



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2007

## *President's Message — John Poppino*

Summer is here (Antioch, California, 93 degrees at 2:30 p.m., June 18). I'm ready to go back to Oregon. We'll be there before the actual start of Summer. In the meantime, I'm remembering the great Spring Banquet we had at Charbonneau and looking forward to the Summer Picnic. The registration form is in this newsletter (see "Opportunities" on page 13). If you haven't done it already, fill it out and send the check to **Bev Pratt** so we will have your name in the pot. We've got the big shelter again this year so there will be plenty of room for everyone.

Our Region 6 History Project is up and running. The official agreement has been signed and **Jerry Williams** and crew are hard at work assembling all the information and photos. If you have photos that might be appropriate, bring them to the picnic. We'll be set up to scan them there and return them to you that day. We plan on less than a hundred photos in the book, but we would like to create an OldSmokeys archive of historic photos for future use, so bring what you have.

Bev is working on transcribing the work of the Bylaws Review Committee. There are several changes proposed. One would change the date of officer election and term of service. The proposed slate of nominees would be published in the Fall newsletter, the election of officers would be held in December, and the new officers would take office in January. There is no official meeting of the association until the Spring Banquet at which we used to swear in the new officers. This seems a bit late. The new officers have been in place for several months.

I have a question. Is it appropriate to do this "official function" at the monthly lunch on the last Friday of every month at the Beaverton Elks Club? Or should we wait for the Spring Banquet gathering?

*John Poppino*

### *In This Issue...*

<i>Forum: Restoring the Forest Service...George Leonard on "An Agency to Match the Mountains?"</i> .....	2
<i>OldSmokeys News: Bengt Hamner Retires...Spring Banquet...Region 6 History Project...Taking Up Slack...more</i> .....	4
<i>Forest Service News: More Wildfires in 2007...Chiefs Speak Out on FY2008...County Payments Extended...more</i> .....	6
<i>Financial Report: PNWFSA Statement of Revenue and Expenses for Calendar Year 2006</i> .....	9
<i>Features: Dick Spray: Boy Lookout...Another Phone Call: Hank DeBruin's Region 6 Years</i> .....	10
<i>Opportunities: OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods is Friday, August 10</i> .....	13
<i>Changes: Updates to the Membership Directory</i> .....	14
<i>New Members: Introductions of New OldSmokeys</i> .....	15
<i>Memories: Recollections of the Recently Deceased</i> .....	16
<i>Letters: Recollections of Friends and Family</i> .....	20
<i>Books: John McLean's The Thirtymile Fire...Forest Service and BLM Publish Rare Plants of Southwest Oregon</i> .....	21
<i>Uncle Sam's Cabins: Historic Allison Ranger Station, Malheur National Forest</i> .....	22
<i>The Way We Were: Deschutes National Forest Guard School Instructors, 1958</i> .....	23
<i>Out of the Past: Smokey Bear, 1944</i> .....	23

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

## Forum

### Restoring the Forest Service

As intended, the feature article “An Agency to Match the Mountains?” in the Spring 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* stimulated constructive conversation about restoring the U.S. Forest Service as an agency “again deserving of public trust and respect.” Among contributors to the conversation was retired Associate Chief **George M. Leonard** whose valuable insights into and perceptions of the training and funding issues raised in the article are shared on this page.

-- Les Joslin

### “An Agency to Match the Mountains?”

I read Les Joslin’s article “An Agency to Match the Mountains?” with interest. There is no question that the issues of professionalism and management competence are fundamental to agency success. Other than disagreeing with him on the idea of funding positions rather than projects, I am in general agreement with the rest of his proposals. Although I know Les recognizes this need, I believe his article would have been strengthened by added attention to the need for public support.

In preparing the following comments, I am very aware that the Forest Service today is very different from the agency in which I worked and from which I retired over 13 years ago. I also recognize that the issues the Forest Service must address today and the political climate the agency operates in are very different from what I experienced.

#### *Training*

His idea of training is worthy. When I started my career, the leadership and professional staff were all white, male foresters. We came from similar backgrounds, had similar educations, and shared common values. This is not to say we were clones; after all, Aldo Leopold, Arthur Carhart, and Bob Marshall came up through the ranks even though they sometimes marched to different drummers. There were others in our time who shared their values. But Gifford Pinchot’s utilitarian philosophy was the guiding principle and most of us gave it our full support.

Today there is great diversity in the leadership and the workforce. Members of the agency today see the forest differently than we did. Looking back, it is easy to see that we did not devote enough effort to melding an increasingly diverse workforce into a cohesive organization with shared goals and a determination to get the job done.

Again reflecting on when I started in the agency, entry level foresters went to work on marking crews or timber stand improvement crews or similar work. As they gained experience, they would be assigned to supervise small crews. If they performed satisfactorily, they became staff assistants on the district and managed progressively more complex programs. The more adept, who demonstrated both technical and managerial competence, became district rangers. Supervisors were selected from successful district rangers, usually following several staff assignments. The system developed line officers with proven managerial and supervisory skills and an in-depth understanding of what was required to be a successful district ranger or forest supervisor.

As the requirements for planning and environmental documentation became more complex, more and more people entered the workforce as planners or staff specialists. They worked through their early years with no opportunity to develop supervisory or managerial skills. They often had little opportunity to observe or interact with old hands or to experience the full range of Forest Service activities. As a result, when they moved into line positions, many had to go through an on-the-job learning process that was frustrating for them and for the people they worked with. Of course, many people succeeded even though they did not follow the old career paths, but the agency would benefit from finding ways to provide people making the transition from specialist to line positions with the necessary skills. The use of training academies could fill this need.

#### *Funding*

I doubt the success of the proposal to fund positions rather than work. It would obviously make life simpler within the agency, if there were sufficient funding. Whether the administration or the Congress was Democratic or Republican, we were expected to get out the cut. The timber industry, at local and national levels, lobbied effectively for appropriations for sale preparation and roads. They were joined in support of the sale program by local governments and schools and their national organizations, as well as home-builders and labor unions as necessary. For 40 years, the Forest Service received the timber and road money we said we needed. After the NEPA passed, we were able to add a wide variety of resource management disciplines in the name of timber support. The Forest Service did not have to spend a lot of time finding support for our timber program; we had plenty of people on the outside doing it for us. Most current retirees never thought that marketing our programs was part of the job. Of course, other elements of the job of managing the National Forest System received rather limited support because they did not have vocal advocates.

Now the political consensus that supported the timber program is gone. The lobbying support for much of the Forest Service budget had gone with it. The agency is now competing to fund its programs with other demands for federal funds.

Agencies are successful in competing for funding only to the extent they provide services the public wants enough to actively support. Just being good is not enough. As Dale Robertson has observed, people do not go to the Hill to lobby for funding for broad ideas or concepts even though they may agree with them. They lobby for programs and initiatives from which they will directly benefit. Hikers will lobby for trails, campers for campgrounds, fishermen for fish habitat improvements, and the building industry may seek funding for specific research programs to the extent they see these activities as providing them direct benefits. The timber industry did not lobby for funding for reforestation, although they agreed it was good, until the Forest Service established a direct link between harvest levels and successful replanting.

Even successful programs and initiatives need to be continually renewed or reenergized to retain public support. Just as soap manufacturers continually offer new and improved products, agencies must continually review and update their programs to ensure they retain public support. Given the fire seasons of the last few years, the Forest Service fire program enjoys good support. But those of us who have watched fire funding over the years know that, with a few slow fire seasons, funding will move to other priorities.

I do not believe we would find adequate support for Forest Service programs in the Washington marketplace to maintain a viable organization just on the basis that the Forest Service is a professional, well-managed organization. You can build support for well designed programs and initiatives that collectively advance the broad goals and objectives of the agency while generating meaningful support from the public.

### **Competing**

History offers a good example of how the Forest Service can compete. Twenty years ago when Dale Robertson became Chief he recognized that the era of major road construction on the national forests was ending. The Congress was taking steps to reduce the use of purchaser credit and limit road appropriations. Loss of the \$300 million program would have had drastic impacts on the entire organization. Dale set a goal for himself of retaining the road money in the agency's budget by shifting it to other programs. He recognized that, to do so, he had to generate public support for these other programs. A flurry of initiatives was begun. There were recreation initiatives under the umbrella of America's Great Outdoors. There were fish and wildlife initiatives like Rise to the Future, Fish Your National Forest, etc. While some of the ideas came from the Washington Office, the thrust of the effort was to empower rangers and supervisors to develop local projects in cooperation with local people and organizations. As the projects were developed, the local people and their national organizations assumed the major role in getting funding from the Congress. An important element of the effort was use of challenge cost-sharing. This program started small, but doubled year after year as local people lobbied for the projects they had developed with the Forest Service. The overall effort was successful in shifting the overall bulk of the road funding to recreation, fish and wildlife, and other Forest Service programs.

Those 20-year-old initiatives have run their course. It is time to launch some new or repackaged initiatives. The concern about the vulnerability of communities in the wildland/urban interface to losses from fire is receiving public support. Finding ways to tie this effort to interest in renewable energy sources seems to offer ways to put together initiatives to address both issues. It is time to reinstate the challenge cost-share program. And the employees of the agency at all levels must be empowered to engage the public. The district ranger who meets with the public to develop ways to keep a recreation facility open is going to be more successful than one who meets with the public to tell them the facility is being closed for lack of funds.

I believe that a Forest Service that is highly professional and well managed, as Les Joslin suggests, can compete if it is prepared to engage the public to develop programs and initiatives that will put the public out in front as their primary advocates.

-- George M. Leonard

*Les Joslin replies: I'm honored that George shared his knowledge and wisdom in the OldSmokeys Newsletter. Our one area of significant disagreement seems to be my preference for a "position-funded, rather than project-funded" workforce. That preference is based primarily on my own relatively limited experience with work plan-based personnel funding that consumed an inordinate amount of time and energy better spent at the ranger district level on personnel leadership and resource management matters of more substance. If a project-funded approach could be devised to replace wasteful and frustrating do-it-all-again planning-funding cycles—and alleviate attendant day-to-day uncertainty which adversely affects morale, professionalism, and productivity on the ground—with a reasonable amount of fiscal and personnel stability which, along with training that prescribes and leadership that requires work to specific standards, would add up to an agency with which the public would again want to engage, I'd be all for it. My 1960s and post-1990 experiences in the Forest Service convinced me that all-important public support is "won" and that the Forest Service must take positive action to win back the public and its support by looking like and acting like an agency with which the citizen owners of the National Forest System will want to work. I'm certain George would agree.*

*This page is for expressing your opinions or sharing your ideas.*

*Send your Forum inputs to the editor: Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701, or lesjoslin@aol.com.*

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

*-- Attributed to Voltaire*

*Forum continues on page 15*

## OldSmokey News

### Bengt Hamner Retires on Fifty Years in U.S. Forest Service

OldSmokey **Bengt Hamner** wrapped up a fifty-year U.S. Forest Service career when he retired as assistant lands staff officer, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, on March 31. Add three years in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Bengt has completed an amazing 53 years of federal service.

Born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the one-time “lumbering capital if the world,” Bengt knew at an early age he wanted to be a forester and worked in the woods during his high school years. After graduating from Williamsport High School in 1952, he attended Penn State’s Mont Alto School of Forestry for one year and spent the summer of 1953 on the Lion Rock Lookout, Ellensburg Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest.

Bengt met his wife-to-be that summer. “She and a girlfriend rode up from town on horseback. A cattle association range rider and I were fixing a pasture drop down range fence. The old cowboy recognized her as a Kittitas Valley trick rider and roper he’d seen in the Ellensburg Rodeo. He said, ‘Boy, if I were your age I’d go get ‘er.’ So I got her to sign the lookout register and ‘got her.’” They married in 1957, had three children, and divorced about 16 years later. Bengt’s still single.

