



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees— Fall 2019

## *President's Message—Rob Mangold*

I hope you all have had a great summer! We OldSmokeys had a great August 9 picnic at BLM's Wildwood Recreation Area attended by 85 happy picnickers. It was a special time to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We had the good fortune of having Bibi Gaston, the great-grandniece of Gifford Pinchot, in attendance. She shared with us some interesting tales about our U.S. Forest Service's founding Chief.

We were also joined by Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa who spoke about the fine lineage of Pacific Northwest Region leaders in whose tradition he intends to follow.

I was struck by the strong conservation spirit of our Pacific Northwest Region retiree group, and I continue to be impressed with how important our National Forests and Grasslands remain to our country. We must continue our work to conserve these lands and their resources and to involve as many citizens as we are able in their active management and conservation. Each of us, I am certain, will find a way to do her or his part.

This is the last *OldSmokeys Newsletter* our long-term editor Les Joslin will produce. He has done a remarkable job on our behalf, and we will miss him as he moves on to other endeavors. We will be transitioning our newsletter in some new directions as we strive to find a way to replace Les. That won't be easy.

Thanks for your continuing support of our great Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

Best,

*Rob Mangold*

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

***Annual Dues for 2020 are Due on January 1. See Page 3!***

## Forum

### No Typo-Free Newsletter Yet!

I apologized by letter to OldSmokey **Ben Carson** for the typographical error referring to him as “Bend Carson” in the headline of the article about him on page 4 of the Summer 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. It’s ironic that I wrote on this page of that issue of my quest for a typo-free newsletter.

That particularly egregious typo was the first thing I noticed when I pulled the issue out of my mailbox on June 13. I was able to correct this and another typo for the “paperless” online issue, but both live forever in hundreds of hardcopy copies.

Given that I live in Bend, Oregon, the middle finger of my left hand must be used to typing that “d” at the end of “Ben.” But that’s no excuse for poor proofreading—especially of headlines in 14-point bold type.

Alas, most if not all issues reflect one or more proofreading failures. I have redoubled my proofreading effort with this issue. Perhaps someday a new editor or editorial team will improve on this aspect of *OldSmokeys Newsletter* production.

—Les Joslin

### Fifty-five OldSmokeys Newsletters!

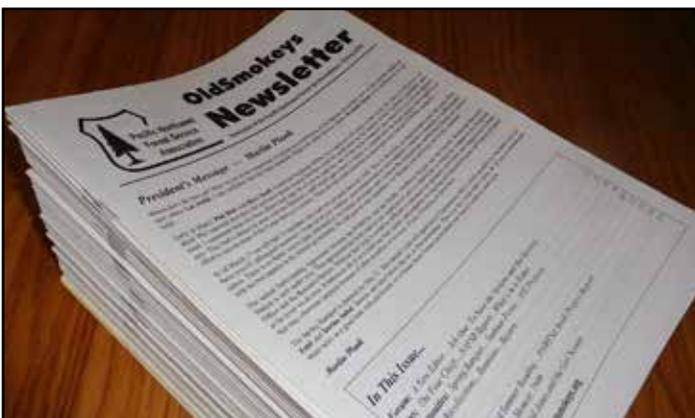
This is the fifty-fifth—and final—issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* which I will produce. What do 55 issues look like? The first 54 look like the pile in the photo below. The first issue I produced, the Spring 2006 issue, is on the top of the pile. The format hasn’t changed much since.

I owe the honor of producing this quarterly newsletter to two fine gentlemen: the late great OldSmokey **Wendall Jones**, my predecessor as editor, and the late great OldSmokey **John Marker**, whom I believe fingered me for the job and on whom I relied for almost a decade of sound editorial advice.

My fiftieth issue—my “golden issue” with a bright yellow cover—included a statistical summary of the newsletter content of those first 50 issues. I have left qualitative summation to others; most have commented positively, a few have not. I am fairly pleased with what I have done.

It remains for me to wish my successor or successors—whomever she or he or they may be—success at producing the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s future periodical, and to thank my dear wife **Pat Joslin**, the PNWFSA, and ePrint for helping me attain whatever success I have enjoyed.

— Les Joslin



## OldSmokeys News

### OldSmokeys Gathered Near Mt. Hood for August 9 Annual Picnic in the Woods

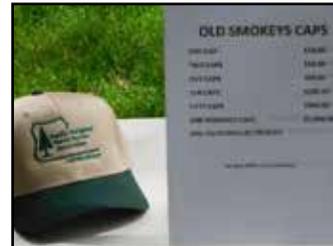
Eighty-four OldSmokeys and a few special guests converged on the beautiful Wildwood Recreation Area near Mt. Hood on August 9, 2019, for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Picnic in the Woods.

The skies were cloudy but spirits were bright as these hardy picnickers enjoyed each others’ company at this traditional outdoor get-together. Lunch was served by the still-with-us (see “U.S. Forest Service Retains Job Corps!” article on page 8) culinary arts students from the Timber Lakes Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

After lunch speakers included Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa and special guest BiBi Gaston, great-grandniece of Gifford Pinchot, landscape architect, and author of the 2016 book *Gifford Pinchot and the First Foresters* (reviewed in the Fall 2017 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*) followed in 2018 by *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers* (reviewed on page 13 of this issue).



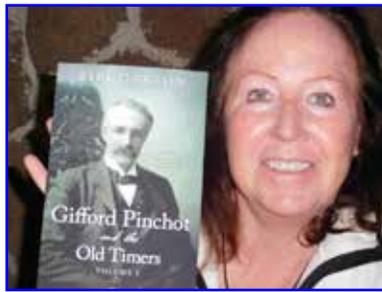
Arriving Picnic in the Woods picnickers checked in with Deb Warren and crew, and were warmly greeted by Bev Pratt.



Bob Williams sold his new OldSmokeys caps, and Rick Larson coordinated his umpteenth annual Picnic in the Woods.



Job Corps culinary arts students from the Timber Lake Civilian Conservation Camp on the Mt. Hood National Forest served the picnic lunch to appreciatively hungry OldSmokeys.



Betty and Zane Smith and everyone else ate, and Bibi Gaston spoke on her new book *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers*.



President-Elect Steve Ellis, Past President Kent Connaughton (left), and recently tired Regional Forester Jim Peña, Joni and Hugh Black (right) conversed.



Old friends got together: Linda Goodman and Jim Golden (left) and Becki Heath and Jon Stewart (right).



The Regional Office was represented by Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa, Deputy Regional Forester Lisa Northrop.



Among other smiling faces: Bob McQuown, Joni Black, Mary Marker, Ginnie Martin, David Summer. Photographs by Les Joslin

## OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2020 are Due and Payable on January 1, 2020

It's the time of year OldSmokeys who pay Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) dues on an annual basis pay those Annual Dues due on January 1, 2020.

You may pay your \$20.00 annual dues by PayPal by going to the OldSmokeys website at <www.oldsmokeys.org> and clicking on "Donations and Payments" and following the procedure.

Or, you may use the Bill of Collection coupon below to pay your \$20.00 annual dues, convert to a Lifetime membership for a one-time payment of \$250.00 that frees you from paying annual dues ever again, and/or donate to one or more PNWFSA funds.

### Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

#### Bill for Collection for 2020 Annual Dues or Conversion to Lifetime Membership and/or PNWFSA Fund Donation

Please make your check(s) for \$20 Annual Membership Dues or \$250 Lifetime Membership Dues and/or any amounts you may wish to contribute to any of the PNWFSA funds listed below payable to PNWFSA and mail to:

**PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583**

*Please check all that apply:*

- First year of PNWFSA Membership — \$0 (Free)
- Annual Membership Renewal — \$20.00
- Lifetime Membership — \$250.00
- Elmer Moyer Memorial  
Emergency Fund Donation — \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Project/Grant Fund Donation — \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- General Fund Donation — \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Any comments to share? \_\_\_\_\_

## OldSmokeys Grant Application Deadline is December 31, 2019

OldSmokey **Charlie Krebs**, Chair of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Grants Committee, reminds all who know a organization interested in applying for a grant to be awarded in 2020 that the deadline for grant application submission is December 31, 2020.

