area. Accordingly, armed with this petition, I made application to A.S. Ireland, Forest Supervisor of the Blue Mountain West Forest Reserve with headquarters in Prineville, Oregon. On April 15, 1907, I was hired as a Forest Guard. There were no specific headquarters, but Paulina was my mailing address.”

Congleton quickly advanced to assistant forest ranger and then deputy forest ranger. And, just less than a year after his forest guard appointment, his “specific headquarters” within what had just become the Ochoco National Forest began to materialize.

“In a.m., with Lee Throop, drove cattle that were near National Forest Boundary. Drove them farther south,” he wrote in his Forest Service diary on April 8, 1908. “In p.m., went up on Rager Creek and surveyed out ranger station on Rager Creek.” The creek was named for one James A. Rager who filed for a



Ranger Charles S. Congleton



The original Rager Ranger Station compound, above, was built in 1909 and followed by two more generations of structures. Among the original structures’ successors, the second-generation Civilian Conservation Corps-constructed buildings from the 1930s and the third-generation office building and residences constructed in the 1960s and later remain on the site.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

homestead patent on land along it.

Surveying was one thing. Building was another. “An appropriation was received in 1909 for a barn, house, and office at Rager,” Congleton wrote on December 8, 1960. “The story goes that Supervisor Ireland kind of located the place he wanted the house built and set a stake there. Later he contracted with two freighters to deliver the lumber from the sawmill on Maury Mountain to the Rager site. He explained to them roughly the location..., but no one was there to show them the actual spot.

When they arrived with the lumber and couldn’t find the stake, they unloaded at the nearest spot generally answering to the description they had. The next spring Ireland hired a carpenter and sent him out with instructions to build the house where the lumber was, believing it was where he had set the stake. It developed that the lumber had been unloaded some distance south of the staked location and, therefore, the house was built there. Although there was much talk about moving it, the house remained there until the 1930s when the CCC organization moved the house and the office to the present site.”

Ranger Congleton served at Rager Creek Ranger Station—renamed just Rager Ranger Station early in its history—from the time it was built until he retired from the Forest Service in 1927 to become an area rancher. Twenty-three district rangers followed in his boot prints.

From the early 1930s until World War II began in 1941, enrollees at the Rock Creek CCC Camp along the west side of Rager Creek and just east of the Rager Ranger Station, worked on the Ochoco National Forest. Among their accomplishments, including building miles of fences and constructing hundreds of log water troughs as well as other resource management projects and fire fighting, they built a second generation of Rager Ranger Station buildings. Another generation of buildings would replace the CCC-built structures—two of which, the office and a warehouse, remain on the site. The most recent office structure and many residences are among those.

For many years, Rager Ranger Station was its own community. Children were born and raised there and even attended a ranger station school for smaller children. Families came and went, and many Forest Service folks began their careers there. Ranger station families were integrated into the ranching and timbering Upper Valley through the grade school, book club, church, and rodeo activities.

Rager Ranger Station was base for the remote Paulina area’s Rager Emergency Services ambulance—largely staffed by Forest Service personnel—from 1986 until the station’s recent downsizing. And, of course, it was headquarters of a productive Ochoco National Forest ranger district vital to the area’s grazing and timber economy. Thousands of head of livestock grazed its well-managed rangelands, and millions of board feet of timber—mostly ponderosa pine—were harvested from its timberlands.

Isolated as they were, the district rangers and other personnel and their families who called Rager Ranger Station home eventually became known as “Rager Rats” to other Ochoco

National Forest personnel.

In June 2008, hundreds of those proud Rager Rats—many former as well as the then few remaining current—convened there for the Rager Ranger Station Centennial Celebration to remember and reminisce about the times of their lives at Region 6’s most remote ranger station.



*Modern Rager Ranger Station
U.S. Forest Service photograph*

Four and one-half years later, it was all over. A victim of declining budgets, Rager Ranger Station’s years of “caring for the land and serving people” were no more.

Prepared from multiple sources including Ochoco National Forest archaeologist Kathleen Martin’s draft history of the Rager Ranger Station; Charles S. Congleton’s December 8, 1960, “Forest Service Reminiscence of Charles Congleton” and “The Journals of Charles S. Congleton, Forest Ranger, 1907-1927, published by the U.S. Forest Service and the Crook County Historical Society; and Allen H. Hodgson’s 1913 “The History of the Ochoco National Forest” published by the U.S. Forest Service.

Editor’s Note: I am indebted to OldSmokey Kathleen Martin for inspiring this article, providing her just-finished manuscript to support its writing, and providing the historic photographs of a young Ranger Charles S. Congleton and of Rager Ranger Station in the 1930s.

The **Feature** section in the Summer 2013 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will feature the fascinating adventures of OldSmokey **Carl Hickerson** during the summers of 1942 and 1943 as a youngster working in the U.S. Forest Service during World War II.

Features

Look back at the **Feature** sections in old issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and you’ll see a wide range of articles that illuminate various aspects of the past, present, and perhaps even the future of U.S. Forest Service life on the national forests and their ranger districts, in the research stations, and other places Forest Service personnel and their families have lived, live, or may live as members of the outfit carry out its charge of “caring for the land and serving people.”

As wide-ranging as these articles are, they don’t begin to scratch the surface of the stories that could be told and should be told about our unique Forest Service and those who have made it, make it, or will make it what it was, is, and will be. That’s because these stories haven’t yet been written to share with others and with posterity.

That’s where you come in. Everyone who has served or is serving in the Forest Service has had unique experiences he or she should share with others. The **Feature** section is a great place to share such stories—with pictures if you have them.

So, give it a try! Sit down, reflect on your experiences, find the humor and truth in them, and write a story and send it in to share with other OldSmokeys in this section.

Forest Service News continued from page 13

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Refuted Press Reports of Policy Change for 2013 Wildfire Season

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell refuted to press reports of a changed wildfire policy for the 2013 wildfire season in an undated National News statement on the U.S. Forest Service website.

“The federal wildland fire policy has not changed since 1995,” Chief Tidwell stated. “Neither the direction issued last year nor my letter this year represented a shift in Forest Service policy for fighting fires. We always look at the conditions that exist around each fire season, our available resources, and then provide guidance to the field. It takes resources to fight fires, and to manage them for resource benefits. We do have a set amount of expertise in this country but when we get a wildfire season like we did last year, we have to take some steps to manage just how much fire we can have on the landscape. So last year we asked forests to elevate decisions on wildfires to the regional forester. Based on this year’s projections, we no longer see that as a necessary step at this time.”

Chief Tidwell’s statement responded to numerous early March 2013 press reports that the Forest Service is changing policy by reversing a May 2012 directive that “ordered an ‘aggressive initial attack’ on all blazes within the agency’s jurisdiction, no matter how small or remote” (as characterized by Scott Dodd’s March 7, 2013, “Forest Service Rethinks Controversial—and Shortsighted—Firefighting Policy” and similarly characterized by other media reports), and “moving back toward what ecologists and fire scientists have considered the best practices for almost 40 years now.”

“The more aggressive approach [directed for 2012]...was prompted by fears that fires left unchecked would quickly devour large swaths of the drought-stricken West” and an effort “to keep from going too far over budget” by hitting fires fast and keeping them small, according to Jason Dearen of the Associated Press in a March 9, 2013, article. As it was, the Forest Service came in some \$400 million over budget during the severe fire season.

Other reasons to which news reports ascribed the Chief’s reversal of the 2012 “aggressive initial attack” directive to “fight all fire” included criticism that “the agency wasted money and endangered firefighters by battling fires in remote areas that posed little or no danger to property or critical habitat,” according to Dearen.

Among the critics of the “kill all fires” approach of 2012 were “watchdog groups and environmentalists...who said it was expensive and ignored fire’s natural ability to rid the landscape of dangerous fuels and bolster forest ecology.”

Prepared from multiple sources including an undated “Statement from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell on wildland fire policy” on the U.S. Forest Service website as well as an article “Forest Service Rethinks Controversial—and Shortsighted—Firefighting Policy” posted by Scott Dodd on March 7, 2013, on the OneEarth blog, and the article “Forest Service may let more fires burn” by Jason Dearen in the Sacramento Bee on March 9, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Could Be Overwhelmed by Defending Private Homes From Wildfires

Increased homebuilding on private lots near public forest lands could push firefighting costs to levels that would nearly consume the U.S. Forest Service’s annual \$5.5 billion budget, but there is still time to avoid such a disastrous scenario, a new report says.

The report, released on February 20, 2013, by Bozeman, Montana-based Headwaters Economics, used 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data to determine that more than 19,000 square miles of private land near public forests across the West consist of undeveloped but highly sought-after parcels.

If only half these lands within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) were developed, federal firefighting costs could balloon to as much as \$4.3 billion a year, or most of the Forest Service’s annual budget.

The Pacific Northwest Region could be hardest hit. Oregon, with more than 5,100 square miles of undeveloped land in the WUI, is most at risk, followed by California with 3,800 square miles and Washington with 3,200 miles according to the report.

“Our analysis shows that costs for firefighting in the West could grow tremendously in the coming years,” said Ray Rasker, executive director of Headwaters Economics. “The combination of longer, warmer, and drier fire seasons—together with more and more nearby homes—will result in much higher expenses for taxpayers along with more difficult and dangerous fire seasons for firefighters.”

Prepared from “Defending private homes near public forests could overwhelm Forest Service—report” by Sharon Friedman posted on the “A New Century of Forest Planning” blog on February 20, 2013.

U.S. Forest Service Transition from Avue to eRecruit Goes Badly

The new U.S. Forest Service “staffing solution” called eRecruit, a service offered by Australian company NGA.net, seems to have a major problem. The position descriptions (PDs) that Forest Service personnel wrote during the 2005-2011 Avue era don’t belong to the Forest Service but to Avue Digital Services, a Tacoma, Washington, firm that contracts computer-based human resource “solutions” to government agencies, and must be rewritten by Forest Service personnel before positions may be filled. That’s what the contract says.

“In no event...can you use a PD from the Avue system, in whole or in part, to create a new or modified PD in the new eRecruit system,” a Forest Service memo told its frustrated personnel.

The Forest Service reportedly paid Avue over \$34 million for “the issue-laden Avue automated employment application process” pursuant to a licensing agreement under which Avue retains title to the thousands of PDs. The Forest Service cannot, therefore, transfer the PD content its personnel wrote and input into the Avue system into the eRecruit system that is replacing the Avue system, but must rewrite those PDs and input them

into the new system at great cost in time, money, and exasperation before hiring can occur. Just how long this will take seems anybody's guess. As was the problematic Avue system, the eRecruit system is intended to fill both permanent and temporary seasonal positions—including firefighter jobs.

"It's horrible!" a Forest Service source commented in late January 2013, four months after "the Forest Service completed the transition to eRecruit" according to the Forest Service's October 12, 2012, *HR Messenger*. "We can't hire anybody!"

Prepared from multiple sources including previous OldSmokeys Newsletter articles on the subject; the December 13, 2013, Best Places to Work in the Federal Government online report; "Strategic Management" by Andy Stahl in a January 8, 2013, "A New Century of Forest Planning" blog posting; "Avue and the Forest Service...Intellectual Property Concept Runs Amok" by Sharon Friedman in a February 6, 2013, "A New Century of Forest Planning" blog posting; "More on the Avue Saga—or Why Does the USDA Approach Seem, Well, Worse?" by Sharon Friedman in a February 18, 2013, "A New Century of Forest Planning" blog posting; "Spending money to save money," by Stephanie Paige Ogburn in the "High Country News" blog on February 18, 2013; and information from Forest Service personnel and job-seekers.

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell Proposed Grounding Smokey Bear Balloon as Economy Measure

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (Republican-Kentucky) proposed on the January 3, 2013, opening day of the 113th Congress that the Smokey Bear hot air balloon be grounded as a waste of taxpayer dollars during a fiscal crisis.

"If we can't stop spending taxpayer dollars on robo-squirrels and dancing robot DJs or hot air balloon rides for Smokey the Bear (*sic*), then there's no hope at all," said Senator McConnell.

"If we can't fix the easy stuff, how are we ever going to get at the hard stuff?"

Since its October 1993 maiden voyage at the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival, the Albuquerque-based hot air balloon in the likeness of a New Mexico-born wildfire prevention icon has carried Smokey Bear's wildfire prevention message all over the nation.