At the end of that 1953 season, Bengt enlisted in the Marine Corps for three years during which he served in Japan and Okinawa and rose to the rank of sergeant. Returning to the Ellensburg District for five more summers, he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in forestry at the University of Idaho. A permanent position as a Lake Wenatchee Ranger District forester afforded four years of experience in timber sales administration, fire management, range analysis, and ski area administration.

Bengt then spent two years on the Klamath Ranger District, Winema National Forest, in timber and range management and winter sports administration before his 1966 transfer to the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, as timber management assistant. Then, as resource assistant on that district from 1975 to 1986, he took on a wide range of recreation, lands, and special uses responsibilities. In 1986 Bengt transferred to the assistant lands staff officer position in the Rogue River National Forest S.O., a position he held until his recent retirement. In this position, he supervised the locatable and saleable minerals program, prepared recreation and non-recreation special use permits, completed many land acquisition and exchange projects with both private and public entities, and resolved numerous occupancy trespasses. He continues working as a volunteer through September.

Throughout his Forest Service career, Bengt was a firefighter. He was sent to fires in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, and Alaska. He was often sent individually as overhead, took whatever he was assigned, and returned home two or three weeks later.

Bengt’s outside interests include square dancing, botany, and running. In pursuit of the latter, he has completed 22 marathons in seven states. He also enjoys spending time with his adult children—his son Eric, also a forester, his daughters Julie and Karen, and his seven grandchildren.

“Bengt is a legend down here,” says Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest historian and OldSmokey **Jeff LaLande**. With fifty years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6, Bengt truly qualifies as an OldSmokey!

### OldSmokeys Enjoy May 6 Spring Banquet

Eighty-six OldSmokeys gathered at the Charbonneau Country Club on Sunday, May 6, for the annual spring banquet which, because co-host and master of ceremonies **Emil Sabol** confessed it was also his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, doubled as an impromptu birthday party for him and **Eldon Estep** who turned 79. Speaking of birthdays, birthday champion **Gail Baker** was there!

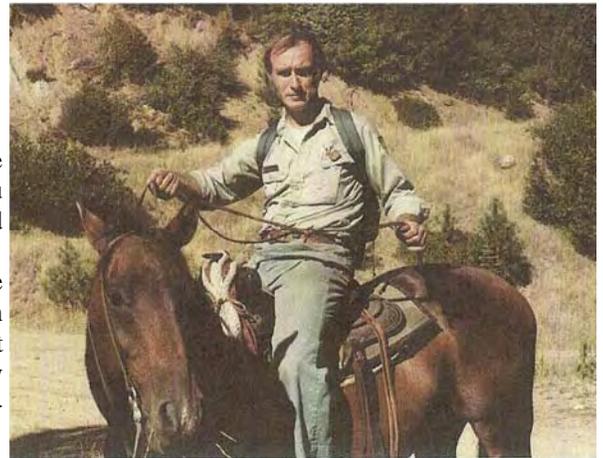
From greetings at the door by co-hosts **Dorine Sabol** and **Bev Pratt**, through conversation-laced drinks and dinner, to the “so longs” after dessert, a good time was had by all. That, of course, is par for the course whenever and wherever OldSmokeys gather. “Just look at these guys,” Emil commented to your editor. “What a great outfit we have.” Among the “guys” was Deputy Regional Forester **Liz Agpaoa**, attending her first banquet as an OldSmokey.

Door prizes added to the fun, as did the annual silent auction at which bids on items ranging from tallywhackers to works of art raised almost \$1,200 to support future banquets. Bev thanks **Mary and Elmer Moyer** for “doing the usual superb work they do running OldSmokeys auctions.” Mary and Elmer thank the many donors of auction items. Dorine and Emil thank door prize donors **Dick Ferraro** for two bottles of wine, **Bob and Judy Hetzer** for two books, **Les Joslin** for two books, and themselves for a beverage cooler.

Now we’re looking forward to getting together again at the annual Picnic in the Woods on August 10!

### OldSmokeys Board of Directors Holds April 18 Meeting at High Desert Museum in Bend

President **John Poppino**, Vice President **John Nesbitt**, Past President **Marlin Plank**, Treasurer and Data Base Manager **Vern Clapp**, and NAFSR Representative **John Marker**, joined by Deschutes National Forest Area Representative **Arlie Holm**, convened



at the April PNWFSA Board of Directors meeting at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, on April 18, in lieu of holding the monthly meeting in Beaverton on the last Friday of the month as regularly scheduled.

Vern reported on the PNWFSA's 2006 financial situation (*see "Financial Report" on page 9*), and Edd and Hans Doorn of Doorn & Associates, CPAs, LLC, presented the results of their review of the organization's financial records for 2005. This was a financial review, not an audit; therefore, in auditor's parlance, it has "limited assurances." Edd Doorn assured the Board that Vern is doing an outstanding job as treasurer. Any advocacy by PNWFSA, Doorn reminded the Board, must be closely related to the organization's stated purposes. On the basis of the review, Doorn recommended to the Board that: (1) policies be developed to provide for succession of the treasurer, (2) separation of fiscal duties continue, (3) that there be separate individual spot check transactions quarterly or biannually, and (4) policies be developed for investments including lifetime duties.

After other business and a briefing on the High Desert Museum's evolving outdoor *National Forests in the Intermountain West* exhibit and lunch in the Museum's Rimrock Café, Board members and others toured the Museum's wonderful *Century of Service: The U.S. Forest Service in the High Desert, 1905-2005* exhibit scheduled to complete its two-year run at the end of May.

## OldSmokeys Take to Book Publishing Trail Again with Region 6 History—You Can Help!

PNWFSA's effort to publish a history of the Pacific Northwest Region in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Regional Forester **Linda Goodman**, announced by **John Poppino** in his *President's Message* in the spring issue of this newsletter, is gathering steam. **Dave Scott** chairs a steering committee to help **Jerry Williams** write this book. Other members are **Wendall Jones, Ron Walters, Rolf Anderson, and Phil Hirl**. Deputy Regional Forester **Liz Agpaoa** is the committee's RO contact for this project.

As currently envisioned, the book will be about 250 pages and include about 80 photographs. Unlike PNWFSA's successful 2005 centennial anthology *We Had An Objective In Mind*, this book will be a formal—but reader-friendly—story of the Region's first century, a century that began in 1908 when Gifford Pinchot decentralized the National Forest System into administrative subdivisions called "districts" until they were renamed "regions" in 1930. That's when the North Pacific District became the Pacific Northwest Region. All aspects of national forest administration and forest science in the Pacific Northwest will be woven into a cogent and understandable—and, yes, exciting and entertaining—tale.

This is a big job to be done in the short time before the book is scheduled to be published to mark the Region's 2008 centennial. Help from the PNWFSA Board and membership will be essential to realizing this vision.

You can help by providing information and photographs that will help tell the story. Especially needed, according to Wendall, is "information that will fill gaps in the 'tons' of history information Jerry already has to sift through. We will not be looking for the type of stories that predominated in *We Had An Objective In Mind*, but for personal experiences connected with important events in the Region's history...to appear as sidebars within sections addressing those events." A special series of OldSmokeys History Book E-Notes already is keeping members abreast of project information needs and progress.

Ron is coordinating acquisition of photographs and slides that might help illustrate historical events or activities covered in the book including such things as early ranger stations, lookouts, roads and trails, recreational facilities, railroad and horse logging, chainsaws, river log drives, etc.; and in the post-World War II era, cable and truck logging, intensive management practices, fire suppression and prescribed burning, forest planning, and other forest management activities. Photographs showing Forest Service folks at work are most desired. For publication purposes, photographs must be sharp and of high quality. Of course, not all photographs collected can be used in the book. "At the OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods on August 11 (*see page 13*), we will be equipped to scan photos and return them to you right there," Ron emphasizes. Otherwise, you can send photographs and 35mm slides to Ron Walters, 10290 SW Washington Street, Portland, Oregon 97225, to be scanned and returned to you by mail, or scan them yourself and e-mail them to <ronwalters@comcast.net>.

## OldSmokeys Help Take Up Some of the Recreation Slack on Region 6 National Forests

With recreation budgets slashed again this year, OldSmokeys are helping ranger districts throughout the Pacific Northwest Region do many recreation resource management jobs that would go undone but for their return to "caring for the land and serving people" on the national forests, mostly as volunteers.

On the Umpqua National Forest, for example, the Motley Crew, headed up by **Jim Talburt** and including **Ned Davis, Ken Jensen, Ed Malmsten, John Rosenberger, Steve Sand, Frank Walters, and Lou Wolf**, continues the trail maintenance work that has made it famous. On the Willamette, **Mike Kerrick, Dick Grace**, and the Fish Lake Volunteers continue restoration and maintenance work on the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot. At press time, the McKenzie River Ranger District was planning a work party for the week of June 25 supervised by long-time Fish Lake devotee **Jim Denny**. On the Deschutes, **Les Joslin** coordinates the Historic Elk Lake Guard Station summer-long Passport in Time volunteer staffing project and, with **Ken Roberts**, rehabilitates the Devils Lake campground, parking lot, and trailheads complex.

And, over on the remote Paulina Ranger District of the Ochoco, where **Kathleen Martin** doubles as district archaeologist and recreation program manager, her volunteering husband **Pete Martin** is her recreation crew and, along with Kathleen, has been cleaning campgrounds and clearing trails since May. They expect to walk and log out over 45 miles of trail this summer. The district's recreation budget has been reduced more than 45 percent from last year, and there is no funding for summer recreation employees. Kathleen, and her volunteers, are responsible for taking care of 11 campgrounds, over 250 miles of trail, a 14,000 acre wilderness,

and hundreds of dispersed camping areas.

A few OldSmokeys are back on the payroll on a limited temporary seasonal or intermittent basis to fill important gaps. **Jim Leep**, for example, is back in the saddle on the Deschutes National Forest as mounted wilderness ranger and packer after two seasons in “retirement” from the job he did in the Three Sisters Wilderness for 12 summers.

The need for OldSmokeys in the field has never been greater!

*Editor’s Note: This is certainly a small sampling of a much greater OldSmokey effort to help out on Region 6 national forests this summer. Please send in your news of other such efforts—not just recreation program efforts, but all resource management efforts—in which OldSmokeys are playing a role during these slim budget times for a possible feature story on this subject in the Fall 2007 issue of this newsletter.*

## **OldSmokey Don Nearhood Brings PNWFSA to You and World on OldSmokeys Web Site**

If you haven’t already, check out the PNWFSA OldSmokeys Web Site at <[www.oldsmokeys.org](http://www.oldsmokeys.org)> maintained by Web Site Manager **Don Nearhood** and you’ll become a regular user! Why? Because there’s just so much there!

The content of this web site ranges from administrative information including membership invitations and applications you can give to potential OldSmokeys to PNWFSA’s statement of purpose and constitution and bylaws. There’s a useful bulletin board and list of informative computer links. There are also entertaining photo albums of PNWFSA events including the September 2005 Forest Service Reunion in Portland. You can even read the current issue as well as recent back issues of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* posted on the web site.

Don does a great job of maintaining one of only three Forest Service retiree web sites in the nation!

## **Forest Service Reunion 2005 DVD Now Available**

“The Forest Service Reunion 2005 DVD is ready for ordering,” **Bob Williams** announced on May 30. “Over a year in the making, this special collector’s edition will refresh your memories of September 2005 in the Northwest. It also makes a great gift for those who weren’t able to attend.”

“The two-disk set includes selected photos of Reunion 2005 attendees and activities along with video of the speakers and special musical performances.”

The Reunion 2005 video is available for \$15.00. It can be ordered online at <[www.sightandsoundservices.com](http://www.sightandsoundservices.com)> or by contacting Pat McAbery, Sight & Sound Services, P.O. Box 963, Welches, Oregon 97067, telephone 503-622-5629.

