



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2016

President's Message—Jim Rice

As I write this President's Message, I am looking forward to spending the Holidays with family and friends. I truly hope that you all had a great Holiday Season, too.

I am thrilled that **Tom Mulder** has accepted our Board of Directors' nomination to serve as Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) President-elect. It was just a year ago that he retired from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument manager. Please use the ballot on page 4 to confirm his nomination. He will be an outstanding asset to this organization. Special thanks to **Bob Devlin** and the Nominating Committee for recruiting Tom.

This is an important time of year for the PNWFSA. We recently approved a budget that included up to \$10,000 for grants and are in the process of selecting grant projects for 2016. We replenished our emergency fund through members' generous donations. It's time for members who pay annual dues to pay those dues, so please use the Bill for Collection on page 4 of the Fall 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* to do so if you have not paid them yet. If you no longer have the form, just send a check marked "2016 Dues" payable to PNWFSA to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228. This will save our Membership Chair many days of tracking down and reminding folks to send in their \$20. If you don't like paying yearly, now is the time to consider becoming a Lifetime member.

Please note an article titled "Quiet Leadership" by **Tom Thompson**, originally published in the Region 2 retirees newsletter *The Rendezvous*, on page 6. This article caused me to reflect on the many quiet leaders in the Outfit with whom I was privileged to work. These folks didn't have a lot of GS pay scale, but they had the passion and dedication that got the job done.

As a retiree, I have time to travel and meet some of these quiet leaders who are retired or close to retirement. I always make sure to invite them to join the OldSmokeys. It astounds me how many have never heard of the PNWFSA or think of it as an organization for the top brass. Because of this, I encourage all of you who meet up with past coworkers to enlighten them about this organization and invite them to join. These coworkers often served as our family in difficult times and over the years become our friends. Please remind them that this is an organization open to everyone who had a part in accomplishing the mission of the U.S. Forest Service.

Jim Rice

In This Issue...

<i>Forum: "Your Editor's Tenth Anniversary"</i>	2
<i>OldSmokeys News: Jack Smith...OldSmokeys and Wildfires...OldSmokeys at Reunion...OldSmokeys Election...much more</i>	3
<i>OldSmokeys Say: "Quiet Leadership" by Tom Thompson</i>	6
<i>Forest Service News: Forest Service Authority Upheld...Wildfire Season 2015...Next Generation Airtankers...much more</i>	7
<i>Feature: "The First Lady and the Ranger" by Les Joslin</i>	9
<i>Changes: Updates to the OldSmokeys Membership Directory</i>	10
<i>New Members: Introductions of New OldSmokeys</i>	10
<i>Memories: Remembrances of the Recently Deceased</i>	11
<i>Letters: Sharing of Thoughts and News</i>	13
<i>Books: "Legendary Locals of Bend" Features Forest Service Personalities"... "Ivan Doig Wrote 'Forest Service Stuff'"</i>	13
<i>Uncle Sam's Cabins: "Cedar Guard Station, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest" by Les Joslin</i>	14
<i>The Way We Were: "Lakes District Boys,' Mt. Hood National Forest in 1936" Shared by Ollie Peters</i>	14
<i>My First Forest Service Job: "A Tale of Two Badges: On the Rainier Forest Reserve...National Forest..." by Homer Ross</i>	15

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

PNWFSA Election 2016 Ballot on Page 4!

Forum

Your Editor's Tenth Anniversary!

After ten years on the job, I still enjoy the challenge of producing your quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, and am even enjoying the new challenge of fitting the news and features I believe you appreciate into a 16-page format.

Yep, it's a challenge, but I'm bound and determined the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will continue to share ideas in the **Forum**, include the **OldSmokeys News** and **Forest Service News** as well as the **Changes**, **New Members**, and **Memories** sections that help us keep up to date on our membership and our agency, and publish the features I enjoy writing or editing for you to enjoy reading.

More important, since this is your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, I want it to do for you what you want it to do for you, and will always appreciate any suggestions you have for making it better as well as news and other stories you wish to share with your fellow OldSmokeys.

Unfortunately, hardly an issue goes out without a mistake or two or (Gulp!) more. The last issue contained more than a couple mistakes for which I apologize. I misspelled OldSmokey President-elect **Ron Boehm's** name on page 16, which I vow to try to not do again. I also made seven mistakes in the **Changes** section for which OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** forwarded corrections in an *OldSmokeys eNote* and are provided again right here.

CORRECTIONS

The **Changes** section of the Fall 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* contained several errors. Corrections are below. Any inconveniences resulting from these errors are regretted.

Apple, Daina D. & Martin – Daina's first name was misspelled and the California city in which she and Martin reside is correctly spelled Benicia.

Connelly, Ray P. & Maxine – Change e-mail to: raysrpc@gmail.com

Cooper, Dorothy – Correct apartment number to: 464

Gross, David – Correct e-mail address to: dgross@fs.fed.us

Large, Jeanne M. & Fred Herzberg -- Correct ZIP code to: 98033

Post, Lita M. – Correct telephone number to: 503-257-8530

Vendrasco, Dean M. & Katherine M. – Correct e-mail address to: vendrasco@comcast.net

—Les Joslin

The Forum page of your OldSmokeys Newsletter publishes editorials written by the editor and op-eds written by members. All PNWFSA members are welcome to submit op-eds for publication on this page.

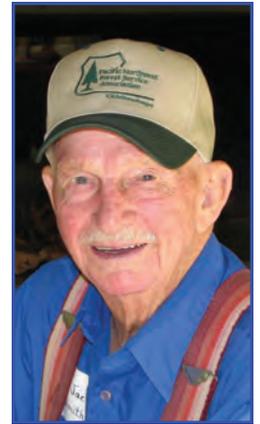
**"I may disapprove of what you say,
but will defend to the death your right to say it."**

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokey Jack Smith Lived Almost 102 Years

OldSmokey **Jack Smith**, whose 2014 book *A Long, Long Journey* shared his storied U.S. Forest Service career which began in 1931 with a temporary appointment and ended as an assistant regional forester in 1970, died October 8, 2015, about six weeks short of attaining the age of 102. Jack's life is reviewed in the **Memories** section on page 12.



Jack Smith

OldSmokeys Boosted Emergency Fund to Meet 2015 Wildfire Season Needs; Beneficiaries Expressed Appreciation

OldSmokeys contributed \$7,460 to the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund in the wake of the 2015 wildfire season, and donated \$7,000 to a dozen U.S. Forest Service personnel and retirees who lost homes and property or were otherwise adversely affected by disastrous 2015 wildfires in Region 6.

Appreciation Expressed

This assistance was recognized by a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Mike Williams, Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and Mike Quesinberry, Incident Commander, Atlanta National Incident Management Organization, which thanked the OldSmokeys "for the enormous contribution you made and the compassion you showed in support of the families of the Twisp River Fire tragedy" on August 19, 2015, as well as by individual recipients.

"Thank you for your donation to Daniel Lyon," read a thank you note from the family of that seriously burned Forest Service firefighter. "He will truly appreciate it. Daniel continues to heal and, at times, has a sense of humor. Please keep Daniel in your prayers and thoughts. This will be a long journey."

Other recipients expressed their appreciation in "Dear OldSmokeys" notes. "Donna and I would like to thank you for your gift. Your generosity is very much appreciated," wrote Dan Becker of Prairie City, Oregon, in one of these notes. "Our small cabin burned along with 160 acres of timber land. Fortunately, unlike others, the cabin was not our primary residence. It can be replaced. But along with our cabin we lost our forest land. Your generous gift will go toward replacing trees!"

Contributions Continue

OldSmokeys continue to give to the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund in anticipation of future needs likely to result from 2016 wildfires and other causes. Contributions may be made by sending a check payable to the PNWFSA and annotated for the Elmer Moyer Memorial Emergency Fund to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228.

OldSmokeys Served on 2015 Wildfires

“Leaving behind their golf clubs and fishing gear, hundreds of former rangers and foresters are coming out of retirement this summer to battle the blazes raging across the West in the worst wildfire season in 50 years...” read the lead sentence not of an article not about the recent 2015 wildfire season but published on August 15, 2000, in the Victoria, Texas, *Victoria Advocate* about the 2000 wildfire season. “Government cutbacks in recent years have made experienced wildfire managers a rare commodity,” the article explained.