About \$10,000 will be available for 2020 grants. Applications to fund projects that further PNWFSA goals may be submitted by private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations. Grants are not made directly to the U.S. Forest Service, but may be made to partnering organizations pursuing appropriate projects with the Forest Service on National Forest System lands.

Complete information about PNWFSA grants was provided in the Summer 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

## OldSmokey Dave Jay is PNWFSA Liaison to National Museum of Forest Service History

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) Board of Directors at its May 31, 2019, meeting named OldSmokey **Dave Jay** to the new Board position of Liaison to the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFHS) in Missoula, Montana.

With over a hundred OldSmokeys among its membership of over 900 and seven of those serving on its board of directors, the PNWFSA is the NMFHS's strongest and most active retiree organization. Established in 1988 to share the rich history of the U.S. Forest Service and America's conservation legacy, the NMFHS pursues a vigorous educational program even as it continues its fundraising campaign to build the planned National Conservation Legacy and Education Center on its Missoula campus to tell the Forest Service story.

To help advance these goals, the NMFHS is holding a membership drive to more than double its membership to 2,020 by the end of the year 2020. OldSmokeys may join online by going to <https://forestservicemuseum.org> and clicking on "Become a Member" or, if you are not online, by writing to the NMFHS at P.O. Box 2772, Missoula, Montana 59806.

In his new liaison position, Dave will facilitate PNWFSA efforts in support of the NMFHS and provide quarterly reports to the PNWFSA Board of Directors.

## OldSmokeys, Friends of Fish Lake Made Most of 2019 Annual Work Week

Over forty volunteers—mostly Friends of Fish Lake (FFL), many of whom are OldSmokeys—took part in the FFL June 23-28 annual work week at the Fish Lake Historic Site on the Willamette National Forest, FFL President and OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** reported to your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. The work was organized by Jim Denny who returned to his old Forest Service duty station from his New York home to take on the duties of site manager for June and July.

Two days into the work week, at the FFL membership luncheon, Michell Mitchell, Region 6 Assistant Director for Recreation, spoke, followed by remarks from Willamette National Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **Tracy Beck** and McKenzie River Ranger District Ranger Darren Cross who shared national forest activity updates.

Work week activities, in addition to the usual routine maintenance, included rebuilding the snow-damaged entry portal along the historic Santiam Wagon road, reconstructing a loading platform behind the historic Civilian Conservation Corps-built blacksmith shop, repairing rotting logs at the historic Hall House, and installing the first of four user-friendly video players for videos which interpret the site. A PNWFSA grant of \$2,000 is helping to fund the video project.

The FFL also began a major reconstruction of the interior of the 1960s-era bunkhouse to create a larger space for group activities and to bring the facilities up to applicable standards. Bunkhouse work progressed through the summer and will continue through the next year.

## OldSmokeys Welcomed a Record 1,872 Visitors to High Desert Ranger Station During Eleventh Summer of Operation

A dedicated team of 11 OldSmokeys and two other volunteers welcomed a record 1,872 visitors to the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit during the 74 days of its eleventh consecutive summer of operation at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon.

These OldSmokeys—**John Bambe, Dick Connelly, Bill Fish, Les Joslin, Cathi Kleckner, Wayne Kleckner, Stan Kunzman, Joan Landsberg, Ray Romero, Jon Stewart, and Desi Zamudio**—represented the role of the U.S. Forest Service to these visitors at the world-class museum dedicated to the natural and cultural history of the Intermountain West.

And just why is there a ranger station at this museum? "All of the explorers and mountain men, ranchers and cowboys, homesteaders and farmers, miners and loggers—and, of course, Native Americans—whose stories are told at the High Desert Museum were doing one thing: pursuing ways of life and developing economies based on natural resources," the ranger station volunteers explain. "When these natural resources faced overuse and abuse, Uncle Sam stepped in on public lands—such as the national forests—to manage those resources and sustain those economies. U.S. Forest Service rangers, working from ranger stations such as this, were part of this effort and thus an important part of the story of the West."

That—along with a wildfire prevention message and, of course, mention this year of Smokey Bear's 75th birthday—is the High Desert Ranger Station's basic message. Volunteers, of course, answer myriad other questions about the Forest Service and its work.

## OldSmokey Jack Deinema Recalled Life in U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Forest Service

OldSmokey **John W. "Jack" Deinema** recalled his life in the July 2019 issue of *Smokejumper*, the quarterly magazine of the National Smokejumper Association: "I am currently 95 years young living in an excellent elderly care facility in Tigard, Oregon. My two wonderful daughters live close by and take care of my every need.

"Am looking back on a full and rewarding career as a U.S. Marine, Smokejumper, Forest Ranger, Regional Forester, Job Corps Director of Conservation Centers, and retiring as Deputy Chief for Administration in Washington, D.C."

*Courtesy of Chuck Sheley, Managing Editor, Smokejumper Magazine*

## OldSmokey Steve Ellis Quoted in National Media on Agency Moves

“It’s important for these agencies to have a meaningful footprint in D.C.,” OldSmokey and Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) President-Elect **Steve Ellis** told *The Washington Post* in a July 15, 2019, telephone interview about reports that the “Trump administration plans to relocate more than a fifth of the Bureau of Land Management’s Washington, D.C., workforce to west of the Rockies.”

This proposal followed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue’s June 13, 2019, announcement that 547 employees of two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, would move by September to the Kansas City area. Most of these agencies’ employees have objected to this “directed reassignment” framed by the Trump administration as “an effort to save the taxpayers money and bring researchers closer to the farmers they serve” on personal and professional grounds.

“It I wanted to dismantle an agency, this would be in my playbook,” Steve told *The Washington Post* of the proposal to move nearly 80 BLM employees—the majority top managers—to Grand Junction, Colorado. Steve’s 38-year federal career included both U.S. Forest Service and BLM leadership assignments. He retired as Deputy Director for Operations—BLM’s most senior position for a career official—at BLM Headquarters in Washington, D.C., in 2017.

“Transferring so many employees out of D.C. could complicate the agency’s relationship with Capitol Hill, budget officials and other federal entities,” *The Washington Post* reported Steve told them.

Steve is not alone. Two former BLM directors, Robert V. Abbey and Patrick Shea, see plans to move BLM’s headquarters to Colorado as “an early step toward abolishing the entire agency and transferring millions of acres of federal land to the states.”

The planned BLM move is supported by Colorado Republican Senator Cory Gardner.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Interior to move most of BLM’s Washington staff out West” by Juliet Eilperin and Lisa Rein in The Washington Post, July 15, 2015; “Federal workers with U.S. Department of Agriculture sound alarm about agency relocation” by Aaron Franco of NBC News, July 15, 2019; “BLM move to Grand Junction will benefit Colorado’s public lands and economy” by Senator Cory Gardner in The Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colorado), July 17, 2019; “Ex-BLM Chief Says Interior Is Moving to Transfer Land to States” by Bobby Magill in Bloomberg Environment, July 22, 2019; “This Colorado town might be the new home of a federal agency,” by Rebecca Beitsch in The Hill, August 24, 2019.*

## OldSmokey Becki Lockett Heath Joins NAFSR Board of Directors



Becki Heath

Recently retired from a nearly 40-year career in the U.S. Forest Service, OldSmokey **Becki Lockett Heath**, now of Portland, Oregon, has joined the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) Board of Directors.

“I have admired the work NAFSR is doing and am honored to join the board to further advocate for and support the agency’s mission, which I so believe in,” Becki was quoted in a recent NAFSR website

item.

Becki retired from the Forest Service from a long-term detail in the WO where she served as Acting Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry. For nearly two years her work focused on risk management, testing and improving risk-informed decision making in wildfire situations, and further connecting line and fire leadership. Before that, Becki was deputy regional forester for the Pacific Northwest Region.

