

Forest Service 30 Year Club
Newsletter

Portland, Oregon

Winter 2001

President's Message -- John Marker

I hope that the year 2001 finds you enjoying retirement as usual, and wishing you many more such years. In the meantime, I have several important items of Club business that I need to discuss with you. The first and most important involves Club finances.

Money. The current fee of \$125 for lifetime membership fails to cover the members cost to the Club over time. And if you became a lifetime member at age 55-60 for \$50, or \$75, the situation is even worse. While we have a healthy savings account of about \$48,500, it must be treated as a trust fund to cover the Clubs obligations to all lifetime members. This account was built almost entirely from lifetime dues, a few contributions or donations, and the interest accruing from that money over the years. The original idea was that the lifetime payment would be invested conservatively and interest would cover the Club's cost for the member thru an expected lifetime. In theory, that made sense, but in practice it has not worked out that way. We have not kept lifetime dues rates in pace with the increases in cost, and of course it would not be proper to retroactively increase a members "lifetime" dues.

People are retiring earlier, costs continue to climb, and the returns from the safe investments do not cover the increased costs. Vern Clapp has spent considerable time analyzing these Club finances, with advice from some knowledgeable members. Here are some of the facts and projections that Vern has produced: Currently, of our 820 members, approximately 550 are lifetime members--- about 240 joined at the \$50 rate and 280 at the \$75 rate. The newsletter is the major cost item for the Club. The four newsletters published each year now cost \$7.30 per member per year. To provide all lifetime members with 4 newsletters, it costs the Club a minimum of \$4000 per year at current costs. Assuming a conservative, but realistic, 5% return from the present principle of \$48,500 invested lifetime dues, the income to the Club is \$2,425 per year, far short of lifetime members' newsletter

costs. As the principle reduces, of course so will the interest. Other Club financial needs are not even considered in this analysis. The Board is looking at other income options, such as paid advertising in the newsletter (any of you have something you would like to advertise in the newsletter?); gaining non-profit status which could save about \$500 per year in postage, and perhaps set us up for accepting tax deductible contributions or donations. There are also options to reduce expenses, such as publishing only 3 newsletters per year, or looking into alternatives to commercial printing services. But this does not deal with the issue of lifetime members paying their own way. We necessarily must pass up opportunities to do some things that the Club could help finance and would be of benefit to all members, because first and foremost we must protect the lifetime trust.

The bottom line. We need to quit taking on unfunded obligations. Here are three options the board has discussed: First, adjust the price of new lifetime memberships to reflect costs. Our analysis says this would raise the price to around \$250 based upon current expenses. Another option is to do away with the lifetime membership for new members. A third option is a limited multi-year membership, say five to ten years with a small discount to recognize the advantage to the Club of savings in membership service costs. We believe any of the three alternatives will stop the growth of unfunded obligations.

Now we need your counsel. Which of the three option do you think is the best for the Club and for members? Do you have another idea for resolving the Club's financial situation? We need to hear from you. Send us a note with your comments and suggestions

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Members Corner	3
Tokarczyk Award	5
Reunion 2005	6
Oregon Tax Refund	7
Address Changes	8
Obituaries	9

Special points of interest:

- *Chief Robertson Speech
- *Bungalow Cabin
- *Chief Thomas Speech
- *NASFR

Presidents Message (Cont'd from page 1)

plus an update of your activities and adventures that we can share in the newsletter. You can respond by US mail to the Club address on the newsletter, or send an e-mail to vclapp@teleport.com and he will see that it gets shared with all of the Board.

Money (again!). The goal we have for our lifetime investment account is to make sure we can always redeem our commitment to people holding lifetime memberships. We will need to be innovative in the very near future, or we will be hard pressed to keep the reserve healthy. Even the raise in price of new lifetime memberships is not a total solution. So my pitch is to those of us who are lifetime members---How about an occasional donation to the Club to help ease the financial situation? Another option is to volunteer to organize and run a fund raiser of some type from time to time. Either approach would be appreciated, and helpful to the Club.

Reunion 2005. Bob Williams has agreed to head up a committee to plan for the next national USFS retiree gathering in 2005. In January, serious work on this project will begin. Since 2005 will be the 100th anniversary of the US Forest Service, the reunion should be a really "big deal", and a great opportunity to show off the Northwest to our fellow retirees. As time goes on, Bob and his planning group will need plenty of help from you 30 Year Club members. We have already heard from people interested in helping with the event, and we hope all of you will be willing to add your energy to this undertaking, and enjoy the gathering when the date arrives.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Non-profit status and incorporation. The Board continues to work toward non-profit status (as viewed by US Postal Service and IRS). We should have some definitive material for you to look at in the spring newsletter. Successfully completing these two actions will help our budget situation by reducing mailing costs, and will give legal protection to the Club and its officers against liability in this litigious society.

The fun part of working with the Board on the above issues has been the opportunity to review old Club records and the history of our organization, including reading correspondence reflecting the thoughts about the Club expressed by our predecessors. They were a lively and dedicated bunch with great wisdom.

Vice-President Elect. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a ballot for Vice-president. The Board has nominated Phil Hirl for this position. Phil has served for several years as Archivist and has done an excellent job for you. Before retirement, Phil spent a number of years in R6 Regional Office making several Regional Engineers look good. In his job he was Regional representative with the O & C Counties Association, and helped steer a number of very worthy Forest Service projects into O&C funding. Phil would become our Club President in 2002. Please take the time to fill out a ballot and mail it to the Club as support for Phil. If you don't want to cut up your newsletter, just send us a note (e-mail or otherwise) indicating your support for Phil (or you have the opportunity as in all democracies to write in someone else). Our election rules are looser than Florida's.

Mary and I wish you an outstanding 2001. See you for a last Friday of the month lunch at the Beaverton Elks, the Spring Banquet, and the Summer Picnic. *John Marker*

Spring Banquet

Plan now to attend the Spring Banquet on May 6. We are again looking for items from our members or their spouses as door prizes. This is an opportunity for you artists, craftsmen, authors, and other hobbyists or entrepreneurs to share your talents and interests with others.

If you have an item to donate, contact Fred or Cherie Cooper.

Mark your calendar now for the Spring Banquet, Sunday, May 6, 2001. Details and reservation forms will be in the Spring Newsletter which should be in your hands by April 1.

Club Directory

The 2001 Thirty Year Club Membership Directory is included in the center of this newsletter with a blue cover. Pull it out and save for a reference. We hope you find it useful.

The only way we can keep your listing error-free and current is to make changes at your prompt. In addition, the Postal Service is getting increasingly fussy about mailing addresses; especially bulk mailings such as our newsletter. If it isn't quite right, they won't mail it. **Please, review your listing and let us know of any errors or corrections.**

Why is the third hand on a watch called a second hand?
How can there be self-help groups?

Missing Members?

We no longer have functional addresses for the following members:

Margaret Knudson

Neoma Plath

Margaret Hopkins

Gary Dunford

If you have any information on any of these members, please let the Club know

Bumper Stickers??

Honk If You Love Al Gore!

(Florida drivers: Use the button on your steering wheel; it's located in the center of your steering wheel; you must press it firmly and ensure that the noise actually comes out.)

Member's Corner

Bud Waggener

Congratulations are in order for our 30 Year Club Officers, it's Board of Directors, and Membership Chairman, Doug Porter.

In response to my comments entitled "Now & Then" that appeared in the Summer 1999 issue of the 30 Year Club Newsletter, our club officers have put their "shoulders to the wheel" and results are encouraging. The letter emphasized the club's declining membership and urged the need for corrective action.

In the Fall 2000 issue just distributed, it is gratifying to note the list of new members who recently joined our club. Signing up nineteen new members is a splendid start, and we welcome each one.