## **Willamette National Forest Annual Reunion and Field Trip Scheduled for September 6-7**

The Willamette National Forest Annual Reunion and Field Trip are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, September 6 and 7, according to **Rolf Anderson**. Events will include a no-host dinner and program on Thursday evening and a field trip on the Middle Fork Ranger District on Friday. As always, this gathering is open to all retirees interested in visiting with old friends, whether or not you ever worked on the Willamette National Forest.

If you received notification of this event by U.S. Mail in past years, you will receive the notice and the response form in August. If you would like to receive a mailing, but aren’t on the current mailing list, please notify Rolf by e-mail at <[rolfa3@msn.com](mailto:rolfa3@msn.com)>.

## ***Forest Service News***

### **National Interagency Fire Center Predicts More Wildfires in 2007 Season**

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho, predicted on May 1 that the West and Southeast face an increased wildfire risk this year because of ongoing drought and an expected hotter than average summer. By June 15, 42,628 fires and 1,475,775 acres had burned so far in 2007 throughout the nation. That already exceeded the 10-year average by 6,668 fires and 452,928 acres before the main wildfire season of June late through September began..

The National Wildland Fire Outlook, which predicts the wildfire danger for May through August, is based on past and expected weather patterns combined with the predicted amount and dryness of fire fuels and their potential to ignite. This increased risk threatens not only life and property, but—as the following article explains—the U.S. Forest Service’s ability to carry out its statutory mission and congressionally approved programs.

*Prepared from press reports and the June 15, 2007, “The Chief’s Desk” issued by the U.S. Forest Service Washington Office*

### **Former U.S. Forest Service Chiefs Speak Out on FY2008 Forest Service Appropriation**

The five Chiefs of the U.S. Forest Service from 1979 to 2007 issued a statement in April “to express in the strongest way that the Forest Service has been put into an untenable financial situation due to the way fire suppression funding is being handled in the Federal Budget,” an issue OldSmokey **John Marker** addressed in the *Forum* section of the Spring 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

The statement signed by the five retired Chiefs—**Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, Jack Ward Thomas, Mike Dombeck, and Dale Bosworth**—continued as follows (and as slightly edited):

“The current procedure of funding fire suppression is based on the 10-year average cost. That assumes that fire fighting costs are reasonably predictable and reasonably constant. Examination of historical data reveals that both assumptions are wrong—sometimes dramatically wrong. Recent years have seen increasing fire costs as the result of accumulating drought effects in the West coupled with a series of years that are the warmest on record. Many reputable climatologists and fire behavior specialists predict those trends to continue. These drought and temperature conditions have compounded insect and disease damage in areas affected and the severity of damage is resulting in rapid accumulation in fuels. As a result, and particularly in the West, the fire season is beginning earlier, lasting longer, with increasing intensity. These fires are increasingly difficult and expensive to control. These factors, coupled with inflation, have driven up the costs of fire suppression. Those trends seem likely to continue.

“The Forest Service is faced with difficult decisions of how to pay for fire suppression activities that exceed the 10-year average. 1) The historic process of “borrowing” from trust funds is no longer feasible, and 2) the requirement that the Forest Service must ask for the 10-year average fire suppression cost in its budget request, leads to sudden and unpredictable reductions in funds for non-fire related programs usually in the middle of the summer when all Forest Service programs need funding.

“Historically, the Forest Service borrowed money from trust funds deposited by timber sale purchasers for reforestation (Knutson-Vandenburg or KV funds) and brush disposal (BD). Congress, then, routinely reimbursed those trust funds through supplemental appropriations well after the end of the fire season when actual firefighting costs were known. Generally, this approach worked well enough, as the totals available in such trust funds were more than sufficient to cover firefighting costs. This was assured by the two-to-three year lag-time between the time those funds were collected (when timber was harvested) and when associated reforestation and brush disposal projects were scheduled after the timber sale was closed. Since the timber sale program was reduced by over 80 percent over the decade of the 1990s, these trust funds are no longer even close to adequate to assure ability to cover fire suppression costs.

“Now, the Forest Service must rely primarily on ‘borrowing’ from appropriated funds for congressionally approved programs in Research, State & Private Forestry, and the management of the National Forests. Since the height of the fire season in the West occurs in the latter three months of the fiscal year, this creates an impossible and ever more routinely occurring situation in financial management. The Forest Service has no way of knowing how much money to hold back from other programs to ensure that they can cover firefighting costs. This not only disrupts the ability of the Forest Service to plan their work overall, but severely impacts their accomplishments in Research, State & Private Forestry, and National Forest programs. Even though Congress has financed these programs, the Forest Service is no longer in a position to implement non-fire suppression operations on anything resembling a logical and plan-wise basis.

“This problem has been magnified by the decision of the Administration to simultaneously reduce the funds for requested non-fire related programs. From FY 2000 through the President’s budget for 2008, the proportion of the Forest Service budget devoted to fire (both preparedness and suppression) increased steadily from 25 percent to 44 percent. These increases in funding for fire, coming at a time of ever more constrained Forest Service budgets, have resulted in a 35 percent reduction in funding for non-fire programs when adjusted for inflation. Forest Service staffing has been reduced by 5,900 positions. With the 10-year average cost of fire suppression increasing by about \$80 million per year (with more increases likely in the future), the overall ability of the Forest Service to do its assigned job is more and more limited.

“If you want an efficient and effective Forest Service that Congress and the Administration can count on to carry out its statutory mission and congressionally approved and financed programs, this problem must be fixed by providing the flexibility to finance emergency firefighting outside the Forest Service discretionary budget.”

The five former Chiefs’ statement was submitted to the cognizant Senate and House of Representatives committees for their consideration..

## **Bush Administration and Congress Provide Fire Reserve, Extend County Payments**

Domestic spending provisions in the controversial \$120 billion “Iraq funding bill” sent to the White House by the Senate on May 24 and signed by President Bush on May 25 included \$465 million nationwide in reserve funds to cover wildfire spending that goes over budget and \$425 million nationwide to extend the county timber payments program for one year.

The fire reserve could take some of the “fire transfer” pressure off already cut-to-the-bone U.S. Forest Service budgets and the county payments extension seems to postpone Bush Administration efforts to sell off National Forest System lands to fund those payments.

Of the \$465 million fire reserve fund, \$375 million will go to the Forest Service and \$95 million to the Bureau of Land Management. Congress created a similar fund three years ago, with a total of \$1 billion split between the Forest Service and Department of the Interior agencies. That fund was drained last year, and fire transfers heavily impacted Forest Service programs.

The one-year extension of the county timber payments program—the Secure Schools and Communities Self Determination Act of 2000 intended to tide timber communities over until they found new sources of revenue—has been funded for Fiscal Year 2008 without selling off up to 300,000 acres of “low value” national forest lands, a proposal opposed for two budget cycles by many members of Congress, conservation groups, former Forest Service chiefs, and Forest Service retirees.

Early in June, the Bush administration agreed to discuss new ways to fund county payments beyond Fiscal Year 2008. “For the first time, the White House did not start with a non-starter, which has always been selling off the nation’s treasures [national forest

lands] in order to fund the county payments program,” said Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, on June 7. “I think this was a real opening, and constructive and demonstrably different from what we had before.” Neither the White House nor Congress had specifically identified the options for funding a long-term payments extension at press time.

*Prepared from press reports and news releases.*

## **Former U.S. Forest Service Firefighter Sentenced for Setting Illegal Wildfire**

Former U.S. Forest Service firefighter Van Bateman, 55, of Flagstaff, Arizona, was sentenced on June 4 in U.S. District Court to 24 months in prison followed by three years supervised release for setting timber afire on the Coconino National Forest. Bateman was also ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and \$10,390 in restitution to the Forest Service.

Bateman pleaded guilty last October to starting the Boondock Fire on June 23, 2004, without Forest Service authorization. After intentionally setting the fire, he left the area of the fire knowing it would grow and continue to burn.

As reported in *USA Today* on May 29, Bateman and others have made recent statements to the media indicating his actions were commonplace among forest firefighters and meant only to avoid required paperwork. The facts of the case do not support that view.

“Intentionally setting unauthorized fires in this case was reckless and dangerous, said U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona Daniel G. Knauss. “Intentionally set wildfires have had devastating consequences. To minimize the importance of laws meant to prevent unauthorized fires does not do justice to firefighters who do their job honorably within the law. We are satisfied that Mr. Bateman’s admitted misbehavior is being appropriately penalized.”

“Our nation’s wild land firefighters put their lives on the line to protect people, their communities, and our natural resources. These actions by Mr. Bateman reflect a blatant disregard for employee and public safety. Fire management officials follow agency procedures and policies and it is an insult to their integrity to imply otherwise,” Southwestern Regional Forester Harv Forsgren commented.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General with assistance from Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations. The prosecution was handled by Kimberly M. Hare, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix. “Anyone who sets a wildfire and leaves it unattended is committing what I think is a criminal action,” Hare said.

Bateman, a former Type 1 incident commander, was heralded as a hero for his work in New York City following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The New York Fire Department assigned him to be planning coordinator for operations at the World Trade Center, a post he held for 35 days. In 2004, according to court records, Forest Service investigators began to suspect he was lighting fires.

*Prepared from a June 4, 2007, news release from the Office of the United States Attorney, District of Arizona, and a May 29, 2007, USA Today article by Dennis Wagner*

## **Oakridge Ranger Station Arsonist Sentenced to More Than 12 Years**

A federal judge sentenced Kevin Tubbs to more than 12 years in prison for his role in starting nine fires including the October 30, 1996, fire that destroyed the Oakridge Ranger Station on the Willamette National Forest.

U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken declared that four of the nine fires linked to Tubbs—the Oakridge Ranger Station fire, a police substation fire, an SUV dealership fire, and a tree farm fire—were acts of terrorism. Tubbs is the second member of The Family, a Eugene-based cell of the radical groups Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front, to plead guilty to conspiracy and arson charges. The group is suspected in 20 arsons in five states that caused \$40 million in damage. Tubbs met the group of radical environmentalists in 1995 at an encampment to stop the U.S. Forest Service from logging trees burned by a fire.

At his trial, Tubbs read from a statement saying he was deeply sorry for causing harm to others and that he was motivated by hopelessness and desperation over cruelty to animals and destruction of the earth. “I am disgusted, sickened, saddened, and totally ashamed that I played any part in any of the incidents,” he said. He regularly picked targets, recruited others, and built incendiary devices, but usually served as a lookout or driver when the fires were set.

“Fear and intimidation can play no part in changing the hearts and minds of people in a democracy,” Judge Aiken told Tubbs before sentencing him.

*Prepared from a May 25, 2007, Associated Press report by Jeff Barnard and the May 31 R6 Update*

## **District Attorney Seeks Death Penalty in Esperanza Fire Arson Case**

Riverside County, California, District Attorney Rod Pacheco is seeking the death penalty against Raymond Lee Oyler, the man accused of setting the 40,200-acre Esperanza Fire that killed five U.S. Forest Service firefighters on October 26, 2006, and destroyed 34 homes before it was contained on October 30.

Oyler, a 36-year-old auto mechanic, is charged with five counts of first-degree murder, 17 counts of using an incendiary device, and 23 counts of arson. He was arrested October 31 after the wind-whipped fire raced through the foothills near Banning, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles. District Attorney Pacheco made the decision after reviewing the evidence and consulting with the firefighters’ family members, who were split on the capital punishment question. Several factors, including Oyler’s criminal record and the severe losses suffered by the community, influenced the decision.