After early career assignments which ranged from silviculturist to presale forester on the Mt. Hood, Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wenatchee national forests, Becki served as district ranger on the Leavenworth Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, from 1990 to 1999; deputy forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest from 1999 to late 2001; forest supervisor of the Gallatin National Forest for six years; and forest supervisor of the by-then-combined Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest from August 2007 until September 2013.

Becki earned a bachelor of science degree in resource and recreation management at Oregon State University and a master of science in forest management at the University of Washington.

*Prepared from a biography on the NAFSR website.*

## OldSmokey Robin Gyorgyfalvy Retires from U.S. Forest Service in September

This September 2019, about the time you receive this issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, OldSmokey **Robin Gyorgyfalvy** retires from the U.S. Forest Service after a 32-year career as a landscape architect on the Deschutes National Forest.



Robin Gyorgyfalvy

A native of Hawaii, Robin Lee graduated from Mt. Holyoke College. After attending the University of Hawaii’s graduate school of architecture and regional planning, she decided to focus on environmental design by earning bachelor of landscape architecture (BLA) and master of landscape architecture (MLA) degrees at the University of Oregon, where she also excelled as a soccer player. She worked in private practice for several years before she joined the Forest Service in 1987. She married Martin Gyorgyfalvy, a partner in a Bend, Oregon, engineering firm, in 2001.

During her Deschutes National Forest career, Robin’s innovative work enriched the experiences of national forest visitors along the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway, within the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, at visitor centers and along scenic trails, and at museums in surrounding communities. International assignments took her to China and Indonesia, and she was detailed to the Region 5 RO as deputy public affairs officer.

In recognition of her myriad accomplishments, Robin was elected a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in 2012. She served a 2015-2017 term as ASLA vice president for governmental affairs.

Robin’s career in the Forest Service will be featured in a forthcoming book on minority women in the agency being written by Forest Service retiree Lauren Turner, author of the 2018 book *Outdoor Women Inside the Forest Service* reviewed by Forest Service Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Gail Kimbell** in the Spring 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

## Old Smokey President-Elect Steve Ellis Reflects on Past and Looks to Future

As I reflect on the earliest part of my career in natural resources, I recall many fond memories of my time on the Shawnee National Forest and at the North Central Experiment Station in southern Illinois. I even remember the first prescribed burn I was part of, and our “slip on” the bed of a pickup fire vehicles which were all we had on the Shawnee in the mid-1970s. The hot, humid summers, ticks, and occasional copperhead snake were all par for the course for a budding forester in the upland central hardwood forest.



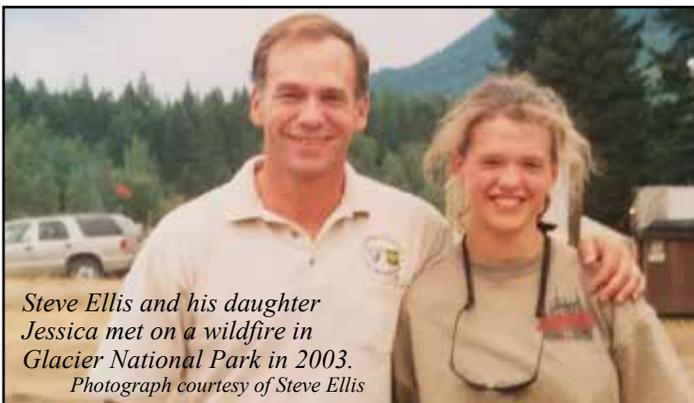
*Steve Ellis was on the Shawnee National Forest in the 1970s. Photograph courtesy of Steve Ellis*

I got married, had children, and became accustomed to the “gypsy life” of a federal forester. This meant moves to various duty stations to advance ones’ career. The sizes of the communities we lived in varied from Washington, D.C., to Lakeview, Oregon, and everywhere in between.

One of the many fond memories I carry with me was meeting my daughter on a fire assignment in Glacier National Park in 2003. Jessica was working as a seasonal firefighter on the Fremont-Winema National Forest while a college student in Bend, Oregon. I was on a review team and she was on a Forest Service engine and had just come off the night shift when we met in fire camp. After cleaning up her soot-covered face, we had a nice breakfast together under the dining canopy at the ICP. I recall her describing how a bear had run out of the burn, right past them into the night, and that the bear didn’t stick around for photos! I went on to meet with the area command team and she went off to a tent to get some sleep before her crew’s next fire line night shift. We lost Jessica to a roadside bomb in Iraq not too many years later.

After a 38-year, nine-duty-station federal career in natural resource management, I look forward to serving as President-Elect, and then as President of PNWFSA beginning next spring. We are members of a terrific organization with a wealth of knowledge and experience to help current employees and retirees, and to contribute in so many ways to the sound management of our National Forest System.

—Steve Ellis



*Steve Ellis and his daughter Jessica met on a wildfire in Glacier National Park in 2003. Photograph courtesy of Steve Ellis*

## OldSmokey Don Franks Rediscovered Historic Fort Rock Fire Lookout

Not long ago, OldSmokey **Don Franks**, 94, retired Deschutes National Forest fire control officer, rediscovered the short-lived Fort Rock Lookout which, for a short time during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, occupied a high point on the western rim of the famous Fort Rock in Central Oregon’s remote Fort Rock Valley.



*In August 2019, OldSmokey Don Franks held up what’s left of the historic Fort Rock fire lookout. Photograph by Les Joslin*

Fort Rock, a crescent-shaped tuff ring one-third of a mile across and 325 feet high and the dominant feature of its namesake valley, is a maar volcano which erupted a bit less than 100,000 years ago within a large Pleistocene lake which submerged nearly 600 square miles of the surrounding area. As the Ice Age ended, the lake dried up. That now-evaporated lake’s former levels are evidenced by wave-cut terraces where its wind-driven waves cut into the famous tuff ring’s flanks. The Fort Rock Valley was homesteaded in the early 1900s, and the homesteader town of Fort Rock about a mile south of the tuff ring was headquarters of the Fort Rock Ranger District until the district ranger moved eight miles north to Cabin Lake Ranger Station in 1921.

Don had heard about the lookout from a Fort Rock old timer, and the late OldSmokey **Gail Baker** had written that “A lookout was also stationed for a few years on Fort Rock” in his 1949 *Historical Writup of the Deschutes National Forest*. More recently, another lookout researcher had referred to a “secondary lookout” once there. The site enjoyed an expansive view of the southeastern Deschutes National Forest

As reported in the Winter 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, Don and your editor clambered around on Fort Rock to find this lookout but did not. Don kept at it, and eventually found a photograph of Fort Rock that showed the lookout on that western rim. And he found a November 16, 1919, *Sunday Oregonian* article by Lucile Saunders entitled “Ft. Rock, Neglected Beauty Spot, Deserves Better Fate” illustrated by two definitive photographs of the Fort Rock Lookout.



The closer of the two photographs clearly shows a forest officer seated inside the lookout at what appears to be an early Osborne fire finder.

Armed with this evidence, Don located the site of the lookout structure and found it’s remains on a wave-cut terrace onto which it had fallen or been pushed. The No. 9 telephone wire still dangled from that site toward those remains. A weathered green and white road sign at a county road junction which pointed toward “Fort Rock L.O.” as recently as 2009 is now part of the Fort Rock Homestead Village Museum collection. And a few old phone poles still stand between Cabin Lake Ranger Station and Fort Rock.

*Prepared from an interview with Don Franks, field observations, and sources of information referred to in the article.*

## OldSmokey Sandi Orsini: Born into the U.S. Forest Service

By Sandi Orsini

I was born into the U.S. Forest Service and spent most of my earlier years being raised on remote ranger stations—the Oak Knoll and Sawyers Bar ranger stations on the Klamath National Forest and the Ruth Guard Station on the Six Rivers National Forest—in Northern California.