As one at age 20 who watched Foster Steele and K. P. Cecil discuss the need for such an organization in 1934, I patiently waited 30 years to qualify for membership and became a member in 1964. I am thrilled each time I have the opportunity to participate in any function held by this illustrious group of people. They are each winners!

Attendance at "Reunion 2000" indicated to me that as long as there remains any organized group of ex-Forest Service Retirees, who lived and worked during "the first hundred years", their commitment "To the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run" will always ring loud and clear!

The opportunity to meet and associate with ex-Chief's Max Peterson, Dale Robinson and many others "one more time" was inspiring. It would be most interesting to learn how many of those attending Reunion 2000 were retirees. This expression of Forest Service dedication should indicate to those now working for the U. S. Forest Service that being a member of such a Forest Service Retirees organization must be worth while. Truly; that is the way we find it!

So, President Marker, I urge you and your group of officers to continue the good work on the Club's membership drive. Your efforts are very encouraging to all of us!

Members Corner cont'd.

Elizabeth Leuthauser

I'm sorry that the dues were not sent. I hope that we can be re-instated. Al had his second brain injury four years ago and has been an invalid since. He is unable to talk, eat, drink, or walk. He knows people when he is awake and remembers people that he has seen lately. I read the paper and when he has a good day show him pictures or tell him some of the news articles. He enjoys the TV we have in his room. Al has had pneumonia 9 times since last January.

Ken Wright

As explained to you on the phone, I can't accept the \$62 sent to me by Vern Clapp. I am returning \$31 because the caterer was told I would be at the picnic----and he no doubt planned accordingly. So there! *Ed. Note: Another example of the honesty and integrity of the Greatest Generation!*

Lee and Kathleen Boeckstiegl

I have been on the e-mail exchange with Vern trying to get a current copy of the 30 Year Club Directory. Vern advises me that would be difficult to do by e-mail. I wanted a copy to give to Haven Stanaway. Vern suggested that I sign Haven on as a member. That way he will get a complete copy in January. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$10 for a membership for Haven Stanaway. I don't know if this represents a first time member for Haven, but I am certainly willing to go along with Bob Roman-cier's idea of treating a new member to their first year dues. Kathleen and I continue to look forward to the Newsletter. We enjoy what they say and the pictures you include. Again, you all keep up the good work. *Ed. Note: Thanks Lee and Kathleen. Many of us remember Haven as one of the greatest instructors in the fire training business. We all wish him well and hope he enjoys his membership. If we have leftover directories, we will send him the one from last January.*

Members Corner cont'd.

Don Peters

Hi folks, we are selling our home which was built for us in 1979, and are moving into a new two bedroom home at the Aspen Ridge Retirement Community. (*See Change of Address list*) Aspen Ridge is a retirement community in Bend that has varied retiree facilities including individual cottages, regular retirement suites, extended care suites, and a large Alzheimer's complex located in a separate unit across the street from the apartment complex. There are ten individual two-bedroom cottages apart and separate from the main unit that are now rented or pending move in. Our meals are furnished and we have use of all the facilities in the large building plus all entertainment, pleasure trips, transportation to town for shopping, doctors appointments, etc. We are busy packing but wanted you to know of the change.. Our phone number will remain the same. *Ed. Note: we wish Don and Ollie the best in the new surrounding. It sounds great.*

Jim & Lynn Rodeheaver

We have been sailing for the last 20 months or so. We are now in Raratonga, so we don't get the Newsletter very often. But we would like to keep up our membership. Enclose are dues for 2000 and 2001

Ed. Note: Jim and Lynn, tell us more of your trip when you get back.

Claude & Betty Kincaid

We note the item in the last newsletter re Snowbirds and their address changes. We are one of that group. We leave a forwarding address with the Post Office. Of course they forward only first class mail. The remainder goes in our box to be picked up by a friend. It sounds good but the postal people are a bit lax in this area so may return the Newsletter to you. This happens to other mail items also. We will leave it up to you whether you use our winter address or rely on the Post Office.

Member's Corner (*cont'd. from p. 3*)**Vic Kreimeyer**

I know there are a lot of old friends of Art Greeley out there among the retirees. I have some very recent information regarding Art that they may be interested in. Our pastor, Ann Hinz, is his niece, and she and her husband were just back to Maryland to visit Art. Most of his friends will remember that Art retired from the Forest Service as Deputy Chief about 30 years ago to go to seminary and he has been in the ministry ever since.

Art is 88. His physical health is poor but his mental and spiritual health is apparently great. He and his wife Anne are now living with their daughter Janet and husband Jim Conner. Art has lost most of his ability to speak due to some complication resulting from former medical problems but Ann says that he is very alert. His mind is sharp and she said he "glowed spiritually". He is able to be up but is considerably restricted in what he is able to do. Anne is 95 but is still quite active. They moved to their daughters home that they both may have better care.

Anne said that Art would really appreciate hearing from old friends in the Forest Service. Evidence of his clear mind is the fact that he still remembered me when Anne gave him my best regards.

Art's current address: Rev. Art Greeley, 9920 Old Spring Rd., Kensington, Maryland 20895.

Howard Banta

Our check for \$20 is enclosed for Club dues. Thanks for your reminder in the latest newsletter.

Frank Lewis

(Editors Note: Frank sent us a copy of a Bruce Babbitt article reprinted in the Tacoma News Tribune along with his own rebuttal also published in the Tacoma NT. In order to save some space, I have taken bits of Frank's letter and article to give you a taste of his talents)

After seeing Babbitt's effort (in his syndicated LA Times article on the wildfire issue), I thought it deserved to have another

perspective publicized. Just to get the word around I sent my article to the Chief (no reply as yet), the SAF (Bill Banzhaf wrote thanking me for taking on the cause), the Missoulian, and the LA Times. I do not know if either the Missoula or LA paper gave it any space. Babbitt is going to be in Shelton tomorrow (Oct. 13) helping Simpson Timber Co. unveil its Habitat Conservation Program. I gave John Walker, Simpson's President, a copy just in case he might want to confront the Secretary.

Following are excerpts from Frank's article: As a second generation professional forester with 35 year's experience in the field, much of it in fire management, I've long felt the idea of "overprotection" is a façade. It ignores history and rewrites it according to the Sierra Club, whose agenda is to stop all logging in the national forests.

The early 1900 fires that burned millions of acres certainly were not due to previous suppression efforts. In fact they gave rise to the whole forest protection program in the western US. However efficient those protection systems were, a number of fires still essentially wiped out entire forests (the Yacolt and Tillamook fires, e.g.). Not until access roads and snag breaks were developed could those areas be protected and regenerated with any degree of confidence.

With the locking up of vast areas in wilderness and roadless areas, coupled with the shutdown of timber harvesting and the resulting demise of the industry throughout the west, non-management is setting the stage for 1910 to repeat itself. Such misguided policies are resulting in forest conditions ripe for such events as happened this year. Suppression capabilities of the USFS and other protection agencies have been diminished, along with the availability of industry manpower and equipment.

Now the politicians largely responsible for the dilemma are rushing to provide solutions. Their efforts ignore realities and the advice of the SAF, whose executive director just last month implored the administration and Congress to not make a political football of the situation. Instead, Babbitt and Glickman tried to get western governors to endorse their

plans before finally agreeing to take logging and other contentious issues off the table. The spin fed to the media, though, would lead you to believe solutions are at hand. Forest health didn't get to its current state overnight; neither will fire-proofing as proposed result in immediate dramatic changes in fire potential. Preattack plans need to be completed and updated, then aggressively implemented. Fuel breaks, strategically located and involving thinning of stands by logging followed by fuel reduction, will be needed. A rational and sustainable harvest of the intervening stands must be carried out. Only then will the fuels complex gradually become manageable. The Knutson-Vandenberg Act (K-V), if not tampered with, would provide much of the funding to carry out the needed thinning and fuels treatment, contrary to Babbitt's assertions. (*Babbitt severely criticized the K-V act in his syndicated article*). All of this could be realized without increased tax dollars going for another big social program. Where does Babbitt think the manpower for another CCC type program is going to come from in these days of near full employment? Let's get serious.