The Smokey Bear balloon was inspired by retired U.S. Forest Service district ranger Bill Chapel, its chief pilot from its first flight in 1993 until February 2012. It was built and sent aloft by a public-private partnership of volunteers, private sponsors, the National Association of State Foresters, and the Forest Service. The friends of Smokey Bear Balloon, Inc., is the sole licensee for use of Smokey's image in balloon form.

Most of the \$200,000 annual budget for the Smokey Bear balloon comes from sponsorships and donations. In 2012, the Forest Service spent \$31,000 to help the aerial image of Smokey appear at venues across the country. It's spent about \$240,000 over the two decades of the project. Supporters of the Smokey Bear balloon say it "ultimately pays for itself."

Prepared from multiple sources including an Associated Press article "U.S. Senator pops 'Smokey Bear' balloon" in the January 4, 2013, Durango Herald; "Senate Minority Leader wants to eliminate the Smokey Bear balloon" posted by Bill Gabbert on January 4, 2013, on the Wildfire Today blog; the Friends of the Smokey Bear Balloon website; and a January 5, 2013, e-mail from OldSmokey Dick Spray.



Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

The following changes have occurred since the new *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2013* enclosed with the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* was published.

Abraham, Dan B. "Abe" – Deceased February 26, 2013; Virginia survives

Abriel, Ray & Robin – New members: 7695 SW 181st Ave, Aloha, OR 97007

Telephone: 503-649-0152 E-mail: rabriel@comcast.net

Anderson, Barbara "Bobbie" Rodgers – Deceased March 7, 2013; Rolf survives

Bennett, Walter F. "Walt" – Deceased January 19, 2013; Marlene survives

Best, Louis R. & Shirley – New members: 3907 Bella Vista Loop, Harker Heights, TX 76548

Telephone: 254-698-4950 E-mail: LNSBEST@embarqmail.com

Bjornsen, Helen – Correct address: 740 Amanita St, Eagle, ID 83616

Change telephone: 208-891-1709 (cell) Add e-mail: HBjornsen@aol.com

Brennan, Joseph W. & Mary – Change e-mail: brennanhouse@q.com

Brown, Mary Ellen – Change address: 4714 NE 72nd Ave, Apt. FF-131, Vancouver, WA 98661

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

Change telephone: 703-910-6334 Change e-mail: reneob@comcast.net

Christiansen, Mark L. & Carrie J. – New members: 2784 NW Fairway Heights, Bend, OR 97701

Telephone: 541-389-4075 (home) 541-771-2817 (cell) E-mail: mlccjc@bendbroadband.com

Connaughton, Kent – Change e-mail: kconnaughton@fs.fed.us

Curtis, Elizabeth B. – Change telephone number: 509-876-2913

Duran, Frank D. & Pamela – Change address: 621 Niagra NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

Ellson, Arvid C. – Deceased January 30, 2013; Linda survives

Eav, Bov & Lennie – New address: 6715 Nixon St, Lakewood, CA 90713



Change telephone: 562-421-9057 Change e-mail: bovbeav@gmail.com
Fellows, Larry A. – Deceased February 17, 2013; Kathie survives
Fine, H. “Woody” & Amy – New members: 350 W 38th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405
Telephone: 541-517-0661 E-mail: woodyfine@gmail.com
Fravel, Tom – Change e-mail: fravel9148@comcast.net
Frew, Claudia – New member: 3505 Campus View Dr, Grants Pass, OR 97527
Telephone: 541-430-1484 E-mail: claudia_frew@hotmail.com
Graham, Chuck & Judy – Change e-mail: cjgraham4406@gmail.com
Hanson, Donald C. – New member: P.O. Box 87, John Day, OR 97845
Telephone: 541-620-1889
Haxby, Mike & Barb – Change telephone: 360-601-8820
Heath, Becki Lockett – Change telephone: 509-888-5639 Change e-mail: beckihome@gmail.com
Hendrickson, Bruce & Mary Jane – Change e-mail: hendbamj@frontier.com
Hessel, Al & Peggy – Change address: 21360 SW 98th Ave, Tualatin, OR 97062
Change telephone: 503-486-5702
Holdgrafer, Jerry – Change address: 8300 SW Barnes Rd, Portland, OR 97225
Change telephone: 503-200-5841
Holdgrafer, Vickie – Deceased August 20, 2012; Jerry survives
Hom, Dale L. & Rebecca – Change e-mail: dh.xfed@gmail.com
Johnson, Henry E. – Change address: P.O. Box 889, Enumclaw, WA 98022
Jones, Lois – Correct address: 19855 SW Touchmark Way, Bend, OR 97702
Change telephone: 541-312-1596 Add e-mail: jonesyockey@mail.com
Kline, John P. & Sharon – Change e-mail: pkline@wtechlink.us
Ksenzulak, Karla & Charley Davis – New members: 1973 N Jantzen Ave, Portland, OR 97217
Telephone: 503-252-2324 (home) & 503-869-8288 (cell) E-mail: cnkonriver@q.com
Lewis, Ted & Joan – Change address: 686 S Idaho St, Kennewick, WA 99336
Change telephone: 509-987-1580
Macdonald, Doug – Correct telephone number: 541-726-7929 Add cell phone number: 541-505-4962
Mapes, Hubert L. & Maureen – Change address: P.O. Box 29, Dallesport, WA 98617
Add e-mail: hubertmapes@gmail.com
Miller, Robert B. & Sally Mirish – Change address: 2284 21st St, Florence, OR 97439
Change telephone: 541-590-3142 Add e-mail for Sally: sallymirish@yahoo.com
Mohla, Marilyn – Change address: 2680 Foxglove Loop SE, Albany, OR 97322
Moore, Mack R. & Louise – Change telephone: 208-871-5991 (cell)
Morrison, Myrtice M. – Deceased February 11, 2013
Mueller, Laneta “Lennie” – Deceased February 6, 2013; Dick survives
Naish, Jean Louise Livengood Wilson – Deceased January 4, 2012; Bob survives
Olson, Lillian – Deceased June 2010
Pomeroy, Olive – Deceased January 24, 2013; Dick survives
Pritchard, Lylan E. – Deceased December 17, 2012; Vernon survives
Reifenberg, Arno – Change address: Holiday Park Plaza, 1300 NE 16th Ave, Apt 612, Portland, OR 97232
Change telephones: 503-280-2510 and 503-956-1291
Rice, Jim R. & Jeanne – Change e-mail: jrr@ccgmail.net
Rondthaler, Carolyn – Change address: 513 E Street SE, Washington, DC 20003
Roosevelt, Roy M. & Myra – New members: 5529 Sandoval Dr NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
Telephone: 505-867-5982 E-mail: royroosevelt@gmail.com
Salisbury, Bud – Change address: P.O. Box 446, John Day, OR 97845
Simmons, Duane V. – Deceased December 15, 2012
Simmons, Gail – Deceased
Stanaland, William Needham “Bill” – Deceased February 13, 2013; Betty survives
Townsend, Curtis W. – Deceased March 20, 2012
Warren, Debra – Change telephone: 503-201-5934 (cell; dropped landline)
Williams, Gerald W. “Jerry” – Change address: 1405 S Dusky Dr, Ridgefield, WA 98642
Change telephone: 360-727-3650 (cell phone remains 503-799-8352)
Zensen, Fred & Judy Starreveld – Change address: 52 Cutthroat Dr, Cudjoe Key, FL 33042
Zike, Susan M. “Sue” – New member: 21005 SW Rosedale Rd, Aloha, OR 97007
Telephone: 503-649-2965 E-mail: szike123@aol.com

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Ray & Robin Abriel of Aloha, Oregon, joined on February 6, 2013. Ray retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 29, 2012, as Regional Manager for Landowner Assistance Programs, State & Private Forestry (S&PF), at the RO in Portland, Oregon, after 32.5 years of service. Ray and Robin began their career at Rager Ranger Station, which also “retired” a few months prior to Ray’s retirement. Ray was a forester working primarily in silviculture and fuels management. He also served on national forests in two other regions: in Region 5 on the Angeles National Forest in fire, and Region 4 on the Fishlake National Forest as a district timber forester and the Uinta National Forest as an assistant district ranger. Ray served primarily in timber management, but also worked extensively in recreation, fire and fuels, and range management. Those experiences served him well as designated S&PF Region 6 liaison to Oregon and Washington state forestry agencies for the past twenty years.

Louis R. & Shirley Best of Harker Heights, Texas, joined on January 4, 2013. After serving four years in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1974, Lou joined the U.S. Forest Service on the Bear Springs Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, where he worked from 1974 to 1977, and then served as resource assistant on the Prospect Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, from 1977 to 1980. He returned to active Army service as a combat engineer in 1980, retiring as a colonel in 2001 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after 31.5 years of federal service. He planted and currently pastors a church in the Fort Hood area of central Texas.

Mark & Carrie Christiansen of Bend, Oregon, joined on February 6, 2013. Mark retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 29, 2012, as recreation program manager on the Deschutes National Forest, after a 37-year career in which he worked on six national forests in six regions. As a student at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Mark worked two Kaibab National Forest summers as a firefighter and timber marker on the North Kaibab Ranger District before he earned his B.S. degree in forest management in 1975. He worked in timber sale administration, recreation, and special uses on the Craig Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska for four years; in timber sale administration for four years and recreation for five years on the Hebgen Lake Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest in Montana; as district recreation staff officer on the Las Vegas Ranger District of the Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada for three years; as district recreation staff officer on the Boulder Ranger District of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado for seven years; and then as recreation program manager on the Deschutes National Forest starting in 1999 and adding the recreation program on the Ochoco National Forest in 2006 to his brief before retiring in Bend.

H. “Woody” & Amy Fine of Eugene, Oregon, joined on January 21, 2013. Woody retired from the U.S. Forest Service on April 4, 2011, after 35 years of federal service, 32 of those in the Forest Service and 24 of those in Region 6. Woody began his Forest Service career in Region 1 on the Lolo and Lewis and Clark national forests and at the Aerial Fire Depot and spent a couple years in the WO before his 24 years in Region 6. In Region 6, Woody worked in human resources, was a wild and scenic river planner for the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla national forests, and then deputy area manager for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. For 11 years he was the shared administrative officer for the Siuslaw and Willamette national forests and finished his career by returning to human resources to help Region 6 with position classification. According to Woody, the single most exciting part of his career was helping get a portion of the Wallowa River included in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Claudia Frew of Grants Pass, Oregon, joined on October 30, 2012. Claudia retired from the U.S. Forest Service on June 30, 2011, as a contracting officer with Region 6 AQM, Southwest Oregon Acquisition Team, in Roseburg, Oregon, at the Umpqua National Forest SO. Claudia began her career in 1987 as an information receptionist on the Galice Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, then served as a purchasing agent for the Siskiyou from 1990 to 2003. In 2003, right after the Biscuit Fire, she went to Region 8 as a contracting officer trainee at the Southern Research Station and the National Forests in North Carolina SO in Asheville. After fulfilling her training, Claudia took a new position in 2006 with the National Park Service at Redwood National Park. “Most people knew me as Claudia Mahan during my career,” she wrote. “When I returned to the Forest Service in 2007, I got married again” and was Claudia Halkyard. Claudia retired after 23 years of federal service: 21.5 with the Forest Service, 3.5 in Region 8 and 19 in Region 6, and 1.5 with the National Park Service at Redwood National Park.

Donald C. Hanson of John Day, Oregon, joined January 24, 2013. Don retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 32.5 years of federal service, 30 of those in the Forest Service and 2.5 of those in the U.S. Air Force.

Karla J. Ksenzulak & Charley Davis of Portland, Oregon, joined in late January 2013. Karla served 20 years in the U.S. Forest Service on the Deschutes National Forest where she started out in a warehouse as a GS-2 and detailed every chance she got when recreation needed help and gained the experience needed to specialize in fire prevention and fire investigation. She then served another three years in the Transportation Security Administration of the Department of Homeland Security for a total of 23 years of federal service.

Roy M. & Myra Roosevelt of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, joined February 8, 2013. Roy, former Region 6 Director, Human Resources, retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Director, Office of Human Resources Management, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on January 3, 2013, after 37.5 years in the Forest Service.