It all began in 1960. My parents, L. Roger and Deanna VanBuskirk, were stationed at Sawyers Bar Ranger Station and lived in a trailer on the compound. Future OldSmokey **Bob Devlin** was district ranger. Dad and his crew had just returned from a fire assignment in Southern California. He was bushed. Mom, six and one-half months pregnant with me, thought she was in labor and told him he could not sleep but had to take her to the hospital in Yreka. Ranger Devlin's second son, Patrick, had been born en route Yreka only six months before, and Mom was determined that would not happen to her. Unable to persuade her to wait until morning, Dad bundled Mom and my 18-month-old brother into their 1953 Plymouth for the 55-mile, two-hour trip. Dad dropped Mom off at Siskiyou County General Hospital about two in the morning, then drove another mile to my grandparents' house where he and my brother went directly to bed. About an hour later, the phone call announcing my birth didn't wake him up; my grandparents let him sleep until mid-afternoon before sharing the news.

A remote Forest Service ranger station was a wonderful place to grow up and learn self-reliance in those days. Sawyers Bar was a very small community. Local calls were via an old hoot-and-holler crank telephone system; the rest of the world by a single phone line up and over the hill to Etna. Anyone who wanted to use that line had to come to the ranger station. Incoming messages were either relayed via the crank telephone or delivered in person. The town had a one-room school with a single live-in teacher.

Sawyers Bar Ranger Station summers were active. The ranger station welcomed visitors looking for good fishing spots, wanting to hike in the Marble Mountains, or seeking gold in the river. The station's barracks were filled with seasonal fire and recreation crews who joined evening gatherings for impromptu potlucks, celebrate an anniversary or a birthday, or just because. Kids made do with swings, bikes, and the swimming hole at the river. Most of the year-round residents made necessary trips to Yreka every couple of weeks.

Only four or five families of fulltime Forest Service personnel wintered over at Sawyers Bar Ranger Station. Trips to town were less frequent, and that one phone line and the Forest Service radio were the primary connections with the outside world. Heavy snows of the winter of 1964-65 isolated the station and the town for more than a month during which Santa Claus arrived by helicopter with Red Cross supplies and some toys for the kids and the mailman brought in weeks of mail at one time.

Dad transferred to the Mad River Ranger District on the Six Rivers National Forest in spring 1965 and we moved our house trailer to the Ruth Guard Station where two other Forest Service families lived year-round. Ruth Lake was a summer weekend destination for people in Fortuna and Eureka, and there were many summer cabins in the area. Ruth's year-round population of 35 swelled to over 200 during summers. At Ruth School, a few minutes' walk from the guard station, one teacher taught

about 15 kids in grades kindergarten through eight; after that came boarding school in Hayfork.

Ruth Guard Station was home for two twenty-man summer fire crews which Dad supervised. When the crews were in the field or on fires, guard station family members answered the phone and assisted the visitors. We raised and lowered the flag, took and called in the weather readings, and answered the telephone and radio. We took reports of fires, accidents, and missing persons and relayed them as appropriate. When fire crews returned, we kids helped scrub, dry, and roll hose. We helped maintain the station grounds.

Ruth Guard Station supported two fire lookouts. Sometimes, when the regular lookout had a medical issue or family emergency that required an extended absence, guard station family members were recruited. One summer, Mom agreed to staff Horse Ridge Lookout for a few weeks. My brother and I went along. There, as storms rolled through with thunder so loud it rattled the glass, I learned the job of the lookout—spotting and recording the locations of lightning strikes so we could check them for smokes and report the smokes we detected. And running up and down the tower stairs and around the catwalk with my brother was incredible for us, but not for Mom. Being confined in a small square box, over 25 feet in the air, with two active kids under 12, and with an outhouse at ground level probably was not worth the \$15 to \$20 a day she was paid. We all survived, but she never volunteered again.

My life as a ranger station kid ended in 1972 when Dad transferred from the Six Rivers National Forest to the Superior National Forest and we moved to Duluth, Minnesota. It was all different. We returned to the West Coast in 1976 when Dad transferred to Zigzag Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Two years later, in 1978, he retired from the Forest Service.

## OldSmokeys Sue Triplett in Portland, Les and Pat Joslin in Bend, Hosted Pinchot Author Bibi Gaston Visits

Authors travel to research and represent their books, and this summer author Bibi Gaston, great-grandniece of Gifford Pinchot, visited the Pacific Northwest on behalf of her new book *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers (Volume I)* published in 2018 and reviewed in the **Books** section on page 13 of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Ms. Gaston's visit, which included an appearance at the annual OldSmokeys Picnic in the Woods on August 9 (see page 3), was facilitated by two stays in the Portland, Oregon, home of OldSmokey **Sue Triplett** and a stay at the Bend, Oregon, home of OldSmokeys **Les & Pat Joslin**.

### CORRECTION

to the Spring 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* review of  
Lauren Turner's book

### *Outdoor Women Inside the Forest Service*

The name of the publisher from which the book may  
be ordered was misspelled. The correct spelling is:

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*John C. Kuhns apparently being inducted into the Royal Forest Order toward the end of his U.S. Forest Service career.*

*Photograph courtesy of the John C. Kuhns family and the National Museum of Forest Service History*

## OldSmokeys: Royal Forest Order?

Dave Stack, Vice-President of the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana, recently received the [above] photograph from the John C. Kuhns family. “The family could not provide any information about the photograph,” Dave wrote. “Maybe someone reading the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* can identify the photograph and tell the rest of the story,” he hoped.

Kuhns, an early Penn State forester, served in the U.S. Forest Service’s North Pacific District/Pacific Northwest Region from 1910 to 1950 when he retired as assistant regional forester. He was a senior member of the Society of American Foresters and the Thirty-Year Club, our Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association predecessor organization. And, apparently, a member of the Royal Forest Order.

Dave’s “tentative description” of this photograph is that it shows Kuhns, in Forest Service uniform, being inducted into an organization called the Royal Forest Order. To Kuhns’ left are the “King and Queen” flanked by “two Robin Hood fellows.” The motto on the crest above the king reads: “I Give, I Serve, I Bless.”

Your editor’s research for an organization called Royal Forest Order turned up nothing closer than a “Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes” fraternal organization in the United Kingdom. Not even a near miss!

How about it, OldSmokeys! Do you know anything about a “Royal Forest Order” at one time apparently alive and well in the Pacific Northwest?

—Les Joslin

## Old Smokey Says...

*U.S. Forest Service history has many fascinating stories! Over the years, your OldSmokeys Newsletter has striven to share some with you. This story is one about which I hope you can tell us more.*



## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Retains Job Corps!

The decision to transfer operation of all U.S. Forest Service Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs) to the Department of Labor, reported in the Summer 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, was reversed about the time that issue arrived in your mailbox.

“The Trump administration on Wednesday [June 19, 2019] scrapped plans to kill a U.S. Forest Service program that trains disadvantaged young people...after a bipartisan outcry from Congress,” *Politico* reported that same day.

The reversal came less than a month after Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen told her agency in an anguished telephone call that over a thousand Forest Service personnel could expect to be terminated beginning in September.

“For the time being, USDA does not intend to transfer these centers to [the Labor Department] to allow management to determine a pathway that will maximize opportunity and results for students, minimize disruptions, and improve overall performance and integrity,” the offices of Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and now former Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta said in a joint statement focused on making the program “better and stronger.”

*Prepared from multiple sources including “House approves amendment that could prevent transfer and closure of Job Corps centers” by Bill Gabbert in June 14, 2019, Wildfire Today; “Sonny Perdue reverses Job Corps closures amid backlash from Congress” by Ian Kullgren and Catherine Boudreau in June 19, 2019, Politico; and “Trump administration backtracks on closure of Job Corps program after bipartisan opposition from Congress” by Lisa Rein in the June 19, 2019, Washington Post.*

### U.S. Forest Service Wildfire Year 2019 Got Off to Relatively Mild Start in West

U.S. Forest Service fire management officials in the Pacific Northwest and through much of the rest of the West are pleasantly—albeit cautiously—surprised that the 2019 wildfire year proved relatively mild in terms of large wildfires and associated smoke concentrations into late August. They recognize, of course, this could well change as late summer becomes fall and fuels continue to dry out. Indeed, by the time you read this brief summary in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, that may well be the case.