B. Eric Morse

Enclose are dues for 2001. All vital info you have for me is current. With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays upon me/us, I ache for Karen the more and miss her clearly. News is I will be married April 28 to Sheila, who lost her husband the same time I lost Karen. I enjoyed the pictures of "old" friends in the Fall issue. *Editor's Note: All of your friends from your Region 6 days wish you and Sheila the very best.*

Paul & Bert Neff

We sold our Port Ludlow home and have just this address currently (*see change of address list*). I think this will be our permanent address, but we don't want to say for sure as we may go back this summer to cool off. However, you just need this California address and everything else will be forwarded to wherever we may light.

Robbie Robertson

Enclose find a check for 2 years dues. Since I enjoy the letters (in the newsletter) so much, I thought I should contribute something. After a career that bounced back and forth between forest management and data management, I find myself still occupied as a software developer. I left the Forest Service in 1980 for two years as a database manager at Tektronix, after which I took a job as Information Resource Manager for the Fish & Wildlife Service Western States Region. I retired in 1989 when my wife Ginny took a job in Iowa, where I worked as a systems consultant. After 8 years there we returned to Portland in 1997.

Since my 70th birthday party this fall, I have been promising myself to cut back on work, and hope to see more of the old FS bunch next year. Reading the newsletter, I am deluged with memories as I see again the names of people I worked with in the past. It's great to hear recent news of people that are/were a part of my history. *Ed. Note: Robbie and I spent a couple of our earlier years at Detroit RS, Willamette. We did all the early topog mapping of the recreational development sites at Detroit Reservoir---in the winter of course, thru the snow, with none of the modern fabrics to keep feet and hands warm, but lots of good DF pitch for lunch fires.*

H. William Gabriel (Secretary and Editor for National Museum of Forest Service History)

I enjoyed reading the 30 Year Club Newsletter and would like to bring your readers up-to-date on the results of museum activities during Reunion 2000. Tom Coston, former Regional Forester, R-1, was the MC at the museum dedication ceremony on September 6 and over 600 persons attended the dedication and BBQ lunch. At the dedication, Doug Leisz, former Associate Chief, challenged 100 retirees to donate \$100,000 to help get the museum operating. As a result, we received 51 pledges totaling \$50,320 and are halfway to Doug's goal. Those contributors will be recognized as Dedication Day Donors in a future edition of the NMFSH newsletter. All who donated \$500 or more will be recognized as Life Members of the Museum,

and that will about double the number of Life Members.

The NMFSH desperately needs a full-time executive director to handle the day-to-day business of the museum, to build an endowment, and to get a proper building constructed. We must have a bank balance approaching that \$100,000 before advertising for an executive director to assure him, or her, of a salary for 2 to 3 years while he raises more money. The museum has received memorial donations in the name of 44 persons and the list could grow greatly over the years. Even with a 36 acre site, there will not be enough room for each individual to be represented by a tree. Therefore, we have planted 14 trees in the memorial grove—and a few more may be added in the future---but they will be a general memorial monument rather than representing specific persons. The name of all persons memorialized will be placed on one or more plaques in the museum building---when it is built.

That week, 16 people---including 30 Year Club members---made donations of artifacts and archives to the museum. Their donations will go a long way toward meeting one of the objectives of NMFSH---to record a social history of the Forest Service, its employees, families, cooperators and customers. The descriptions of the items, and how they were used by the donors, will bring life to some of our otherwise dry records when read by future museum users. And at the dedication ceremony, Chief Mike Dombek presented NMFSH President Gary Brown a Forest Service "check" for \$20,000 that will be redeemable as reimbursement for expenditures on artifact collection, retention, and storage activities.

The Bungalow RS residence now has cedar shingles on its roof and cedar shakes on the exterior walls. With a little paint and some stain, it will look much as it once did.

Over 200 people attended the NMFSH benefit dinner the evening of September 6. So we approach the end of the year 2000 with a growing collection, a growing membership, and faith in the future of the museum.

Tokarczyk Receives National SAF Award

Bob Tokarczyk received the John A. Beale Memorial Award for ongoing, outstanding efforts in forestry promotion through voluntary service to the Society of American Foresters. This award consists of an engraved plaque and a \$500 honorarium. This was one of eight awards this year at the 2000 national convention of the SAF in Washington, D.C.

Since joining the SAF in 1959, Bob helped form SAF's Columbia Gorge Chapter and the first Leadership Training Conference for Oregon SAF. He served as chair of four committees for the 1983 SAF national convention in Portland, and was a member of the Convention Steering Committee and Arrangements Team for the 1999 SAF national convention in Portland. Bob was executive director of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association for six years and was manager of the SAF Northwest Office and editor of the *Western Forester*. In 1983, Bob was elected as a Fellow of SAF, the highest level of recognition from SAF. He received the Oregon SAF Tough Tree award in 1982, and the Oregon SAF Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994. The 30 Year Club applauds Bob Tokarczyk, a member and Past President of the Club

E-mail Newsletter??

Send the Newsletter via e-mail? The Board of Directors of NRMRA (Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association) has discussed the feasibility of sending the Newsletter to members by e-mail, and we need to know your wishes. Do you want to read it on your computer, or do you wish us to continue sending hard copies via the US mail? Please drop a note to the editor.....and let her know your preference. *From September 2000*

Ballot for New Vice President

Vote for the **one open position** and submit your ballot by March 1, 2001 to:

FOREST SERVICE 30 YEAR CLUB

PO BOX 5583

PORTLAND, OR 97228-5583

VICE-PRESIDENT

Phil Hirl _____

Write in candidate

PRESIDENT

Elmer Moyer (automatic elevation from 2000 Vice President)

PAST PRESIDENT

John Marker (automatic elevation from 2000 President)

----- Clip and mail -----

Coming Events

Summer 2001 Tour???

The Board is seeking ideas and support for a Club Tour this year. The following ideas have been suggested: A riverboat tour on the Columbia; A San Juan Island tour; a tour of the Mt. Baker NF area (that portion of the now MB-Snoqualmie NF); visit some NW Indian Reservations. One trip that was suggested in the past and we never got to was a Southern Oregon Coast tour. If you have other ideas or support one of these, let us know; or if you have an interest in leading this project, helping out with it, or just a strong interest in participating, please let the Board know by writing to the Club address, or e-mailing to Elmer Moyer.

Dues Paid??

Check your mailing label NOW! Do you find the number 2000? If so, you need to get out your checkbook and send in your \$10 for 2001. Dues for annual dues payers are due January 1 each year. If you wish to pay for more than one year that is OK, too.

Coming Events

Reunion 2005

I will be meeting with the Club Board in January to discuss what we do next on our plans to host the next National Forest Service Retirees Reunion in 2005. We will be talking about how we should organize to move past the idea stage to a firm proposal and then start putting some meat on the bones. If you any ideas or concerns about the next reunion, please contact the Club (use the Club address please for US mail), or contact me, Bob Williams, by e-mail.

I met with the Board in December, right after I accepted their challenge to take the lead responsibility for Reunion 2005. We have made contacts with the other retiree groups across the nation to let them know that we are proceeding on this venture. The Northern Rock Mountain Retirees Association has been very supportive and we will be looking for their advice—they did such an excellent job in 2000.

We have made no firm decisions as to location or any other details as of this writing (about Jan. 1). We should have more details for you in the Spring issue. *Bob Williams*

New Members:

Welcome to:

- Gerald (Jerry) & Vickie Holdgrafer
- Lyle & Jeanne Jensen
- Haven Stanaway (gift from Lee Boeckstiegel)
- Carl & Linda Anderson
- Martha Brookes
- Judy & Devan Peterson
- Neal & Darlene Hogate
- Joe & Glenda Cruz

Editors Corner

I want to take advantage of a little extra space to send a special new year's message to you members that may be having some worrisome medical problems, or have recently lost a dear friend, or maybe just a little down-in-the-dumps during these short, dark winter days. This is to wish you a very special new year that will lighten your load, brighten your day, and will bring some relief to those medical problems.