Susan M. “Sue” Zike of Aloha, Oregon, joined in March 2013. Sue retired from the U.S. Forest Service at the RO in Portland, Oregon, on December 30, 2009, after 33 years, 19 of those years in Region 6. Sue began her career on the Huron-Manistee National Forest, Cadillac, Michigan, in 1975, as one of the first female landscape architects in the Forest Service. “To wit,” Sue recalls, “the forest supervisor wanted to know how soon she would be having children and the AO wanted to know what days she wanted to make coffee!” She moved to a zone landscape architect position on the Custer and Lewis and Clark national forests in 1978, stationed in Billings, Montana. The forest supervisor of the Custer, when introducing her, announced he didn’t care about her “plumbing” and no one else should! Sue can’t recall that her gender was ever a topic at a staff meeting before or after that day. With nine great years of oil patch development, hard rock mining development, timber sale preparation, rangeland management, and writing the forest plan 11 times (“not so great”) under her belt, Sue sought greener pastures at the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, in 1987. She earned a juris doctorate (J.D.) degree in 1990, and returned to the Forest Service in 1991 to manage a newly created litigation coordination program for the environmental and natural resource lawsuits filed against Region 6. On her way out the door in 2009, Sue tallied over 300 lawsuits that had been managed through her office with the fine help of RO staff and forest coordinators. Her reaction? “Whew! No wonder we were tired!”

Editor’s Note: Some new OldSmokeys accept the invitation to submit background information for more thorough introductions than can be prepared from membership application information alone. Many thanks to them!

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger*

Dan B. “Abe” Abraham died February 26, 2013, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Dan was born May 19, 1923, on a farm near Forest Grove, Oregon. He graduated from Franklin High School in Portland, Oregon, in 1941, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1946, and graduated from the School of Forestry, Oregon State College, in 1950. During his 1942 to 1978 (with time out for military service and school) U.S. Forest Service career, Dan served on nine national forests and in two regional offices. Beginning in 1950, he worked at several jobs in fire and timber on the Cascadia, Rigdon, McKenzie, and Lowell ranger districts on the Willamette National Forest. In 1955, he became district ranger of the Gold Beach Ranger District on the Siskiyou National Forest. In 1961, he became fire, recreation, and lands staff officer on the newly-created Winema National Forest in Klamath Falls, Oregon. In 1965, Dan volunteered to work in the Job Corps conservation center program and was designated to be center director of the Icicle center on the Wenatchee National Forest; however, when that center was not built because of budget shortfalls, he went to the Division of Personnel Management in the RO in Portland, Oregon, where he worked an extended tour of duty on

temporary assignment as regional placement officer and later recruited teachers and other non-Forest Service staff for the centers. He later became center director of the Timberlake center on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Dan then went to the Pacific Southwest Region RO in San Francisco, California, as Region 5 Job Corps coordinator. When the five centers in California were closed in 1969, Dan became deputy forest supervisor of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Redding. In 1970, he became forest supervisor of the Klamath National Forest in Yreka, and retired from the Forest Service in that position in 1978. Dan worked as a legal assistant from 1982 to 1990 for the law office of Robert Ingram in San Rafael, California, and did volunteer work for the Marine County Open Space District for more than 20 years. Survivors include his wife Virginia; daughters Catherine Ann Brewer, Cynthia Helen Beecher, and Mary Enbom; son Dan James Abraham; and five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Colleen G. Adams died January 11, 2013, at age 69. Colleen was born November 2, 1943, in Olympia, Washington, graduated from Olympia High School in 1962, and served in the U.S. Forest Service on the Olympic National Forest where she advanced from receptionist to public affairs specialist. She married Ed Zabel in 1962, and they had two daughters. Colleen married Ralph C. Adams in 1977 and they enjoyed nearly 36 years together. Survivors include Ralph, daughters Christine and Marcy Zabel, and three grandchildren.

Barbara “Bobbie” Rodgers Anderson died March 7, 2013, at age 77. She was a PNWFSA member as wife of Rolf Anderson. Barbara Rodgers was born January 3, 1936, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, raised in suburban Brentwood, and graduated from high school in 1954. She attended Pennsylvania State University where she met Rolf. They eloped to Manassas, Virginia, in October 1956. Both graduated from Penn State in 1958, Bobbie with a degree in home economics. Bobbie moved with Rolf’s U.S. Forest Service career, living in the Oregon towns of Oakridge, Sweet Home, Detroit, Burns, Reedsport, Junction City, and Alvadore, plus a year in Boston, Massachusetts. Bobbie was first a homemaker, raising three children. When the last left for college, Bobbie pursued her passion for the welfare, caring, and training of dogs. She was a 4-H Club dog obedience leader in Burns and Junction City in the 1970s, and groomed dogs from their Junction City home in the 1970s and 1980s. She ran her business, Eugene Obedience Training, from the 1970s through 2012, and was recognized as one of the top trainers in the country. This led to dog obedience seminars in the continental United States, Hawaii, and Canada. She competed in American Kennel Club regional and national championships, earned national obedience trial championship certification on nine dogs, and was featured in a cover article in a dog trainer’s magazine. She put her dog training concepts into two editions of the best-selling book *Building Blocks for Performance*. Bobbie organized and was a member of the U.S. Team at the Crufts Dog Show in London, England, in 2004, 2010, and 2011. She also trained dogs for scent tracking certification and sheep dog trials. Survivors include Rolf; daughters Kathy Barrett and Susie Sieloff; son David; and three grandchildren.

Walter Fields “Walt” Bennett died January 19, 2013, at age 79. He was a PNWFSA member. Walt was born October 11, 1933, in Keansburg, New Jersey. He grew up in Keyport, New Jersey, and graduated from Keyport High School in 1950. Walt attended the University of Maine where he earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve through the university’s ROTC program, served ten years as a reserve officer, and was discharged in 1965 as a first lieutenant. Walt married Marlene Jeckell, who also attended Keyport high school but whom he didn’t know until he returned home from college, in 1959. Walt’s U.S. Forest Service career led the couple to a life in Oregon. He worked on the Zigzag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, until 1962, then a year on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest. A 1964 transfer to the Siuslaw National Forest took the couple and their two daughters to the Hebo Ranger District; the family lived in Cloverdale where a third daughter was born. In 1970, the family moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, where Walt worked at the Klamath Falls Ranger Station on the Winema National Forest and a fourth daughter was born. Walt was transferred to the RO in Portland in 1976, and served on the Lands and Minerals staff until he retired in 1988. Walt and Marlene achieved a retirement goal of living on the Oregon coast when they moved to Otis in 1998 and then to Lincoln City in 2006 before moving again to Beaverton to be closer to family. Walt had many outdoor and indoor hobbies. Survivors include Marlene; daughters Kathy Feemster, Jenna Bennett Schultz, Sarah Farnstrom, and Amy Bennett; and four grandchildren.

James Albert Bracken died February 13, 2013, at age 78. He was a PNWFSA member. Jim was born October 28, 1934, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and graduated from high school in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in 1951. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957 and completed that service as a second class petty officer in an aviation rating. Jim graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1959, and served in the U.S. Forest Service as a project engineer until he retired in 1985. During his Forest Service career, he married Judith P. Story in Lakeview, Oregon. After retirement, he and Judith lived in Prairie City, Oregon. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, gunsmithing, reading, and traveling. Survivors include Judith; daughter Angie Hughes; and two grandsons.

George John Cook died December 6, 2012, at age 81. George graduated from Oregon State College with a degree in civil engineering, served in the U.S. Forest Service, settled in Bend, Oregon, in 1960, where he worked on the Deschutes National Forest and eventually began “George Cook Engineering.” His career highlights included surveying for the first ski lift on Mt. Bachelor and helping to design Sunriver (where he was responsible for the community’s famous roundabouts). George “retired” at 50 to become a rancher and raise beef cattle. Survivors include Mina, his wife of 57 years; three daughters; eight grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Arlie Holm, Forest Representative, Deschutes National Forest, provided this information.

Arvid Carl Ellson died January 30, 2013, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Arvid was born June 10, 1927, in International Falls, Minnesota, and raised on a dairy farm in Askov, Minnesota, until he finished high school in 1944. His family moved to Tigard, Oregon, and he worked as a welder in Portland shipyards until, the day before he turned 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Arvid served as a welder in USS *Makassar Strait*. After discharge, Arvid worked in the family insulating business until he entered Oregon State College to study forestry. After his third year of college, the Navy recalled him to duty for the Korean Conflict, and he served as a welder in USS *Tortuga* until the end of the conflict. He married Clara Elaine Goodwin in 1953, and completed his bachelor’s degree in forestry in 1954. Arvid joined the U.S. Forest Service and served in Region 6 on the Siuslaw and Umpqua national forests, served a stint in the WO, and returned to the RO in Portland where he retired as chief of watershed management. Highlights of his career included being a Forest Service spokesman and liaison with other agencies in Washington, D.C., during the consideration and passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. He was deeply involved in the consideration and rejection of the proposed High Mountain Sheep Dam that would have flooded Hells Canyon. Finally, he headed the team that studied and made recommendations for the future use of forest lands affected by the eruption of Mount St. Helens. After retirement, Arvid devoted his time to volunteer work. He spent 1984 and 1985 in Juneau, Alaska, doing a study for the Forest Service. There, a widower, he met and married Linda Rose Burger in 1984. He returned to Portland, and then to Battle Ground, Washington, spending several years as a handyman for Columbia Christian College and then as a master gardener with Washington Cooperative Extension. A member of the Lewiston Church of Christ, he served as deacon of buildings and grounds and taught Bible classes. Survivors include Linda; son Daniel; daughter Lorelee Anderson; and two grandchildren.

Larry A. Fellows died February 17, 2013. He was a PNWFSA member. Survivors include his wife, Kathie, and other family members.

Editor’s Note: Kathie Fellows, who reported Larry’s death to the PNWFSA, said in a February 18, 2013, e-mail, that Larry “didn’t want an obituary, but wanted the OldSmokey network to know.” The OldSmokeys Newsletter respects Larry’s wish.

Victoria Lynn “Vickie” Holdgrafer died August 20, 2012, at age 66. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Gerald N. “Jerry” Holdgrafer. Vickie was born August 29, 1945, in Tacoma, Washington. She graduated from St. Leo’s Catholic School in Tacoma in 1963 and attended Central Washington State College in Ellensburg for two years. She married Jerry in 1968, and his U.S. Forest Service career led them to settle in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1979. Vickie was devoted to her family, active in the community, a longtime member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, an avid supporter of Oregon State University sports, and sold Avon products from 1984 until 2012. Survivors include Jerry, daughter Marylyn, and son Joe.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Don Nearhood provided notification of Vickie’s death.

Myrtice M. Morrison died February 11, 2013, at age 92. She was a PNWFSA member, widow of the late Fritz Morrison, and sister of Wendall Jones. Myrtice Jones was born December 2, 1920, in Hazel Green, Oregon. She attended school in the Oregon towns of Gates and Kerby, graduated from Kerby High School in 1939, and attended Oregon State College. While working to earn money for college, she met Fritz Morrison. He graduated from Oregon State College in 1941 with a degree in forestry, and they married on September 6, 1941. Myrtice's life as a U.S. Forest Service wife took her to national forests and ranger districts in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, as well as to Washington, D.C. Twenty-eight moves during Fritz's career took them to places including Agness, Oregon, on the lower Rogue River; Packwood, Oregon, where he had his first district ranger assignment from 1953 to 1958; Wenatchee, Washington, where Fritz was Wenatchee National Forest fire staff officer; Washington, D.C., where Fritz was on the WO Fire Staff; and Boise, Idaho, where Fritz retired. She was very supportive of Fritz's career, involved in church and community life, and raised their three children effortlessly. She enjoyed gardening, gourmet cooking, sewing, and exploring the outdoors, and could identify the wildflowers in all the places they lived. Myrtice and Fritz moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1978, to be closer to family members. A dedicated hiker, she led a Bend Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District hiking group from 1982 until 1992. Fritz died in 1985, and Myrtice remained in Bend where she lived in Orion Estates and enjoyed golf and other activities. For the past five years she lived happily at the Bend Villa retirement home. Survivors include her sons Fritz and Monte and daughter Elaine Clark; five grandchildren and two step-grandsons; and nine great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Elaine Clark for this memory.