A joint U.S. Forest Service-California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection investigative report attributes the deaths of the five San Bernardino National Forest firefighters to human error. The report, first given to the families of the dead firefighters and later released to the public at a May 22 news conference, concluded that two “causal factors” behind the deadly burnover involved errors relating to the threat the fire posed to firefighters. According to the investigation, “there was a loss of situational awareness concerning the dangers associated with potential fire behavior and fire environment while in a complex wildland urban interface situation.” Additionally, the report concluded that “the decision by command officers and engine supervisors to attempt structure protection at the head of a rapidly developing fire either underestimated, accepted, and/or misjudged the risk to firefighter safety.”

High-ranking officials stressed that the investigation was conducted not to place blame but to inform firefighters, as Chief of the Forest Service Gail Kimbell put it, “to tell them what happened and to prevent, to the maximum extent humanly possible, this ever happening again.”

*Prepared from a May 5, 2007, Associated Press report and a May 22, 2007, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin article by Andrew Edwards*

## ***Financial Report***

*By Vern Clapp, Treasurer*

The big PNWFSA financial event of the past year was a financial review (audit) conducted by Doorn & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, LLC, of Bend, Oregon. Our book-keeping was judged satisfactory, and no discrepancies were found. A change in our reporting terminology from last year was recommended as more befitting a non-profit organization.

The financial statements at right provide details of PNWFSA’s financial activity. The association’s financial management and the resultant report were especially busy in 2006. This was because of the various fund manipulations, transfers, and buy/sells associated with the continued payouts of Forest Service Reunion 2005 money to various OldSmokey donees while keeping our assets earning.

In this regard, another \$28,000 of Reunion 2005 proceeds were donated in 2006. Recipients included the National Museum of Forest Service History, the High Desert Museum, the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretation Center, and the CCC Statue Fund. Also, \$5,000 of seed money was sent to the Region 1 Northern Rocky Mountains Retirees Association in Missoula, Montana, for Forest Service Reunion 2009. The Reunion 2005 well has now run dry.

We are looking forward to operating in the black this year as the dues increase should give us a little more financial wiggle-room.

## **Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Revenue and Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2006**

Send an email to Vern Clapp to get a copy of this statement

**“A penny saved is a penny earned.”**

— *Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard’s Almanac*

## Features

*Just by chance, the contributors of this issue's "Features" articles share a history on the Mt. Hood National Forest's Hood River Ranger District in Parkdale, Oregon. During the summers of 1953 and 1954, when Bert Holtby and Milt Andrews were district rangers there, Oregon State University forestry student Dick Spray was the district's headquarters fireman and University of Michigan forester Hank DeBruin was the district's timber sales officer.*

### Dick Spray: Boy Lookout

By Dick Spray

*Dick Spray of Bend, Oregon, recalls World War II summers on the Jump-Off Joe Lookout with his dad.*

The year was 1943 and the family Buick was on blocks. Dad walked to work, and Mom worked at the bus depot at Camp Adair, a huge U.S. Army infantry training base between Albany and Corvallis. I was 11 years old and had just finished the fifth grade. Everybody and everything was involved in fighting World War II. Gas was rationed to three gallons a week for the "A" stickers. The speed limit on the highways was 35 miles per hour to save rare tires. Millions of young men had enlisted or been drafted, and the U.S. Forest Service sorely missed those on whom it relied to fill seasonal fire positions.

Somehow, on the Willamette National Forest, Don Stoner, the Cascadia (now Sweet Home) district ranger, got in touch with Mountain States Power Company (now Pacific Power) in Albany, where Dad worked, for help staffing a fire lookout which also was an AWS (aircraft warning station). Dad, always an outdoorsman and a big fan of work done by the CCC, got involved early. With some arm-twisting, Mountain States Power recruited enough men to staff Jump-Off Joe Lookout by volunteering their vacations. A schedule was worked out and a series of training sessions was held at the Mountain States headquarters in Albany.

Because of Mom's war job, Dad and I batched at the lookout that first summer. I had never seen a fire lookout before, and had no idea what lay ahead as we packed the Buick and headed off for our tour of duty on Jump-Off Joe. That must have been a wet year. The dirt road from Rabbit Guard Station—just west of Tombstone Pass, the CCC-constructed road partially encircled the 1911 Seven Mile Burn—was a sea of mud. Dad put the chains on, and we slipped and skidded all the way to the lookout. When Dad took the chains off, he discovered he had only one. We'd lost the other somewhere along the way. Our first rainy night in the 14-foot by 14-foot lookout cabin was spent with the family we were replacing. They couldn't get their car started, so had to stay until a mechanic arrived.

The 1935 L-4 lookout cabin was outfitted with only one single bed. There were two old folding canvas army cots stuffed under the bed alongside the clackboard fire pack. The "library" of pulp detective and Wild West magazines was also stored under the bed. For some reason I was assigned the bed, and Dad slept on a cot. The larger families made do with the second cot and sleeping outdoors under one of the shutters; later, a double bed was set up in a wall tent pitched nearby.

Jump-Off Joe Lookout was where it was for good reason. It commanded a spectacular view of the entire 1911 burn area—just beginning to repair itself—including newly constructed U.S. Highway 20, still only gravel, and the old Santiam Wagon Road below it. The old burn was very susceptible to fire, and the lookout on Jump-Off Joe would assure early detection and action if lightning or humans ignited a fire. Army convoys between Camp Adair and Eastern Oregon transported thousands of troops by open truck over Highway 20. Soldiers smoked, and the threat of roadside fires was very real.

In those days before two-way radios, communications to report fires or aircraft sightings were the old number 9 wire telephone system. The fire lookouts were grouped by phone circuits. Jump-Off Joe was on the same circuit as Iron Mountain, Carpenter Mountain, Tidbits Mountain, Twin Buttes, and Wildcat Mountain which was not staffed during the war years. The Jump-Off Joe lookout fireman drove to and hiked up the three-mile trail to the Wildcat Mountain Lookout whenever its territory needed a look.

Other facts of life on Jump-Off Joe included fetching water from a spring a mile or more from the lookout and gathering and cutting firewood for the cooking-heating wood stove.

From the 1943 season to the end of the war in 1945, Mountain States Power Company volunteers staffed Jump-Off Joe with increasing efficiency. That first season with Dad provided me the opportunity to learn the "lookout business" and nail down my role as assistant lookout even when Mom tagged along the next two seasons. I also adopted or was assigned—I can't remember which—the job of water-boy which involved a daily one-mile trip to the spring with a five-gallon water can on a Forest Service clackboard to keep the lookout supplied with water. Some days I got off easy and carried only two one-gallon canteens.



*Dick Spray's dad, Wilbur Spray, visiting friend Don Cowgill, and Dick squinting into the sun at Jump-Off Joe Lookout during World War II.*

For the next two seasons, while Dad gathered and cut firewood or ran up to unmanned Wildcat Mountain Lookout to check out smokes, I was the nominal Jump-Off Joe lookout. My primary job was to answer the “grab-a-phone” and take or relay messages. I also had to identify all aircraft that flew over or under—in one case—the lookout. I still have my official Aircraft Spotter’s Handbook. In 1945 we were told to be especially alert, but we were never told for what. Much later it turned out we were supposed to be looking for a barrage of Japanese paper balloons carrying incendiary devices intended to ignite forest fires.

Speaking of the grab-a-phone—so named because it had a newfangled receiver-microphone handset, it had a long cord that allowed the lookout to take it to any corner of the small cabin. The Mountain States electricians had wired the car battery-operated AM radio into the phone system early in 1943 so that the other lookouts on the circuit could listen to the war news and other programs in the evening. I learned to take the grab-a-phone into my sleeping bag and listen to such programs as “The Shadow” and “Inner-Sanctum Mysteries.” In the dark, with the wind shaking the cabin, I was sometimes scared out of my wits—something I will never forget.

In August 1945, a blanket of smoke from the Tillamook made it difficult to see our legal smokes, and we strained to scan our area of responsibility. The radio was on most of the time as we listened for the anticipated surrender of the Japanese. When it happened, we listened most of the night to the celebration in San Francisco on radio station KGO.

On one of his 1945 visits to the lookout, Ranger Stoner offered me a job when I became old enough. And so, when I was 16, I was thinking of a job. Unfortunately, the war emergency exception that allowed 16 year-olds to be hired had expired. By the time I was 18, Ranger Stoner had gone on to bigger and better things and the new ranger informed me he hired only local boys. My job search first landed a seasonal job with the State Board of Forestry in the Tillamook Burn which I accepted. As soon as I had, I was offered a lookout job on the Detroit Ranger District; it was painfully tempting, but I had already accepted the state job and honored that commitment.

Jump-Off Joe was an adventure that affected the rest of my life. It led me to an outdoor life and a U.S. Forest Service career. I finished the “lookout phase” of my career after I grew up a bit—after 1951 on North Saddle Mountain, Wickiup Mountain, and Green Mountain lookouts in northwestern Oregon for the State and 1953 as lookout-fireman on Red Hill Guard Station just north of Mt. Hood on the Mt. Hood National Forest. After that, visiting lookouts became a hobby based on curiosity.

I returned to Jump-Off Joe in 1976 with my son. We had a difficult time finding the place. The road had been reconstructed into a high-standard logging road, paved for part of the distance, and logging was in progress over a wide area. We finally managed to park the car and scramble through an active logging side to the old road to the lookout. We found a helispot instead of the cabin, which was destroyed in 1965. I was astounded that the old burn was now a full blown Douglas-fir forest and the former old-growth forest was a clear-cut—a section or two of private land of which I had not been aware.

Today the Jump-Off Joe Lookout site looks much as it did in 1976 except the lookout road is easier to find, and the trees are larger. The site of the cabin has almost no view anymore, and it is difficult to visit the east and west points of the rock. Some of this difficulty may be due more to old age than anything else.

## Another Phone Call: Hank DeBruin’s Region 6 Years

By Hank DeBruin



*Hank DeBruin of Arnold, Maryland, recently sent the PNWFSA a note to say “‘Thank you’ to every person, individually and collectively, who helped guide Martha and me into the Forest Service family and its traditions as stewards of the national forests.” Hank’s note is really an appreciation of life and work in the Forest Service in which many OldSmokeys served.*

When we graduated from the University of Michigan in 1949, we had a baby daughter Patty and no money, but a job in Oregon on the Malheur National Forest! So I had to get to John Day. Martha and baby went home and I headed west.

I hitch-hiked to Oregon, and almost immediately my education began. The S.O. was easy to find and Lester Jay McPherson started my education. “You are assigned to Seneca. Where is your car?” My answer: “I hitch-hiked in on a log truck.” First lesson, Mack said: “Forest officers don’t hitch-hike.” He drove me to Seneca in a green sedan.

Later on when I was night-scaling at the Hines Mill in Hines, the whole staff received a safety award, a jack-knife. Second lesson, Mack said: “Give it back. Forest officers do not accept even a cup of coffee from those we do business with!”

Cleon Clark was my Supervisor and one of my early mentors. He would come out on inspections and I would drive. He was a good shot and would shoot “grey diggers” out of either window.

Late one night I was painting an old scaling shack at Seneca—Martha and baby were coming west—when a distinguished gentleman came in and wanted to know who I was and asked a lot of questions. We visited a long time. Next day Harley Smith, my boss, said that was Arnold Standing from the R.O. I was impressed.

Martha was a city girl and always dressed in the latest styles. Seneca soon had her in blue jeans and a plaid shirt. She learned to cook on a wood stove. Living 26 miles from town with no car was not easy, so someone said the ton-and-a-half crew truck had to go into John Day every two weeks to be greased and serviced. I was assigned to do it. The Forest Service family had a warm heart.

A call from the S.O. said we were being transferred to the Bear Springs Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest. We worked for two rangers: Wayne Gurley and wife Lottie and Archie Mills and wife Ailene. We learned that in an isolated ranger station—a hydraulic ram in a stream for water, a Witte diesel for sometimes power, and a ground telephone line—we were a family with the wives involved in helping things run smoothly. I learned to plow snow with the D-8 cat and the road grader. We had a pet deer and a black bear that loved garbage.