A really special message to Bob Mcquown, former Newsletter Editor, who is recovering from very serious surgery last fall. Bob, to you and Ruth, may this year see a full and complete recovery. *Wendall Jones*

TYC E-Notes Popular

Use of our TYC E-NOTES has been increasing, with over 90 sent out. We find that this is a neat way to timely get the word out to members, covering subjects such as a member's sickness or death, roadless and other FS issues, club announcements, locating individuals and other items that are of interest to the membership. If you want something sent to all the online members, e-mail it to us and we will forward it out to all. The use of this database and service continues to develop and suggestions are welcome.

We encourage all of you that have Internet e-mail capabilities to let us have your address (281 members have). You will then be included in our E-NOTES list as well as future Thirty Year Club directories. The most painless way to do this is to send a short message to vclapp@teleport.com. We can then pull off your E-mail senders address and add it to the database.

Club Stats from Vern

This year the club membership grew slightly. At the start of the year it was 830; it is now 834. We had more new members this year – 40 vs. 29 last year. However, losses included 27 members who were dropped due to unpaid dues, 7 because of death, 2 due to inadequate address and 3 by request.

This year 528 reside in OR, 171 in WA, 22 in CA, 21 in AZ, and the rest all over the country. A total of 50 address changes were logged, reflecting a mobile retiree group and keeping some of us busy. There are 281 members that list e-mail addresses, an increase of 59 over the past year. Currently 552 members have elected Lifetime membership. Our average age is 69.6, up 0.3 years.

Bumper Sticker??

Don't Blame Me - I Voted for Al Gore - -I Think!

Oregon Tax Refund

Oregon federal retirees who have not yet received all of their tax refunds from the State of Oregon for 1991-1997, must file the appropriate verification forms with DOR by no later than April 16, 2001. Delayed payments will begin starting after July 1, 2001. Refunds will be based only on years of service before October 1, 1991.

The form required is Form 40F – Oregon Federal Retiree Verification of Claim Form. And if there is an estate involved, a Form 243-F – Verification of Claim for Refund Due a Deceased Federal Retiree must also be filed along with 40F.

Both forms along with applicable instructions can be obtained from the Oregon Dept. of Revenue, 955 Center St., Salem, OR 97310-2051, or by calling DOR in Salem at 503-378-4988, or at a toll free number 1-877-877-6198.

If you need assistance or have not gained satisfaction from the DOR, please call the federal retiree attorneys office in Portland at 503-228-9787, and ask for Graziela Seaman. The postal address is Michael G. Hanlon, Atty. At Law, 1001 SW 5th Ave., Suite #1300, Portland, OR 97204.

The DOR will place instructions in the 2000 Oregon tax instruction booklet outlining what is required for refunds in this case. Pertinent phone numbers and addresses will be included.

OCFRO attorneys are talking with DOR about preparing a computer run to isolate the names of federal retirees who paid Oregon income taxes during 1991-97 but have not applied for refunds.

To date DOR has refunded with interest, over \$230 million to federal retirees. As of March 2000, over 43,000 had filed for refunds. About 51,000 paid Oregon income taxes for 1991-97, and were notified that refunds were available. The DOR and OCFRO estimate that there are 2,500-3000 who paid little or no taxes. Another 600-800 are holding up filing in order to maximize interest amounts on the principle. And an estimated 500 who were betting that the retirees would pre-

(More Oregon Tax Refund)

vail in the case and therefore did not pay any taxes. (whew!)

Ed. Note: Again we suggest that each member put some effort into checking up on any federal retiree that you think, for some reason, has not filed for their refunds. This might be true of the very elderly, especially a retiree widow, or families of deceased mothers or fathers who were federal retirees, or someone who has been extremely ill for some time. I hope that before April, I can get a copy of the names of the retirees who have not filed for refund, so that we might check it against the 30 Year Club list.

Book Review—John Marker

Based upon a book review in a recent Journal of Forestry, I read a book titled, "Defending Illusions, Federal Protection on Ecosystems" by Allan K. Fitzsimmons, published by Rowman & Littlefield. Fitzsimmons is a Geographer by profession specializing in natural resource issues. Currently he is president of Balanced Resource Solutions, a natural resource consulting firm, and an adjunct scholar at the Political Economy Research Center in Bozeman, MT.

The book summarizes the scientific, political, social and philosophical activities that have created our current arguments over federal natural resource policies, and offers the authors opinions about the current state of affairs. He expresses concerns about what he views as weak science that is used to justify many of the federal resource decisions, and the lack of concern for the well-being of people in the policies that come from the decisions. His opinion is that the concept of multiple use is still valid, and, in fact, imperative if the United States is to maintain a quality standard of living for its citizens.

It is always nice for me to find an articulate book where the author and I seem to agree more than disagree, and in this case I think his opinions would be shared by most USFS retirees. I thought you might be interested in knowing about the book.

Address Changes/Additions/Corrections

All of these changes and new members are included in the 2001 Directory included with this Newsletter

Anderson, Carl F. & Linda – New member: Redmond, OR
Berry, John & Glenda – Change: Portland, OR
Brookes, Martha H. – New member: Corvallis, OR
Conibear, Jim & Dee – Change e-mail:
Cruz, Joe & Glenda – New member: Bend, OR
Dyer, Shirley – Change: Silverton, OR
Evans Ken & Claudia – Add e-mail –
Files, Roscoe & Dorothy – Change: Portland, OR
Flowers, Maxine – Change: Mesa, Arizona
Hallin, Vernon & Charlotte - Add e-mail:
Hawkes, Helen – Change: Portland, OR
Hogate, Neal & Darlene – New member: Cottage Grove, Oregon
Holdgrafer, Jerry & Vickie – New member: Corvallis, OR
Hook, John & Judith – Change: Okanogan, WA
Jensen, Lyle E. & Jeanne – New member: Pendleton, OR
Johannsen, Walt & Dee – E-mail correction:
Johnson, Frank & Janet – Change: Port Angeles, WA
Kopecky, Renee – Add e-mail:
Matson, Larry & Pat – Change: Portland, OR
Moore, Alice – Change: Corvallis, OR
Moyer, Elmer & Mary – Add e-mail
Neff, Paul & Bert – Change: Palm Desert, CA
Peltier, Edward – Change: Wenatchee, WA
Peters, Donald & Ollie – Change: Bend, OR
Peterson, R. Max & Jan – Add e-mail:
Peterson, Judy & Devan – New member: Gresham, OR
Rasmussen, Dorothy – Change: Kennewick, WA
Reams, Gloria – Change e-mail:
Rondthaler, Howard – Add **Carolyn** (spouse and still USFS employee)
Sabol, Emil & Dorine – Correction e-mail:
Sanford, Harry & Donna – Change e-mail:
Sirmon, Jeff & Shirley – Add e-mail:
Smith, Zane & Betty – Change e-mail:
Stanaway, Haven - New member: Ardenvoir, WA
Thorpe, Marjorie – Change: Redmond, OR
Todd, Glenn – Change: Davis, CA
Turner, James & Linda – Change: Sedro Woolley, WA
Weaver, Fred & Anne – Add e-mail:
Williams, George & Maxine – Change: McMinnville, OR
Visintainer, Joe & Katie – Change e-mail:

Drop e-mail: Gilbert, Lowell & Katherine

Correction of Chuck Lundeen's e-mail address

Member's Corner

Would you like to see more letters from our dear members scattered over the northwest and beyond? That's easy! Just write one (or more)! This issue includes every letter received up until press time. So it is not a question of demand, it is the supply is short. Advice - tell us about what you are doing and enjoying; the short letters are better, but if you have a really good story, share it with us.