Laneta Margaret "Lennie" Mueller died February 6, 2013, at age 82. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Dick Mueller. Laneta Wickham was born on May 10, 1930, in St. Louis, Missouri, where she grew up the daughter of a pastor, social worker, and U.S. Army chaplain who served four years overseas during World War II. Lennie attended St. John's College, a small Lutheran school in Winfield, Kansas, where she received her teaching degree in 1949. Lennie met Richard Lawrence "Dick" Mueller in June 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio, and they married in August 1950. The St. Louis city girl had married a forester with whom she moved west and found herself raising a growing family at remote U.S. Forest Service ranger stations. The family moved to Parkdale, Oregon, in 1965, when Dick became district ranger, Hood River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest; they remained Parkdale residents and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hood River, and Lennie spent her life raising her children and making invaluable contributions to the communities of Hood River County in the areas of migrant workers' child care, early childhood education, parent training, assistance to the disabled and handicapped, and other community service and civic organizations. Survivors include Dick; daughters Margaret Fisher and Anna Mueller; sons Richard, Martin, Peter, Michael, Jeffrey, and Kirk McKenzie; ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Jean Louise Livengood Wilson Naish died January 4, 2013, at age 83. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Robert A. "Bob" Naish. Jean Louise Livengood was born February 4, 1929, in McMinnville, Oregon. A graduate of St. Helens High School and Bassist Institute's School of Design, she had also studied at Marylhurst College, was a member of the American Society of Interior designers, and owned her own business, Jean's Interiors, from 1976 to 2010. Jean married David A. Wilson, Jr., in 1948, and had six sons. She and Bob, her second husband, were wed in 1983, and through the years they traveled and hiked the Pacific Northwest as well as parts of Utah, Alaska, Switzerland, and the Italian Dolomites. Jean and Bob enjoyed life on their Warren, Oregon, acreage, where they liked to garden and entertain. An accomplished interior designer, oil painter, and tap dancer, she loved art in all its forms. Survivors include Bob; her sons Douglas, Franklin, Timothy, David, Bryan, and Matthew; stepson Robert and stepdaughter Vicki Murry; 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Lillian Louise Olson died June 16, 2010, at age 90. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late Vincent "Vince" Olson. Lillian Moore was born March 8, 1920, in Baltimore, Maryland. She married Vince Olson while he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. During that time she was a telephone operator at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Following the war, Vince and Lillian moved to the West Coast where he was a U.S. Forest Service forester and she a homemaker and Forest Service camp cook in Washington State. They adopted two children and Lillian became a full-time homemaker. In 1963 the family moved on Vince's transfer to Alaska where Lillian had a passion for catching big fish and enjoyed berry picking, gardening, canning, and working in her church. Lillian devoted her life to raising her two daughters and active membership in Lutheran churches wherever the family lived. Survivors include daughters Aleeda Chastain and Catherine Olson.

Editor's Note: Aleeda Chastain, daughter of Vince and Lillian Olson, provided notification of Lillian's death.

Olive Geneva Pomeroy died January 25, 2013, at age 83. She was PNWFSA member and wife of Dick Pomeroy. Olive Thompson was born August 31, 1929, in Starbuck, Minnesota, and was Dick's wife for 65 years. Olive was a retired school teacher who taught in Beaverton, Oregon, and Oakland, California, schools. Olive and Dick were true partners in almost everything they did. As a U.S. Forest Service couple, they served together at ranger stations and other assignments in Oregon, Washington, and California, and then at Wolf Creek Job Corps Center on the Umpqua National Forest where Dick was director and Olive a volunteer mother away from home. Following their retirement, Olive and Dick served two years in the Dominican Republic as Peace Corps volunteers, took a number of Volunteer in Mission trips to countries in Latin America, founded the Goose Hollow Family Homeless Shelter at the First United Methodist Church in southwestern Portland, Oregon, and pursued many other service activities. Survivors include Dick; sons Jeff, John, Jim, and Joe; and two grandsons.

Lylan E. Pritchard died December 17, 2012, at age 84. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Vernon D. “Vern” Pritchard. Lylan was born February 16, 1928, in Tacoma, Washington, where she graduated from Lincoln High School before she attended Washington State College in Pullman. She was 20 years old when she and Vern married, and they shared 64 years of married life together. She was a Bend, Oregon, resident for 44 years; some of those years were while Vern served on the Deschutes National Forest and others after he retired from the Forest Service and they returned to Bend. Lylan worked for Craig Coyner Law Offices in Bend for many years. Survivors include Vern; children Vernon R., Carolyn Curtis, Jonathan, and Nancy Brennan; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Arlie Holm, Forest Representative, Deschutes National Forest, provided this information.

Duane V. Simmons died December 15, 2012, at age 83. He was a PNWFSA member. Duane was born October 25, 1929, in Quincy, Illinois. His family moved to Bremerton, Washington. After graduating from Bremerton High School, Duane entered the University of Washington. He left to serve in the U.S. Army, and during that service was a nearly undefeated boxer. While stationed in New Jersey, he met Gail Weisenbach and they married in 1946. The newlyweds returned to Seattle and started their family as Duane returned to school and earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry. He later earned a master’s degree in silviculture. Duane retired from the U.S. Forest Service after more than 40 years of service to his country. He enjoyed family time, fishing, hunting, prospecting, camping, gardening, birding, whittling, rock hounding, and dog training, and enjoyed watching any sport that included his children or the Huskies. In addition to the OldSmokeys, Dale was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Bedrock Prospectors club. Survivors include his sons Duane, Jr., Glenn, and Kip; daughters Debra Makowski, Susan Cearley, and Tamara Dahlquist; and nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Lee Boeckstiegel, Forest Representative, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and OldSmokey President Mike Ash provided this information.

William Needham “Bill” Stanaland died February 13, 2013, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member. Bill was born May 15, 1930, in Tampa, Florida, where he grew up and which he left in 1950 for Oregon to work for the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Highways. He drove a snowplow at Mt. Hood. Bill was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951 and served two years in Korea. Although trained as a radio communicator, he spent most of that time repairing vehicles and driving a bulldozer and a wrecker. After discharge from the Army, Bill returned to Tampa. He married Betty Bolitho in August 1955 and graduated from the University of Tampa with a B.S. degree in forestry in spring 1956. Bill, Betty, and their son Tom headed for Oregon in August 1957 where Bill returned to the Forest Service on the Bear Springs Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Subsequent Forest Service assignments took Bill and

family to Prineville and Baker, Oregon. In June 1966, Bill and family moved to the Rogue Valley and settled in Medford, Oregon, where Bill served as an administrative officer on the Rogue River National Forest until he retired in 1985. During retirement, Bill and Betty enjoyed several trips to Australia, road trips around the United States, and a trip to Peru. Bill enjoyed his family and active memberships in the Jefferson Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society, the Pacific Northwest Truck Museum in Brooks, Oregon, and the Australia Historical Truck Society. Survivors include Betty; son Tom and daughter Susan Hill; and four grandchildren.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokeys Ron Ketchum and Jerry Wojack provided this information.

E.C. “Curley” Swank died October 1, 2012. He was a PNWFSA member and husband of U.S. Forest Service retiree Julie Swank.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Bob Devlin, Membership Chair, provided this notification. No further information was available.

Curtis W. Townsend died March 20, 2012, at age 87. He was a PNWFSA member. Curtis was born March 13, 1925, in North Bend, Oregon. The son of an Oregon game warden, he grew up in the Oregon towns of Ontario and Powers. At 16 he worked in a lumber camp on Eden Ridge near Powers where he kept loggers’ cabins supplied with firewood. His service in the U.S. Army during World War II began when he was a student at the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, and his ROTC unit was activated for service in Europe. A scout in the Army’s 66th Black Panther Division, Curtis disembarked from the troopship SS *Leopoldville* hours before its Christmas Eve 1944 sinking off Cherbourg, France, by a German U-boat. After the war, Curtis served in the U.S. Forest Service in various capacities on the Powers and Gold Beach ranger districts of the Siskiyou National Forest. He married Edith Bernice Williams who died in 2010. Curtis retired from the Forest Service as Gold Beach Ranger District fire control officer. After his retirement, they traveled Oregon, hunted, and fished.

Editor’s Note: This memory was developed from information provided by Curtis’ stepson Gary Scorby.

Joseph Edward “Ed” Vaughn died March 11, 2013, at age 75. Ed was born May 10, 1937, in Wilmington, Delaware, and married Nancy Niedermeyer in 1967. Ed earned a bachelor’s degree at West Virginia Wesleyan College and a master’s of forestry degree at Duke University. Drafted into the U.S. Army, he served in the military police in Germany during the Berlin Wall crisis. Following military service, he served 25 years in the U.S. Forest Service on the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Deschutes national forests. After he retired from the Forest Service in 1985, Ed worked for 12 years for Microsphere Computers in Bend, Oregon. In 1994, he planted a pear orchard on family farmland near Jacksonville, Oregon, and eventually moved to Medford. He was active in southwestern Oregon agriculture and soil and water conservation efforts. Survivors include his wife Nancy, sons Michael and Allen, and six grandchildren.

Letters

Wendall Jones *remembers Dan Abraham*

I dropped out of school at Oregon State College in the spring of 1953 (ran out of money) and went to work for Dan Abraham at Cascadia Ranger Station on the Willamette National Forest. I was to be the log scaler there in the summer, but Dan believed all upcoming foresters should get lots of practice planting trees. So I did a lot of that until I had to go to scaler training at Oakridge, Oregon. But got in a few days helping Dan locate roads and lay out and cruise units for a new timber sale. He was a good teacher. If you have been a good forester, you eventually will run into Dan in Forester Heaven.

George Berschied *remembers Walt Bennett*

I was TMA on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, when Walt Bennett came to the district. Walt and Marlene became immediate family friends. Our kids were the same ages and we had many happy times. When Walt moved to the Siuslaw National Forest I took a job in Salem and we continued our family fun on the Oregon beaches. It's hard to imagine that any organization built the friendships that we were so fortunate to have in the Forest Service family.

Bob McQuown *remembers Walt Bennett*

Walt Bennett, a friend of 41 years, and I spent several years together on the Winema National Forest, and I will always treasure his intellect, quick wit, and friendship.

Bruce Brown *remembers George Crook*

Speak of "ghosts" from the past! My first assignment as a JF was on the old Lakes District of the Mt. Hood National Forest. George was working there then and I remember him as a gruff, no-nonsense engineer. But he also had a big smile. He was seldom ruffled and always had a comeback for anyone who tried to "lay" on him.

But I remember one incident for which he had nothing to say. In those days it was not uncommon for some guys to take a hunting rifle with them as they made their rounds. Some will remember those "good old days." George did this on occasion and one day while returning the gun to his green fleet Chevy panel it went off and by the time it exited the roof it left a rather significant hole on the passenger's side. After that the rig sported a noticeable patch of body putty covered by an almost but not quite standard green paint.

Dick Worthington was the ranger then and I don't know if he and George had a "talk" but George was soon off to bigger and better things.

Jack Inman *remembers Arvid Ellson*

Arvid was district ranger on Mary's Peak, Siuslaw National Forest, in 1957 and 1958 when I was brush disposal foreman. Was easy to work with. Later in my career on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and he was in RO watershed, I was lucky enough to accompany him, WO and forest staff on a week-long horse pack trip into Hells Canyon on a review of the proposed High Mountain Sheep Dam. If memory serves me right, that was in 1967 or 1968. Was an outstanding event for

all involved, about twenty individuals.

Zane Smith *remembers Larry Fellows*

It is so sad to learn of Larry Fellows passing. Larry was a long time friend and colleague and we have many fond memories of him. We first met at the Cispus Job Corps Conservation Center near Randall, Washington, in the mid 1960s. He was deputy center director and an exceptional leader. He gained the respect of staff and corpsmen alike with his exceptional performance and care for the program. As we all graduated to new jobs and challenges, Larry continued in his success and was a notable forest supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest. He will be missed.

Connie Franz *remembers Leo Hess*

I worked with Leo in the RO during the 1970s. He taught me some of the tricks to negotiating a contract. He was very quiet and serious about his job. I learned a lot from him.

Forrest Fenstermaker *remembers Olive Pomeroy and Arvid Ellson*

Sad news indeed for the OldSmokeys. First there was Olive Pomeroy, the first Forest Service wife my wife Ruth and I met upon arrival in Darrington, Washington, at the Suitttle Ranger Station where Dick was district ranger in 1958. We shared and enjoyed so many blessings with this loving couple over the years and their memorable legacy will continue in our hearts. Our prayers are now with Dick.

