



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Spring 2009

President's Message—John Nesbitt

I wish to thank all OldSmokeys for allowing me to be your president the last one and one-half years. As **John Poppino** told me when I was elected President Elect, “*Don’t worry about being the President, this outfit runs itself. Good ideas surface, the Board argues, everyone is heard, and the right decision is made.*” It has been a real pleasure serving you, and I know we all look forward to **Bruce Hendrickson**’s time in the chair starting in May.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming and important OldSmokeys events. On May 17 we will hold the Annual Meeting and Banquet, and on August 14 we will celebrate our summer picnic. The times and details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, there will be a national U.S. Forest Service reunion in Missoula, Montana, in September. Many OldSmokeys are planning to attend, so there will be lots of opportunities for car pooling, or maybe even hiring a bus. As with the banquet and picnic, more details can be found in this newsletter.

Our Board wants all of you to know how much we appreciate those who have produced our two latest books. Thanks for the first, an anthology of personal stories about Forest Service life in Oregon and Washington from 1905 to 2005 entitled *We Had An Objective in Mind* published by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA) itself in 2005, go to a host of OldSmokeys led by **Rolf Anderson**. The second, a history of the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest authored by **Jerry Williams** under a participating agreement between the PNWFSA and the Pacific Northwest Region, is expected to be published by Oregon State University Press sometime this fall. A team of OldSmokeys has had a major hand in that job, too. You’ll want to watch future issues of this newsletter for details of this forthcoming book.

On March 1st of this year, I retired from my position as priest of Saint David of Wales Episcopal Church. I tell you this because **Elly** and I are soon going on sabbatical to Scotland and Spain, so I will not be at the April meeting of the PNWFSA Board of Directors. But we will see you at the Spring Banquet in May.

Thank you for being a part of our outfit.

John Nesbitt

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

Remember to Sign Up for the Spring Banquet on May 17!

Forum

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is a Great Opportunity for the U.S. Forest Service

Sometimes hard times bring good times. At this hard time for America's economy, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed into law on February 17 presents the U.S. Forest Service its greatest opportunity since the Great Depression and Civilian Conservation Corps days of the 1930s to help bring good times—or, at least, better times—to the Forest Service, the National Forest System, communities and individuals.

In the words of Chief of the Forest Service Gail Kimbell, the Forest Service “will have an incredible opportunity to contribute to this historic national effort [of economic recovery] by providing jobs to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire to communities and forests across the landscape, improve forest health and move the nation closer to energy independence through the use of woody biomass.”

To get a jump on this process, Chief Kimbell on February 11—a week before President Obama signed ARRA—directed the Forest Service at all levels to prepare to move quickly to meet the challenge of meeting the legislation's short-term and long-term objectives in ways that benefit the National Forest System and its citizen-owners. As directed, the regions, forests, and stations are moving fast to identify projects that meet the legislation's criteria. From way out here in the Pacific Northwest, it looks like an early start up the right trail.

OldSmokeys—as members of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and also as individuals—can and should—through constructive support and comment as well as volunteer service—help their successors keep on that upward trail toward maximizing the benefits of this incredible opportunity.

-- Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service Must Prove Itself a Part of President Obama's “Government that Works” for America

“All indications are that the Forest Service will be playing a key role in America's economic recovery,” Chief of the Forest Service Gail Kimbell observed early in February. “We're moving now to demonstrate how the Forest Service can be an important part of our new President's emphasis on economic recovery and having a ‘government that works’ for America,” she said. “This is the time for us to show that the Forest Service is an organization ‘that works.’”

And just how does today's Forest Service *show* the citizen-owners of the National Forest System as well as President Obama's administration that it is an organization *that works*? By the leadership from the Washington Office down the chain of command to the ranger districts getting *real work* done on the ground in a visible way, that's how. Why? Because it's out there on the ground on the national forests that the Forest Service must show the citizen-owners that it is an organization “that works.” To do that, it's going to have to get out of the offices and away from the computers and into the woods to be seen looking like and acting like a Forest Service “that works” for those citizen-owners.