R6 Updates

Several articles from the R6 employees website are included in this newsletter. If you have access to the internet, you can tap into it, too. About 65 retirees already do that. And your editor does too. If you need help finding the web site, let me know. We will continue to publish items of interest from the R6 employees website because many of you do not have access to it.

Reunion 2000

Some good stories came out in newsletters from the other retirees groups about the Missoula reunion. If you were at Missoula and want to share an experience or observation, please send it to us. Did you go on a tour that you really enjoyed? Or were you involved in any humorous incidents? How about those of you who took the Club bus tour to Missoula? Share your stories.

In Memory

By Phil Hirl

Ray Bell

(From *Assoc. Press in Truth or Consequences, NM*) – Ray Bell, the man who nursed Smokey Bear to health after the cub was rescued from a forest fire 50 years ago, has died at 89. Bell, who died of cancer, was a conservation officer stationed with the New Mexico F&G Dept. at Capitan when the fire broke out in the mountains nearby in 1950.

A firefighter brought a black bear cub with burned paws into the camp, and Bell, a pilot, flew it to Santa Fe. After veterinarians treated the cub, Bell brought it home for his wife and daughter to nurse back to health. They cared for the cub for two months. Bell said the cub originally was named Hot Foot Teddy, but it was renamed Smokey and became the living embodiment of the fire prevention symbol created by the U.S. Forest Service in 1944. In 1957, Bell became the first Forester for the newly created State Forest Dept. He was its Director from 1958 to retirement in 1971.

Marion Louise Brumback

Marion Louise Brumback, died Oct. 8 at age 84. She was born Sept. 26, 1916, in Portsmouth, NH. Her maiden name was Pio. She moved to Portland in 1959.

She worked for the Forest Service in the Experiment Station for 16 years, retiring as a supervisor of literature distribution in 1978. She moved to Dundee in 1975 and moved to Grants Pass two years ago. She was the author of *Stories of Old Dundee*, a book published in 1981. She married Gerald Brumback in 1963.

Survivors include her husband; sons, Harold Kay and Warren Kay; sister, Arlene Todd; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Clair I. Foreman

Clair Foreman died Nov. 13 at age 87. Mr. Foreman was born Dec. 12, 1912, in Portland, OR. He joined the US Forest Service as a ranger, mechanic and firefighter before serving in the US Navy during WWII. After retiring from the Forest Service in 1968, he was a mechanic for Multnomah Fire District 10, with whom he had volunteered since 1947. He married Lois E. O'Brien in 1934; she died in 1975. Survivors include his daughters, Betty Mayner and Sharon Horrocks; sister, Jeannette Rupp; brother, Jerry; five grandchildren, 23 great-grands, and 2 great-great-grands.

Bruce Burdick LaHey

Bruce died Dec. 17 at age 80. He was born Sept. 17, 1920, in Minot, N.D. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific. He moved in 1960 to Portland and was a printer and later a cartographer for the Forest Service in the RO until retiring in 1982. He moved in 1977 to Gaston. In 1953, he married Faith Smith. Survivors include his wife; son, Bruce D.; daughters, Sheryl F. Danielson and Sheryl V. McKay; and five grandchildren.

Robert Dean Miles

Robert died Sept 29 in John Day at age 53. He was born Jan 28, 1947 at Caldwell ID. He grew up in Vale and Burns and graduated from Oregon State in 1970. He married Mary Elaine Haynes Jan 1975 at Sublimity. He worked as a forest planner for 31 years on the Malheur NF. He was active in the Boy Scouts and Elks. He is survived by his wife Mary of John Day, daughters Heather Skiens of Beaverton and Katie Miles of John Day, son Kevin Miles in the Navy in IL, parents Junior and Ruth Miles of Vale, four sisters and a grandmother.

Francis R. Nelson, Jr.

Francis R. "Nels" Nelson Jr. died Aug. 2 at age 82. Nels was born April 4, 1918, in Manhattan, Mont. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He moved to Portland in 1948, and was an engineer and bridge inspector on the Mt Hood NF before retiring in 1972. In 1961, he married Clara Gauman; she died in 1999.

Survivors include his sons, Francis R. Nelson and Herbert Sturman; daughter, Emma J. Parnell; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Edward L. Peltier

Ed Peltier, 90, of Wenatchee, died Nov. 22, 2000. Ed had worked for the USFS in Philadelphia, PA, Milwaukee, WI, and on the Umatilla, Willamette, and Wenatchee NFs in Region 6. He served as Timber Staff on both the Willamette and Wenatchee NFs. He has spent his retirement in Wenatchee. Ed is survived by a son, Alec Peltier, of McLean, VA.

Clarence W. Richen

Clarence Richen, a retired leader in the region's forest industry, died unexpectedly Dec. 6, 2000. He was 88. Mr. Richen began his career with the Forest Service after graduating from OSC (now OSU) College of Forestry in 1935. He taught courses at the Forestry School for a few years. In 1942, he joined Crown Zellerbach as a forester, working his way up to vice president in charge of the company's forestland in the NW.

Clarence was a leader in the Society of American Foresters and the World Forestry Center. He was a strong supporter of the OSU College of Forestry throughout his life.

After retiring from C-Z in 1977, he was active in many ways. He chaired the Portland chapter of the National Alliance of Businessmen; board of directors of the Navajo Nation's forest products industry in Arizona, and kept an

(Continued on page 10)

In Memory*(Continued from page 9)*

interest in many other public service and charitable organizations. He was a charter member of The Friends of Clackamas Lake Historic Ranger Station.

Clarence had his own tree farm near Clatskanie and gave that very special personal attention. Mr. Richen married Grace Buck in 1940; she died in 1984. Her married Dorothy Kyle-Meintzer in 1985; she died in 1991. Survivors include his sons, Peter and Forrest "Woody"; daughter, Marilyn; step-daughter, Moira Cordova; nine grandchildren; and one great-grand.

We have included this obit in the newsletter because of the many friends that Clarence made with Forest Service people throughout his career.

Reunion Speech

By F. Dale Robertson

I would like to start by telling you a story about one of my heroes in the FS – Chief Ed Cliff. One day during my second summer of working for the FS, I came home from marking timber and picked up the Oregonian and there was a big headline: "Ed Cliff is the new Chief of the Forest Service." I remember being impressed that Chief Cliff was appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, the ex-Governor of Minnesota.

Due to a long story that I won't go into, I ended up in the Washington Office in 1962 as a GS-9 Management Analyst trainee. Here I was in Washington, D.C., at the bottom of the "totem pole" working as a "trainee" not knowing much about what I was doing. Well, as it turned out Chief Cliff lived in old town Alexandria and rode the bus to work. And, I lived in the "low rent" district just beyond Alexandria. As luck would have it, Ed and I rode the same bus to work and we occasionally sat together. One reason I have such a soft spot in my heart for Ed is that when we sat together on the bus, he never failed to put his brief case down

And talk with me. He told me a lot about the history of the FS and gave me his perspective on many of the issues that the FS was dealing with in those days.

After two years in Washington, D.C., I transferred to the NF's in Texas as an Assistant Ranger. On my last day, Chief Cliff came down to my office and spent 30 minutes telling me everything he know about the NF's in Texas. I am probably the only Assistant Ranger to ever have gotten direct, personal guidance from the Chief!

Well, 25 years later, I was trying to fill Ed's big shoes as Chief. And, one day I got a call from Orville Freeman, the Secretary who appointed Ed as Chief, and he wanted to take me to lunch. I later found out that what he really wanted was a Smokey Bear doll for his granddaughter. Over lunch, Orville talked a lot about Ed Cliff, and told me how he went about selecting Ed as Chief over the other contenders for the job. As a final step, he interviewed each of the candidates for the Chief's job and asked them to write a 2-page essay on their vision of the future of the FS. He said that he was so impressed with Ed's interview and write-up because Ed came across as a "MAN OF THE LAND" and just fit his image of what he thought the FS should be all about. Secretary Freeman said those impressions were the deciding factors in appointing Ed Cliff as Chief of the FS.