Then there was Arvid Ellson, once timber staff officer on the Umpqua National Forest who, like Dick, was also a gem to work for and a great friend to enjoy. Both Olive and Arvid had exemplary experiences not only within the Forest Service but [in] their many other contributions to society. We have been blessed so much by both of them.

Dave Jay *remembers Olive Pomeroy*

On a stormy, wet day in January 1959, my first wife Sara along with our four-month-old daughter Gayle and I arrived in Darrington, Washington, from Ann Arbor, Michigan. During the previous week Olive had been frantically searching for some place for us to live as there was nothing available on the ranger station. Finally she found us a place in an old motel up Clear Creek just outside of town. Olive was so gracious and concerned for us.

Olive was selected to star in a U.S. Forest Service movie about 1960. She was just lovely. I was fortunate to be selected as "service chief" to pack the Pomeroy's along with the movie crew and their gear on a pack string up the Suitttle River trail to Image Lake on Miners Ridge. As you would expect, Olive's unique personality and beauty made an exceptional movie.

She was a true Forest Service partner!

Ron Ketchum *remembers Olive Pomeroy*

It was with great sadness that Mickey and I [reported] the news of our good friend Olive Pomeroy's passing. On our first day on arriving at our first U.S. Forest Service assignment in Darrington, Washington, in 1957, a very pretty lady came by as we were moving into our house. She said: "You are coming to our house for dinner." There was no argument accepted, and we spent the evening with a family who became lifelong friends.

Max Peterson *remembers Olive and Dick Pomeroy*

Dick and Olive bought our house in Orinda, California, when we left there and they were moving to the Bay Area. Unfortunately, we never got a chance to get real well acquainted with them.

Betty & Zane Smith *remember Olive Pomeroy*

Betty and I shared a tear with Dick upon the news of Olive's passing. Those two were the classic Forest Service couple and both so caring of all who knew and were around them. Olive was a real trouper and always at Dick's side supporting not only him but the entire Forest Service family. We had the good fortune to work together and also shared the opportunity to direct Job Corps conservation centers at the same time. Our hearts are heavy and our thoughts are with Dick.

Ken Meyer *remembers Vern Pritchard*

Vern was the district ranger at Prospect Ranger Station on the Rogue River National Forest when I worked there in the early '60s.

Tom Harlan *remembers Ken Roberts*

I worked with Kenny on the Siuslaw National Forest.

He was one of the most memorable people I ever knew. He was always good for a laugh or ten. When we were both in Corvallis we carpooled with two others to Salem for a night class about boat piloting. He always kept us laughing about his adventures.

He was the best.

Jack Inman *remembers Ken Roberts*

It was tough to hear of Ken passing on.

I first met him when he came to the Waldport Ranger District on the Siuslaw National Forest, his first Forest Service assignment. I was the brush disposal/suppression crew foreman on the district at the time and, as was the case in those days, all hands learned the basic skills of the various disciplines necessary to get the job done. As part of his training, Ken worked on my crew, first on fire and later tree planting. He was a hard worker, eager to learn and always had a positive outlook on the existing situation—a trait not easy to maintain especially in a sloppy fire mop up or planting trees on a steep slope in a steady rain storm.

The Roberts soon became part of the "district family." We recall fondly the Halloween party that fall.

I never had the opportunity to work with him again, but watched his progression within the outfit with interest and proud to have been a part of it.

Wendall Jones *remembers Ken Roberts*

I am sure that a whole bunch of us old-timers will agree with me that Kenny Roberts was one of the best individuals who ever worked with us in the U.S. Forest Service. Great sense of humor and such a special individual to work with. We will all have a perceptible smile as we think back to days with Kenny.

Kenny was often the target of jokes that were created from his great sense of humor. If some smiles were needed in a work situation, Kenny usually provided. Perhaps some of you could share some stories of Kenny [that] might make good material for an *OldSmokeys Newsletter* [article]. You Umpqua National

Forest veterans should be loaded with stories of Kenny.

Jack Kerr *remembers Ken Roberts*

I am saddened at the news of Ken Roberts' passing.

I first met Ken when he was a silviculturist on the Willamette National Forest. I was working as FMO for Ralph McCurdy at Lowell. He, Orval Jess, Ed Stout, and others visited our district on a GFI.

A few years later, as I was working for Orval Jess, Ken came to Orval's retirement party. While there, he told me that he was shopping for an FMO for the Paulina Ranger District. I was selected for that job in 1972.

It was probably the best assignment of my career. Ken ran a tight ship at Rager. He had a very good staff, and under his guidance Rager shown as a jewel in the forest.

Things don't work like that anymore! Rager has just been abandoned to the elements and pack rats.

Kent Mays *remembers Ken Roberts*

"K.R." or Kenny Roberts possessed one of the finest senses of humor of anyone. He could turn a tense situation into a giggle session with a well-focused comment that put everything into proper perspective—and without denigrating anyone. He had a special gift.

I was able to work directly with Ken for only about two months when I arrived at Waldport. He was just finishing his tour there and leaving to accept a promotion in Corvallis. He was missed on the Waldport Ranger District. After he left, his relationship with the district folks was always first class professional and helpful. He was one of those rare special people.

John Poppino *remembers Ken Roberts*

I first met Ken when he was district ranger at Rager Ranger Station.

I was planning team leader on the Malheur National Forest and had scheduled a meeting of Malheur and Ochoco National Forest districts on the south fork of the John Day River. I got a message back from Ken commenting on my lack of cultural sensitivity in that I had scheduled a meeting right on top of his religious holidays.

I was embarrassed for [my] lack of sensitivity. When I looked at the calendar I saw that I had scheduled the meeting early in elk season! Ken did forgive me.

Tim Rogan *remembers Ken Roberts*

I was privileged to work with Ken when he was district ranger on the Paulina Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest.

I will never forget the time when I and two others from the engineering staff went out to Rager Ranger Station to convince Ken that we should pave the road up Paulina Creek.

We were really prepared with our case and were rattling off all these good reasons to pave when...Ken jumped up and stood up on top of his desk and said, "Now I'm the tallest person in this room and you better start listening to what I'm thinking!"

I can't remember what was decided about the paving, but that isn't what is important. Ken Roberts was just an outstanding person and I am saddened with his passing.

Zane Smith *remembered Ken Roberts to Ken's daughter Cynde*

[I] wanted you to know how sad I am that a valued friend and colleague has gone. We worked together on the Willamette National Forest in the 1970s. His professionalism and ability to work effectively with our team were exceptional and earned him the respect [of] both employees and the folks in the community we partnered with.

Although we did not serve together after that, I followed his career with interest and pleasure that he was recognized with increasingly important positions, [at] all of which he excelled. He will rest in peace with his ancestors.

Lavelle “Pete” Stanger *remembers Ken Roberts*

I’m sorry to hear of Ken’s passing. I send my regrets to Betty and their family. Ken worked for me when he started his career at Waldport, along with several other outstanding foresters and forestry technicians.

I remember so many great things about him both on and off the job. We hunted together and joked together.

Gary Starkovich *remembers Ken Roberts*

I hunted elk with Ken (We called him Chief; there were eight or so of us) for 10 years or more; a long time anyway. I will miss his smile and the good times we had. Ken hunted hard, but never seemed to get one very often.

One year after hunting about 10 days with no luck and back in elk camp, Ken changed out of his hunting clothes—and I mean all of them—walked over to our outside fire and proceeded to throw them all in the fire one at a time.

We asked what he was doing, and he said “Old Indian custom. Break bad luck.” We never knew for sure if it worked, but we had a good time with this. And he did get one the next year. I helped him cut it up for the packout and his smile lit up the whole area.

One great guy!

Ted Stubblefield *remembers Ken Roberts*

One of the great characteristics I admired in Kenny was his ability to always keep things in perspective; great sense of humor coupled with solid thinking.

Joe Brennan *remembers Bob Romancier*

It was with much sadness I read of Bob Romancier passing. Bob and I developed a strong friendship during our short three-month tours of duty as fire lookouts on the McKenzie Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, in 1955. We would chat daily over the old No. 9 phone line. As Bob mentioned in his *The Way We Were* article in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, the 1955 fire season was pretty quiet. We had different days off, so on those days we would hike the seven miles to each other’s lookout for the day. We would try to prepare a special meal during our visits. Having a woodstove for heating and cooking and a melting snowbank for cooling perishables, special meals were not easy. I remember Bob really enjoyed one meal which consisted of Nalleys Chili Con Carne and homemade biscuits.

During the 57 years since those days, our paths crossed only once that I remember, but I always tried to keep track of him. Bob mentioned that he visited Olallie Lookout a couple years back. I also visited Horsepasture Mountain a few years back.

The lookout is gone, but not the memories of a fun summer with a great neighbor and friend. Rest in peace, Bob.

Bob Devlin *remembers Bill Stanaland*

I had the good fortune to work with Bill Stanaland on the Rogue River National Forest in the early 1980s. Bill helped me, a new forest supervisor in a new region, immensely. He was not only a real gentleman but a great administrative officer. Bill was a key member of our forest leadership team. He was respected by all on the forest.

My first thought when thinking about Bill is “he was a true professional.”

Bob McQuown *remembers Bill Stanaland*

I was truly saddened to hear of Bill’s death. He was AO on the Rogue River National Forest when I was district ranger at Union Creek and was one of those unique individuals who somehow always seemed to come up with the right answer for a particularly knotty fiscal or budgetary problem. He was just a gem of an individual all the way around. Even though I haven’t seen him in years, I will not forget his guidance and willingness to lend a helping hand.

Cal von Weissenfluh *remembers Bill Stanaland*

I was district ranger on Snow Mountain Ranger District when Bill was AO on the Ochoco National Forest. As Bob McQuown noted, Bill was a gem of a man who saw it as his mission to help the rest of us any legal way he could. Never one to criticize or grumble, we could depend on him for top-shelf advice and help on budgetary matters. A cool Hand Luke in every good sense of the term.

Ted Yarosh *remembers Bill Stanaland*

I remember Bill very well from the Ochoco National Forest days. Bill was always a nice colleague and would do anything for you when you needed help.

Steve Kelley *remembers Bert Toler*

I was saddened to hear of Bert Toler’s passing. As a young staff officer, Bert took me under his wing and got me through a tough time during forest planning. Bert had a heart of gold and a great sense of humor. He will be missed by many.

Ken White *remembers Bert Toler*

I agree with Jerry W. [in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*]. I was on the same Region 6 overhead team and when we needed something it appeared, thanks to “Uncle Bert.”

Gary Scorby *remembers his stepfather Curtis Townsend*

[Curt] talked so much about the Forest Service so I knew how much he loved his job and the people he worked with. I made many trips with him including trips to lookouts on various mountaintops.

He was more like and older brother to me than a stepfather. He taught me so much about hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. I am still grieving at the loss and expect I will continue until my time is up.

Bob Devlin *comments on the late Dick Worthington*

I always notice how many notes to [E-Mail Editor Vern Clapp] mention Dick Worthington’s name. Doesn’t surprise me due to his long career that was mostly in Region 6. [It might be inter-

esting] to folks to know that his son, Ben, retired as forest supervisor on the Daniel Boone National Forest and that his daughter, Viva, is the new district ranger on the Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest.

Temple & Britta Hahn *comment on the 2012 reunion*

We had a great time at the Rendezvous in the Rockies in Vail. Met many old friends from across the U.S. as well as a number of OldSmokeys including my Ranger Bob Tokarczyk and Oregon State University classmates John Poppino and Ken Evans.

Aleeda Chastain *comments on the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

In a January 17, 2013, e-mail to OldSmokey Vern Clapp, the daughter of the late Vince and Lillian Olson commented: “Both mom and dad loved keeping up with the news and happenings in the Pacific Northwest [as reported in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*] as I have. Being a forester’s daughter raised mostly in Sitka [and] Juneau I also have enjoyed the news, happenings, and especially the memories of the retired foresters.

Kent Clarida *comments on the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

I greatly appreciate the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and the photos taken at events. Thank you for the super job!

Kent Mays *comments on the Winter 2013 OldSmokeys Newsletter and the late Bob Romancier’s The Way We Were article*

Another great job on the Winter 2013 newsletter. Thank you for all your good work.