Our next door neighbor was “Gil” Gilbert, DA, and his wife “Coke.” She filled the grandmother role for our kids and gave me “Hell” when she thought I needed it. Three of our kids were born in Portland. Our house was very small, so Martha’s dad and I added a bedroom. We ate a lot of venison and one bear.

Lloyd Olson was our Supervisor. He and his wife Kathryn were exceedingly kind to us, inviting us to “split a bean” with them several times.

The mid-winter snow surveys were a great assignment—a week on snowshoes and skis across the mountain, no matter what the weather, measuring the depth and water content of the snow pack.

After a time—another phone call—we were transferred to the Hood River Ranger District at Parkdale. The only housing was an abandoned guard station out at Dee Flat. Two tire tracks led to this old station, but there was electricity and water. We got hardwood panel rejects from the local mill and patched it up. One day Martha called me on the radio and said the washer just went through the floor. “Help!”

Milt Andrews and Bert Holtby were rangers during our stay. Jiggs Pederson was DA. I probably learned more from Jiggs, Gil Gilbert, and later Jim Drury, about the heart and soul of the Forest Service than anyone. The several forest supervisors taught me about management style and people politics.

Eventually we found a large house near the ranger station in Parkdale. It was owned by Harris Higgins and was in the middle of a large orchard. Martha canned 300 quarts of fruit. We also bought 45 Rhode Island red chickens and one big rooster. We made many friends. One worked at the Bonneville fish-way. He called one day. “Come on down. I’ve got a big salmon for you.” It was so big I had to fold it over to get it in the trunk of the car.

Fire intrigued me—fighting them in the summer, backfiring as necessary, and burning slash in fall and winter. The absolute power of fire and hot, high winds is amazing.

In due time—another phone call—we were going to the Willamette National Forest, the big horse of Region 6, assigned to McKenzie Ranger District. Rangers we served under were Ed Anderson and Ray Hornbeck. It was like coming home. In high school in Michigan I had worked at a stable and learned to ride and enjoy horses. McKenzie had horses and mules, and we purchased a family burrow called Henry. We lived in a converted CCC bunkhouse next to the stables.

A group of young veterans, survivors of World War II—Emil Sabol, Norm Gould, and Lloyd Soule—arrived about the same time. We bonded for life. The Forest Service we grew up in made many friends for life. We worked hard and long—like locating a road up Blue River. Norm and I became pretty good at laying out units.

As we moved around, we were active in church and community affairs. At McKenzie, I was asked to serve on the school board. Everyone loved my wife Martha, and the whole family wore “green underwear” and sang “Smokey the Bear.”

Bob Aufderheide was an excellent forest supervisor. In due time, he talked to Norm and me about our futures. “You are both up for ranger this year, but I need you to help get out the cut and burn slash. If you’ll stay an extra year, I’ll do my best to help you get the districts you would like.” A year later, Norm got Steamboat [Ranger District on the Umpqua National Forest] and I got Sisters [Ranger District on the Deschutes National Forest].

We had reached our goal—district ranger. Our ambition had been fulfilled and we could practice all we had learned.

For the second time we had good housing—a new house with cathedral windows that offered a beautiful view of the Three Sisters. Our sixth child, Kim, was born in Bend, a great city where we always expected to retire. I still think ranger in a small community in the West is the best job in the Forest Service.

But it wasn’t to last—another phone call—the decision was made to send us to the Crescent Ranger District, much larger than Sisters, to deal with other problems like Brooks-Scanlon.

We had moved six times in 11 years. My dad asked my sisters, “Can’t ‘Bud’ (my nickname) hold a job?”

Our house was adequate—located between the highway and the railroad tracks. We were lucky Dick Hiatt and his family lived next door—they had five boys and one girl, we had five girls and one boy. Eno and Elna Koski took us under their wing and helped us greatly. The lady who ran the post office knew





everything—better than a newspaper. Slim Hein, forest engineer, a good man, helped all of us.

One day Red Nelson dropped by. “Would you consider going to Region 9 to help Larry Neff on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota?” What job? Timber and watershed staff officer. He said we should take it. With six kids, doctor bills, and an old car, we did. One of the District’s going-away gifts was new snow tires on our car. We did get snowed in—highway closed—in Little America, and spent Christmas in an eating place along the highway.

I can say, and I believe Martha would agree, that everyone we met in the 11 years in Region 6 was outstanding, and each taught us much about life and living.

I ended up as Director of Fire, Aviation and Air Quality, in the Washington Office, where I received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Superior Service Medal in 1977 for our work developing the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC) and the National Training System and was elected a fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

We just celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Martha is in excellent health at 81, and I’m hanging in there at 83. Our job today is to stay tightly bonded with 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren—and five of the grandchildren are not married yet.

## Opportunities

### OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods is Set for Friday, August 10

There’s still time to sign up for the OldSmokeys annual picnic scheduled to kick off at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 10, at the **BLM Wildwood Recreation Area**. So, if you haven’t done so yet, use the form below to send in your reservation before July 25!

Socializing will begin at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. As always, you’ll enjoy a good lunch catered by Dave Dalton and the great companionship of your fellow OldSmokeys. You’ll see folks you haven’t seen in years, and you’ll have a chance to meet many new members. Also, you’ll have a chance to help **Jerry Williams** copy historic photographs for the Region 6 history your PNWFSA History Group is writing as explained on page 5, *so be sure to bring your historic Forest Service photos!*

Wildwood, as most OldSmokeys know so well, is about 40 miles east of Portland on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag. Just like always, watch for the BLM sign on the south side of the highway, and follow the signs to the north Mountain View and south Mountain View shelters reserved for the picnic.

Anyone who needs a ride should contact **Elmer Moyer** or **Phil Hirl** to locate transportation for you. Carpooling will save on parking fees, gasoline which likely will cost \$3.50 a gallon, and limited parking space. There’s a \$5.00 per vehicle fee that helps BLM maintain this area as the special place it is. The new America the Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass in either the \$10 lifetime senior version, for which most OldSmokeys qualify, the \$80 annual version, the free lifetime version for citizens with permanent disabilities, the free annual volunteer pass (*see “New Interagency Federal Recreation Lands Pass Announced” on page 8 of the Winter 2007 newsletter for information on this panoply of passes*), or other valid existing passes such as the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports will do the parking fee trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your pass number on the payment envelope and place it on the dashboard of your car.

If you have any questions, call **Jim List** or e-mail him at <jim.pat@comcast.net>.

**Don’t miss it! Use the form below to reserve your picnic place or places by July 25! The charge is only \$21.00 per person!**

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association  
**SUMMER PICNIC—AUGUST 10, 2007**  
**BLM Wildwood Recreation Area**  
**RESERVATION FORM**

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$21.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:  
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ picnic lunches at \$21.00 each for (names exactly as to appear on name tags):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Please send your reservation form in no later than July 25, 2007*

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

**Anderson, Alvin G.** – Correct address:  
**Andersen, Harold E. & Sibyl** – Correct phone number  
**Beil, Chester “Chet” Martin** — Deceased, May 22, 2007  
**Biglor, Gladys & Jack Souhrada** — New members: Bend, OR 97701  
**Brown, Mary Ellen** – New member:  
**Brazier, John & Barbara** — New members: Medford, OR 97504  
**Buckingham, George T. & Karen S.** – New members: Tillamook, OR 97141  
**Bulchis, Robert** – Deceased, May 13, 2007  
**Butler, Marcia** – Discontinued membership  
**Caird, Dennis J. & Darlene** – Change address:  
**Collett, Loyd M. & Verna** – Add email:  
**Connelly, Richard & Linda** – Change email:  
**Coonce, Lee & Olivine** – New members:  
**Crumrine, John W. & Chandelle** – Change email:  
**Duffy, Linda & Thomas H Dew** – New members:  
**Eav, Bov B. & Elinora M.** – New members:  
**Evans, Robert E. “Rob”** — New member:  
**Farr, Leonard C. & Barbara** – Change address: AZ 85755  
**Fish, William “Bill” and Lizabeth “Liza”** – New members: Richland, WA 99352  
**Gant, Norma & Del** – Change email:  
**Gohlke, Martin** – Deceased, May 17, 2007: Lucile survives.  
**Gump, LaRae V.** — Deceased, April 20, 2007  
**Hergert, Marjorie** — Change address:  
**Hess, Deane & Donna** – Add email:  
**Hopkins, William** – Change email:  
**Hughes, John & Linda** – New members: Polson, MT 59860  
**Kent, Diana L. & Tim** – New members: Vancouver, WA 98683  
**Knowlen, Esther L.** – Change address:  
**Leep, Jim & Retta** – Change address:  
**Legard, Hal & Alice** – Change email:  
**Lemmon, Richard M. & Dona** – Change address: Pendleton, OR 97801  
**Lupes, Tom & Marsha** – New members: Medford, OR 97504  
**Malmsten, Edward L. & Helen** – Change address: Keizer, OR 97303 (phone and email unchanged)  
**Mancuso, Joseph & Faye** — New members: Gig Harbor, WA 98355  
**Marker, John & Mary** – Additional email:  
**Matecko, Alan & Sue** – New members: Portland, OR 97236  
**Mayer, Carl Ellis** — Deceased, April 2007: Rosalie survives

Personal address information deleted from web version of Newsletter.  
Any member can request a new electronic copy of the  
membership directory from Vern Clapp.

## *New Members*

Welcome new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Spring 2007 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Gladys Biglor & Jack Souhrada** of Bend, Oregon. Gladys served her 30 Forest Service years in Region 6. Before moving to the Deschutes National Forest S.O., where she retired on February 2, she had been in charge of the Bend Pine Nursery. Joined in May.

**Jon & Barbara Brazier** of Medford, Oregon. Jon served 34 of his 36 years in federal service in the Forest Service in Region 6. His last duty station was the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest S.O., where he retired on September 30, 2005. Joined in May.

**George T. & Karen B. Buckingham** of Tillamook, Oregon. George has served 32 years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6. He's worked on the Umpqua and Colville national forests, and is now district ranger, Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest. Joined in December 2006.

**Lee & Olivine Coonce** of Montague, California. Lee spent 19 of his 25+ Forest Service years in the Forest Service in Region 6 after serving on the Klamath and Tahoe national forests in Region 5. He was deputy forest supervisor on the Deschutes National Forest and forest supervisor on the Winema and Umpqua national forests before retiring in 1997. Joined in February.

**Linda L. Duffy & Thomas H. Dew** of Medford, Oregon. Linda has served 28 years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6, and currently serves as district ranger, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Tom retired from the Forest Service in 2003. Joined in March.

**Bov B. & Elinora M. Eav** of Beaverton, Oregon. Bov, who has served 21 years in the Forest Service research program, was named Station Director, Pacific Northwest Research Station, in February 2006. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Agronomic Science in Cambodia and master's and doctorate degrees at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse. Before he joined the Forest Service, he worked for Lockheed and NASA. Both joined in February.

**Robert E. "Rob" Evans** of Bend, Oregon. Rob has served 18 of his 27 years in the Forest Service in Region 6, and is Silviculture Operations Team Leader, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. Joined May 2007.

**William "Bill" & Lizabeth "Liza" Fish** of Richland, Washington. Bill's 31+ years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6, were in timber management and related positions on the Gifford Pinchot, Winema, and Umpqua national forests and staff jobs on the Ochoco and Deschutes national forests before serving as fuels coordinator on the Fire and Aviation Management Staff in the R.O. in Portland where he retired on January 3. Joined in March.

**John & Linda Hughes** of Polson, Montana. John's 32 years in the Forest Service included 16 years in Region 6. He retired from the Region 1 R.O. in Missoula, Montana, in January 1996. Joined in April.