That situation persists. Indeed, it seems to have become more critical as the full-time U.S. Forest Service workforce has declined from about 30 thousand to about 24 thousand, a smaller percentage of current Forest Service personnel qualify for firefighting duties, and Forest Service supervisors are increasingly reluctant to send qualified personnel to fire assignments at the cost of their regular duties.

As a result, during the 2015 wildfire season, according to OldSmokey **Mike Edrington**, “Up to half of the membership of the Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs [incident management teams] and over 75 percent of the membership of the National Area Command Teams are retirees from the Forest Service and the other federal natural resource management agencies.” Mike was one of several OldSmokeys among those retirees who served during the recent wildfire season.

Also among these was OldSmokey **Roland Emetaz** of Vancouver, Washington, who has served on fire overhead teams since he retired from the Forest Service in 1993 and has been a member of Northwest Team 12 since 1999. Since then, “we have had assignments stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf Coast, and from the beach on the West Coast almost to the beach on the East Coast,” he said. “Twelve of this team’s 45 members are Forest Service retirees. “During the 2015 wildfire season, the team had four assignments.” Roland served on two of these assignments: July’s PC Complex near Woodland, Washington, and August’s 53,523-acre Cougar Creek Fire that closed part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Another was OldSmokey **Rico Burgess** of Bend, Oregon. A retired Forest Service law enforcement officer, Rico spent a total of 61 days this summer on wildfire assignments as security manager on the Spicer Creek Fire that threatened Tanana, Alaska, a small native village at the confluence of the Tanana and Yukon rivers; the Baldy Fire near Ione, Washington; and the 218,000-acre North Star Fire near Nespelem, Washington, that burned on the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville national forests and the Colville Indian Reservation. As security manager, Rico coordinated the security of all fire personnel, the camps in which they stayed, and the equipment and supplies they used with local, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. “Oftentimes our camps are as large as or larger than the communities we’re located in,” said Rico.

Prepared from multiple sources including the newspaper article and e-mails from the OldSmokeys quoted.

Many OldSmokeys Continue to Serve on Paid Assignments or as Volunteers!



OldSmokeys Enjoyed “Rally on the Rio” Forest Service Reunion in Albuquerque

More than a hundred OldSmokeys were among 525 U.S. Forest Service folks from 34 states and the District of Columbia who attended the October 11-16, 2015, “Rally on the Rio” Forest Service national reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico, hosted by the Southwest Region Amigos.

Attendees, who served in the Forest Service from the 1940s into the 2000s, celebrated their careers with old friends and colleagues and generally had an all-round good time together.

All reports indicate that the reunion achieved its purpose “To produce a uniquely southwestern reunion that rekindles the sense of pride and fulfillment our careers have contributed to the Forest Service heritage; and a celebration of fond memories with former associates, mentors, spouses, and friends” in the words of Amigo **Lou Romero**, the reunion administrator.

The reunion theme “Celebrating Forest Service Families” framed the reunion’s tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of families to the Forest Service mission and heritage. A stage show of songs and stories entitled “Wives’ Tales” produced by Amigos **Roger & Nancy Deaver** and an excellent cast including OldSmokey **Susan Butruille** as Cornelia Pinchot highlighted this theme.

OldSmokeys **Tom Thompson** and **Jim Golden** hosted a meeting of all Forest Service retiree organizations. Chief **Tom Tidwell** and his leadership team addressed a range of agency challenges and issues. A silent auction raised more than \$10,000 for the National Museum of Forest Service History.

The reunion’s success was reflected in a flood of e-mails, cards, and phone calls from attendees who praised the event for the reconnections and memories rekindled that week. Among all the compliments received, according to Lou, the most appreciated aspects of the reunion were:

- The generous amount of “social time” designed into the total program
- The emphasis on celebrating families, of which the “Wives’ Tales” production was a particular hit
- The way the program focused on the Southwest—its landscapes, cultures, and uniqueness

Words cannot begin to capture what happened at this reunion. But pictures can, and you can get a great look at a slide show called “What a Week” produced by **David Steinke** with the assistance of a lot of other photographers online at <2015.fsreunions.org> and “clicking” where indicated.

And so it was that the OldSmokeys of the Pacific Northwest Region and their U.S. Forest Service amigos from around the nation enjoyed the hospitality of the Southwest Region Amigos at the “Rally on the Rio.”

The next national Forest Service reunion, the “Reunion at the Cradle” to be hosted by the Southern Region retirees, will be in Asheville, North Carolina—not far from the Cradle of Forestry on the Pisgah National Forest—in September 2018.

Prepared from “Amigos Host 2015 Forest Service Retirees Reunion” by Lou Romero, Reunion Administrator; a telephone interview with Amigo Roger Deaver; and interviews with OldSmokey attendees Mike Ash, John Berry, and George Chesley.



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Winter 2016 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated Tom Mulder to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

ABOUT TOM MULDER

Tom Mulder of Brush Prairie, Washington, retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 2, 2015, as the monument manager/district ranger of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument after 34 years of federal service. Four days later, on January 6, 2015, he and his wife Kathy joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association as life-time members. Tom’s extensive experience in the Forest Service included leadership service with the Youth Conservation Corps in Wisconsin and the Young Adults Conservation Corps in Alaska; as a forestry technician and management analyst on the Tongass National Forest; as a district administrative officer on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; as budget and finance officer on the Umatilla National Forest; as financial manager on the Mt. Hood National Forest; as administrative officer of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; and as acting forest supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico before his final assignment at Mount St. Helens.

Confirm your support of this nomination by casting this ballot for this nominee, or write in another name.

I cast my ballot for **Tom Mulder** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect _____ (check here) or

I cast my ballot for _____ (write in here) to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, by February 15, 2016. Or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Debra Warren at <debrawarren69@gmail.com.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

SPRING BANQUET—MAY 15, 2016

Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

Reservation Form

Mail this reservation form and a check for \$28.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to: PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$28.00 each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

Three sets of horizontal lines for writing names.

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

Please send this reservation form in to be received no later than May 5, 2016

OldSmokeys Are Asked to Confirm Tom Mulder as PNWFSA President-elect

OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** has accepted the Board of Directors' nomination to serve as President-elect of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the 2016-2017 year, and then as President for the 2017-2018 year.

After approval by the PNWFSA membership (*see ballot on page 4*), Tom will be installed in that office at the annual PNWFSA Spring Banquet on Sunday, May 15, 2016, and be in line to succeed OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** as President in May 2017 and serve a third year as Past President.

Please look to your left at page 4 right now, read Tom's story, and cast your ballot in support of Tom's acceptance of this challenging three-year commitment. *Please note that this ballot is on the same page with the Spring Banquet 2016 reservation form. You can vote and reserve your seats at the banquet at the same time and save a stamp!*

OldSmokeys Set Dates for Spring Banquet and Summer Picnic

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at its September 25, 2015, meeting scheduled the 2016 Spring Banquet at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, for Sunday, May 15. The banquet will cost \$28.00 per person.

At this banquet, OldSmokey **Ron Boehm** will take over from OldSmokey **Jim Rice** as President of the PNWFSA, and if confirmed by the membership (*see ballot at left on page 4*), OldSmokey **Tom Mulder** will be installed as President-elect.

An early reservation form for Spring Banquet 2016 is at your left on page 4 of this issue and also will be available in the Spring 2016 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Also at that September 25 meeting, the Board announced the Summer Picnic in the Woods at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood will be held on Friday, August 12, 2016. Complete picnic information and reservation forms will appear in the spring and summer issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey Teresa Raaf Recognized with John McGuire Award and Retired

OldSmokey **Teresa Raaf**, Director for State and Private Forestry for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska regions since November 2014, accepted the John McGuire Award from National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** on November 5, 2015, and retired from the U.S. Forest Service soon thereafter.

Named for the ninth Forest Service chief, the John McGuire Award recognizes work that shines as an example of the Forest Service motto "Caring for the Land and Serving People." During ten years on the Malheur National Forest—three as forest supervisor, Teresa led a collaborative turn-around in the forest's support of the community's timber-based economy revival. Her retirement was feted on the afternoon of December 10 and later at the Lotus Card Room and Café in Portland.

OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Elected New ASLA National Vice President for Government Affairs

OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy**, FASLA, landscape architect and scenic byways leader on the Deschutes National Forest, has been elected by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) to serve as its National Vice President for Governmental Affairs, ASLA announced in April 2015. Robin assumed the duties of this two-year position on November 9, 2015.

Robin has served as a Deschutes National Forest landscape architect for 28 years. Her induction into the ASLA Council of Fellows in 2012 recognized not only her professional skills but her agency and community leadership and professional accomplishments.

OldSmokey Susan Skalski Joined High Desert Museum Board of Trustees

OldSmokey **Susan Skalski** in September accepted the High Desert Museum Board of Trustees seat occupied for five years by OldSmokey **Linda Goodman**.

Recently retired as Stanislaus National Forest supervisor, Susan and her husband, NAFSR Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden**, resettled in Bend, Oregon, this summer. Both previously served in Central Oregon, Susan on the Ochoco National Forest and Jim as deputy forest supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest.

OldSmokey Les Joslin Received a High Desert Museum Director's Award for High Desert Ranger Station Project

OldSmokey **Les Joslin** was one of two recipients of the High Desert Museum's new Director's Award that recognized his 10 years of service "spearheading the efforts to relocate" an historic 1933 Toiyabe National Forest district ranger's office building from Reese River, Nevada, to the High Desert Museum, restoring it as the High Desert Ranger Station there, and leading "the small and mighty team that has staffed the station over the last eight summers."

Presented on September 18, 2015, by High Desert Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D., at the Museum's annual volunteer recognition program, the award recognized "Les' passion for the U.S. Forest Service and the legacy that lives on at the Museum [as] unparalleled."

OldSmokey Rolf Anderson Relieved Mike Kerrick as Fish Lake President

OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** took over from OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** as president of the Friends of Fish Lake (FFLA) on January 1, 2016. OldSmokey **Dick Grace** commented that long-time President Mike "is an institution in himself [in both] his Willamette National Forest leadership and his stewardship of the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot."

OldSmokey Sandy Sharp Serves as Volunteer on Green Ridge Lookout

OldSmokey **Sandy Sharp** is one of 36 volunteers who staff the Green Ridge Lookout on the Sisters District, Deschutes National Forest, every summer as fire prevention volunteers. Sandy and her colleagues—including eight U.S. Forest Service retirees, six from the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests—“take turns staffing the lookout, some for a week at a time, others, like Sharp, one day a week,” according to an article by Jim Anderson in the September 8, 2015, edition of the Sisters, Oregon, weekly *The Nugget*.

Sandy’s almost 20 years in the Forest Service began on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, but within a couple years she had transferred to the Deschutes National Forest where she became a popular “front-liner” greeting and serving forest visitors. She served her last 12 years in that capacity on the Sisters Ranger District.

Prepared from “USFS retiree mans lookout tower” by Jim Anderson in the September 8, 2015, The Nugget.

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Completed Pacific Northwest Trail Trek

OldSmokey **Jon Stewart**, who wrote about his 47-day, 750-mile Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) walk from the Continental Divide in Glacier National Park to the crest of the North Cascades during the summer of 2014 in the Spring 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, completed his trek of the 1,200-mile PNT this fall.

Shortly after Jon’s trip, “a secretarially appointed group of 27 citizens and land managers from across the Pacific Northwest and throughout the nation met Oct. 14-15, in Sandpoint, Idaho, to begin advising the Forest Service on the comprehensive plan for the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail... designated by Congress in 2009,” according to *The Chief’s Desk* on November 13, 2015. The PNT crosses seven national forests. Jon’s experiences underline the need for that plan.

Especially enchanted by the last 60 miles of the PNT that traces remote Pacific Ocean beaches of the Olympic Peninsula, Jon opted to add the 55-mile West Coast Trail on the southwestern edge of Vancouver Island to the 450 miles he’d just walked. His account of that punishing obstacle course will be published in a future *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey Phil Dodd Helped Craft Gifford Pinchot National Forest Sign

OldSmokey **Phil Dodd** was among retired Gifford Pinchot National Forest personnel who created a beautiful new welcome-to-the-forest sign for the forest headquarters front lobby.

Using a piece of western red cedar acquired by Mt. Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument supervisory forestry technician Gary Walker, Phil and retiree Mark Miller planned, sanded, routed, and finished the sign early in the summer of 2015. It now hangs above the front desk, welcoming the public and staff to the headquarters office.

OldSmokeys Say

“Quiet Leadership”

By Tom L. Thompson



I sometimes think about strong leaders I have known in the U.S. Forest Service.

I don’t mean just forest supervisors, rangers, directors, or staff officers. I also mean others whose quiet leadership gets things done in the outfit year in and year out. This kind of leader doesn’t necessarily have a lot of “GS pay scale” associated with their position. But they have a lot of passion, consistence, dedication, and presence in the organization.

This kind of leadership is found at the front desk, in the forestry and recreation technicians, in the support services group, at the wheel of a road grader, at the district clerk’s or the accountant’s desk, in the warehouse and shop, on the trail and on the fire line—in the trenches, so to speak.

The work that needs to get done to keep things headed in the right direction on a daily basis comes from the quiet leaders on every work unit. The records, the notes, the computers, the equipment, the paperwork, much of the fieldwork, and many agreements and contracts wouldn’t get done if it weren’t for these leaders.

I remember many quiet leaders with whom I was honored to work during my career. One of these was Mabel McArdle, at the front desk on the Zigzag Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Even though her job was receptionist, Mabel knew everything that was happening on the district. She knew how to direct visitors to every campground and trailhead. She knew where everyone was—at least, where they were supposed to be. She knew all the timber sale operators and knew where they were working. I can remember that when you left the office, it was expected that you would stop by and tell Mabel that you were leaving and where you were going. Mabel probably could have done a pretty good job of running the district—at least as a special assistant to the district ranger. She never made a big deal of it, but she was a leader on the district—a “quiet leader.”

Not everyone has the chance to be in a position of leadership, but most anyone has the opportunity to position themselves as a leader. That is part of the Forest Service brand that I knew and loved.

In reflecting on my career, I am sure we never do enough to appreciate and recognize the “quiet leaders” in the outfit. I also know that if it weren’t for these folks, the business and work of the U.S. Forest Service would not get done.

OldSmokeys News continued

OldSmokey Tom Thompson is President of Forest Service History Museum

OldSmokey **Tom Thompson** succeeded Gray Reynolds as president of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana, on January 1, 2016. Both Tom and Gray are retired U.S. Forest Service deputy chiefs.

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Authority to Manage National Forest System Lands Upheld By Federal District Court Ruling

“The U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico has ruled that an Otero County resolution permitting the removal of trees from the Lincoln National Forest is unconstitutional because it violates the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution,” New Mexico Public Broadcasting reported on October 1, 2015. “The court’s order also invalidated the New Mexico state statute upon which the Otero County resolution relied because it too violated the Supremacy Clause.”

The Supremacy Clause, found in Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, makes national law supreme over state law when the national government is acting within its constitutional limits.

“The lawsuit was filed in February 2012 by the Department of Justice on behalf of the Forest Service...against the State of New Mexico and the Otero County Commission. At issue in the lawsuit was the alleged authority of the State and Otero County to assert control over federal lands without the consent of the federal government.

“The state statute...enacted in 2001...purported to authorize counties to clear undergrowth and trees on National Forest System lands without the consent of the Forest Service. In May 2011, the Otero County commission passed the resolution claiming power to remove alleged fire hazards from federal lands within the County without first complying with federal law. The County also announced plans to cut and remove trees from more than 60,000 acres of lands on the Lincoln National Forest, without approval from the Forest Service.

“The lawsuit sought an order declaring that the New Mexico statute and Otero county resolution were preempted by federal law and thus were unconstitutional. The court held that Congress possesses the sole authority to control federal lands under the U.S. Constitution’s Property Clause. The court went on to find that the Otero County resolution and New Mexico statute are in ‘direct conflict’ with federal law, including Forest Service regulations prohibiting the cutting and removal of trees on National Forest lands without Forest Service authorization. It also held that the resolution and statute were inconsistent with several federal statutes by which Congress has delegated the authority to manage National Forests to the Forest Service—the State or the County.”

Editors Note: This decision should interest to certain Oregon and Washington county sheriffs and others who have claimed prerogatives vis-à-vis National Forest System lands the decision holds unconstitutional.