And to do that, the Forest Service at all levels will have to make conscientious and consistent efforts to be seen “caring for the land and serving people” by planning and doing its work on the national forests in appropriately visible ways with credible visible results. That's something visitor comments to the effect they “don't see rangers in the forest anymore” indicate hasn't been done so well recently. Too often the “rangers” they do see are selling them tickets or writing them tickets. Too often the “rangers” they should see they don't see because they aren't visible as such.

Nothing could do more “to show that the Forest Service is an organization ‘that works’” than for the people it serves to see capable Forest Service personnel doing the hard work needed to improve the national forests as it helps with the hard work of America's economic recovery. The good planning and good leadership that can make this happen will appropriately embrace the Forest Service uniform and National Forest System sign programs essential to ensure putting the Forest Service brand on the work that is done.

“It's showtime!” as they say. And a show requires some showmanship. The stage is America's great National Forest System. And it's on that stage the Forest Service must play its role as an organization “that works.”

-- Les Joslin

This section 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*

The Historic Santiam Wagon Road: After 140 Years, a Lost Cause?

I am disappointed that the three ranger districts and two national forests responsible for preservation of the historic Santiam Wagon Road (SWR) under the law just can't seem to work together.

This has apparently been the case for a long, long time because management of the historic 1868 route over the Cascades seems to be casehardened into three distinctly different wagon road paradigms. On the west, the Sweet Home Ranger District should be providing the preservation lead since it has the working model of a preserved SWR on which the public can really experience old wagon road travel. This is the part of the road from the Mountain House to Fish Lake and features a conjunctive use of the road that contributes to its preservation. At the other extreme, the McKenzie River Ranger District seems to be a candidate for a lawsuit for violating the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA). They have finally achieved their plan to keep the SWR open to ATV/dirt bike mayhem for almost four miles over the Santiam Pass. Money is involved in the form of disbursements from the OHV gas tax refund account managed by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation. Of course, the roadbed is shredded and its historic appearance ruined for anyone who ventures along it. Not many do. The Sisters Ranger District has not done much with its section of the old road. I think the district's heart is in the right place, but the adjacent mess on the McKenzie River Ranger District segment separates them geographically from the model of the SWR they should emulate.

We can now hope the pending National Register of Historic Places nomination and designation of the old road will cause these two national forests and three ranger districts to come together in a management mode that will allow the abused segments of the SWR to heal. If they can ever get their act together they will have a very rare example of an early wagon road that with great difficulty crossed a major mountain range that can be walked or ridden (think horse) from one end to the other. Most of the other famous pioneer roads, like the Oregon Trail, Barlow Road, and Oregon Central Military Road have been picked to pieces with only examples here and there of what used to be.

A surprising opponent of SWR preservation has turned out to be Oregon's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in the Department of Parks and Recreation. Those who would preserve the SWR were counting on them. My experience with SHPOs in the Southwest indicated that Oregon's SHPO would step forward to protect this heritage resource. One verbal and written statement by Oregon's deputy SHPO remains burned into my mind: "The wagon road has been destroyed [by ATVs and dirt bikes] and has no historic values left. Therefore, there can be no adverse effect by [the proposed Santiam Pass motorized recreation plan]." He said, in so many words, "they destroyed it, so we might as well give it to them."

My view and that of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council is that the ATVs and dirt bikes have severely damaged the historic SWR, as have cattle and sheep drives, logging, military exercises, etc., on other sections of the old road in the past, but if the damaging agent is removed the road will heal in time as it has in the past. However, time has proved that if the damaging agent is removed the road will heal in time.