An interesting [follow-up] on those in Bob Romancier’s picture [illustrating Bob’s *The Way We Were* article on page 30]. Unfortunately, we lost both Jack Koning and Bob last year.

Jack Koning retired as an assistant director at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. After retirement he authored a “History of the Forest Products Laboratory.” While the lookout at Indian Ridge in 1955, he spotted an unnamed lake below and a bit north of the lookout. He talked to Ranger Ed Anderson, researched the procedures for naming features on national forests, followed the procedure, and named the lake “Lake Lulu” [after] a nickname for his future wife. The lake is listed as Lulu Lake on current Willamette National Forest maps. He graduated from Iowa State and started his professional career as a junior forester on the Blue River Ranger District of the Willamette. After a year at Blue River, he served his tour in the U.S. Air Force and returned to Madison and the Forest Products Lab.

Also, although I have not kept track of Warren Yeend, his mother was an opera star and he lived on Vashon Island. He came to work at McKenzie Bridge because his folks wanted him to get a real out-of-doors job. He was an excellent member of the crew, although he had no real background knowledge of the woods, was willing to try anything and asked good questions whenever that was needed.

Wanda McClellan *comments on the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

I really enjoyed the winter issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Truman Puchbauer *comments on the OldSmokeys Newsletter*

Thanks for your great work. I can scarcely wait until [the next] *OldSmokeys Newsletter* arrives.

John Austin *checks in from Baker City, Oregon*

Linda and I continue to enjoy retirement and look forward to seeing some of you in 2013. We stay busy with grandkids’ activities, travel to Arizona for a month or so in the spring to thaw out and for our annual elk hunt on the Carson National Forest in the fall.

OraLee Belveal *checked in from Winchester, Oregon, in January*

Just came from our monthly Forest Service breakfast. It is always good to see everybody and chat for awhile. Not many of us today as we have been having snow off and on.

Chester Bennett *checks in from Hermiston, Oregon*

Kay and I had a good year. We spent ten days in South Africa and saw all the “big five” but a leopard. Great trip, but after we got home Kay had surgery to remove five bone spurs from her left heel and doc put her in a cast to help it. Lots of fun getting old. See you at the spring banquet.

Ray & Ursula Bunster *check in from Woodbridge, Virginia*

Greetings from our cottage in the retirement community of Westminster at Lake Ridge in Woodbridge, Virginia. Our new phone number is 703-910-6334 and new e-mail addresses are <renob@comcast.net> and <ubunster@comcast.net>. The new snail mail address is 12151 Cathedral Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

We moved here in October from our townhouse home of 37 years and we (including Maxi) are still adjusting to the new environment and different lifestyle. The move was stressful because of the combination of the sale of our home, Ursula’s operation, and the downsizing to get our stuff and ourselves into a smaller home. The cottage has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, a breakfast nook, a combination dining room and living room, and not enough storage space.

We walk Maxi three times a day and go to dinner in the dining room in the main building. Maxi’s walks are a bit more of an adventure than they were in Lake Braddock. There are two small ponds, two wooded trails, and a small amount of grassy common on the Westminster campus and a fairly long, winding, paved trail between the neighboring community of River Ridge and the Occoquan River. The wooded trails and the woods along the paved walkway are home to many whitetail deer and some foxes and raccoons. We’ve been visited by a bald eagle in the tree behind our house. The pond behind our house has a resident beaver. Maxi tries to catch all of these four-footed critters and has evaluated the beaver as a potential meal.

Frank Ferrarelli *checks in from Pleasant Grove, California*

All is going well on our little ranch with the cows, chickens, goats and dogs. Health wise we can’t complain. Have two bionic knees that are working fine. I can remember back when I could never dream about replacement parts for people who wear out knees, etc. We have eight grandchildren; the oldest is 22 and just graduated from Cal Poly in aerospace engineering and the youngest just graduated from kindergarten to the first grade. Got all the bases covered.

Rick & Barb Forsman *checked in from Texas in January*

Greetings from the Texas Gulf Coast. We are enjoying the full-

time RV lifestyle going into year three. We are currently in Aransas Pass, Texas, just about 20 miles north of Portland, Texas. Weather is about the same as Portland, Oregon, cold and wet. Hopefully it will warm us soon! We will be in Abbeville, Louisiana, for the Mardi Gras season which is a month-long celebration all over Louisiana. We stay away from New Orleans; too old for that scene. We will be back in Oregon in June sometime.

Carl & Jean Juhl *check in from Bend, Oregon*

We enjoy seeing friends and ex coworkers at the August picnics.

We still have a herd of cattle which keeps Carl busy most every day, but we have been able to do some traveling.

Nora Rasure *checked in en route Ogden, Utah*

Even though I am moving to Ogden, Utah, for my new assignment as Region 4 Regional Forester, I still want to maintain my connection with the OldSmokeys.

Carolyn Rondthaler *checks in from Washington, D.C.*

Yes! My official address is Washington, D.C., but I will be in Oregon frequently.

Dorothy Schremek *checks in from Port Townsend, Washington*

Bob is busy again with his third book—about finished. After almost 60 years of marriage I am beginning to understand how foresters look at the world around them and plan their spring garden.

Dick Zechentmayer *checks in from King City, California*

Mary Lou and I are doing well. We so enjoy seeing the many pictures of the events so many are attending. Keep it up.

Letters is a section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which you may share thoughts and feelings with other OldSmokeys. Some are sent directly to the Editor or Secretary, others are reprinted from Oldsmokey online services provided by the E-mail Editor. You may send letters direct to Editor Les Joslin at 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon, 97701, or by e-mail addressed to <lesjoslin@aol.com>. Keep those cards and letters coming!

CORRECTION

OldSmokey **Carl Hickerson** advises his letter in the Winter 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—whether as a result of his or the editor’s error neither of us knows—referred erroneously to his summer 1950 “14-mile drive” from Bagby Hot Springs to Oak Grove Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest. He figures quite a few OldSmokeys recall that in 1950 there was only a trail between those two points. Carl was stationed alone at the 1905 log cabin at Bagby Hot Springs that summer to open all the trails—with hand tools and crosscut saw—and repair the phone lines in that neck of the woods, a job that really toughened him up. At the end of the summer, all his gear in a pack on his back, he walked that 14-mile trail from Bagby Hot Springs to Oak Grove Station in two hours and 45 minutes.

Books

OldSmokeys’ Grandchildren Will Dig Gopher to the Rescue: A Volcano Recovery Story

By Les Joslin

Well, not literally. Dig, that is. The gopher, that is. You get my drift. Kids will like it!

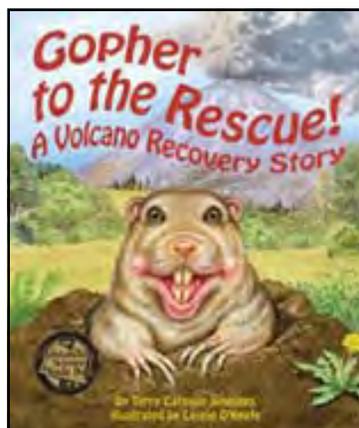
This, I’m sure, is the first time I’ve reviewed a children’s book in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. That may be because this is the first children’s book I’ve come across that’s set in a Pacific Northwest Region national forest.

Written by Terry Catusus Jennings and illustrated by Laurie O’Keefe, *Gopher to the Rescue: A Volcano Recovery Story* is set in the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, to be specific.

Sylvan Dell Publishing, which published the book, sums up the plot: “The forest animals are surprised when a volcano suddenly explodes, covering the land in gritty warm ash and rocks that make it unlivable for many plants and animals. Gopher survives in his underground burrow with food to eat. How does gopher help bring back life to the mountain? Scientists spent years observing life returning to the mountain following the eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980. This fictionalized story is based on their surprising observations of how life returns to an area that has been totally changed or destroyed.”

One of those scientists, Peter Frenzen, who serves as U.S. Forest Service monument scientist at Mount St. Helens, assisted author Jennings by providing information about landscape recovery for this book. This makes *Gopher to the Rescue* not just a story book but a science lesson, too. Indeed, it’s set up for that. The back of the book contains educational activities such as an experiment and a quiz. “Children will like this title for the story, and teachers will find the factual aspects valuable to instruction,” wrote Patricia Walsh, an educational reviewer in Norfolk, Virginia, for *Library Media Connection*.

And OldSmokeys who take grandchildren to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument this coming summer may find it a useful book to help those grandchildren understand the story that mountain has to tell.



Editor’s Note: Gopher to the Rescue, a 32-page book for children ages 4-9, published in 2012 by Sylvan Dell Publishing in hardcover (ISBN 9781607-181316) at \$17.95 and in paperback (ISBN 9781607-181415) at \$9.95, is available from the publisher’s online store or by printing out an order form at <www.sylvandale.com> or by calling toll free at

877-243-3457; at bookstores including BookSense independent bookstores and Barnes and Noble; and at online bookstores including SylvanDellPublishing.com, Amazon.com, and BarnesandNoble.com.

Prepared from multiple sources including Sylvan Dell Publishing website and The Chief's Desk for January 4, 2013, article.

John Maclean's Fourth Book on Fatal Wildfires Explores the Arson Tragedy of *The Esperanza Fire* of 2006

By Les Joslin

Editor Steve Wilent has written and published in the January 2013 edition of *The Forestry Source* the definitive review of John Mclean's fourth in a series of books that explores the "why" and "how" of fatal wildfires in the West. The book, *The Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57* published just this February, is every bit as compelling as Mr. Wilent's review says it is.

Many OldSmokeys who are members of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and receive that monthly newspaper for forest resource professionals published by SAF already have read Mr. Wilent's review. Those who don't get *The Forestry Source* can read the review online on the John Maclean Books website at <www.johnmacleanbooks.com> where it has been republished by permission.

This reader and writer can only second Mr. Wilent's review and encourage OldSmokeys who have not yet read the book to read it to decide for themselves if they want to delve further into the tragedy of the fire and the murder trial that followed. And, of course, this reader agrees that *The Esperanza Fire* is the "gut-wrenching, compelling narrative" Mr. Wilent says it is.

The facts of the October 2006 Esperanza Fire—a 42,000-acre blaze on the San Bernardino National Forest and adjacent lands that killed five U.S. Forest Service firefighters and destroyed 34 houses, and for which arsonist Raymond Lee Oyler was tried for murder and sentenced to death—were reported in the press and in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in 2006. Author John Maclean spent six years researching and writing the story behind that story—a sad but important story.

OldSmokeys who know John Maclean—son of the late Norman Maclean, author of *Young Men and Fire* about the 1949

Mann Gulch Fire probably even better known for his novella *A River Runs through It*—and have read his *Fire on the Mountain* about the 1994 South Canyon Fire, *Fire and Ashes* about several fatal fires, and *The Thirty-mile Fire* about that 2001 disaster know what they're in for—a well-written, easily-read, but hard-to-read account of yet another wild-fire disaster. Others should find out.

And those who read these four



books can only wonder how John Maclean may next tell the story of the Station Fire of September-October 2009 on the Angeles National Forest, the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history in which two firefighters perished.

Editor's Note: The *Esperanza Fire: Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57*, published in hardcover (ISBN 978-1-61902-017-9) in February 2013 by Counterpoint Press at \$26.00, is available at bookstores and from Amazon.com at \$15.85 plus shipping.

Forest History Society Publishes Lincoln Bramwell's New Book on U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry Program

By Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service Chief Historian Lincoln Bramwell's new history of the State and Private Forestry branch and program has just been published by the Forest History Society and may be ordered now.

Dr. Bramwell's *Forest Management for All: State and Private Forestry in the U.S. Forest Service*, according to the Forest History Society's February 2013 *The Forest Timeline*, "engagingly captures the branch's history, demonstrating why, time and again, State and Private Forestry was able to overcome numerous challenges to its purpose—and at times its existence—to become the federal leader in providing and coordinating technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers." In doing so, the author says, State and Private Forestry became indispensable to "the Forest Service's mission to focus the nation on the value of forest conservation."

Editor's Note: *Forest Management for All: State & Private Forestry in the U.S. Forest Service*, published in softcover (ISBN 978-0-89030-077-0) by the Forest History Society at \$10.95, is available beginning in April 2013 and may be ordered online from the Forest History Society e-Store at <www.foresthistory.org> (click on "publication," then "order online" or download Order Form (pdf) to mail to Forest History Society, 701 William Vickers Avenue, Durham, North Carolina 27701.