Prepared from “Otero County Resolution Authorizing Removal of Lincoln National Forest Trees Ruled Unconstitutional” posted October 1, 2015, by KRWG News Editor and Partners and posted October 2, 2015, as “Sagebrush rebellion goes down in flames” on A New Century of Forest Planning blog. Definition of Supremacy Clause from Thomas E. Patterson, in We The People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics, Third Edition, New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 2000.

U.S. Forest Service Faced “Incredibly Challenging” 2015 Wildfire Season

As the 2015 wildfire season that Deputy Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Becki Heath** on September 10 characterized as “incredibly challenging” drew to an end, the U.S. Forest Service assessed its aftermath.

Nationally, over 51,000 wildfires burned over 9,275,000 acres. Over five million of these acres burned were in Alaska, and over four million of those on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Only 756 acres of National Forest System lands in Alaska burned.

Regionally, over four thousand wildfires burned over 1,300,000 acres in the Pacific Northwest. About a quarter of these wildfires burned about 560,000 acres on National Forest System lands in the Pacific Northwest Region states of Oregon and Washington. Three Forest Service firefighters were killed, several communities were evacuated, and hundreds lost homes and property as major wildfires ravaged Oregon and Washington national forests and other lands.

Fighting these wildfires cost taxpayers nearly \$2 billion and forced the Forest Service—left without an alternative to “fire borrowing” by congressional inaction—to temporarily redirect \$700 million from other national forest management projects.

Editor’s Note: These approximate figures sum up the enormity of this “incredibly challenging” wildfire season followed daily by many readers and fought by some.

Prepared from multiple sources including “Region 6 Fire Update for Retirees” e-mail of September 10, 2015, from Deputy Regional Forester Becki Heath; “Fires and Acres Year-to-Date” posted by the National Interagency Fire Center on October 9, 2015; “No big blazes for Bend in busy wildfire season” by Dylan J. Darling in the October 12, 2015, Bend, Oregon, Bulletin, and “Why fire funding, forest policy changes are needed” by Nick Smith in the November 15, 2015, Bulletin.

U.S. Forest Service Has Contracted for Seven More Next Generation Airtankers

“The U.S. Forest Service has awarded Exclusive Use contracts to three companies to provide seven more Next Generation Airtankers for wildfire protection beginning this year,” according to an October 1, 2015, Forest Service news release. These contracts were awarded to:

- Aero-Flite, Inc., Spokane, Washington, for two Avro RJ85s
- Neptune Aviation Services, Inc., Missoula, Montana, for four BAe-146s
- 10 Tanker Air Carrier, LLC, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for one DC-10

“This will bring the total number of Next Generation Airtankers under exclusive use contracts with the Forest Service to 14,” the news report said.

“These new contracts are another important step towards achieving our goal of bringing a total of 18 to 28 modern Large Airtankers into service,” said Tom Harbour, Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the Forest Service.

“Next Generation Airtankers fly faster and carry more fire retardant than Legacy Airtankers in the existing fleet,” the news

release said. “All of the Next Generation Airtankers that the Forest Service has issued a notice of intent to award contracts for are turbine powered, can carry at least 3,000 gallons of fire retardant, and have a cruise speed of at least 300 knots when fully loaded. The companies that are providing them are required to comply with stringent safety requirements in their contracts.”

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service news release “Forest Service awards next generation 2.0. airtanker contracts” of October 1, 2015, and other sources.



The U.S. Forest Service is planning to phase out traditional “round” parachutes (left) in favor of “square” or ram-air parachutes (right) for smokejumper use.

U.S. Forest Service Sets Transition to Ram-Air Parachutes for Smokejumpers

The U.S. Forest Service has decided “to begin a measured transition to a ram-air parachute system” for delivering smokejumpers to wildfires. Pursuant to this decision, as reported in the October 2015 *Smokejumper* magazine, “a ‘square’ ram-air parachute system will eventually replace the ‘round’ FS-14 parachute system currently in use.”

This represents a major change in the way the Forest Service delivers highly-trained firefighters quickly and safely to small fires to prevent them from becoming big fires. The Forest Service plans continual assessment and management of the risks associated with this transition to the ram-air parachute it has been evaluating at the Missoula, Montana, jump base since 2008 and found safe and efficient.

Details on this decision and its implementation are available at www.fs.fed.us/fire/people/smokejumpers/index.html.

In the October 2015 issue of *Smokejumper* magazine, editor and veteran smokejumper Chuck Sheley shared concerns for this transition and offered alternatives to improve smokejumper program performance.

Among his concerns are square parachute operating parameters he contends do not lend themselves as well as those of round parachutes for safe delivery in areas where conditions—ranging from high winds and many rocks to dense forests of big trees—dictate steering to a small jump spot rather than a larger jump area.

“I hope the transition is a good decision and will make smokejumpers a more valuable firefighting tool,” Chuck wrote. “My gut tells me different.”

Prepared from the Smokejumper magazine article referenced and an interview with Chuck Sheley.

U.S. Forest Service Encouraged to Consider Small Mills’ Needs

“Tucked deep in Congress’ bill to fund the government in 2015 was a request for the Forest Service: Get moving on a long-stalled rule that could aid the survival of America’s small timber mills,” according to an October 28, 2015, E&E article by Phil Taylor.

“The report language ‘strongly encouraged’ the agency to write a directive that could ensure small mills are not bullied out of federal timber contracts by larger, better-capitalized corporations.” Small mill access guaranteed by a “timber set-aside, jointly administered by the Forest Service and Small Business Administration” more than 50 years ago, now seems to conflict with the rapid rise of stewardship contracting sales under a program made permanent in the 2014 Farm Bill.

It’s unclear where the Forest Service stands on the issue,” Taylor wrote. “The agency declined to comment for this story.”

Readers are referred to Taylor’s article, “Big and small mills lobby for piece of the timber pie” available on A New Century of Forest Planning blog or at <http://forestpolicypub.com/2015/10/28/big-and-small-mills-lobby-for-piece-of-timber-pie>.

Prepared from above-cited article.

Best Places to Work in the Federal Government 2015

U.S. Forest Service Ranks 254 of 320 in 2015 Best Places to Work Survey

The annual report on the *Best Places to Work in the Federal Government* for 2015, released on December 8, 2015, showed the U.S. Forest Service ranking 254 among 320 federal agencies in overall workplace satisfaction.

“I am encouraged by the Forest Service’s overall index score for employee satisfaction and commitment,” Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell said in a December 10 message. “Both trended upward by nearly two percent over the last year—rising from 51.9 percent in 2014 to 53.7 percent this year.

“Added to other national survey results from *Forbes Magazine* and feedback we received earlier this year, this report represents another set of data from which we can learn and continue to improve,” Chief Tidwell continued. “Some of the most positive feedback...from this week’s report indicates Forest Service employees love their work, and feel empowered to produce quality results. Survey results also show supervisors across the agency do an excellent job working with employees.

“But the report also makes it clear there are concerns that deserve attention. I will continue to work with leaders and employees throughout the agency to build on improvements to our work environment. We all have a role and responsibility for creating the workplace we want and for holding each other accountable for sustaining it.”

For more complete information, see the report online at <http://bestplacestowork.org/BPTW/rankings> produced by the Partnership for Public Service.

Prepared from The Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Agency Report on the Forest Service 2015 and “Message from the Chief: Best Places to Work” of December 10, 2015.

Feature



District Ranger Dick Buscher and First Lady of the United States Lady Bird Johnson enjoyed a salmon cookout at Tollgate Campground after she arrived to visit the Mt. Hood National Forest.
U.S. Forest Service photograph

The First Lady and the Ranger

Lady Bird Johnson and District Ranger Dick Buscher explored family outdoor recreation and backpacking on the Mt. Hood National Forest in June 1968.

By Les Joslin

Lady Bird Johnson, the wife of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and the First Lady of the United States from November 20, 1963, until January 20, 1969, had a serious interest in conservation and beautification of the American landscape. This led her to be a player in the May 1966 White House Conference on Beauty that resulted in the President’s Council on Recreation and National Beauty chaired by vice president Hubert H. Humphrey and to championing related causes including family outdoor recreation.