**Diana L. & Tim Kent** of Vancouver, Washington. Diana's 30 years of federal service include seven in the Forest Service, the last four at the Pacific Northwest Research Station where she is Executive Assistant to the Station Director. Tim was Regional Land Surveyor for Region 6 from 1995 to 2002, and retired from the BLM in September 2005. Both joined in February.

**Joseph & Faye Mancuso** of Gig Harbor, Washington. Joe served 19 of his 31 Forest Service years in Region 6, retiring from the Willamette National Forest S.O. on December 29, 1997. Joined in May.

**Alan J. & Sue Matecko** of Portland, Oregon. Al's 25 years of federal service include 16 years with the Forest Service. Al is Director, Public & Legislative Affairs, for Region 6 in the R.O. in Portland. Joined in April.

**Leslie D. & Betty L. Robertson** of Medford, Oregon. Les served 37 seasons on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest before retiring in June 2006. Joined in February.

**Clarence A. "Al" and Denise I. Wagner** of King City, Oregon. Al retired in January 1986 after 28 years of federal service of which 23 years were in the Forest Service and 10 were in Region 6.

*Forum continued from page 3*

## **The National Parks-National Forests Dichotomy**

On Thursday, April 19, the *Yakima Herald* published an article titled "Funding for our National Forests is disgraceful" written by Scott Sandberry. As Sandberry observed:

Mount Rainier National Park is considered—as it should be—one of our crown jewels, not just in this state but in the nation. It attracts more than 2 million visitors every year. And when Mother Nature kicks it around, we sit up, take notice and reach for our collective wallets and backhoes. When Mother Nature does the same thing to this region's National Forests—which attract 30 million visitors every year—we reach for the TV remote so we can find another update on Mount Rainier. The outpouring of volunteerism and federal dollars in response to winter storm damage at

*Continued on page 19*

## Memories *Compiled by Dave and Jane Kolb*

**Chester “Chet” Martin Beil** died May 29, 2007, at age 93. He was a PNWFSA member. Chet started his Forest Service career in 1941 in central Oregon. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Chet worked in timber management on the Deschutes National Forest in Bend and Sisters, on the Fremont National Forest in Paisley, and on the Winema National Forest in Klamath Falls. No survivors are listed.

**Robert Bulchis** died May 13, 2007, at age 92. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born January 30, 1915, in Minersville, Pennsylvania. He joined the CCC in 1933 with assignments on the Wenatchee and Olympic national forests. Later he studied forestry at the University of Washington and worked summers on the Quilcene Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest. After graduation, in 1939, Bob earned a master’s degree at Yale School of Forestry. He then began a career with the Civil Service Commission. In 1942 he quit his job and joined the U.S. Navy for three years. During this period he married Helen Foxx. Bob was discharged from the Navy in 1945 and returned to the Civil Service Commission in New York City. He and Helen settled in Woodhaven, New York, where they raised their family. Helen died in 2000. Survivors include sons Bob, Ed, and Bill, daughter Kathy, two grandsons, two granddaughters, and a sister.

**Phyllis Clarke** died April 10, 2007, in Reno, Nevada, at age 94 or 95. She was born in Idaho in 1912. Phyllis’s husband, William Clarke, was administrative officer on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, worked in the Region 6 Regional Office, and in the Washington Office. He predeceased Phyllis. Survivors include her son James, daughter Julie, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Marvin Jimmy “Jim” Dunham** died April 5, 2007, at age 70. He was born in Fort Lupton, Colorado, October 18, 1937. His family moved to Banks, Oregon, where Jim graduated from high school. He started his career with the Bureau of Public Roads and worked in Oregon and Washington. He eventually took a position as a soils engineer for the Forest Service in John Day. Jim married Sandra Van De Hay June 28, 1959. He retired 1994. Later, he and Sandy moved to Woodburn, Oregon. Survivors include his wife, sons Michael and David, daughter Laurie, four grandchildren, his mother, and a sister.

**Martin “Marty” Gohlke** died May 17 at age 84. He was a PNWFSA member. Marty was born November 25, 1923, in Alpena, Michigan, where he attended Alpena High School. He served in the U.S. Merchant Marine and the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving in the battleship USS *New Jersey* in the Pacific until discharged in 1946 when he returned to the Merchant Marine. He met Lucille Nelson in 1944 and they married in 1947. Marty joined the Forest Service in 1951 and served at the Verlot Ranger Station near Granite Falls, Washington, until promoted to district assistant on the Skagit Ranger District

headquartered at Marblemount, Washington, both on the Mt. Baker National Forest. Later he was check scaler for the Forest and in 1967 he transferred to the R.O. in Portland where he was regional check scaler. He retired in 1979. Survivors include his wife, sons Tom and Mark, brother Elroy, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**LaRae V. Gump** died April 20, 2007, at age 86. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Theodore “Ted” Gump. LaRae McMannis was born May 19, 1920, in Milo, Missouri. Her family moved to Vancouver, Washington, in 1937. After World War II, LaRae worked for the Forest Service on the Columbia (now Gifford Pinchot) National Forest where she met Ted. They were married October 6, 1956. Later they moved to the Siuslaw and Siskiyou national forests. LaRae worked in personnel in the Siskiyou National Forest S.O. in Grants Pass. Survivors include her husband, daughter LeAnn, and one brother.

**Charlene Hozwarth** died March 4, 2007, at age 79. She was the wife of Milbert “Slim” Holzwarth who served as president of the “30 Year Club.” Charlene was a founding member of the Leach Botanical Garden. Both she and Slim were active members of the Oregon Native Plant Society. Charlene was born in Beattie, Kansas, and graduated from Kansas State University. She moved to Oregon where she met and married Slim who was working at Hebo for the Forest Service. Later they lived in John Day, Eugene, and Portland. Charlene taught 34 years in Portland schools. After Slim’s death in 1982, she joined the Peace Corps and served two years in Africa. Survivors include daughters Pat and Heather, son Benton, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and a brother.

**Charles “Charlie” Johnson** died March 25, 2007, at age 63. He was the plant ecologist for the three national forests in northeastern Oregon and has written a number of books on the plant life of that area. Charlie grew up in New Jersey but moved to Moscow, Idaho, to study forestry at the University of Idaho and to be near the Wallowa Mountains. In 1966 he worked for the Forest Service as a wilderness ranger in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Later he spent three years in Chile with the Peace Corps, where he studied plants in the Andes and met his wife, Angelica. They returned to Idaho in 1972 where Charlie completed a masters degree in forest ecology and spent the next 27 years with the Forest Service. Survivors include his wife and their two daughters, Audrey and Melica.

**William J. “Bill” Krayer** died May 4, 2007, at age 84. He was born February 6, 1923, in Erie, Pennsylvania. After World War II, Bill attended Purdue University and earned a degree in forestry. He worked for 28 years for the Forest Service on the Mt. Baker, Malheur, and Rogue River national forests. A naval aviator, he served on both active and reserve duty; he also taught flying and ran a charter flying service. Survivors include in wife Frankie; children Lynn, Brad, Lisa, Lisle, and Lori; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Carl Ellis Mayer** died in April, 2007, at age 87. He was a PNWFSA member. He was born August 28, 1919, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Carl graduated from Iowa State University

and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he married Rosalie Hollins in 1949. He worked for the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland for 10 years. He then served as head of forest inventory and analysis at the Northeastern Research Station in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, where he retired from the Forest Service. He returned to Portland in the early 1980s. Survivors include his wife, sons Robert and William, three grandchildren, and a sister.

**Richard Kenneth McClanahan** died April 19, 2007, at age 46 from a heart attack at his home in Butte Falls, Oregon. He was a current employee and a dependable firefighter on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Richard was born March 21, 1961, in Key West, Florida, and spent most of his life in the Rogue Valley. He worked 23 years for the Forest Service as a firefighter and crew chief. Survivors include his parents; siblings Robert, Sharon, and Michael; four nephews; and two nieces.

**Finley H. McNaughton** died April 25, 2007, at age 90. He was a management analyst in the WO Administrative Management Unit. Finley was born April 1, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in forestry in 1942. After serving in the South Pacific during World War II, he started his Forest Service career with positions in Idaho, Utah, and Washington, D.C. Finley retired in 1972 and moved to Oregon where he started a second career as an orchardist in the Hood River Valley. He married Jean Chandler. She died in 2003. Survivors include his son David H., daughters Linda and Kathleen, and two grandchildren.

**Robert H. “Bob” Mealey** died April 5, 2007, at age 94. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob had a long career as a forester, land steward, and conservation advocate in the Albany-Sweet Home area. He was born August 13, 1912, at the family home near Foster, Oregon. Bob graduated from the School of Forestry at Oregon State College in 1936, the same year he married Anna McLaughlin. His 50-year career in forestry included managing family lands, running a logging and sawmill company, and a full career with the Forest Service. Bob began his Forest Service career supervising Tillamook Burn CCC reforestation crews and completing the original fire mapping of the Olympic National Forest. He served as district ranger on both the Rigdon and Blue River ranger districts of the Willamette National Forest, and as timber staff director for the Siuslaw National Forest. Bob was also a driving force in the Small Woodland Owners Association and the Northwest Wood Council. Anna died in 1982, and his youngest daughter Connie died in 2002. Survivors include sons William (Bill) and Stephen (Steve), daughter Mary McKenney, one sister, 12 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

**Vincent N. “Vince” Olson** died March 31, 2007, at age 91. He was a PNWFSA member. Vince was born March 7, 1916, in Comfrey, Minnesota, to Sven and Alida Olson. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in forestry in 1939. Vince married Lillian Moore in Washington,

D.C., on August 15, 1941. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II with the 224<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was on Omaha Beach on “D Day” and “in the thick of things” during the meeting with the Russians 60 miles west of Berlin. Vince retired from a 32-year U.S. Forest Service career in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska in 1975 as supervisor of the North Tongass National Forest. He then served as a professional consultant for the State of Oregon. Survivors include his wife and daughters Aleeda Chastain and Catherine Olson.

**Elaine Parker** died March 25, 2007, at age 83. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Walter “Walt” Parker. Elaine Selken was born March 27, 1923, in Rosholt, South Dakota. Her family moved to Bend, Oregon, in 1936. She graduated from Bend High School. In 1953, Elaine married Walt, a forester for the U.S. Forest Service. They lived at ranger stations in Crescent, Detroit, and Oakridge. After Walt’s retirement, they returned to Bend. Survivors include her husband, son Ted, daughter Nancy Alvarez, grandsons Drew and Ethan Alvarez, and a younger sister.

**Leona Mae Resler** died May 8, 2007, at age 85. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of former regional forester and Assistant Chief Rexford “Rex” Resler. Leona was born December 29, 1921, in Standard City, California. She and Rex served on numerous national forests, in regional offices, and in Washington, D.C. Leona is survived by their son Scott.

**Ruth Elizabeth Lange Smith** died April 23, 2007, at age 90. She was the wife of PNWFSA member Jack Smith. Ruth was born January 1, 1917, near Butte, Montana. She graduated from high school in Portland in 1935 and Oregon State College in 1939. It was there she met John B. Smith, her future husband. She and Jack lived in Alaska, Washington, D.C., and various parts of the lower 48 States. Ruth worked for the Federal Highways Administration and for her husband’s tree farm business. In late 1990 she suffered a severe stroke and required full-time care in a senior facility. Survivors include her husband, son John W., daughter Jenny L. Han, 9 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Stanley A. “Stan” Thorn** died June 13, 2007. He was a PNWFSA member. Further information was not available at press time but will appear in the Fall issue.