Books in the Summer 2013 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will include reviews of two titles for which there just was not space in this jam-packed Spring 2013 issue.

On of these is *Welcome to the Forest Service: A Guidebook for New Employees* published online in November 2012 at <www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/welcome.docx>.

The other is former smokejumper and retired physicist Charles R. "Chuck" Mansfield's *The Biscuit Fire: Consequences of Forest Management Decisions* published by Coyote Aerospace as an electronic book in PDF format.

If you run across a book you think would be of interest to your fellow OldSmokeys, please write it up and send it in for publication in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Twisp Ranger Station

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin

Twisp Ranger Station, established in 1929, was headquarters of the Twisp Ranger District—on the Chelan National Forest and in 1955 the Okanogan National Forest—until 1994 when the Twisp and Winthrop ranger districts were combined to form the Methow Valley Ranger District (since 2000 a district on the administratively lumped Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests and since 2007 on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest) and the district headquarters moved to Winthrop.

Built on a 6.4 acre site comprising two parcels in downtown Twisp purchased by the U.S. Forest Service in 1929 and 1936 for a total price of \$2,500, the Twisp Ranger Station compound eventually comprised 17 buildings. The first eight of these included two residences, a bunkhouse, two warehouses, and other structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. A road shop and a vehicle bay, possibly built by the CCC, were added in 1939. Two office buildings, two more residences, and other structures were added from the 1960s to the 1980s.

After the district combination, the Twisp compound served as a work center until declared surplus and offered at auction in 2007. Sensing a unique opportunity, the town of Twisp in 2008 chartered the Twisp Public Development Authority (PDA) to acquire, redevelop, restore, and manage the property. A generous commitment of \$1 million from an anonymous community member enabled the Twisp PDA to purchase the site in 2009.

During 2009 and 2010, hundreds of community members collaborated to create a 10-year master plan for the site, which became known as TwispWorks. The mission of the Twisp PDA is to enhance the economy of the Methow Valley by transforming the site into “a gateway for the Methow Valley and a destination for educational programs” as an article in the March 9,



The new Twisp Ranger Station compound was photographed from the hill above the station during the 1930s.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

2012, issue of *The Wenatchee World* put it. A range of partners and tenants is helping to realize this vision in the old ranger station's newly renovated buildings.

Part and parcel of this project is “to honor and preserve the memory of what an important role this place played in Twisp's history,” Amy Stork, TwispWorks executive director, told the newspaper. To that end, artists and historians and others are working toward telling the story of the major role the Forest Service played in the development of the Methow Valley's economy.

“TwispWorks wants your stories, photographs, and memorabilia for [this] project that will document the history of the old U.S. Forest Service site,” the newspaper said. You can contact Executive Director Amy Stork at <astork@twispworks.org>.

Prepared from multiple sources including information and photographs provided by Amy Stork of TwispWorks and “Artists gathering history of Twisp's Forest Service complex” by K.C. Mehaffey in the March 9, 2012, issue of The Wenatchee World.



The Twisp Ranger Station compound, Twisp, Washington, about 2007, when the compound was declared surplus and offered for sale. It ultimately became the property of the Twisp Public Development Authority. photograph courtesy Twisp Public Development Authority



Two Twisp Ranger District forest officers of the 1930s applied their skills to a management problem.

U.S. Forest Service photograph



A skilled worker of the 1930s worked in the Twisp Ranger Station machine shop.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

Uncle Sam's Cabins

This historic Twisp Ranger Station story is the 24th profile of an historic U.S. Forest Service ranger station or guard station in Region 6 to appear in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

I still have a few more in my files to include in this series. But experience tells me there are more out there I don't even know about that you could either point me toward, provide information about and photographs of, or even write about yourselves for publication in this series.

Preservation of historic ranger stations is important in many ways. These are the places at which many of us lived and from which many of us worked and have nostalgic as well as historic value. Many may still have futures as recreation resources—rentals—that preserve heritage resources.

A key to their preservation is knowing they are out there, and the *Uncle Sam's Cabins* section of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* can help develop that awareness. Send 'em in!

—Les Joslin

Out of the Past

First Initial Attack at Age Seven

By Chuck Mansfield

Back during World War II, my dad H. Robert Mansfield was district ranger of the Bear Valley Ranger District on the Malheur National Forest. In addition to a district assistant, there were two or three fire guards and several fire lookouts during the summer. Mom, Dorothy R. Mansfield, was there, and I was just a kid.



Young Chuck in the 1940s, Bear Valley Ranger Station

About 27 miles out of John Day, Oregon, on the dirt road to Izee, Bear Valley Ranger Station was somewhat isolated. We had running water from a cistern on the mountain above the station, but no electricity. Communications were a battery-operated Wards Airline Radio and a single-wire ground-return telephone system that connected the Forest Service facilities and the ranches. Mom refused to be the telephone operator without some compensation, so for a few days there was no telephone service until the forest supervisor caved in and came up with some funding.

I often went along with Dad when he went about on district business. During the summer of 1945, when I was seven years old, one of the lookouts kept reporting a smoke on the district that nobody could find. Dad finally decided he would have to try to find it, so he grabbed some rations and told me to climb into the pickup.

At some point we got off the main road and onto a two-track dirt path. We were driving along near the top of a ridge when I said "Dad, I smell smoke." Dad stopped and backed the truck up and told me to say when the smell was strongest. I did. We climbed out and walked across the ridge and found a small fire burning in the duff around a lightning-struck pine tree. Dad cut a branch off a small fir, handed it to me, and told me how to use it to beat the flames back into the burned area.

That fall, my second grade teacher had a show-and-tell on the first day of school. I told my fire story and she called me a liar. "No one your age would fight a forest fire."

I told this story to former U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth a few years back, and he started laughing. He told me that his dad had done the same thing with him.

Editor's Note: Chuck—Charles R. Mansfield, Ph.D.—isn't an OldSmokey but has a U.S. Forest Service background that began when he was the little kid shown in the photograph above, continued with seasonal employment on a Siskiyou National Forest engineering crew that led to 11 years (1959-1969) as a Cave Junction smokejumper, and is reflected in his professional and personal concerns—he is a retired Los Alamos National Laboratory physicist—for effective wildland fire management and aggressive wildfire suppression.

My First Forest Service Job

Pogue Point Lookout, 1955

By Jack Inman

The family—my wife Kathie, two-year-old daughter Cindy, and I—was looking forward to a summer of fun and adventure. I'd just completed my first year in the School of Forestry at Oregon State College in Corvallis and secured a summer job as a lookout-fireman on the Unity Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. So it was with great enthusiasm we'd loaded the old '41 Chevy and headed east.

"Where the devil is Unity?" some of our friends asked. "Why on earth would any sane person want to go there?"

Well, to us it was the beautiful pine forests of the Blue Mountains and relatively close to our hometown of Vale. And, though we didn't know it then, it was the first step of an adventurous career in the U.S. Forest Service. Since my first two weeks of that adventure were to be training and spring maintenance projects, Kathie and Cindy visited at her parents' farm at Vale.

I'd worked a couple weeks at Unity the summer of 1951 after graduating from high school. That involved phone line maintenance, opening guard stations, and making preparations for the main crews to arrive. My season was cut short when my right knee gave out from an earlier farm accident. An operation corrected that problem.

The Unity Ranger District

So here I was, back at Unity for the 1955 fire season. District Ranger Jack Harryman had hired me in 1951, most of the permanent crew was the same, and getting acquainted was easy. The clerk was Dean Hess, a former high school friend and a Washington State College student. The headquarters fireman and pumper crew foreman was Orin Palmer, a lifelong friend



In addition to the author (second row, fourth from left), District Ranger Jack Harryman (standing, far right) had current OldSmokeys Orin Palmer (first row, third from left) and Gary Adams (second row, third from left) on his 1955 Unity Ranger District crew.

from Vale. The brush disposal and suppression crew foreman was Hugh Hotell, a Brigham Young University student. The other lookouts were George Kirkland and Greg Claney.

Atlee Schimmelfinig was the district assistant (DA) or fire control officer (FCO), a Forest Service position at the time responsible for virtually all district protection and maintenance. As far as the crews were concerned, he was very similar to a military drill instructor; he was a summer mother and father to a bunch of young men many of whom had never before been away from home. But the discipline was not military. Atlee had come up through the ranks from seasonal fireman, was married and had three little boys. The DA had to be "a jack of all trades and a master of most of them." Atlee was, and I learned much of value from him.

Ranger Harryman was one of the last of the "old school" rangers. He had some forestry education from Montana State, but I'm not sure about any degrees. He entered the Forest Service as a young man when a ranger had to be able to read and write, be good on a horse and able to throw a diamond hitch, have a basic knowledge of fire behavior and grazing animal behavior and such, cook well enough to stay alive, and shoot well enough to protect oneself from man or beast. Jack was a walking museum. Throughout my Forest Service career I had the good fortune to work with a handful of these old-timers. It's amazing how parallel their experiences of the old days were from area to area. I was blessed to work during the outfit's transition period. But back to the summer of 1955.

The guard school

Guard school at Camp Lily White, a week of hands-on training in map and compass use, tool and radio use, fire behavior and control, safety and first aid, and for lookouts use of the Osborne fire finder, also let us get acquainted and learn to work as a team. It was a nine-district forest, so there were close to a hundred people involved. After work there were spirited games of softball, volleyball, or horseshoes as well as competitive one- and two-man saw log bucking and speed chopping. As I recall, Orin and I teamed up in horseshoes and double bucking and won both. By the end of the week we were crammed full of new knowledge, ready to hit the field and apply it, and totally pooped out.



Pogue Point Lookout on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in 1955.

The Pogue Point Lookout

I was assigned to Pogue Point Lookout, a drive of about 15 highway miles and five rough miles through a beautiful mixed conifer forest. Those last five miles were a slow go in the dust behind Atlee's pickup.

The lookout sat on a rocky knob covered with mountain mahogany, ceanothus brush, and a green carpet of elk sedge and pine grass between the rocks. The tower was 40 feet tall with a 14-foot glass-windowed cabin on top. Atlee and I had opened the tower the week before, so most of the general maintenance was done and work equipment in place. To make the tower safer for Cindy, we'd stapled heavy-gauge sheep fencing wire on the guard railings up the stairs and around the catwalk outside the cabin. We'd cut a summer supply of stove wood and filled the wood box on the catwalk. All of our personal belongings, including the baby's crib, had to be carried to the top of the tower and stowed in the cabin. That was time consuming and tiring!

Storage in the lookout was in low cabinets about two feet high and two feet deep under the windows on two sides of the room. One corner was taken up by a double bed with storage drawers underneath. In another corner was a small wood range for cooking and heating.

The Osborne fire finder sat on a four-foot high pedestal in the middle of the room. Nothing in the room could project higher than the low vision sight angle of the fire finder. This ingenious device, well known to most OldSmokeys, enabled the lookout to determine the direction and approximate distance to the fire from his location. While cross shots from two or more lookouts were better, one lookout could often provide the location—the legal description of—a fire along with geographical features to help smokechasers locate it on the ground.

Two basic necessities, water and a place to relieve oneself of water, were interesting aspects of lookout life. Our water bubbled out of the hillside in a cool grove of large old firs at a place identified as POGUE SPRING by an historic green and white porcelain sign. Packing a ten-gallon can of water up the tower was quite a job, so we got to be very efficient water users. Our outhouse was about a hundred feet down a trail from the tower.

We shared the top of our mountain with numerous forms of wildlife. Chipmunks and golden mantled ground squirrels got quite tame and were enjoyed by the whole family. We would often see deer, but elk were more elusive. We saw bear, cougar, and bobcat tracks in the mud at the spring. Almost every night coyote concerts echoed over otherwise silent expanses of forest. The numerous species of birds included jays, robins, varied thrush, and western tanager. Woodpeckers hammered on dead trees throughout the day. Grouse and quail were common. Turkey vultures patrolled the forest in search of food.

There were two other lookouts on the Unity Ranger District: Table rock and Huckleberry. Gregg and Clarris Claney were on Table Rock, and single guy George Kirkland was on Huckleberry.

The lookout-fireman job

My working title was "Lookout-Fireman." This meant that any

time we spotted a smoke or fire close to the tower I took my fire pack and made the initial attack. Kathie went on the payroll as lookout until my return. She was trained in all aspects of the job, including relaying messages between crews and the ranger station.