I tell you this story because Ed Cliff, as I knew him and as many of you knew him as well, really did represent the "HEART, SOUL AND CONSCIENCE" of the Forest Service. Unlike today's diversified FS, there was a great deal of convergence in the thinking and values held by the field people and their leaders.

Many of my fond memories of the FS, go back to those days that Ed was Chief. There was a general political consensus over how the NF's should be managed and the FS was well-respected, trusted, and looked to for conservation leadership. Supervisors and Rangers had more

flexibility to work things out with local communities and make decisions based on their experience and professional judgment without a lot of detail planning documents and paper work. To me, those were the "good old days" in the FS!

BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

As always, the FS changes with the times, as it should, to reflect the changing needs and new priorities. To illustrate how thinking in the FS has changed over time, I would like to just briefly talk about the roadless area issue – a hot topic today which had its roots in the Ed Cliff era!

The "FIRST ROADLESS AREA REVIEW" was initiated by Chief Cliff in about 1971. I know that he and Deputy Chief Ed Schultz, were concerned over the controversies that kept popping up in various locations throughout the NF's over timber sales infringing on large roadless areas. The idea at that time was that the FS would deal with this issue by inventorying all roadless areas more than 5000 acres and decide which ones should be protected until Congress could get around to considering Wilderness. **AND THE REST OF THE ROADLESS COUNTRY WOULD BE FREED UP FOR MULTIPLE USE MANAGAEMENT WITHOUT BEING COMPLICATED BY FUTURE CONSIDERATION FOR WILDERNESS.** Well, that was probably one of the biggest "miscalculations" of all time in the FS. I think both Ed Cliff and Ed Schultz would probably turn over in their graves, if they knew that (1) those temporary roadless area boundary lines are still on the map 30 years later and (2) the current Administration and Chief are seriously considering designating all of them roadless in one "big decision" in Washington, D.C. This proposal and how it is being handled goes against the grain of our Heritage of the FS!

THE PATH TOWARD A MORE REGIMENTED AND FORMALIZED FOREST SERVICE

Another event that I think is important in the history of the FS is the passage of NEPA by Congress in 1969. NEPA required land management decisions to be formalized in environmental documents

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

prepared by interdisciplinary teams and subjected to formalized public involvement processes. As much good as NEPA has done, and I don't want to underrate that, I believe it did start the FS down the path toward formality and regimentation in terms of the procedures by which the FS gets its work done.

At this point, I would like to add another Ed Cliff story. Sometime in the late 1960's, I had the opportunity to do some staff work for the Chief on how the FS would implement the recommendation of the PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT. I vividly remember when I finished my presentation, Chief Cliff gave my boss, Russ Cloninger, and me a little lecture. He said "this involves way too much regimentation of the FS and would limit flexibility of the field to work with local people in managing the NF's." So I went back and completely rewrote the paper to reflect Chief Cliff's philosophy. And, that lecture always stuck in my mind. Well, let me tell you something, what we were talking about in those days is nothing compared to the situation today!

And NEPA was just the start down this path. It has been re-enforced by many other environmental laws like the RPA and the NF Management Act – and further complicated by interpretations by the Judges of the land. All of these laws have required more formality and the consideration of issues in ever-widening circles and at an ever-higher context. So, it should be no surprise to us that the FS is losing some of its heritage of being an informal, friendly, personable agency responsive to the needs of the local people. More issues than ever before are being highlighted and decided at higher levels with all kinds of people outside the FS getting involved and influencing the outcome. For example, today, the habitat requirements for endangered species are a DOMINANT USE of the NF's and the local Ranger may have little to say about how that affects the management of their District.

Due to the breakdown in the POLITICAL CONSENSUS over how the NF's are to be managed along with the overly compli-

cated planning and decision-making process, I think the "PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE" today in the FS, is toward non-management of the NF's. It takes extra-ordinary commitment, time, and energy to see any kind of development-type project through to completion. As a result, I think the FS has become much more of a "PLANNING AGENCY" and less of the 'CAN DO, ACTION ORIENTED AGENCY" that is an important part of our heritage. Until the current planning deadlock is broken, I believe natural resource management will be strangled and the FS will continue to have serious budget problems. I think the FS is in a deep hole, budget-wise, and I don't see them getting out of it until they can produce more tangible benefits beyond just planning documents and paperwork.

THE FUTURE OF THE FOREST SERVICE However, over the long-term, I'm more optimistic about the future of the FS. I say this because the NF's are simply too big and important to ignore. Even though the NF's represent only about 9% of the land area, their importance is far greater than in terms of the Nation's natural resources. How well these lands are managed over the long term has a lot to do with the overall environmental and economic well being of the American people. The FS heritage has been to use the concept of "SUSTAINABLE MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT", which has now been updated to more clearly recognize ecological values, as the best way to balance the management of the NF's and maximize their benefits to the American people. Putting aside all of today's high-sounding rhetoric, I really don't see any reasonable, viable alternative to this general concept over the long term. Sooner or later, Canada will no longer be able or willing to bail us out on wood products. Sooner or later, OPEC will not be able to bail us out on oil while we IGNORE THE POTENTIAL of oil and gas on Federal lands. Sooner or later, we will not be able to tolerate letting the NF's become an economic burden to small, rural dependent communities. And finally, Mother Nature is now re-teaching us a

valuable lesson in the West, and especially Montana, that there is a huge price to pay in letting Nature manage the forest without the help of professional resource management. Doug Leisz's recent letter to the President did a great job of describing this problem in rather blunt, but realistic terms! I hope the political appointees in Washington and the FS are listening and receptive to Doug's message.

To paraphrase Gifford Pinchot, the success of the FS depends upon the understanding and support of the people, which is ultimately reflected through the political system. Or, to put it another way, the "STATE OF THE FS" to a large extent reflects the "STATE OF MIND" of the American people toward natural resources. The environmentalists and their high sounding and often dishonest, rhetoric are way off the mark. And, to some extent, so are the timber industry and related economic interests. The FS, as a professional organization, is in a very unique position and carries a heavy responsibility to paint a more balanced picture to the American people about the importance of natural resource management. With the current situation, I don't see any quick fix. It has to be a long-term, turn-around story. The more immediate question is what kind of picture is the FS now painting for the American people? Is it balanced, realistic, and building upon the rich heritage of the FS? Starting down the right path is what is important today! *F. Dale Robertson*

From the Mouths of Kids

Never trust a dog to watch your food.
When you want something expensive ask your grandparents.
Wear a hat when feeding seagulls.
Don't ever be too full for dessert.
Never try to baptize a cat.
When your dad is mad and asks you "Do I look stupid?", don't answer him.

Listen to your brain. It has a lot of information.

The Bungalow Cabin

By Chuck Peterson

In the early 1920's, there was a timber blow-down in the North Fork of the Clearwater River area in north central Idaho. It was extensive in size. To assist in the salvage the Forest Service built a cabin at a site called "Bungalow" for employee use. (We assume they used blow-down logs.) The down timber included White Pine that needed to be salvaged promptly to avoid blue stain damage. The cabin served as the Ranger's house at the Bungalow Ranger Station until sometime in the 1960's when the District was combined with the Canyon Ranger District.

A few years later the Powell Ranger Station near Lowell, ID, needed employee housing, so the Bungalow Cabin was disassembled to be moved there. Each cabin piece was numbered so it could be reassembled. The pieces were transported to the Powell RS, stacked on stringers and covered with plastic. About that same time, the Powell RS came into Regional priority for Forest Service housing dollars, and the cabin parts were never put back together at that site. They remained stored there for over 25 years.