Among the larger wildfires in the Pacific Northwest so far, the Milepost 97 Fire of late July and early August, burned over 13,000 acres along Interstate 5 near Canyonville in southwestern Oregon. Ignited by an abandoned illegal campfire, this fire did not involve National Forest System lands and was the responsibility of the Oregon Department of Forestry.

As of this report, the largest National Forest System fire in the Pacific Northwest Region seems to have been the Left Hand Fire on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. A lightning-ignited fire detected on July 23, this 3,406-acre fire about 30 miles northwest of Yakima, Washington, cost an estimated eight million dollars to suppress. Nearly 500 firefighters using aircraft and other equipment contained the blaze by August 9 and helped protect homes in the vicinity.

In its August 1, 2019, National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook issuance, the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) noted that fire activity had been below average across most regions except Alaska, but that conditions were beginning to change and “an active but compressed [fire] sea-

son is expected across the West.”

*Prepared from multiple sources including “Wildfires Rage in Oregon, Washington: 9 Firefighters Injured, Homes Evacuated” By Jan Wesner Childs and Pam Wright, The Weather Channel, July 30, 2019; Mild NW Fire Season Could Blow Up As Fuels Dry Out Later This Summer” By Anna King, Northwest News Network, August 7, 2019; “Left Hand Fire” Report from Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, August 15, 2019; and NIFC Predictive Services Issuance cited.*

## U.S. Forest Service Proposes Revisions to NEPA Procedures

The U.S. Forest Service is proposing revisions to its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. These regulations are a key component of how the agency performs environmental analysis and makes decisions. NEPA requires agencies to analyze the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. This process helps the Forest Service in its mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Forest Service released the proposed rule on June 13, 2019, initiating a 60-day public comment period and a 120-day Tribal consultation period.

The Forest Service last updated its NEPA regulations in 2008. Since then, challenges such as extended droughts, insect infestations, and diseases have made the effort to protect people, communities, and resources from threats such as catastrophic wildfires even more difficult. Together, these challenges have strained available staff and resources across the agency’s mission areas.

This rule update proposal is intended to help the Forest Service make timelier decisions based on high quality, science-based analysis. This should improve the Forest Service’s ability to accomplish work on the ground while meeting its environmental stewardship responsibilities. The updates in the proposed rule incorporate lessons learned and experience gained over the past ten years.

### **Categorical Exclusions**

In a related development—and in response to a devastating wildfire year in 2018 and in anticipation of the current wildfire year—Representative Bruce Westerman (Republican-Arkansas) has reintroduced a bill for a Resilient Federal Forests Act that would expedite NEPA review for necessary salvage harvests by expanding the use of “categorical exclusions,” or CEs for short.

Beginning in the George W. Bush administration, CEs were granted for small forest management projects necessary to protect public health and safety. To be eligible for a CE, a project cannot “individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.”

CEs allow for certain federal agency actions to progress subject to a streamlined NEPA review process which otherwise would require the lead agency to prepare a more laborious environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA). Without the CE, the NEPA review process can take in excess of three years to navigate—allowing ample time for wood to rot, or worse, fuel catastrophic wildfires.

Representative Westerman’s bill would amend the law and allow CEs for federally-led projects of up to 10,000 acres in size. It would also allow CEs for non-federal, collaboratively-led salvage projects up to 30,000 acres in size.

Given the severity of recent and anticipated wildfire seasons, expanded use of CEs could prove a useful tool for accomplishing some timely wildfire mitigation work.

*Adapted from a June 2019 U.S. Forest Service release “Current Revisions to NEPA Procedures (36 CFR 220) and from “The Importance of Categorical Exclusions to Ensure Public Health, Safety” by Josh Knoll (NASF’s 2019 Spring James Hubbard Intern for Policy and Communications) published in the National Association of State Foresters’ May 30, 2019, online newsletter.*

## U.S. Forest Service Anticipates Proposed Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019

The proposed Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019 would give the U.S. Forest Service’s 2001 Roadless Rule the full force of law.

The bill, H.R. 2491, which, if enacted, would become this law, was introduced on May 2, 2019, by Representative Ruben Gallego (Democrat-Arizona), a member of the House Natural Resources Committee. According to Representative Gallego, the proposed law would “provide, within the context of multiple-use management, lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.”

According to Steve Wilent, editor of the Society of American Foresters’ *The Forestry Source*, “the last line of the bill is the heart of it: ‘The secretary shall not allow road construction, road reconstruction, or logging in an inventoried roadless area where those activities are prohibited by the Roadless Rule.’”

*Prepared from multiple sources including the website referenced above; H.R. 2491—Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019; “Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019 introduced in Congress” by Steve Holloway of KINY Radio, Juneau, Alaska; and “Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2019” by Steve Wilent in The Smokey Wire: National Forest News and Views, on June 26, 2019.*

## U.S. Forest Service Position on Tree-Killing Herbicide Upheld

Use of the weed killer Perspective, which killed more than 2,000 trees along a 12.5-mile scenic corridor on the Deschutes National Forest west of Sisters, Oregon, has been severely restricted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture despite objections from agricultural giant Bayer AG.

“In 2012, contractors selected by the Oregon Department of Transportation to kill weeds along the highway chose Perspective, then a relatively new herbicide, over concerns raised by a Forest Service employee at the time,” Bend, Oregon’s daily *The Bulletin* reported on February 13, 2019. But the warnings of that Forest Service professional, now retired, were ignored, and the contractor proceeded. Within a couple years of Perspective’s application, browning needles and other signs of declining health among ponderosa pines were apparent.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture announced on May 9, 2019, that it would “immediately begin severely restricting the use of herbicides containing the chemical aminocyclopyrachlor, or ACP,” the main ingredient in Perspective that killed the trees west of Sisters from 2013 to 2015. That decision, which made Oregon the first state to limit the herbicide on a statewide basis, was released the week after Forest Service contractors began cutting the dead trees. Soon those scenic corridor ponderosa pines had been reduced to roadside stumps and large roadside log decks.

Those logs won’t go to waste. They were sold to Ochoco Lumber Company for milling in John Day, Oregon.

*Prepared from multiple sources including “U.S. Forest Service Cautioned State and Contractor about Weed Killer” in the Spring 2019 OldSmokeys Newsletter; “Oregon restricts herbicide” in the May 10, 2019, issue of The Bulletin; and Summer 2019 reporting by OldSmokey Dennis Dietrich, PNW-FA Area Representative for the Deschutes National Forest.*

*Feature*

# Signs of the Times

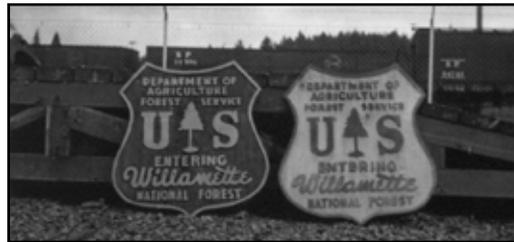
*For more than a century, America's national forests and their facilities have been identified by distinctive signs. Here are just a few Pacific Northwest Region examples of U.S. Forest Service signage evolution.*

*By Les Joslin*

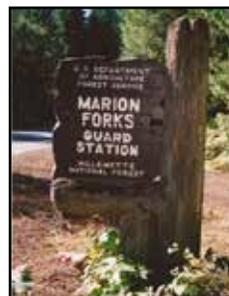


Many early national forest portal sign designs featured the U.S. Forest Service “pine tree shield” symbol.

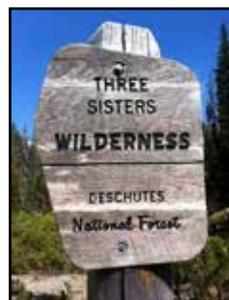
*The new 1930s-era signs at right were delivered by rail to Eugene, Oregon, for erection at Willamette National Forest boundaries. U.S. Forest Service photographs*



*This undated photograph was made at the Willamette National Forest entrance on the Santiam Highway.*



“Rustic” is the adjective that characterized the style of national forest signs which prevailed during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s—many of them crafted by Civilian Conservation Corps members. *U.S. Forest Service photographs*



The earlier portal sign designs gave way in the early 1960s to the current “family of shapes” signs designed by a Washington Office team led by the late OldSmokey Virgil R. “Bus” Carrell. With passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, portal signs at entrances to National Forest System units of the National Wilderness Preservation System reflected the “family of shapes” design. Bus, a veteran Forest Service ranger, is shown at above right in 1935 with his horse Buddy on the Cle Elum Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, Washington.