Communications consisted of telephone and radio. The telephone was the old magneto hand-crank type system that tied us in with the ranger station, the other lookouts, and Antlers Guard Station. Each station responded to an assigned combination of long and short rings. Keeping the line in repair was a constant battle. When there was lightning in the area, we stood on an insulated stool to protect ourselves from electric shock. When lightning storms came close to the tower, the phone and radio were taken off line and we sat on our bed which sat on insulated pedestals. Static electricity crackled and fluoresced on the stove and stovepipe tied to the lightning rod grounding system. The forest radio system was the primary and faster means of communication. There were many users, so messages were short and to the point. Use of call signs and the Ten-code facilitated message abbreviation.

The lookout job wasn't as easy or "romantic" as portrayed in novels or movies. The job required a person to be self-motivating, systematic, creative, and dedicated. All tasks had to be done safely. Strange as it may seem, a good deal of stress could develop at times.

The title "Lookout" implies the primary job was to watch for fires; but one was not constantly gazing over the area like a buzzard looking for his next meal. The procedure was systematically looking over the area on a schedule determined by burning index—a combination of temperature, relative humidity, and other weather factors—and previous lightning activity. Some conditions required a scan first thing in the morning, another several hours later. Other conditions required several sweeps per hour. Man caused fires could occur anytime, anywhere.

There were other jobs to do when the "primary" job allowed: painting, splitting wood, repairing phone lines and fences. Days working the fences were family outings on which Cindy enjoyed picking and eating wild strawberries.

Lookouts normally don't get a lot of company, especially if in the back country or at the end of a road as we were. Our visitors were mostly Forest Service people on business who also brought up mail or supplies, Oregon State Police game officers, and family.

The big boss and a big smoke

One morning a dust plume on our road turned out to be made by a Forest Service staff car in which Fire Staff Officer Ross Williams, District Ranger Harryman, and District Assistant Schimmelfinig arrived for an unannounced inspection. The big boss reviewed our logs and asked questions for about half an hour. While answering, we kept an eagle eye out for smoke.

Then it happened. At 10:30 a column of black smoke shot into the air above Dooley gulch about five miles east of us. The response was automatic, just as we were trained. Our fire report form was filled out and called in to the station. The other district lookouts and Dooley Mountain Lookout on the adjacent

Baker Ranger District also reported it, giving four cross shots to establish the location of the fire. The dispatcher radioed suppression pumper 904 to proceed to the fire and take the necessary action.

Orin Palmer in 904 answered that he was at the location, had ignited the fire in a large barrel as planned as a test for the detection crew. We'd passed our exam with flying colors and were now ready to take on the lightning storms or whatever else might try to burn our beautiful forest.



“The good-looking girls are my wife Kathie and daughter Cindy, two and one-half, on the catwalk” of the lookout.

The poachers, the police, and the parents

At night we could see lights zipping along Oregon Highway 26 between Unity and Prairie City. A few times we saw lights on roads winding through the forest. Often they stopped, a spotlight would illuminate a large area, and gunshots would echo through the forest. This was deer poaching, which we immediately called in to the ranger station for relay to the Oregon State Police. The Game Law Enforcement Division officers who operated out of Ontario, Baker, and John Day often stayed at the ranger station or a guard station to work the back country. They appreciated our help even though it probably didn't lead to many arrests. Their presence probably held down the poaching.

One day one of them came up to the lookout. One such visit to another lookout by an officer, so the story goes, resulted in a citation for the lookout. Seems he'd killed a grouse and disposed of the feathers in his outhouse pit where the officer found them. I used that story, from one of my older Forest Service friends, in later training sessions of “dos and don'ts” for lookouts and guards.

Visits from our parents and friends, though few, were far more interesting and exciting, especially for Cindy because it always meant goodies we could not keep on had without refrigeration: ice cream, watermelon, candy, etc. We enjoyed picnics down at the spring and caught up on news of the outside world.

My mom had a fear of heights. It was all she could do to crawl up the steps, around the catwalk, and into the cabin before she could stand up to enjoy the view. On her last visit she declared how glad she was the summer was over and she would never have to climb that blankety-blank tower again. What sacrifices parents make for their kids!

The aircraft observers

Another lookout function was serving as part of the national Ground Observer Corps to report aircraft activity and sightings in the interest of national defense. The mid-1950s was a time of

world unrest. The Korean War had come to an unpopular resolution and the Cold War was causing U.S. military leaders to escalate defensive air power. As part of this, two large early warning radar sites were located in the Blue Mountains just outside of Burns and just south of Baker.

Quite often the Air Force sent F-86 jet fighters in mock attacks, flying low down the canyons to sneak under the radar. We reported them. Once we heard then saw a huge B-36 bomber flying such a flight path to avoid radar detection. It was a beautiful sight as it flew low over the terrain past Unity, over the hills beyond toward Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho. We reported it.

The fire season kicks in

As the summer progressed, the weather warmed up, the fuels dried out, and the fire danger became extreme. Lookouts were on constant vigil, suppression crews were ready to roll.

Just after noon one day a large, thunderhead-looking cloud appeared on the horizon. There had been no forecast of storms, and we decided this lone, huge, columnar cloud was smoke! It was off our map, over several ridges, about 20 miles from us. There were several closer lookouts much closer than we; one was Mt. Ireland Lookout on the Baker Ranger District, which had to be only a couple miles from it. No one reported it. We completed our report form, estimated it at about 20 acres, phoned it to Unity dispatch and he on to Baker. Immediately other lookouts started to report it. The intersecting cross shots located it on the north side of Mt. Ireland, within a mile of the lookout! All of a sudden, the Mt. Ireland lookout blurted over the radio that a big fire was burning on the mountain below the lookout. He'd fallen asleep after lunch and not seen it until the radio chatter woke him. It was controlled by Forest Service crews at between 80 and 100 acres. An investigation determined the fire was started by a dynamite blast on a mining claim.

Late one afternoon we saw thunderheads on the horizon and received a red flag forecast for a storm that night. At dusk, ominous booms of thunder and distant flashes of lightning announced the violent storm we rode out. After the storm passed, the forest was eerily quiet and calm and a light breeze carried a freshened aroma of evergreen and a pungent odor of ozone. We saw fires burning in the tops of trees, and marked them on our map. Two large trees near the tower had been struck, but neither was burning. Morning brought numerous smokes; more showed up as the day warmed up, and some started to increase in size. We had about 50 small fires on the Unity Ranger District and about 250 had been ignited forest wide.

The lookout becomes a fireman

More manpower was needed to cover fires, and I was called to the ranger station to help on suppression. Kathie took over the lookout duties.

Orin Palmer and I were dispatched as a smokechaser team to a complex of three smokes about half a mile apart on a ridge and several miles from a road. We arrived at our takeoff point about noon, shouldered our fire packs, got our compass bearing, and started the hike in. Our packs were pretty basic: rations for

three days, shovel, Pulaski, file and whetstone, an empty five-gallon bladder bag with spray pump, first aid kit, one gallon canteen of water and a six-foot crosscut saw between us. These were wrapped in a 9x6-foot canvas tarp, which could be used as ground cloth or tent, and secured to a hardwood pack frame.

After several compass shots crossing ridges we could see the three fires; two in snags were no immediate threat, but the third on the ground was moving toward heavier fuels. After a radio check to tell the station we could handle the fires without help, the real work began.

The fire had started in a larch snag which fell over. It was creeping uphill in grass and brush toward heavier brush and trees. It was a hot day, but the wind was light so we were able to attack the head of the fire by throwing dirt with our shovels to smother the flames. Water was two miles distant, so this would be a dry mop-up. After cooling the head and stopping the forward spread, we scratched a line around the flanks of this 100x200-foot burned area, then burned out as much of the fuel inside the line as possible to make mop-up easier. It was evening and cooling by the time we got the fire safe enough to leave and hit the other fires.

Falling those burning larch snags into “bone yards” cleared of fuels was a challenge. In the early hours of working a fire one runs on adrenalin, but as things calm down a sustainable working pace has to be established to complete the required tasks. Working at night with burning debris falling from above required the utmost in safe actions. As a two-man crew we didn’t have the luxury of a lookout to warn us of any movement or change in the tree so we could move to safety. But the quietness of the crosscut saw allowed us to hear any changes of the tree while we sawed and move to safety if necessary. Long story short, we felled the snags, knocked down hot spots, took the rest of the night off for a little rest and to let the situation cool down, dry-mopped, and stayed the required eight hours after the last smoke was extinguished before making the trek back to our truck.

We got back to the ranger station about dark, got chow, and sacked out for a few hours. At daylight we were rousted out and headed for other small fires. I was on suppression for a week and Kathie was the lookout. We made money that week!

The birthday party

Days on lookouts—starting with early sunrise and ending after sunset—tend to be psychologically long. We were lucky being a family and able to talk about and share the experience. Life was tougher for the single lookouts. After hours we had evening radio “gab sessions” and it was evident the single guys looked forward to talking with someone.

On a Friday night trip to town for mail and groceries, Atlee told us it was Huckleberry Lookout George’s birthday and it would be fun to give him a surprise birthday party. Four couples, several single guys, and our Cindy piled into four cars loaded with watermelon, cake, ice cream, and pop headed for Huckleberry. Our route was through poaching country, and ever-on-the-job George spotted our vehicles and called to report possible poachers. We had a radio, and Atlee responded he’d alert the authorities. George continued to report his possible

poachers as our vehicles got nearer, and Atlee assured him the authorities were responding and not to get too excited.

We were unloading the party goodies when George came on the radio exclaiming that someone was at the garage messing with his car and he was going to fire some warning shots to run them off. Our cover had been blown! Atlee quickly defused the situation by radioing “Happy birthday! Get the place ready for a party! We’re on our way up the trail!” George was overwhelmed. We had a great time. It’s a wonder the old lookout didn’t collapse from the weight of so many people. We didn’t get back to Pogue Point Lookout until one or two in the morning.

The summer ends

The summer seemed to fly by quite fast. Our tasks became routine, but never boring. Early September rains ended the fire season. The lookouts came down and student crews prepared to head back to school. The last big crew event was to cut and lay in a supply of wood for the ranger station for the winter. It was sort of like a two-day picnic during which we felled several large larch snags, cut them into rounds, split the rounds into firewood and stowed away in woodsheds.

Before Kathie and I left the ranger station, Ranger Harryman told us he would need a suppression crew foreman for the next season and the job was mine if I wanted it. The workload on the district was growing, and he said Kathie could probably work as a clerk in the office. We accepted. That gave us a feeling of accomplishment and allowed us to dream a little as to what direction our future should take.

Editor’s Note: Jack was raised on a farm near Vale, Oregon; graduated from Vale High School in 1951; married Kathie in 1952; worked as suppression foreman on Unity Ranger District the summer of 1956 and on Marys Peak Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, summers 1957 and 1958. After graduating from Oregon State College with a fish and wildlife degree, he served as suppression foreman on the Waldport Ranger District; district assistant on the old Smith River Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest; assistant range, wildlife, and fire staff officer on the Siskiyou National Forest; assistant range and wildlife staff officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest; and wildlife biologist on the Winema National Forest before his spring 1988 retirement.

The ***My First Forest Service Job*** section in the Summer 2013 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will feature OldSmokey **Robbie Robertson’s** recollection of “Starting With a Bang in 1950!” as a fire lookout on the McKenzie Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

***“Caring for the land
and serving people.”***



This space us usually open for photos in the web version of the newsletter. This graphic of historic badges seemed appropriate today. Don Nearhood

The unique 1905 badge is over 2.25" high compared to the 1.6" USFS badges from other years. In December 1906, the Washington Office ordered that only the Washington D.C. staff and Forest Supervisors could wear the big badge. The big badge which had a round attachment so it could be placed onto a belt, rather than the pin-back type of design found on all the other types of USFS badges.

The 1906, 1907, and 1915 badges are all the same sizes as standard Forest Service badges. The 1907 badge is made of copper, stamped 'Meyer & Wenthe, Chicago' on the back. The 1915 badge is stamped 'St. Louis Button Company' on the back...Photos and historical information submitted by Mike Aust, Angeles National Forest, via Bob McQuown, 4/18/05



Spring 2013

Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows "13" your dues are paid through December 31, 2013. If it shows "LT" you are a lifetime member and owe no further dues.

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

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