**Alice Waldron** died March 12, 2007, at age 93. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of Charles “Chuck” Waldron. After graduating from North Dakota State University, Alice married Chuck in Fargo, North Dakota. They moved to California when he started working for the Forest Service on the Gua-yule Project, a World War II effort to produce synthetic rubber. The family moved to Oregon in 1945 and lived in Pendleton, John Day, Lakeview, and Klamath Falls before moving to Portland where Chuck was a biologist in the R.O.’s Fish and Wildlife office. Alice taught home economics in several Oregon schools before she retired in 1979. Chuck died in 1989. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

### John Marker Remembers Joe Elliott, Jr.

Joseph E. “Joe” Elliott’s death at age 93 on April 13, 2006, in Pleasant Hill, California, was recorded in “Memories” without details of his life or Forest Service career because none were available at press time. John Marker knew Joe, and shares these memories.

Joe was second generation Forest Service, spent the bulk of his career in Region 5, and was a most accomplished amateur Forest Service historian. He was born in 1913 the son of one of the pioneer members of the Forest Service. I met Joe in 1962 when he came to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest as deputy forest supervisor. I worked for Joe on a detail doing the impact report for the Pacific Northwest high voltage intertie power line between Bonneville Power Administration and the power companies in California. He was a stickler for details. He stressed the need for economy of words and use of simple words—no government jargon. I learned a lot.

The report, which took me about two weeks to write, was something less than 25 pages long, and became the Forest Service decision document for approving construction of the intertie across national forest lands in Region 5. As far as I know the report was adequate; I never heard of the sky falling, the critters leaving, the forests being desecrated, or other bad things happening. The line is still there and so are the forests.

Joe later became forest supervisor of, I believe, the Stanislaus National Forest in the central Sierra Nevada, and I believe retired from that position. Joe took great pride in being a forest officer and, while a stickler for following the rules, he relented when it made practical sense. He was a person I am glad I had the opportunity to meet and know.

--John Marker

### Many OldSmokeys Remember Bob Mealey

*Bob Mealey’s death at age 94 on April 5, 2007, stimulated memories throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.*

Mary Lou and I are so sad to hear of Bob’s passing. We both remember our time together with Bob and his family. Bob’s purpose in life was to plant trees. Lots of trees!

After being discharged from the Army and eager to be a forester patrolling the forest in a green pickup, I reported to District Ranger Orville Jess. Orville, not sure what to have me do, asked Bob, his TMA on the Cascadia District, what to do with me. Bob put me on the tree planting crew which I thought I was too good for. I quickly transferred to the Blue River District. Two months later we got a new district ranger, Bob Mealey. You guessed it. I planted trees the remainder of the season.

There are so many things attributable to Bob. Here are several quotes: “If you ain’t dirty, you ain’t worked.” “If you don’t smell like smoke, you ain’t been fighting fire.”

A bit of Bob’s philosophy: A Willamette National Forest staff officer for whom I completed a detail told Bob he should give me an award> Bob’s response to the staff officer was: “For what? Hell, that’s what I hired him for.” Too bad we did not clone Bob long ago.

--Dick Zechentmayer

I was fortunate to meet Bob when he was ranger at Blue River and I was in the Willamette S.O. My boss, Clyde Quam, and I went out to the districts periodically on “review” trips and Bob and his staff were among the most willing to spend time with us and show us around.

I had one of my greatest Forest Service experiences when I joined Bob, Warren Presentin, Rex Resler, and about six other Willamette folks on a trail ride to herd the pack stock from Fish Lake Remount Station to their winter range near Powell Butte. Bob was such a gentleman that he was the only member of the bunch who refrained from poking fun at the greenhorn, first-time trail rider from Admin in the S.O.

He was surely one of the top notch members of the Forest Service family and I hope that there are still some like him in the outfit.

--Rene “Ray” Bunster

I worked for Bob Mealey for a number of years on the Siuslaw and saw him in a number of very difficult and stressful situations and would like to echo the statement of others that Bob was always a True Gentleman.

I have many memories of Bob, but the one that has stuck with me most prominently is when I would reply to a statement of his beginning with the words “yes but” he would invariably reply “Ya Buts’ ain’t allowed” and then would allow me to continue my reasoning.

Bob is one of the Forest Service employees who will be long remembered and missed by all.

--Ken Roberts

I also knew Bob Mealey when he was timber staff on the Siuslaw. In addition to being very knowledgeable of timber management, he was the most gentlemanly person I ever encountered during my Forest Service career. You just plain liked being around Bob.

--Ed Whitmore

Bob Mealey was a wonderful human being. He was always so thoughtful and respectful. Last time I saw him was in the fall of 1996 at the dedication of the Middle Fork Ranger Station when all the former rangers of the three combined districts (Lowell, Oakridge, and Rigdon) were invited to be a part of the ceremony and also have several hours to remember.

Several of us were lamenting the changes that had occurred in the overall Forest Service management program due to litigation, appeals, and other factors. Bob in his wise and simple way said, “You know, they can keep us from cuttin’ them, but they can’t keep ‘em from growing!”

He also said in reference to those with an overzealous environmental slant, “They don’t know what they see, and they only see what they know.”

I have always remembered those words, and am saddened to learn of his passing. The outfit was enriched by his life.

--TommyThompson

### *Changes continued from page 14*

**Mealey, Robert H.** – Deceased, April 5, 2007

**Olson, Vincent N.** – Deceased, March 31, 2007: Lillian survives.

**Onstott, Betty** – Change phone:

**Parker, Mary Elaine** — Deceased, March 25, 2007: Walt survives

**Ressler, Leona A. “Lee”** -- Deceased, May 8, 2007

**Robertson, Leslie D. & Betty L.** – New members: Medford, OR 97504

**Shenk, William D. “Bill” & Victoria** – Change email:

**Sholl, Betty** – Discontinued membership

**Smith, Ruth Elizabeth Lange** — Deceased, April 23, 2007: Jack survives

**Stormer, Fred & Rose** – Change email:

**Thorn, Stanley A. “Stan”** — deceased, June 13, 2007: Edna Marie survives

**Wagner, Clarence A. “Al” & Denise I.** – New members: King City, OR 97224

**Waldron, Alice** – Deceased, March 12, 2007

**Williams, Woody & Joyce** –

**Young, H. Robert** — Change address: Corvallis, OR 97330

And, just in case an inexplicable omission that left **Ron and Helen Skrip** out of the *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2007* had you wondering, Ron and Helen—members since 1989—remain PNWFSA members in good standing. Their home address remains Winchester, Oregon.

### *Forum continued from page 15*

Mount Rainier is something about which we, as a nation, can be very proud. Our ongoing neglect of this region’s National Forests, on the other hand, is a national disgrace.

Two news stories on the same late March day brought this dichotomy into distinct focus. In a guest column written for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, Interior secretary Dirk Kempthorne sang the praises of our National Park System and trumpeted the \$258 million overall increase in operating funds for parks in President Bush’s 2008 budget. The same day, a handful of editorials across the country decried the president’s \$4.1 billion budget request for the Forest Service, which called for cutting \$64 million and more than 2,000 jobs. That’s absolutely pathetic.

But it’s much worse than that. Consider this: The preliminary damage reports from last November’s floods and the following month’s horrific windstorm indicate that Mount Rainier National Park had incurred \$36 million in damages, a figure that will almost certainly turn out to be conservative. The Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration responded with \$36 million for work at Kautz Creek and other park roads, and Congressman Norm Dicks said another \$18 million from unspent highway and construction accounts would go toward repairing other park damage.

That’s \$54 million, with probably more on the way. The Gifford Pinchot National Forest suffered \$18 million in storm damages. The amount of federal funding it has received? A total of \$50,000. As egregious as that sounds, it’s typical. Ever since the Forest Service lost the ability to pay for itself through timber sales—the logging industry having gone down the tubes amid Endangered Species Act concerns and endless environmental reviews—the National Forest System has been treated by federal budgeters not as the recreational and spiritual meccas they are, but as an afterthought. Or an albatross.

The national forests are starting to resemble down-and-out beggars.

—John Marker

## Letters

### **Bonnie Wood** *remembers Vince Olson*

Vince (*Memories*, page 17) and Lillian are family to me, part of the wonderful Forest Service community in my early years. He will be very much missed by his family, and I too will miss him as he and Lillian were God parents for my sister and me and they have always been there for us.

*Editor's Note: Bonnie is Executive Director, National Fire Plan & PNWCG at the R.O. in Portland.*

### **Vern Clapp** *remembers Vince Olson*

Vince (*Memories*, page 17) was district ranger at the Hemlock Ranger Station on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest when I was summer guard at Government Mineral Springs. I hunted moose with Vince when we both were in Alaska.

### **Hank Hays** *remembers Vince Olson*

I worked under Vince (*Memories*, page 17) as the first planning officer for the North Tongass in the 1970s, a time of real change from the timber era toward the requirements of NEPA.

Vince and I were from the old school (i.e., the “greatest generation” of U.S. Forest Service people), and probably did not like [aspects of] the new direction. Some of us could make the change, or realize some new approaches were in order. Now we have gone too far in process, resulting in the mired condition now existing—process instead of getting it done, a new career field for lawyers, etc. It is merely a reflection of society in general.

Vince was a good man and the terminus of the former era. Then came the transition to the so-called environmental era. We have not been able to combine good sense with proper resource protection quite as yet. Part of the problem is misguided litigation or liberal judges, and part of it is effecting sensible change in an outfit with the greatest effectiveness and tradition of the greatest agency, the U.S. Forest Service.

I am proud to have been a part of the greatest agency and people like Vince.

### **Dick Pomeroy** *remembers Marty Gohlke*

Marty (*Memories*, page 16) was Olive's and my friend, along with his wife Lucille, since we joined the Forest Service in 1951 beginning at Verlot Ranger Station. Our kids grew up with their kids in Bellingham, Washington, where Marty was the [Mt. Baker National Forest] check scaler. Before this, he had been the fire management officer on the old Skagit Ranger District, now a part of the North Cascades National Park. Marty retired from the Forest Service some years ago and at the time was the R-6 regional check scaler.

### **Robert E. Lease** *remembers Marty Gohlke*

Marty (*Memories*, page 16) taught my oldest son, Scott, and me elk hunting when we moved to Oregon.

### **Ed Whitmore** *writes from Iowa about March 30 OldSmokeys luncheon pictures*

What a wonderful gallery! At first I thought I was staring at the post office wall, then several faces came into focus. The ones I recognized immediately were John Poppino, who had not changed since my Estacada ranger days; neither have Bob and Ruth McGowan when they were at our house for the Forest Service gourmet dinner.

I recognized John Nesbitt's eyes from our Olympic days in the '60s. Don Nearhood has not changed since my G.P. days. Torrence and Trask are just as I remember during their R.O. years. Buscher and I were on the Wenatchee together. Dick Woodfin I recall from the time I lined up for him at the SAF convention in Yakima. Paul Enberg and Bob Tokarczyk are like frozen in time from the mid 70s. You guys make me want to pay a visit back to the great PNW, and remind me when we were one going outfit!

I myself have not changed at all since the days of R-6, except for maybe a foot or two in girth, a quarter inch or so on the chin, a trade from brown to silver on the roof, and a penchant to wear a short skirt when I play the pipes. My wife Pat is still the dazzling young lady I met while attending Iowa State.

Long live the U.S. Forest Service and the wonderful memories and friendships we all have as a result of that great agency! Dick Deleissegues assures me that enough time has lapsed that it is OK for us to come back. We will be back for a visit while many of you are still recognizable.

*Editor's Note: Ed's note was inspired by Paul Enberg's photographs of the March 30 OldSmokeys luncheon forwarded by Vern Clapp's OldSmokeys E-Note No. 754 on March 31, 2007.*

### **Bill Ciesla** *checks in from Colorado*

Greetings from sunny Colorado. Pat and I continue to do well and continue our world travels. In October we visited Brazil. I was an invited speaker at a remote sensing and GIS workshop in Curitiba and then taught a class in use of aerial photos for forest damage assessment at UNICENTRO in Irati, Parana State. In between work we visited Iguazu Falls, which is truly one of the major wonders of the world, and spent a final week in Salvador Bahia, Brazil's oldest city.