*Photographs by Les Joslin; photograph of Bus courtesy of Bus Carrell.*

## New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association since the Summer 2019 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Robin A. & Tony E. Duarte** of Roseburg, Oregon. Robin is the U.S. Forest Service's national communication use billing team manager based in Roseburg, Oregon. With 40 years in the Forest Service, 38 of those in the Pacific Northwest Region and two elsewhere, Robin in June characterized herself as "prepping for retirement very soon." Before serving in her current position, Robin served as the national special uses database account manager, and before that served on the Umpqua National Forest as special uses lands/recreation program manager as well as in timber management, frontliner, administrative assistant, and resource specialist assignments. Her retirement plans call for "camping with Tony and enjoying each day."

**Wayne A. & Catherine L. Kleckner** of Sunriver, Oregon, are both retired from the U.S. Forest Service. Both served most recently on the Umpqua National Forest. Wayne, a U.S. Army veteran, worked primarily in timber and as a contracting officer. He also participated in the fire and emergency management programs, working his way to Type 1 incident management teams. Cathi spent most of her career in timber sale accounting. She served as a resource specialist at both the national forest and regional office level. In retirement, Wayne continues emergency management work with Team Rubicon, incident management teams, and as a contractor responding to incidents. He also volunteers with various organizations in Central Oregon. Cathy claims to do "mostly nothing" but admits to some quilting, hiking, biking, and volunteering with Team Rubicon. "It is nice to pick up and go when the family or wanderlust call," she says. Both Wayne and Cathi served as summer 2019 High Desert Ranger Station volunteers at the High Desert Museum.

**Marvin E. & Kristine J. Lang** of Bend, Oregon. A 1977 graduate of the University of Washington College of Forestry, Marv retired on March 31, 2019, as a recreation forester on the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, after 42 years in the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region. During his student years, Marv worked seasonally for the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service, mostly in fire-related work. His first permanent appointment in the Forest Service was on the Packwood Ranger District, Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Within a year, he accepted a position on the Sweet Home Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, where he worked 12 years as a fuels forester about half the time and as a recreation forester for the remainder. In 1991, he transferred to the Deschutes National Forest where, as a recreation forester on the Bend Ranger District and later the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, he supervised wilderness and trails operations for almost 28 years. In retirement, Marv remains "involved with a couple trail projects close to my heart and will continue work in fire on Northwest Team 8, an incident management team [on which he fills supply, facilities, and public information positions] for a few more years. I continue to enjoy the outdoors through camping, rafting, gardening, trail work, and other home projects."

**Stephen Lenzo & Deborah Donnelley** of Oak Park, Illinois. Steve began his U.S. Forest Service career in the West on the Gasquet Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest, California,

in timber and silviculture, and continued on the Prospect Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, in silviculture and fire. Taking leave without pay from the Forest Service, he served in the Peace Corps in Honduras and then as a biology teacher at South Bronx High School. Returning to the Forest Service, he served as a Job Corps forestry instructor at Curlew Civilian Conservation Center (CCC) on the Colville National Forest, Washington, and then as education program manager and fire staff officer at Region 8's Savannah River Forest Station, South Carolina. After serving as deputy forest supervisor, Nebraska National Forest, he returned to Job Corps assignments as deputy director of the Pine Ridge CCC in Chadron, Nebraska, and the Schenck JCC in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, before retiring at the WO as assistant director Job Corps National Office. In retirement, Steve has worked as a substitute teacher at several Chicago high schools, has contracted with Forest Service International Programs to start YCC programs in Honduras and potentially other countries, has done "some AD work on wildfires," and pursued "traveling, helping family members, and volunteering."

**Sandra & Tom Orsini** of Grants Pass, Oregon. Sandi "was born into the Forest Service" and—as described in the article "*OldSmokey Sandi Orsini was Born into the U.S. Forest Service*" on page 7—spent most of her earlier years being raised at remote ranger stations in northern California. After completing a "Military Police and Military Intelligence career in the U.S. Army," Sandi joined the U.S. Forest Service, starting in 1998 as an information receptionist on the Galice Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon. "Life as a district employee provided the opportunity to learn lots of skills in addition to those listed in your position description," Sandi wrote. "When I wasn't working the front desk, I converted Region 6's old DG records to their new IBM readable formats, did data entry for the law enforcement zone, maintained red cards and training records for fire, and worked as a forest protection officer. I went on fire assignments as a radio operator, expanded dispatch, and buying team." In retirement, Sandi wrote: "In intend to spend the next few months learning how to relax and retraining myself not to wake up at 0530 every morning. Although my husband and I will do some traveling, we plan to just enjoy spending time together doing many of the things we have been able to do only on the weekends and during vacations and furloughs." Sandi and Tom joined the PNWFSA as lifetime members!

**Joe L. & Joan D. Primm** of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Joe, who retired from the U.S. Forest Service on the Winema National Forest in December 1987 after 26 years in the Forest Service in Region 6, had a varied career. That career included brush disposal, trail crew, reforestation, pre-sale, sale administration, fire control, and human resources assignments. In retirement, and at just over 80 years old, Joe enjoys walking, fishing, volunteering, and staying in touch with friends.

**Scott E. & Kathy Thompson** of Bend, Oregon. Scott retired from the U.S. Forest Service on July 31, 2019, as Forest Measurement Specialist for the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests after 36 years in the Forest Service in Region 6 silviculture and timber management positions. He had also worked for two years in private industry. In retirement, Scott plans to do "nothing for a while, lots of camping fishing, then part-time work to be determined."

## Memories

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

**Kenneth N. “Ken” Jensen** died unexpectedly on June 17, 2019, at age 83, in Copenhagen, Denmark, while traveling in Europe with his family. Ken was born to Danish immigrant parents on a farm in Minnesota in 1936, and when young moved with his family to Washington State. They lived on Camano Island, in the upper end of Puget Sound, and Ken graduated from Twin City High School. Joining the U.S. Army, Ken trained as an advanced infantryman and served in Europe from 1954 to 1956. On completion of his enlistment, Ken returned to Washington to earn a Washington State University degree in forestry and then join the U.S. Forest Service. Early in his career, while working in timber in Willard, Washington, on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, he joined a summer baseball team and pursued Elaine Grant, an opponent’s daughter. Ken and Elaine married in 1936, and a year later Steve, their first son, was born. Ken’s career then took them to Oregon, where they raised sons Steve and Tom as he continued his career on the Umpqua National Forest. The family spent three years at Toketee Ranger Station, where Ken laid out timber sales, and in 1970 moved to the Glide Ranger Station where Ken continued to work in timber. Ken was serving as a contract specialist at the Umpqua National Forest SO in Roseburg when he retired from the Forest Service in 1992 after 32-plus years of distinguished service. After he retired, Ken continued to serve on national forest trails as a founding member of The Motley Crew, a rogue group of senior citizens which maintains Umpqua National Forest trails and tells tall tales every Thursday. He was a proud member of the Glide Volunteer Fire Department and the OldSmokeys, and a committed youth baseball coach. Ken had a smart, but kind, sense of humor, and wicked pinocle skills. He was an expert on trees and a supporter of sports. He loved hunting with his friends and knew the trails and huckleberry spots of the North Umpqua country by heart. Survivors include Elaine, his wife of 56 years, his sons Steve and Tom, and two grandsons. *Editor’s Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Ron Skrip for providing this information published in The News Review.*