This, in turn, led her to the Mt. Hood National Forest—while visiting Oregon to address the American Institute of Architects in Portland—where she met future OldSmokey **Dick Buscher**, then in his second year as district ranger of the Zigzag Ranger District, for a two-day introduction to family backpacking. The idea was to emphasize that backpacking is a family activity, not just a sport for hardy mountaineers.

“You think you can do that?” Chief of the Forest Service Ed Cliff asked Dick in a telephone call. Dick assured the Chief that he could.

And so it was that, on the appointed day in June 1968, First Lady of the United States Lady Bird Johnson, along with an entourage that included Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, Chief Cliff, and four Secret Service agents, descended on the Zigzag Ranger Station.

The focus of the visit—which also included a picnic at Tollgate Campground and dinner at Timberline Lodge, for which the First Lady expedited listing on the National Register of Historic Places—was to be a demonstration of family backpacking techniques followed by a five-mile hike in which Dick along

with his wife, son, and daughter would portray the family.

But things didn’t turn out quite as planned.

First, Dick’s wife and son came down with chickenpox, and could not play their roles. Dick recruited Mt. Hood National Forest public affairs officer Anne Heisler to play the “wife” role and his daughter Lise played her own role. Then it snowed, and the five-mile demonstration hike had to be scrubbed. But both the First Lady and the ranger took it in stride.

The visit ended with a fondue dinner. Mrs. Johnson was seated with Dick and Chief Cliff, whom Dick figured was worried about what he might say. Dick had found the First Lady most gracious, not at all pretentious, and possessed of a good sense of humor. “You know, ma’am, sometimes I think we elected the wrong member of the Johnson family to the presidency,” Dick shared with her. “You know, Bush,” the First Lady responded with the nickname by which Dick’s friends still call him, “sometimes I think so, too!”

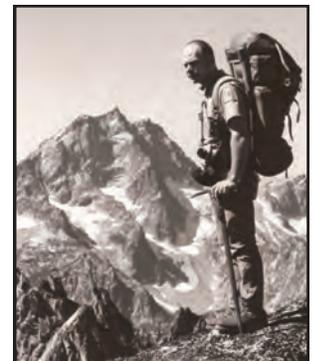
Then Mrs. Johnson took pen in hand and wrote “Mrs. Buscher, We missed you at this fabulous evening” on one of the event placemats, signed it, and gave it to Dick. That framed placemat still hangs on Dick’s kitchen wall.



Left to right, Chief of the Forest Service Ed Cliff, First Lady of the United States Lady Bird Johnson seated with Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman on her left, and Recreation Staff Officer Dick Burke standing with arms folded were among those observing the backpacking demonstration presented by District Ranger Dick Buscher, his daughter Lise, and Public Affairs Officer Ann Heisler.
U.S. Forest Service photograph

OldSmokey Dick Buscher was no stranger to backpacking. An Oregon State College timber beast, Dick found himself in recreation planning early in his career and became a key planner for the North Cascades area, which became a national park, and later for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and other areas.

U.S. Forest Service photograph





Changes *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren and Database Manager Bill Funk*

- Bailey, Robert L.** – New member: 4201 Hwy 970, Cle Elum, WA 98922
Telephone: 509-679-7017 E-mail: for.rlb@gmail.com
- Blackwell, Bill & Denise** – Change address: 130 North River Dr, Roseburg, OR 97470
- Bowman, Sheryl J.** – Change name: Sheryl L. Wilkinson
- Brennan, Joseph W. & Mary** – Change address: 1020 Foster Ave, Sutherlin, OR 97479
- Chesley, George & Joy** – Change telephone: 541-480-8070
- Conklin, Bill & Donna** – Change address: 15848 W Cimarron Dr, Surprise, AZ 85374
- Cooley, Michael & Mary** – Change telephone: 541-659-5461
- Currier, Arthur J. & Elizabeth** – Change address: PO Box 780, Stevensville, MT 59870
- Duberow, Rosanna** – Change telephone: 541-573-3006
- Duncan, Julia S.** – Deceased October 21, 2015; Jim survives
- Elliott, Ed** – Change e-mail: eelliott@gorge.net
- Frost, Mary** – Deceased October 1, 2015; Jack survives
- Gibson, Nancy J. & Alan H.** – New members: PO Box 551227, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96155
Telephone: 530-598-8293 E-mail: tahoegebsons@yahoo.com
- Gross, David** – Change e-mail: davidgross606@gmail.com
- Hanson, Donald C. “Don”** – Deceased September 22, 2015
- Heislein, Harry Philip Jr.** – Deceased October 13, 2015; Leila survives
- Heller, Joseph C. & Charlene** – Change e-mail: jch6930@yahoo.com
- Hunt, Douglas L.** – Deceased September 6, 2015; Mildred survives
- Keller, Barry Stuart & Anna T. Browne** – New members: 809 SW Maplecrest Ct, Portland, OR 97219
Telephone: 503-977-3554 E-mail: brokell@earthlink.net
- Ketchum, Ron** – Change address: 744 Palmer Rd, Ashland, OR 97520
Change e-mail: rketchum@97520.net
- Landsberg, Joan** – Change address: 21338 Livingston Dr., Bend, OR 97701
Change telephone: 541-771-5305
- Laurence, John** – Change e-mail: johnlaurence@gmail.com
- Leth, Jeannie** – New member: 1795 Karmen Rd, Helena, MT 59602
Telephone: 406-422-0974
- Merrick, Leroy** – Deceased October 11, 2015; Jean survives
- Parker, Andrew B. & Deb** – Change address: PO Box 1245, Redmond, OR 97756
Change e-mail: a.d.parker@bendbroadband.com
- Peters, Ollie** – Deceased September 11, 2015
- Puchbauer, Margaret “Karen”** – Deceased October 29, 2015; Truman survives
- Schafer, Jack L.** – Deceased February 12, 2012; Lorraine survives
- Smith, John B. “Jack”** – Deceased October 8, 2015; Grace

survives

- Spray, Richard H. & Bette** – Change e-mail: dbyarps@gmail.com
- Summer, David & Beverly** – Change address: 20038 Tumalo Rd, Bend, OR 97703
Change telephone: 541-241-0417
- Visintainer, Joe J.** – Change address: 7308 W Sonoma Way, Florence, AZ 85132
- Woodcock, Richard H. “Dick”** – Deceased October 12, 2015; Lois survives
- Worthington, Viva** – Change address: 13102 Satterlee Rd, Anacortes, WA

New Members *Compiled by Secretary Deb Warren*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Fall 2015 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Robert L. Bailey of Cle Elum, Washington, joined recently as a lifetime member. Robert retired from the U.S. Forest Service on May 2, 1994, on the Cle Elum Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, after 37 years of federal service, 35 in the Forest Service in Region 6 and two in the U.S. Army. His career was in engineering, and since retirement he has spent his time “traveling when not working.”

Barry Stuart Keller & Anna T. Browne of Portland, Oregon, joined on October 5, 2015. Barry “left the U.S. Forest Service to get a college degree in 1984 and was never able to get back in after graduating. As the result and in order to stay connected, the Forest Service has had me for free as a volunteer for over 15 years.” During his 10 Forest Service years, Barry worked in timber on the Malheur National Forest and as a silviculture technician on the Lowell Ranger District, Willamette National Forest. Barry retired from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in September 2008 after 25 years of federal service that also included stints with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the General Services Administration (GSA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nancy J. & Alan H. Gibson of South Lake Tahoe, California, joined as lifetime members on November 13, 2015. Nancy retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 2, 2015, as forest supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, after 37 years in the Forest Service, three in Region 6, after working in private industry from 1973-1978. Her Forest Service years were spent “in a variety of clerical, technical, and professional positions in Regions 1, 6, and 5. After a year “to shake it off, regroup, and reconnect with family and friends,” she plans “to reinvest [her] time and energy into Forest Service and nonprofit pursuits....” and enjoy boating, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding.

Jeannie Leth of Helena, Montana, joined as a lifetime member on September 25, 2015. Jeannie retired from the U.S. Forest Service on July 2, 2010, from the Helena National Forest SO after 32.5 years in the Forest Service which included 29 years in Region 6 where her last duty station was on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Memories *Compiled by Archivist Ray Steiger and Editor Les Joslin*

Farewell to these recently deceased Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members who live on in our memories.