Later, plans for the Nation Forest Service Museum in Missoula, MT, included reconstruction of the cabin on the site. That all came about in 2000 to be ready for the official site dedication in September 2000 during the 3rd National Reunion of Forest Service Retirees.

Through some engineering foul-up, the plans that came with the package had the dimensions of the needed foundation too small resulting in an incorrect foundation being poured. With limited funds and limited time at the museum site, the decision was made to move ahead with construction by cutting and fitting. With the cabins cement foundation too small, the wall logs had to be shortened slightly. New windows and rafters were provided, and also a new roof.

On Wednesday, September 6, 2000, on a cool misty day, key people, including three former Chiefs of the Forest Service (Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, Jack Ward Thomas) stood on the cabin porch and said good words about the Museum's progress and its future. Dollars were respectfully requested of the estimated 600 people in attendance. The current Chief, Mike Dombeck, gave the Museum a check for \$20,000. Forty-six of those attending pledged a total of \$36,000 that day. Food was served by the local Job Corps staff and other than the weather being cold and damp, all went well!

This is all about a small piece of wood I picked up on site as a memento of the occasion. Yes, it is White Pine and did come from one of the wall logs cut short to fit the new foundation. I have no idea what will happen to the wood piece in the future, but for now it is added to the collectibles that Florence and I have at our home in Oak Grove, OR.

No, I didn't take a piece of the "Million Year Old" rock the tour guide geologist pointed out to us on the field trip to the National Bison Range, and that he related to the Missoula floods dating back eons ago. Sorry about that! The Missoula floods and their impacts on the terrain in Oregon and Washington are very visible and are well documented in publications by Dr. J. H. Bretz.

Note: An important point that Chief Dombeck made during his speech was that it made sense for Missoula, MT to be the site of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Attendees felt this was significant because other Forest Service locations covet this honor.

Excerpts from R6-Update

(The Club receives the R6 employee newsletter through an agreement we have to share information. These are sent via e-mail thanks to Kathy Bowman)

National Fire Plan gears up

\$\$\$: In response to the fire season of 2000 and recent legislation appropriating **\$1.1 billion** in additional Forest Service funds, money is being allocated for fire-related projects and activities as follows:

- **\$484 million for fire preparedness;**
- **\$501 million for fire operations;**
- **\$50 million for State fire assistance;**
- **\$8 million for volunteer fire assistance; and**
- **\$59 million for cooperative programs.**

The plan contains both short and long term goals calling for action and funding in five key areas: Firefighting, rehabilitation and restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, community assistance, and accountability.

Fire Jobs: The Forest Service will hire approximately 3,500 new wildland firefighters over the next few months. Congress requires that these positions be available for assignment by June 1, 2001. Up to 1,000 of these new jobs will be permanent. The rest will be temporary or seasonal, lasting up to six months per year (mostly during the fire season). Most of the new jobs will be entry-level forestry aids or technician jobs assigned to fire-fighting positions, but some will be skilled professionals (up to GS-11). Additional information regarding the new firefighting jobs will be available on the Internet at www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs. The first-round deadline for applying is Jan 2, 2001.

R-6 will receive about \$9.1 million for improved fire facilities in FY2001. Projects selected by the WO for funding include a mix of \$5.3 million for Air Tanker Base improvements at Klamath Falls and Redmond, and funding for several other smaller projects on a variety of Forests.

(continued on page 13)

R6 Update (continued from page 12)**Fatality**

Duane Monte, Crescent RD, Deschutes National Forest and **Bob Tribble, Shoshone NF**, died in an ice climbing accident near Cody Wyoming this fall. Duane was an expert ice climber, who loved the sport. Keep Duane's colleagues at the Deschutes in your thoughts. For those who wish to send condolence cards and letters to **Marcy Monte and family**, the mailing address is 16250 Skyliner Road, Bend OR. 97701. (Courtesy of **Virginia Gibbons, Deschutes, Phil Cruz, and Becki Heath, Deschutes NF**)

Iron Goat Trail

Another milestone in the ongoing Iron Goat Trail (rails-to-trails) project on Skykomish Ranger District of Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF.

Completion of the Wellington Trailhead and three more miles of the eight-mile trail is the latest phase of an all-volunteer effort spearheaded by Volunteers for Outdoor Washington. Denny Bschor, Director of Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources, attended the event on behalf of Chief Mike Dombeck. Bschor told the crowd the work is an outstanding example of government-private partnering, and that it includes all the elements of success described in the agency's new National Recreation Strategy.

The trail, which follows the original route of the former Great Northern Railroad near Stevens Pass, goes through a 3,900-foot "snowshed" and passes by several tunnels and 23 interpretive signs. Plans are underway toward completion of a third trail access point and the final two miles of trail. Over the past eight years, more than 1,200 volunteers have contributed over 51,000 hours in planning, organizing, fund-raising and actual building of the trail. New features include a parking lot, toilet facilities and an information kiosk.

Deschutes Lava Caves

The lava caves on the Deschutes NF are being loved to death. With the population of the area on the rise, the Forest saw a need for restoring and protecting the natural settings of the cave entries and protecting the cave resources. The major caves involved are Boyd, Skeleton, Wind and Arnold, but lesser-used caves, Charcoal, Hidden Forest, Bat, Deg, and Charlie the Cave, are included in the project. The EA developed for implementing a plan of restoration was to be available in Dec. 2000. The plan was to specifically deal with vandalism and trash disposal. Planned relocation of parking area will be the most noticeable change.

Jack Ward Thomas Speech at Middle Fork RS Dedication on Willamette NF

My comments are directed at the Forest Service people in the audience. But, I trust they will be meaningful to all who are here today. That, most certainly, is my intent. This is a "great day in the morning!" Let me explain my exuberant statement.

My grandmother, all five feet of her, cared for me as a child and was one of the most important people in my life. She resolutely faced many adversities in her long life that would have crushed a lesser person. She was a person of faith.

No matter how tough things were, she would close the discussion - and the matter - with the exclamation that "It will be a great day in the morning!"

For her, it was a simple matter of faith that no matter how dark things looked, "that this too will pass away." She believed that most people were good at their core. She believed that good, in the end, would triumph over evil. She believed that tough times brought out the very best in most people. And, she believed (though I doubt that she ever heard of the philosopher Nietzsche) that trials and tribulations that did not kill you only made you stronger.

And, today - right here and right now - I can proclaim that she was right. This is the sort of day she had in mind when she forecast "a great day in the morning!"

No doubt this special day for those gathered here is, in every respect, "a great day in the morning!"

Almost four years ago to the day, I viewed the smoldering remains of your Ranger Station. Then, we spent several hours together discussing what had happened and what was to come. And, to be frank, I never saw a more "down" bunch of folks.

I told you that I was confident that, like the mythical Phoenix, a new and better Ranger District would arise from the ashes of the old. And, I was right.

I told you to have faith in your leaders. I told you that they would not rest until you were housed in new quarters. And, I was right. I told you to have confidence in your representatives in Congress to abhor and denounce what had happened and to provide, somehow, the funds to rebuild. And, I was right.

I told you to trust your community to come to your aid and support. And, I was right.

I told you that you would emerge from the ordeal stronger and better. And, I was right.

I told you that good would overcome evil. And, I was right. My 30 years as a Forest Service employee came to an end that same week. My visit with you was my last meeting with field staff. Upon return to Washington, my last day on the job was spent making phone calls to those who could help me keep my promises to you. Though I was confident in my statements, you must have wondered how I could make you promises that I would not be there to keep.

I so confidently made you those promises because I, simply, *knew*

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13) **Jack Ward Thomas Speech**

the people involved. I *knew* the stuff that you, individually and collectively, were made of. I *knew* the dedication, competence, and persistence of your leaders. I *knew* that Oregon had, and would have, a Congressional delegation that would do right by you. I *knew* the communities of which our Ranger Districts are integral part. And, I simply *knew* that all involved would do their part to assure the "great day in the morning!" that we celebrate today.