**James Arnold “Jim” Miller** died July 1, 2019, at age 76. Jim was born September 9, 1942, and raised in Yuba City, California, which he always considered his home. Following graduation from high school, Jim married Patricia and the couple subsequently had two children, Rob and Heather. Jim earned a degree in accounting at Sacramento State College and began his U.S. Forest Service career in 1965 in Region 5 on the Eldorado National Forest. He moved from there to the Sierra National Forest and then the Klamath National Forest before he served a short stint at the Forest Service National Finance Office (NFO) in Fort Collins, Colorado, before it was abandoned when the U.S. Department of Agriculture opened the National Finance Center (NFC) in New Orleans. Jim moved from Fort Collins to the Region 6 RO in Portland where he spent the rest of his career working in fiscal management. In the mid-1980s, after that move to Portland, Jim lost Patricia to cancer; a few years later, he married Mary Jo. Jim lived at the same location in Tigard during his entire Region 6 tenure. Of that tenure, Dan Nichols recalled: “Jim spent much of his early career in Fiscal Manage-

ment as the Group Leader for Review and Analysis which conducted internal audits/reviews of National Forests and in later years also managed the regional Claims group and other fiscal programs. Jim was viewed as a cornerstone for the Fiscal Management group in the fiscal legislative and legal advice areas. Jim always sought ways to get the job done for the customer/client and always did this with the utmost integrity. Jim is remembered as a kind and fun co-worker by all who worked with him.” Jim’s favorite pastime was duck hunting, but big game hunting, fishing, and golf all ran close seconds. At least once Jim was on the winning team for the annual Region 6 golf tournament. After retirement, Jim enjoyed garage and estate sale browsing and buying. Jim’s family returned Jim to Yuba City for burial. *Editor’s Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Dan Nichols who coordinated this remembrance which “reflects the memory a few of us have of Jim.”*

*Forest Service News continued from Page 9*

## U.S. Forest Service Welcomed Its First Landscape Architect 100 Years Ago

On March 1, 1919, Arthur Hawthorne Carhart became the first U.S. Forest Service landscape architect. His job title was recreation engineer. That summer, 100 years ago, he was sent to Trappers Lake, Colorado, in the White River National Forest, to survey the area for summer home sites and a road around the lake. His strongly-worded recommendation that the area remain roadless and undeveloped caused those plans to be set aside.

Carhart went on to work with another Forest Service visionary, Aldo Leopold. The memorandum detailing their shared approach to wilderness preservation within the National Forest System was the foundation of the wilderness concept realized in the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Flat Tops Wilderness, where Trappers Lake lies, was designated by Congress within the White River National Forest in 1975.

*Prepared from multiple sources.*

## Additional Sources of U.S. Forest Service News

One of the reasons for your quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletter* has been to keep you up to date on what’s going on in the Forest Service. But there’s been only so much space available, so what has been included has been selected and limited. There are many other sources of Forest Service news, some of which many OldSmokeys are already aware. Two online sources provided by the Forest Service itself are:

**Inside the Forest Service**, at <http://www.fs.fed.us/inside-fs> and also accessible by just Googling the name, is an “employee-focused publication designed to highlight the outstanding work taking place throughout the agency.”

**Your Northwest Forests**, at <https://yournorthwestforests.org> and also accessible by Googling the name, is a relatively new blog maintained by the Pacific Northwest Region Office of Communications and Community Engagement. The content “is presented in partnership with Discover Your Northwest, a non-profit organization committed to promoting the discovery of Northwest public lands, enriching the experience of visitors, and encouraging stewardship of” the national forests.

## Books

### Four New Books on the Past and Future of America's Public Lands

By Les Joslin

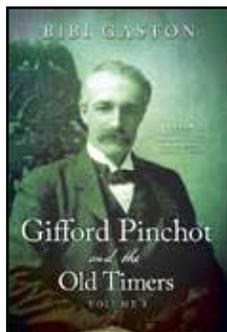
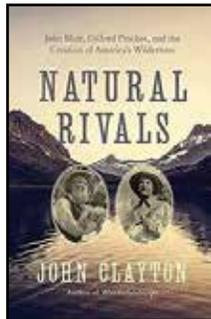
It's an interesting coincidence that two new books which chronicle the origins of America's public lands a century and more ago and two new books that address myriad threats to those lands today have been published almost simultaneously. *Natural Rivals* by John Clayton and *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers* by Bibi Gaston are the former, and *This Land* by Christopher Ketcham and *Shadowlands* by Anthony McCann are the latter of these diverse titles that could keep you reading—and thinking—for a long time.

The “natural rivals” referred to in John Clayton's *Natural Rivals: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Creation of America's Public Lands* have long been known not for their early friendship but for their ultimately conflicting views about what to do with America's public lands—the split between Muir's environmental preservationist and Pinchot's utilitarian conservationist philosophies. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, both views had found expression on those public lands: Muir's in the National Park System and Pinchot's in the National Forest System.

I am an avid reader of Muir and Pinchot biographies, and am pleased to see this treatment of their mutually evolving stories.

As if past were prologue, *Natural Rivals* speaks to us today as it examines a time of environmental threat and political dysfunction not unlike our own and reveals the complex dynamic that gave birth to both. Author Clayton is a Montana-based non-fiction writer, independent journalist, essayist, researcher, and storyteller. *Natural Rivals* (ISBN-13 9781643130804), 336 pages, was published in 2019 by Pegasus Books at \$27.95 and is available from Amazon.com and other online outlets.

The “old timers” in Bibi Gaston's *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers (Volume I)* are a few of the early-day U.S. Forest Service men and women who pursued Pinchot's vision of “the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run” when the national forests were new. In this volume, 11 old timers who responded to Pinchot's requests for their stories—including Pacific Northwest notables Thornton Taft Munger, who arrived in Oregon in 1908 and in 1924 became first director of today's Pacific Northwest Research Station, and Grover Blake, an Ochoco National Forest ranger from 1909 to 1931—were among 226 whose letters languished in six tattered boxes labeled simply “The Old Timers” until found in the Library of Congress's Pinchot Collection by Pinchot's great-grandniece Bibi in 2005. Pinchot had hoped their responses would add up to a first-person narrative history of the agency which he and President Theodore Roosevelt founded in 1905.



Sound familiar? It should. Gaston's first approach to realization of Pinchot's vision, her book *Gifford Pinchot and the First Foresters*, was published in 2016 and reviewed in the Fall 2017 of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. From that experience, Gaston decided it would take a different approach and several volumes to tell the stories of the old timers better through their own words. The 2018 volume, *Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers (Volume I)*, (ISBN-13 978-0-9972162-1-9), is the first of these eagerly anticipated volumes. At 243 pages, it was published in 2018 by Baked Apple Club Productions LLC, New Milford, Connecticut, at \$22.95, and is available from Amazon.com and other online outlets.

*And now, fast forward to the Twenty-first Century!*

“A hard-hitting look at the battle now raging over the fate of the public lands in the American West—and a plea for the protection of these last wild places” is how one reviewer characterizes *This Land: How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption are Ruining the American West* by journalist Christopher Ketcham.

Credited with “documenting the confluence of commercial exploitation and government misconduct in this region for over a decade,” Ketcham takes the reader on a tour of environmental issues in the West he lays at the feet of federal land management agencies coopted and compromised by profiteering livestock, energy, and other interests.

I cannot disagree with the reviewer who describes *This Land* as “a colorful muckraking journey—part Edward Abbey, part Upton Sinclair—exposing the rot in American politics that is rapidly leading to the sell-out of our natural heritage.” Here's how Ketcham says that stratagem works: “Attack the value of public lands as a natural birthright, reduce their value in the public eye, diminish the institutions that protect the land, cut down their authority, bring them into disrepute, undermine public confidence, neuter enforcement, create a climate of uncertainty and disorder, demoralize the land managers—this is the long game now being played.”

As a fan of Jacob Riis, the original muckraker—and the father of one of Gifford Pinchot's early forest rangers, I am a fan of constructive muckraking which exposes real problems and offers real solutions. The degree to which Ketcham may hit this target will be judged differently by different readers.