Julia S. Duncan died October 21, 2015, at age 87. Julia Clara Stueve Rodrigues was born April 25, 1928, in Axtell, Kansas. She earned a B.S. degree in physics from Kansas State University in 1952 and worked at Los Alamos, New Mexico, designing missile guidance systems. She married in 1953, had six children, and became a school teacher. Julia joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1976, starting as a radio specialist and retiring 30 years later as a telecommunications engineer. Julia married Jim Duncan in 2002. Survivors include Jim; her children Connie Morris, Joe Rodrigues, Cindy Rodrigues, Becky Hesson, and John Rodrigues; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mary Frost died October 1, 2015, at age 94. She was wife of D.O. “Jack” Frost. Mary Alma Nichols was born September 19, 1921, in Seymour, Texas. She married Dale O. “Jack” Frost in 1957, and had the couples’ only child Tim in 1959. A member of the Hidden Valley Presbyterian Church in Draper, Utah, Mary was an avid traveler. Survivors include Jack, their son Tim, and three grandchildren.

Donald Creighton “Don” Hanson died September 22, 2015, at age 84. Don was born June 13, 1931, in Enderlin, North Dakota. As a child, he was given the nickname “Inky” while working with his father on the *Enderlin Independent* newspaper. Don’s family moved to Portland, Oregon, where Don graduated from Lincoln High School in 1949. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served two and one-half years in the Korean War as a senior radar technician before being honorably discharged in July 1953 to care for his medically fragile mother after the sudden death of his father. Don graduated from Oregon State College in Corvallis in 1957 with a degree in forest engineering and joined the U.S. Forest Service as a forester on the Deschutes National Forest. While serving in Bend, he met Nancy Meland, a mother of three children. They married in November 1966 and together had a daughter. In 1968 Don transferred to the Umatilla National Forest where he served as a resource assistant on the Pendleton and Walla Walla ranger districts. The family moved again to John Day in 1980 when Don was promoted to district ranger on the Bear Valley Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. He held that position, which he described as the highlight of his career, until he retired in October 1988. In retirement, he played golf almost daily, went elk and pheasant hunting and fishing, and spent time with friends and family. Survivors include his daughter Julie Hanson; Nancy’s children Dan Armstrong, Peggy Allison, and Andy Hanson; and grandchildren.

Harry Philip Heislein, Jr., died October 13, 2015, at age 88. Harry was born February 12, 1927, in Rochester, New York, grew up in Irondequoit, graduated from Webster High School, and in 1950 graduated from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. Harry joined the U.S. Forest Service and

served first on the Umatilla National Forest in Pendleton, Oregon, where he met Leila Beard. He and Leila married in 1957 and resided in Pendleton until 1959 when Harry was transferred to the Region 6 RO in Portland where he helped pioneer the computerized design of forest roads for the region. In 1963, Harry transferred to the Umpqua National Forest in Roseburg, Oregon, where he served as a civil engineer until his retirement in 1987. He also flew fire patrol for ten years, which led to obtaining a private pilot’s license and service in the Civil Air Patrol. Retired in Roseburg, Harry was active in community affairs and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon. At some time he lost his sight. Survivors include Leila, his wife of 58 years; daughters Lynn Heislein and Ann Nakagawa; and a granddaughter.

Douglas L. “Doug” Hunt died September 6, 2015, at age 91. Doug was born September 22, 1923, in Boulder Creek, California, and grew up there and in Reno, Nevada. He attended both Reno High School and Boulder Creek Union High School until, at the age of 19 in 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy he met Mildred “Millie” Foote and they married in August 1954. After his honorary discharge from the Navy, Doug attended the University of Nevada at Reno for two years and then transferred to Oregon State College where he earned a degree in forestry in 1950. Doug worked in the forest products industry in California and Oregon until, in 1959, he joined the U.S. Forest Service in which he served until he retired in 1983 at the age of 60. Survivors include his wife Mildred “Millie” Hunt; sons Tom, Bill, Jim, and Steve; daughters Jennifer Brightbill and K.C. Gibley; 21 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

B. Leroy Merrick died October 11, 2015, at age 90. Leroy was born March 11, 1925, in Lamar, Colorado, graduated from Nyssa High School in Nyssa, Oregon, and went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. He joined the U.S. Navy in July 1943 and served in World War II and the Korean War. He married Jean Harding in November 1948. Leroy returned to the Forest Service after his naval service, and was the fire control officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest when he retired in 1975. After retirement, he worked for Rambling Rotors helicopter service in La Grande, Oregon, and served as the Baker County veterans service officer. An active Elk for 45 years, Leroy served as Exhaulted Ruler of the Baker Elks three times and filled various chairs and positions on the local, district, and state levels. A member of the Methodist church, he was involved in many civic affairs. Survivors include Jean; sons Steve and Craig; daughter Becky; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Olive C. “Ollie” Peters died September 11, 2015, at age 96. She was widow of the late Don Peters. Ollie Gilbert was born January 8, 1919, in White Bear Lake, Minnesota; graduated from Milwaukie High School in Milwaukie, Oregon; and attended Washington State College in Pullman, Washington, with her husband, Don. Ollie and Don moved frequently during their early years with the U.S. Forest Service, living in Lakeview, Oregon, when Don was assistant district ranger on the Warner Ranger District, and in Silver Lake, Oregon, where Don was

district ranger of the Silver Lake Ranger District, both on the Fremont National Forest. Transferred to the Deschutes National Forest, Ollie and Don moved to Bend, Oregon, with their sons Don and Jon in 1956, and there they settled. In addition to being a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother, Ollie was active outside the home. She was a swimming instructor and a life guard, helped open and manage the ski shop at Wetle's Department Store, and sold men's clothing at Ray Le Blanc's menswear store. She was a life-long member of the Presbyterian Church. Survivors include her sons Don and Jon, five grandchildren, and 11 grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Ollie wrote the article "Wait 'Til You See Silver Lake" on pages 18 and 19 of the Winter 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter, assisted with writing the article "Wildfire" on page 22 of the Summer 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter, and contributed the photograph of the "Lake District Boys" on page 14 of this issue in which both her late husband and father appear.

Margaret "Karen" Puchbauer died October 29, 2015, at age 79. She was wife of Truman Puchbauer. Born in Northbrook, Illinois, Karen was educated at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, next to the University of Missouri where she met forestry student Truman who became a career U.S. Forest Service forester. According to Truman, "She was a willing learner and became a great life partner to [him] and an asset to the Forest Service." As she and Truman moved to Forest Service assignments in logging communities, "she adapted to the social mores of each community and became a recognized participant in each" as "she played a significant role in the social life [of] various station compounds" and supported the Forest Service and its mission. Karen was "a great Forest Service wife" and a real supporter of Truman's work.

Editor's Note: Truman Puchbauer provided the information from which this memorial was prepared.

Jack Lyle Schafer died February 12, 2012, at age 92. Jack was born July 19, 1923. A veteran of U.S. Navy service during World War II and a graduate of Oregon State College, Jack served over 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service as a landscape architect on the Snoqualmie National Forest. In addition to designing many recreational facilities and working to improve timber harvesting from the ecological and scenic standpoints, Jack served on wildfires in several capacities. He was on the board of directors of the Good Outdoor Manners Association and represented that organization dressed as its mascot, Ready the Raccoon, to teach the importance of caring for the outdoors at school assemblies and local events. Survivors include Lorraine; their five adult children Dennis, Doug, Janet, Judy, and Ardyce; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Editor's Note: Judy Schafer provided this notification of her father's 2012 death when she noticed he was still listed in the PNWFSA Membership Directory.