This is a proud day. When you see the flag of our Nation flying over the compound, remember that it represents the faith that all of those people have in you and what the Forest Service has been and is today. But, I am even more enthralled with what we can and will be.

When you see the green Forest Service flag fluttering below the Stars and Stripes, remember who you are. You come from proud stock. Those old hands had a saying - "We signed up to be tough" - and they were. And, so are you. You are a part of the greatest conservation organization that the world has yet seen - and don't you forget it. That was true in the past. It is true today. And, it will be true tomorrow.

Yet, these are tough times for Forest Service people and, in many cases, for the communities of which we are part. It is a time of transition - and such is never easy. There is much division in the Nation over how and for what our National Forests should be managed.

You are not responsible for that division. But, you must live, and do the best you can, even when it appears that swirling controversies will never cease. But, I tell you now that there will be, somehow and some day, another "great day in the morning!" That day will come when, weary of combat and controversy, those in power will heed the ancient advice to "Come, let us reason together." Surely, our elected officials will, when the time is ripe and most have sickened of conflict that has gone on too long, reconcile conflicting laws and regulations and set out a clear mission to replace the confusion of the moment.

Until then, you must simply remain true to your calling and do the very best you can, as you and your predecessors have always done and as your successors will do in turn - every single day. In an interview awhile back, a journalist asked me to evaluate my tenure as Chief of the Forest Service. I thought about it for a minute or so and replied that "at the end of every day, I looked into the mirror and asked myself, 'did you do the best you could today?' I always answered 'yes.' I will leave it to others to sort out the results." In a time of confusion, I recommend that philosophy as a means to offset the cacophony and confusion that emanates from unresolved conflict.

I have said elsewhere that "There is no greater calling than the husbandry of the good earth. There is no greater contribution than to have helped God's creatures. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well."

That calling, contribution, and satisfaction is, I suggest, among your greatest treasures. You do not have the curse of living out small lives in quiet desperation. You have a calling, you make contributions toward achievement of a worthy dream, and you do

it well.

There is no doubt that we, as all creatures, must exploit our environment in order to live. There can be no argument about that. The unending challenge is to assure that renewable natural resources are used and husbanded in a sustainable fashion. That, over the centuries, will be the most important task that our kind will face - husbandry of the good earth.

There will never be complete understanding and no final answers as the ecosystems of which we are part are not only more complex than we think. They are more complex than we can think. It is well, then, to apply the "precautionary principle" of allowing margin for error in our ongoing experiments in management.

And, those involved in the management of the public's lands will always be at the forefront of that evolving experiments in management. We must learn from the results and be ready to alter course in the light of new knowledge. That, surely, is not an easy role to play. But it may be among the most significant of all human endeavors in the long term.

Know who you are. Know how important what you do is - for your fellow citizens and for the good earth. Accept the controversy as proof of the significance of what you do. Keep the faith. And, know this, there will be other "great days in the morning!" and, largely, they will come because of steadfast people like you. I will always be grateful to have been able to stand with you in tragedy, in promise and faith, and in the resurrection of your working home, bigger and better, from the ashes of the old.

Thank you for according me the honor and privilege of being with you in the darkness of hurt, rage, fear and disappointment - and in the celebration of the bright light of a new beginning made possible by the support of the people of this great nation that we serve.

This is, indeed, one of those "great days in the morning."

Super Granny

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle.

She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at them at the top of her voice, "I have a gun and I know how to use it! Get out of the car, you scumbags!"

The four men didn't wait for a second invitation but got out and ran like mad, whereupon the lady, somewhat shaken, proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and get into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition.

She tried and tried and then it dawned on her why. A few minutes later she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down the lot. She loaded her bags into her car and drove to the police station.

The sergeant to whom she told the story nearly tore himself in two with laughter and pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale white males were reporting a car jacking by a mad elderly woman described as white, less than 5 feet tall, glasses, and curly white hair carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed. Aaah, senior moments!

Nat'l. Assoc. of Forest Service Retirees

The Club feels an obligation to provide each of you with information in regard to the newly formed National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR). This association was formed as a political action organization for Forest Service Retirees. The Regional social retirees organizations did not seem to be the right place for this kind of activity. Following is a letter sent out last fall by Doug Leisz that was received by many with e-mail or had signed up to receive further information at Missoula. Of course we have not included the attachments he sent. If you wish that information you must contact Doug Liesz by e-mail or by USmail.

“Attached find the Charter, Operational Considerations, and Statement of Principles for our new "National Association of

Forest Service Retirees." This is the product of earlier drafts and contributions from many of you. All of the contributions were thoughtful, constructive, and considered in producing the final Charter. Where there were conflicting suggestions, we tried to discriminate in favor of clarity of thought and what seemed most workable in operations, The Charter can be revised as our experience dictates the need. Our intention is to pursue non-profit status, but this will have to wait for future action.

We need financial resources to get started. Regular membership dues are \$35 per year, and whatever more you wish to contribute. I'm sending this to all that indicated an interest at the Missoula reunion and have email addresses. Our hope is to recruit thousands of members, but that will take time and finances.

I'm asking you to be among the first to join. Please send your check made payable to the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) to our Treasurer, John Combes, 13401 Point Pleasant Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151-2449. These dues will carry you through the year 2001. With your timely contribution we can start a more general membership drive. Please join us in this effort!"

National Museum of Forest Service History

Below is an application for membership that you can clip and mail to the Missoula address shown. If you want more information about the Museum before you decide to join, you can write to the same address shown . Bob Tokarczyk is a Director representing the Pacific Northwest.. Gary Brown is the President. You can also go to the museum website for more info. at www.nfs-museum.org

National Museum of Forest Service History
P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, MT 59806-2772

Membership Application

Sign me up! And send me the National Museum of Forest Service History *Newsletter*, my membership card and other information about this effort to preserve an important part of our nation's history.

I enclose a check for \$_____to cover my membership in the following category:

- Individual \$20 per year____
- Family \$45 per year____
- Contributing \$100 per year____
- Sustaining \$250 per year____
- Lifetime \$500 one time payment____

I want to do more. Here is my tax deductible gift of \$_____to help get the museum building underway.

Name _____

(Please print)

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Forest Service
30 Year Club
Newsletter

PO Box 5583
Portland, OR 97228-5583

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Winter 2001

Join us for lunch

- Last Friday every month--
Beaverton Elks 11:00 AM

Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows 2000, your dues are paid through 12/31/00

Area Representatives

Regional Office: Dave Kolb
Colville: Kermit Link
Deschutes: Earl Nichols
Fremont: Ernest Price
Gifford-Pinchot: Stanley Rapp
Malheur: Charles Mills
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie: Vacant
Mt. Hood: Doug Porter
Ochoco: Donald H. James
Okanogan: Vacant
Olympic: Dave Yates
Rogue River: Ron Ketchum
Siskiyou: Ron McCormick
Siuslaw: Ted Gump
Umatilla: Herb Rudolph
Umpqua: Dick Schwartzlender
Wallowa-Whitman: Bill Fessel
Wenatchee: Kjell Bakke
Willamette: Al Sorseth
Winema: Ted Yarosh

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Archivist: Phil Hirl
Secretary: Bev Pratt
Newsletter Editor: Wendall Jones
Treasurer/Data Base Mgr: Vern Clapp
Membership: Doug Porter
Past President: Dave Jay
Banquet: Fred & Cherie Cooper
Reunion 2005: Bob Williams

Coming Events

Spring Banquet May 6

Club Picnic August 17

Mark these on your calendar

Food for Thought

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand.

I am in shape. Round is a shape

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true.

In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

Newsletters are generally sent out about the 20th of January, March, June, and September. Address changes should reach us by the 1st of those months.