I am still doing some consulting. This year [2006] I had a contract with the Colorado State Forest Service to conduct aerial sur-

veys for insect and disease detection along the entire Colorado Front Range. I still enjoy flying in small airplanes and seeing the Rockies from an aerial perspective. I also had a training manual entitled "Aerial Signatures of Forest Insect and Disease Damage" published by the Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team of the U.S. Forest Service based in Fort Collins.

I look forward to receiving your newsletter in 2007 and to hearing about the activities of my R-6/PNW colleagues.

*Editor's Note: Bill is Forest Health Management International, 2248 Shawnee Court, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525.*

#### **Deane Hess checks in from Idaho**

Donna and I are keeping busy. We are directors of the Local Family History Center for the LDS Church. We also work the midday shift at the Boise Temple.

I certainly recommend a visit to the High Desert Museum in Bend. Donna and I had the chance to contribute some items to the Museum and spend an hour or two with [Western History Curator] Bob Boyd. I was impressed with the work he has accomplished on the Forest Service exhibit.

#### **Mary Paulson checks in from Lincoln, California**

I wanted to let friends know how I am doing and thought this was the best way.

A number of years ago I read two different articles by Jean McCleese, a Forest Service spouse. She wrote about the wives of the Forest Service and what it was like to make all the moves across country and the various hardships for the whole family.

Since I also worked for the Forest Service as well as being a spouse, I have a different perspective on this. It is because of the Forest Service that I have been able to get through this year. Because of the times that I was left to manage the home and the household responsibilities, I am able to do that now. A little plumbing, some painting, even some carpenter work along the way.

## **Books**

### **John Mclean Publishes *The Thirtymile Fire: A Chronicle of Bravery and Betrayal***

John Mclean, the son of Norman Mclean, who wrote the classic 1992 account of the 1949 Mann Gulch Fire, *Young Men and Fire*, has just published his third book on wildland firefighting tragedies. That book, *The Thirtymile Fire: A Chronicle of Bravery and Betrayal*, tells the story of how a July 2001 fire on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest "that should have been a simple operation, ...blew up into a towering inferno of double fire-plumes spinning tornado-like in opposite directions, scorching 9,324 wildland acres," according to an early April *Publisher's Weekly* review. "In two weeks, 1,000 firefighters and dozens of helicopters, bulldozers and other heavy equipment were deployed, costing \$4.5 million and the lives of four firefighters. A controversial official investigation claimed that the firefighters defied authority and bore responsibility for their own deaths," according to the review.

Mclean, whose 1999 *Fire on the Mountain* about the 1994 South Canyon Fire and 2003 *Fire and Ashes* about other fatal fires put him firmly on his father's trail, "interviewed families, survivors, investigators and fire experts" to write what *Publisher's Weekly* calls "an evenhanded, lucid re-creation of catastrophe and its aftermath." That aftermath, of course, includes criminal charges against Ellreese Daniels arising out of the deaths of the four firefighters and concerns of other supervisory firefighters about a system that could place them in financial and legal jeopardy for doing their jobs.

*The Thirtymile Fire* (ISBN 978-0-8050-7578-6), 256 pages, was published in May by Holt/Macrae and is priced at \$24.00.

*Adapted from a recent "Publisher's Weekly" review sent by Dick Mangan and forwarded by John Marker.*

### **Rare Plants of Southwest Oregon is Published by Forest Service and BLM**

Rachel Showalter, botanist for BLM's Glendale Resource Area, and Linda Mullens, botanist for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, have collaborated on *Rare Plants of Southwest Oregon*, a book just published by the two agencies.

"We compiled this book to help increase the awareness of rare plants in our area," says Showalter. "We geared it to the people who work in the forest or spend a lot of time on public lands, hoping they may come across—and now recognize—rare plants while in the field," she adds.

Showalter and Mullens say this book is not intended to be a compendium of all the rare plants found in Southwestern Oregon, but included those that are of highest priority to locate and protect. "In *Rare Plants of Southwest Oregon*, readers can peruse 350 color photos that accompany rare plant descriptions," says Mullens. "It is an excellent resource containing technical information such as scientific names, common names, blooming periods, distinguishing characteristics, similar look-alikes, habitat, and range descriptions." Another book, *The Rogue River Trail Flora Guide*, provides information about common plants in the area.

*Rare Plants of Southwest Oregon*, a 298-page book that includes over 350 color photographs, over 250 line drawings, and an illustrated glossary, sells for \$15.00. *The Rogue River Trail Flora Guide*, a 105-page book, features ethnobotanical information, color photographs, waterproof paper, and is written in a more casual, less technical manner, sells for \$5.00. Both books are available at the Forest Service/BLM interagency office in Grants Pass or at the Medford District BLM Office in Medford.

*Adapted from a review by Patty Burel, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and Medford District BLM, published in the May3 issue of "The Thursday R6 Update."*

## Uncle Sam's Cabins

### Allison Ranger Station

Malheur National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

The story of historic Allison Ranger Station—now Allison Guard Station—has a beginning and an end, but part of the middle is missing.

How's that? Read on!

Ranger E.W. "Cy" Donnelly, first ranger of the Snow Mountain Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest—now part of the new Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest—built the first Allison Ranger Station cabin in 1911. About 200,000 acres of national forest lands were administered from this one-room, pine-log cabin, also known as the Donnelly Cabin.

Then, about 1925, another cabin seems to have been built, either to supplement or replace the Donnelly Cabin. Only photographs remain of this somewhat larger cabin and two smaller outbuildings that seem to have been used for less than 10 years. When, how, and why these structures, located between Ranger Donnelly's 1911 cabin and a new ranger station complex built in 1935, were built and disappeared is mostly a mystery. One of the outbuildings, sold at auction to a rancher, was moved to a location near Paulina, about 25 miles to the northeast.

The current Allison Guard Station complex, seven of the eight Allison Ranger Station buildings constructed by the civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 about 200 yards southwest of Ranger Donnelly's cabin, served as the Snow Mountain District's ranger station until the current ranger station compound in Hines—now headquarters of the new Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest—was constructed in the 1950s. As a result, two historic ranger stations—the one built in 1911 and the other in 1935—remain at Allison. Crews still operate from this 1935 compound.

Ranger Donnelly would have preferred the name Howard Ranger Station for the general who pursued Chief Egan and his band of Paiutes, along with some Shoshone and Bannock, northward through nearby Howard Valley in 1878. But the ranger station took its name from the nearby Jesse Allison homestead. In addition to the cabin, the original Allison Ranger Station included a tool storage shed, outhouse, and corral.

Ranger Donnelly's one-room log cabin was restored in 1993 by Snow Mountain Ranger District personnel, some of whom donated their own time, with help from the Pacific Northwest Region's historic preservation team. Passport in Time volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps enrollees, Native American students with the Youth Opportunities Program of the Burns Paiute Tribe, and others. The cabin was stabilized and raised to remove and replace ant-eaten and decayed sill logs, a gravel pad was laid to enclose the foundation, new floor joists and boards were put in place, and porch support posts were set. Larch shakes, split with wooded mallet and froe, provided a new roof. The logs were coated with preservative. An archaeological study preceded this work. Thanks to this effort, visitors may see and appreciate what it was like to live and work on the Ochoco National Forest during the early days.

Life and work continue at Allison Guard Station, where rehabilitation and restoration work has prolonged the life of the CCC-constructed buildings that provide facilities used by Forest Service crews when needed. These buildings, built in the Pacific Northwest Region's distinctive Depression-era Cascadian Rustic style, include an office-cookhouse building, a warehouse, and residences.

*Editor's Note: The Allison Guard Station is now on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. It still shows as being on the Ochoco National Forest on all Forest Service maps because this administrative change has not yet been officially approved by the Washington Office. There are two primary ways to reach historic Allison Ranger Station and Allison Guard Station from U.S. Highway 20. At Hines, turn off the highway onto Harney County Road 127 opposite the Louisiana Pacific mill, and follow this road to its junction with Forest Road 41. Bear left onto Forest Road 41, and follow it into the Malheur National Forest and past Delintment Lake to Allison Guard Station. Most of this approximately 45-mile route is paved one-lane road with frequent turnouts. Or, about a mile west of Riley, turn off U.S. Highway 20 and follow Forest Road 45 for 35 miles, turn left onto Forest Road 41 and continue for 3 miles to Allison Guard Station. For additional information, call the Emigrant Creek Ranger Station in Hines at 541-573-4300.*

*This article is adapted and updated (with the help of Patrick Haynal, Archaeologist, Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Malheur National Forest, and Kathleen Martin, Archaeologist and Recreation Program Manager, Paulina Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest) from Les Joslin, Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West published in 1995 by Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708 or <[www.wildernessheritage.com](http://www.wildernessheritage.com)>.*



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

— Anonymous

## The Way We Were

### Deschutes National Forest Guard School Instructors, 1958

OldSmokey **Walt Parker** of Bend, Oregon, sent in this photograph of Deschutes National Forest guard school instructors taken in June 1958—“back in the days when rangers got on the fire line, too”—at the Methodist Youth Camp at Suttle Lake. Taken by then District Ranger Ed Parker with a timer, the photograph includes Walt, OldSmokey **Hank DeBruin** who now lives in Arnold, Maryland, and late OldSmokeys Don Peters, whose widow **Ollie Peters** lives in Bend, and Ernie Hardman whose widow **Kathryn Hardman** lives in McMinnville. Top row: Don Peters, Frank Dunning, Henry DeBruin, Ernie Hardman, Leslie Martin, Jim Reed. Middle row: Philip Shoemaker, Henry Tonseth, Paul Stenkamp (who still lives in Bend), Lee Simons, Ralph Dymont, Ray Koski. Bottom row: Walt Parker, Clifford Ashmor, Anderson (not further identified), Ed Parker, Gerald Benson.



*Editor’s Note: Walt thanks OldSmokey **Dick Connelly** for making a copy of the original photograph when researching for the PNWFSA book *We Had An Objective In Mind* and giving it to him. Five years after this photograph was taken, Frank Dunning was fire staff officer on the Toiyabe National Forest when and where this editor was a district fire prevention guard.*

## Out of the Past

### Smokey Bear, 1944

Smokey, America’s “forest fire preventin’ bear,” made his debut as a “poster bear” drowning a campfire in this 1944 painting by *Saturday Evening Post* cover artist Albert Stahl.

Six years later, a bear cub was rescued from the May 1950 fire in Capitan Gap on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. He was named Smokey and became the living symbol of wildfire prevention. Smokey lived at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. He became known to millions for his wildfire prevention message.

Thirteen years later, in 1957, an eighth-grade student discovered a copy of this 1944 poster in his school library’s vertical file. “I’d like to help you update your files,” he told the school librarian. “I’ll trade you two new Smokey posters for this outdated one.”

“Oh, aren’t you a nice young man,” the librarian trilled, and the trade was made. The student protected the 1944 Smokey poster in an atlas for decades. About 15 years ago, he had it framed. It now hangs in his Bend, Oregon, home office where, among other endeavors, he edits the PNWFSA *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

-- Les Joslin, Editor

**Smokey still says...**

**PREVENT WILDFIRES!**





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## Summer 2007

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

### Area Representatives

**Regional Office:** vacant  
**Colville:** Kermit Link  
**Deschutes:** Arlie Holm  
**Fremont:** Richard "Buck"  
Woodward  
**Gifford Pinchot (east):** Jim  
Bull  
**Gifford Pinchot (west):**  
Ray Scharpf  
**Malheur:** vacant  
**Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie:**  
Lee Boecksteigel  
**Mt. Hood:** Doug Porter  
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**Okanogan:** Bill Krell

**Willamette:** Al Sorseth  
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### Coming Events

**Summer Picnic: August 10**

**Next time you're in  
Missoula, visit the  
National Museum  
of Forest Service  
History.**

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

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