-- Richard Spray

OldSmokey Dick Spray wrote about the troubled effort to preserve the SWR in "The Historic Santiam Wagon Road: After 138 Years, a Conundrum?" on this page in the Winter 2007 issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Tempus Fugit! Your Editor Begins His Fourth Year

It doesn't seem three years ago that I sat down at my computer and contemplated my fate as the new editor of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in a brief editorial briefly entitled "A New Editor." But it has been. "Tempus fugit!" as the Romans used to say. "Time flies when you're having fun," as we put it. With a dozen issues comprising almost 240 pages I hope have been both worth your time and the few trees sacrificed for the paper on which to print them under my belt, I find myself starting my fourth year as a now not-so-new editor putting the finishing touches on the 13th issue I will have banged out on my computer.

Those have been good years for me. I always wanted to be a small-town newspaper editor using the bully pulpit of the press to inform readers and pursue good causes. We as OldSmokeys have a particularly good cause: the heritage and future of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System. I appreciate the editorial freedom I have been accorded to publish a newsletter I hope you find as pleasing to read as I find it pleasing to edit. I hope I am printing what you need and want to read, and if I am not that you will let me know and send in what you think you and other OldSmokeys need and want to read. After all, it's your newsletter.

I appreciate the orientation **Wendall Jones** gave me when I relieved him of this job, and the advice that continues. I appreciate the support and regular contributions of the president and the several members of the PNWFSA Board of Directors as well as other OldSmokeys who supply regular as well as occasional content for these pages. I appreciate the wise counsel of **John Marker** who helps me do the right thing. And I especially appreciate the assistance of my wife **Pat** and brilliant daughters **Amy** and **Wendy** who have made and continue to make sure I'm doing the right thing on the technical end of this job.

I appreciate, also, that there's an OldSmokey out there somewhere who's looking forward to taking this great job over from me, to breath new life and needed change into this quarterly when both it and I will need both. I don't know who he or she is yet, but I wouldn't mind if he or she were to drop me a line and let me know.

-- Les Joslin

OldSmokeys News

OldSmokey Robbie Robertson to Relieve Vern Clapp as PNWFSA Data Base Manager in Early 2010

OldSmokey **John “Robbie” Robertson** has stepped up to take over the PNWFSA Data Base Manager position from OldSmokey **Vern Clapp**, who plans “to carry on as the Treasurer and E-mail Editor for at least another year.”

“We plan to make the changeover slow and easy, completing it in about a year,” Vern said.

Robbie has the background for the job. A forester who served 24 years in the U.S. Forest Service between 1950 and 1980, he worked on several districts on the Willamette National Forest, on the Hood River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest, and then in the Willamette SO before serving in the RO in Portland. He was a computer and data base pioneer of sorts in the Outfit. “I began designing data base systems in the late ‘60s when I was the TMA on the Hood River Ranger District,” he told Vern in late December. “I moved from being the regional silviculturist in Timber Management [at the RO] into Operations as a computer systems analyst in the early ‘70s. I designed and administered the first real data base system for the Forest Service, the Total Resource Information (TRI) system. When microcomputers were created, I built my own single board computer from chips and programmed it in machine language.”

After those 24 years in the Forest Service, Robbie joined Tektronix in Portland where he consulted in data base design and development and started developing microcomputer data base systems. He left Tektronix to become information resource manager for the Western Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There he developed data base systems for small computers using several data base software packages. After retiring from the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989, he worked as an independent consultant. He still supports several clients, but turned his hardware and network support business over to his son a year ago.

Robbie read about the PNWFSA’s need for a data base manager in the Winter 2008 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys Debra Warren, Carol Ivey Step Up to Relieve Secretary Bev Pratt and Treasurer Vern Clapp

Close on the heels of OldSmokey **Robbie Robertson**, OldSmokeys **Debra Warren** and **Carol Ivey** have, in President-elect **Bruce Hendrickson’s** words, “agreed to begin understudying current board members **Bev Pratt** and **Vern Clapp**” to eventually relieve these long-serving stalwarts in the PNWFSA secretary and treasurer jobs, respectively.

Debra, who lives in Portland, started her Forest Service career with the Pacific Northwest Research Station in 1969. She is still working in the Economics program and plans to retire in

about three years. She’s authored “Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries,” since 1985. She considers her greatest accomplishment to be her 25-year-old son, Luke, who resides in the Portland area also. Debra enjoys spending time traveling and sewing. She’s made over 100 quilts and has sold many of them. She looks forward to getting better acquainted with the OldSmokeys!