John Benjamin "Jack" Smith died October 8, 2015, at age 101. Jack was born November 19, 1913, in Olustee, Jackson County, Oklahoma, and moved with his family to Roseburg, Oregon, in 1915. Jack got his first full-time U.S. Forest Service job at Tiller Ranger Station on the Umpqua National Forest in 1931 where he worked as a CCC foreman and fire protective

assistant. After earning a B.S. in forest management at Oregon State College (OSC) in 1939 and marrying Ruth Lang who also graduated from OSC that year, Jack returned to the Umpqua National Forest where he passed the junior forester exam in 1939. He received a permanent appointment in 1941 and subsequently served on the Fremont, Willamette, and Willamette national forests. As assistant district ranger on the Bly Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, Jack and District Ranger Spike Armstrong responded to the May 5, 1945, Japanese balloon bomb incident on Gearhart Mountain. Two and one-half years later, as district ranger on the Drews Valley Ranger District, Fremont National Forest, Jack led the search party to the site of the October 28, 1947, fatal airplane crash that killed Governor Earl Snell of Oregon. After serving as forest supervisor of the Willamette-Whitman National Forest, Jack served in fire control in the WO, as assistant regional forester for resource management in Region 10 in Juneau, and as assistant regional forester for fire control, air operations, and law enforcement in Region 2 in Denver where he retired from the Forest Service in 1970. A tree farmer in Oregon after retirement, Jack was named Columbia County Tree Farmer of the Year in 1993 and Yamhill County Tree Farmer of the Year in 2003. Jack's wife Ruth died in 2007, and on February 15, 2009, at age 95, he married Grace Diaz, then 57. Jack published his memoir, *A Long, Long Journey: A Century of Memories*, in 2014. Survivors include Grace; his son John, 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grand children, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Edwin C. "Ed" Stout died on November 5, 2015, at age 91. A World War II naval aviator and 1948 forestry graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Ed served in the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years, beginning on the Deschutes National Forest and continuing on the Willamette National Forest where his assignments included engineering staff officer and fire staff officer. Survivors include Katherine, his wife of 65 years; three of their four children; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Richard H. "Dick" Woodcock died October 12, 2015, at age 98. Dick was born in 1917 in Seattle, Washington, where he attended grade school, high school, and earned a forestry degree at the School of Forestry, University of Washington, in 1939, and went to work with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Dick married Nina Lofquist in 1941 before he served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific during World War II and with the occupation forces in Japan after the war. Discharged from the Army, Dick joined the U.S. Forest Service in which he served for 26 years in Region 6. After eight years in timber management on the Olympic National Forest, he was district ranger on the Suiattle Ranger District, Mt. Baker National Forest, from 1954 to 1957, and district ranger on the Lake Wenatchee Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, from 1957 until he retired in 1972. Nina, with whom Dick had three children, died during that last assignment, and in 1974 he married Lois Hayter, a mother of four. They last resided in Burlington, Washington. Survivors include Lois; his daughters Judy Brown and Jill Salwen; his son Jon; Lois' sons Jerry and Rod Hayter and daughters Carolyn Lopez and Jane McIntyre; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Letters

Janet & Jim Crates praise *Gifford Pinchot National Forest* personnel

This past week [in October] we spent a day on the Mt. Adams Ranger District looking at the fall colors. They were beautiful. While on our trip we encountered three Forest Service employees. One person was servicing the toilet at Peterson Prairie Guard Station and two were in the front office at the Trout Lake Ranger Station. These three were impressive professional people. They answered our questions with enthusiasm, completeness, and with a smile. The most impressive thing about these three is that they wore complete Forest Service field uniforms. They were neat and their Forest Service badges shone. They represent the Forest Service tradition to the fullest. Congratulations to them and to the management of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest for “Caring for the Land and Serving People.”

Zane Smith remembers *Vern Hamre*

Vern was a towering figure during his long and productive career in Regions 1, 4, and 6 plus the Chief’s Office and perhaps other places. He mentored many of us and was a classic leader loved by all.

Editor’s Note: U.S. Forest Service legend Vernon O. “Vern” Hamre died on November 7, 2015, at age 91. His wife of 69 years, Jean “Pete” Hamre, the second woman graduate of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana, survived him for 17 days before she died on November 24.

Ray Bunster remembers *Ed Stout*

Ed was forest engineer on the Willamette National Forest when I was supervisory resource technician there. Most of Ed’s co-workers and I were pretty upset when the powers-that-be determined he had to have a civil engineering degree to be forest engineer. As far as we were concerned he had performed his job well with “only” a forestry degree. From the early 1950s until he was made fire staff officer in the mid-1960s he must have been getting good or better performance ratings as forest engineer from Forest Supervisor Dave Gibney who held us all to a high standard.

Mike Kerrick remembers *Jack Smith*

I have known Jack since 1956 when he was fire staff on the Willamette National Forest. He selected me along with at least three other young professionals to be district assistants as a way of getting foresters in on the ground floor of the fire organization. It was almost as much fun as being a district ranger and provided an appreciation for fire that stayed with me for the rest of my career. One of a kind, proud to have known him.

Lyle Laverty remembers *Dick Woodcock*

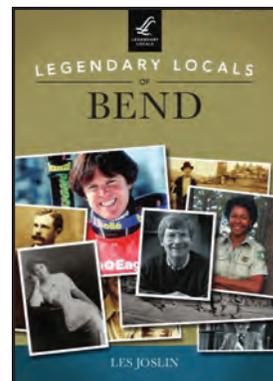
I remember Dick well as I was the young ranger in Skykomish [recalled by OldSmokey **Dale Farley** as being counseled by that “fine, principled man who chose long tenure as a district ranger”]! I truly enjoyed those moments of counsel from Dick!

Editor’s Note: More letters remembering OldSmokeys Don Hanson, Jack Smith, Ed Stout, and Dick Woodcock were published by Vern Clapp as OldSmokey eNotes.

Books

Legendary Locals of Bend Features Past, Present U.S. Forest Service Personalities

Among about 150 “legendary locals” of Bend, Oregon, pictured and profiled in the 128-page book *Legendary Locals of Bend* scheduled to be published on January 25, 2016, by Arcadia Publishing, are 15 U.S. Forest Service personnel who made their marks on the Bend-based Deschutes National Forest during the past hundred years or so. One of these Forest Service personnel appears on the cover along with a city father, a federal judge, an entrepreneur, an entertainer, an Olympic skier, and a sawmill employee.



Who are these Deschutes National Forest personnel of the distant and recent past who merit legendary local status in Bend? Well, three served very early in the Forest Service’s history, and several became members of the Thirty-Year Club. Three are current OldSmokeys. And the rest? Well, you’ll just have to read the book for yourself to find out!

Each book in Arcadia Publishing’s *Legendary Locals* imprint delves into the history of some of the unique individuals and groups, past and present, which have made a memorable impact on their community throughout its history.

Legendary Locals of Bend by Les Joslin (ISBN-13-978-1-4671-0227-8; ISBN-10 1-467-0227-X), scheduled to be published on January 25, 2016, by Arcadia Publishing, will be available for \$21.99 from <www.arcadiapublishing.com> or from <Amazon.com> and other booksellers.

Ivan Doig Wrote “Forest Service Stuff”

By Les Joslin

Sometime in 1986, in a bookstore in Springfield, Virginia, I stumbled across Ivan Doig’s 1984 novel *English Creek*. Set on the fictitious Two Medicine National Forest in Montana, it beautifully evoked the U.S. Forest Service of 1939 and reawakened my then-latent interest in Forest Service history. It remains my all-time favorite novel.

I was so taken with it that I wrote my one and only ever “fan letter” asking if he intended to write another Forest Service novel. “I appreciate your words about *English Creek*, he replied on February 26, 1987, on a typed post card tucked in my copy ever since. “Quite a lot of the Forest Service lore and language in it derived from the Forest History Society, bailiwick of Pete Steen, that prince among men. This fall the next novel comes out—*Dancing at the Rascal Fair*—and while it doesn’t have nearly as much Forest Service stuff in it, it does have Stanley Meixell arriving to set up the Two Medicine NF in ‘07.”

Books continues on page 15

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Cedar Guard Station

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

The historic Cedar Guard Station—also known as the Grayback Guard Station—was built in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on the Rogue River National Forest. The dwelling itself is a one-story, wood frame building on a cobblestone foundation with a centered cobblestone chimney. The exterior walls were of cedar bark, “with verges and eaves boxed by quarter-round cedar logs, bark on.” It has a “wood-shingled medium gable roof, center porch gable [with an] entry recessed [and] almost enclosed by solid walls of porch, [and] three straight stone steps [which] access [a] flagstone platform.” A matching garage was built in 1936.

The construction style of the two buildings, about 12 miles from the town of Cave Junction and not far from the Oregon Caves National Monument, was meant to “impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals” For decades Cedar Guard Station served “as intradistrict headquarters for field operations” and living quarters for field personnel.

As a result of a 1984 nomination prepared by the late Terry West, who later served in Washington, D.C., as national Forest Service historian, Cedar Guard Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.