*This Land* (ISBN-13 9780735220980), 432 pages, was published July 16, 2019, by Viking at \$29.00 and is available online and from booksellers.

Anthony McCann, a poet, has plunged into nonfiction prose and the public lands milieu with *Shadowlands: Fear and Freedom at the Oregon Standoff*, a consideration of the 2016 armed occupation on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge led by Amon Bundy. In this book, McCann traces this event from its beginnings to the trials of the occupiers in federal court in Portland, Oregon, and since.

Whether *Shadowlands* will prove “the defining chronicle of a cultural and political movement we could all do better to understand” it is hailed by one reviewer remains to be seen. It does reflect a significant threat to the concept of public management of natural resources on public lands that remains unresolved in the minds of many.

*Shadowlands* (ISBN-13 9781635571202), 448 pages, was published July 2, 2019, by Bloomsbury USA at \$30.00 and is available online and from booksellers.

## Out of the Past

### The Building of the Larch Mountain Trail

By Jim Olsen

“The Larch Mountain Trail soon will be as well known as the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon, or any of the other famous trails in Yosemite, Rainier, and Yellowstone national parks.” That’s what Columbia River Highway builder Samuel C. Lancaster told the Progressive Business Men’s Club (PBMC) of Portland, Oregon, on January 28, 1915, of the trail he proposed they build from the base of Multnomah Falls—to the highway he was completing—to Larch Mountain.

What business does a luncheon club of citified businessmen have taking on such a task on a site 30 miles away, reachable only by rail, on seemingly impossible terrain? Plenty, the visionary Lancaster a colleague described as a man “with plenty of presence” who “had the touch” convinced them. Responding to Lancaster’s persuasive plea, the 384 PBMC members voted unanimously in favor of the project. The committee they established included Thomas A. Sherrard, supervisor of what was then the Oregon National Forest.

Funds were raised, and on March 14 a reconnaissance party of about 25 bushwacked down wild and perilous Multnomah Creek. Knowing what they were up against, the PBMC accepted the challenge and raised more funds. Forest Supervisor Sherrard recommended Forest Service trail builder Ralph S. Shelley as job foreman, and the trail was efficiently completed by crews he supervised in about five months. The job was done within budget, on time, and ready for the opening of Lancaster’s new Columbia River Highway and the next hiking season in 1916.

Larch Mountain Trail was dedicated on Sunday morning, October 3, 1915, when 26 PBMC members unfurled the American flag, sang America, and read St. Paul’s Mars Hill Address. After the formalities ended, the Larch Mountain PBMC original committee of six founded the Trails Club of Oregon (TOC), with none other than Samuel C. Lancaster as the new club’s first president!

*Editor’s Note: The Larch Mountain Trail, which begins at the Multnomah Falls Lodge, remains among the most popular Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area trails.*



*This plaque commemorates sponsorship and construction of the Larch Mountain Trail.*

*Photograph by Jim Olsen.*

## Uncle Sam’s Cabins

### Eagle Creek Ranger Station Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin



*A U.S. Forest Service officer and his wife served the public at Eagle Creek Ranger Station in the 1930s. U.S. Forest Service photo.*

The historic—but now no more—Eagle Creek Ranger Station was located at the historic—and still in existence—Eagle Creek Forest Camp and Picnic Ground on the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon. For several decades, U.S. Forest Service officers based at this station served the visiting public at what remains a major focus of visitor activity within today’s Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Early in the twentieth century, as the Portland metropolitan area grew and automobiles provided citizens readier access to the surrounding countryside, the scenic Columbia River Highway reached as far east as Eagle Creek—in what was then the Oregon National Forest—in 1914. That year, Forest Supervisor Thomas H. Sherrard came up with the idea for a campground at that terminus, and the Eagle Creek Forest Camp and Picnic Ground—developed in cooperation with the Portland Chamber of commerce and the Progressive Businessmen’s Club of Portland—opened in July 1916, as the first official U.S. Forest Service “developed campground” in the United States. It had designated parking areas and camping sites with picnic tables and fireplace-cookstoves. And it had the first public flush toilets in the National Forest System.

At the same time, the Forest Service built the scenic 13.5-mile Eagle Creek Trail, a trail designed specifically for recreation use. Leaving from the campground area, the trail winds through a deep chasm on tread that's as much an engineering feat—blasted into ledges and tunneled behind a waterfall—as it is scenic.

Early in the Eagle Creek area's history as a developed recreation facility, a young Forest Service ranger named Albert Wiesendanger was assigned to manage it. He, later with his wife Mickey, staffed the site, initially living in a tent during the camping season.

The Oregon National Forest became the Mt. Hood National Forest in 1924.

As the years passed, the popular Eagle Creek Campground evolved. Between 1933 and 1942, the facility was further developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Ranger Wiesendanger oversaw this work, which included construction of the Eagle Creek Ranger Station to serve as headquarters for the on-site Forest Service officer for many years.

Although the Eagle Creek Ranger Station no longer exists, the historic recreation facilities—which survived the Eagle Creek Fire of 2017—remain. The scenic Eagle Creek Trail, however, constructed in 1915 in tandem with the Columbia River Highway, remains closed as a result of fire damage.

*Prepared from multiple sources including "Happy 100th Birthday Eagle Creek Campground" @ForestServiceNW, and Otis, et. al., "The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-1942, Chapter 14, Mount Hood National Forest, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, FS-395, August 1986.*



*In 1936, a U.S. Forest Service officer based at Eagle Creek Ranger Station issued a campfire permit to Mt. Hood National Forest visitors. U.S. Forest Service photograph.*

## *My First Forest Service Job*

### **“This WO Woman”**

*By Susan Auerbach Triplett*

My first U.S. Forest Service job wasn't a “typical” first Forest Service job! I had worked in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Computer Center and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in Washington, D.C.

Out of college, I was hired by the USDA Computer Center as a management intern and computer specialist trainee. After three years, I went to the AMS as a computer specialist, and was promoted to management analyst to head an internal management and systems consulting staff. While at AMS, I went to graduate school and earned a degree in “managing change” (aka the administration of science and technology).

In 1980, one of my colleagues told me the Forest Service was looking for someone with my skills, so I applied and had a wonderful interview with the men who were heading up the Forest Level Information Processing System (FLIPS) team. They hired me!

My responsibilities were “implementation and management.” It was a wonderful opportunity! It was the first time in my career that I felt like a “valued team member.”

Folks in the field were concerned that “This woman from the WO” didn't have a clue about what the Forest Service really was. The folks in Missoula, Montana, invited me to go white water rafting with them. But, they were nervous about whether “This WO woman” had any clue about whitewater rafting and camping. Luckily, I asked a few questions: Do I need to send out my sleeping bag? Does anyone have an extra life vest I can borrow? Would someone be willing to share their tent with me? It was a great adventure, and I made some good friends.

The FLIPS team did so well with the procurement of the Data General computer system, and implementing its use, and teaching folks to use email, and convincing forest supervisors and district rangers that they wouldn't be “demoted to secretary” if they sat down and used their keyboards, that we received a national award from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for “Improved Government Operations.” The Forest Service was one of the first government agencies to use email!

At that point, I suggested to my supervisor that the WO is not the “real” Forest Service, and I would be much more valuable to the team if I had some “field experience.” I was thinking on a national forest or a ranger district. “We'll send you to the RO in San Francisco,” he responded. I told him that was too much like Washington, D.C., and New York City. “We'll send you to Denver; we're certainly *not* going to send you to Oregon!” he replied. I begged him to send me to Oregon, and he agreed with the caveat: “We'll have you back here in two to three years.” Was that the end of my first job? Perhaps.

In 1984, I moved to Portland, helped implement the DG system in the Pacific Northwest Region national forests and the Pacific Northwest Research Station labs. Then I served as Gifford Pinchot National Forest administrative officer. Then I returned to the RO/PNW to analyze the civil rights impacts of downsizing. I finished my Forest Service career in RO/PNW Budget & Finance as a real property accountant, and retired when the WO centralized business operations and sent my job to Albuquerque.



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