Cedar Guard Station, also known as Grayback Guard Station, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Photograph by Molly Johnson

To visit historic Cedar Guard Station—perhaps in conjunction with a visit to the nearby Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Museum—turn east off U.S. Highway 199 (Redwood Highway) at Cave Junction onto Oregon Highway 46 (Oregon Caves Highway) and continue for about 12 miles to Cedar Guard Station on the left near the junction of Oregon Highway 46 and Forest Road 111.

Prepared from multiple sources including 1984 National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: Cedar Guard Station #1019 and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest website Cedar Guard Station Lookout/Cabin entry.

The Way We Were

Lake District Boys, Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon, in 1936 *Shared by Ollie Peters*



The late OldSmokey **Ollie Peters**, who died on September 11, 2015, at age 96 (please see page 11), shared this photograph of the Mt. Hood National Forest’s old Lakes Ranger District crew in 1936. The “Lakes District Boys” in the photograph are, from left to right, Stanley Applegate, Dick Crabtree, Bob Theis, Joe Daniel, Ed Canfield, Walt Bates, Paul Dixon, Slim Ulbrecht, Paul Dennis, Francis Paquet, Ray McGinley, Frank Hackler, Irwin Hull, Roger Sherman, Ollie’s late husband Don Peters, Ollie’s father Clarence Gilbert, Dave Walker, Protection Assistant Frank Wheeler, and District Ranger Everett Lynch. Not included in the photograph were Speed McCoy, George Henderson, Chet Pechette, and Bud Gilbert.

My First Forest Service Job

A Tale of Two Badges: On the Rainier Forest Reserve and Rainier National Forest in 1904 and 1905

By Homer Ross

In response to Gifford Pinchot's request of December 1939, Homer Ross of McMinnville, Oregon, wrote this March 1940 account of his first job in what became the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Ross "came west from Illinois in 1899 at the age of 19" and soon found himself herding sheep during summers in the Cascades of Washington State on forest reserves of which "no one seemed to know just where the boundaries were." There he came into contact with a character called the "range rider" who "never seemed to have much to do except to ride around and eat at the sheep camps" and "I thought that I would like to have a job like his."

In the spring of 1904...I decided to try and get a job for the summer as a range rider. I made application to Mr. G.F. Allen, who was Supervisor of the Rainier Forest Reserve. In due time I was hired at \$60.00 per month for July, August and September of that year. I furnished two saddle horses, one pack horse, and as the Swede said, "Ate myself." I liked the work and liked the men I came in contact with, and, also, enjoyed wearing that big, round, nickel-plated badge.



I liked it so well that the next spring I applied again and was appointed a Forest Guard. They sent me a big bronze shield badge instead of the nickel-plated one and wrote me that the Forest Reserves were being transferred from the Interior Department to the Department of Agriculture, and that I must not call them Forest Reserves anymore but National Forests. I began to get more letters and to see more Forest Service men. I had to make out reports and answer more letters, and in other words, it looked like we were going to work.



I took the Civil Service exam that fall and passed, and in the spring of 1905 I was appointed an Assistant Forest Ranger at \$75.00 per month. I liked the work so much that I didn't want to go back into the sheep business.

And stick with it Homer Ross did. In the rest of his response to G.P., Mr. Ross related such adventures as surveying administrative sites pursuant to the Act of June 11, 1906, with his young wife of two years as the other member of the survey crew, and closely encountering a "large Cinnamon bear" en route a lightning fire in "the closest call I ever had to being killed while in the Service." He also made the most of opportu-

nities to learn more about the job and, in the course of so doing, about life in a bureaucracy.

I was becoming more and more interested in Forest Service work, and in the fall of 1909 I was offered the chance of attending a three months course in forestry at the University of Washington. I was informed that I would receive my regular salary which was \$90.00 per month there.

We had hardly settled ourselves in Seattle and started to school 'til some one back in Washington said that you couldn't send a ranger to school and pay him, too. They stopped our pay and some of the boys had to go home for lack of expense money. I managed to stay and got a lot out of the course. [Those who finished the course included] at least six men who later on became Forest Supervisors. They were a fine bunch of fellows and eager to learn.

After that start, Mr. Ross went on to be deputy supervisor of the new Columbia National Forest and supervisor of the Ochoco National Forest before he resigned from the Forest Service in 1918.

Books continued from page 13

Probably a decade later, at the Hult Center in Eugene, Oregon, I had occasion to speak briefly with Ivan Doig. "Has anyone ever approached you about making a film of *English Creek*?" I asked. "Nobody grown up," he replied. One wonders just whom he might have trusted with this treasure.

OldSmokey Sue Triplett shares a similar appreciation for Doig and *English Creek*. "A friend gave me a copy when I moved to Region 6 from the WO, so I'd 'understand the REAL Forest Service' better!" she recalls. Sue remembered her "opportunity to talk briefly with Ivan when he was giving a talk about one of his books. I asked him if he'd worked for the Forest Service, and he said 'No,' but he'd talked with a lot of Forest Service folks. And he considered [it] the greatest compliment that the forest supervisor on the Lewis & Clark National Forest kept a copy of *English Creek* on his desk, and when he got a new employee, he gave him or her the book and told them it was 'required reading.'"

The fictitious Two Medicine National Forest on which Doig set *English Creek* is squeezed between the Lewis & Clark National Forest and Glacier National Park.

Doig, an award-winning regional author of 16 books, died last April 9 at age 75. But he and his insightful take on Forest Service history live on in these first two books of his McCaskill trilogy that spans Montana's first century.

English Creek wasn't Doig's first look at Forest Service history. While researching and writing *Ponderosa Promise: A History of U.S. Forest Service Research in Central Oregon* (PNW-GTR-711) published by the Pacific Northwest Research Station in 2007, I discovered and used as a reference his *Early Forestry Research: A History of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, 1925-1975*, published by that predecessor entity in 1977.

Whether writing fact or fiction, Ivan Doig wrote some of the best "Forest Service stuff."



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
P.O. Box 5583
Portland, OR 97228-5583



www.oldsmokeys.org

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT NO. 1

Winter 2016

Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows “16” your dues are paid through December 31, 2016. 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 of Macadam Avenue, just south of downtown Portland, Oregon, at 11:00 a.m.

Officers

President, Jim Rice; **President-elect**, Ron Boehm; **Past President**, Al Matecko; **Secretary**, Debra Warren; **Recording Secretary**, Susan Triplett; **Treasurer**, Dick Bennett; **Database Manager**, Bill Funk; **Archivist**, Ray Steiger; **Newsletter Editor**, Les Joslin; **E-Mail Editor**, Vern Clapp; **Website Manager**, Don Nearhood; **Membership Chair**, Doug MacDonald; **Community Outreach Chair**, Bev Pratt; **Banquet Chair**; Don & Jean Loft; **Picnic Chair**; Rick Larson; **National Association of Forest Service Retirees Representative**, Ranotta McNair.

Area Representatives

Regional Office, Al Matecko; **Research Station**, Cindy Miner, Debra Warren; **Colville**, Al Garr; **Deschutes**, Dennis Dietrich; **Fremont**, Richard “Buck” Woodward; **Gifford Pinchot**, Phil Dodd; **Gifford Pinchot (east)**, Jim Bull; **Gifford Pinchot (west)** vacant; **Malheur** (vacant); **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie**, Lee Boecksteigel; **Mt. Hood**, Jim Tierney; **Ochoco**, Denise Reinhart, Dave Zalunardo; **Okanogan**, Bill Krell; **Olympic**, Chris Anderson, Dave Yates; **Rogue river**, Jerry Wojack, Tom Lupes; **Siskiyou**, Eileen Blakely, Joel King; **Siuslaw**, Ted Gump; **Umatilla**, Phil Kline; **Umpqua**, Mary & Joe Brennan, John Sloan; **Wallowa-Whitman**, Art Schimke; **Wenatchee**, Kjell Bakke, Fred Walk; **Willamette**, Al Sorseth, Doug MacDonald; **Winema**, Ted Yarosh, Mike Gouette.

Address Changes? Please let PNWFSA know. A few weeks delay can result in not getting your newsletter.

This newsletter is published quarterly by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) for the benefit of its members and various offices of the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6. Copies are also made available to all other U.S. Forest Service retiree organizations. Annual PNWFSA membership is \$20. Lifetime membership is \$250. Specific requirements for membership eligibility and a membership application are available from the PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.