Carol, who lives in Woodburn, Oregon, retired in 2005 after 39 years in the Forest Service. The first 34 years were in Region 6, with six years in timber resources on the Siuslaw, Rogue River, and Gifford Pinchot national forests; six years in timber management on the Gifford Pinchot and in the RO; and 22 years in the RO PD&B Budget Execution Staff. The last five years were in the WO PD&B Budget Execution Staff dealing with the national fire budget.

“Number\$, number\$, and still more number\$,” Carol wrote. “Volunteering to take over the OldSmokeys’ treasurer position from Vern just seems to be a logical thing for me to do.”

OldSmokey Fiscal Health Reflected in PNWFSA Financial Report for 2008

OldSmokey **Vern Clapp**, PNWFSA treasurer almost since old Smokey himself was a cub, submitted a PNWFSA Financial Report for 2008 to the Board of Directors on January 23 that Board member **John Marker** characterized as a “comforting account of our finances.”

As usual, the condensed components of this report, a Statement of Revenue and Expenses and a Statement of Assets and Liabilities, both as of December 31, 2008, will be published in the Summer 2009 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

“The year 2008 was a fairly uneventful financial year for PNWFSA, with no major income or expense changes,” according to Vern. “We ended up in the black.”

Among items of note, Vern pointed out that newsletter and directory printing and mailing costs, the PNWFSA’s “single greatest expense,” decreased in 2008 “despite the fact that printing and mailing costs have risen.” The \$8,874 this cost us in 2008 was \$462 less than in 2007. “The reason is we now have 175 members who have volunteered to forgo receiving printed directory and newsletters,” Vern emphasized. These members receive these publications online instead of through the U.S. Mail. “This savings should increase next year.”

With regard to PNWFSA’s market gains of \$872 and losses of \$1,977, John pointed out that “while we have paper market losses, our investments are about as safe as possible in the [nation’s current] volatile financial situation.”

“You have done a fine job, in my opinion, of protecting PNWFSA’s interests,” John said of Vern’s service as PNWFSA Treasurer.

OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods is Scheduled for Friday, August 14

OldSmokeys will gather for their annual summer picnic at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 14, at the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and

Zigzag, Oregon, according to OldSmokey **Rich Larson** who has assumed chairmanship of the picnic effort.

For just \$25.00 per person OldSmokeys will enjoy an outstanding lunch catered by Dave Dalton as they catch up with old friends and meet new members.

Complete details, along with a registration form, will be published in the July issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* that will arrive in your mail box or on your computer about July 15.

Put this date on your calendar!

OldSmokey Jack Smith Weds at 95

Wedding bells rang on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2009, for OldSmokey **Jack Smith**, 95, and his bride Grace, 57, reported his grandson, Pastor Nathan Han, who performed the ceremony.

"Jack was married to my grandmother, Ruth Smith, for 68 years," Pastor Han said. "They went steady for three years before they married, so they were together a total of 71 wonderful years. She passed away in 2007."

"My grandfather told me that he doesn't expect to repeat his previous feat of 71 years for this relationship," Pastor Han continued, "but I certainly think he's going to give her a run for her money."

Jack is one of the PNWFSA's more senior members. A strong OldSmokey supporter over the years, he seldom misses a meeting. Congratulations, Jack and Grace!

OldSmokeys Schedule Work Week at Historic Fish Lake Remount Station

The fourth annual OldSmokey work week at historic Fish Lake Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest has been scheduled for June 15 through 19, 2009, according to OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**. As before, the project will be supported by the McKenzie River Ranger District.

"Last year's turnout was terrific, and they are happy to welcome an even larger group this year, Mike said. "A lot was accomplished, and we had a good time. But more work remains to stabilize, maintain, and save the historic structures that make up the station."

"Jim Denny, long term 'curator' of the station, will be on hand to organize and guide the effort. Come for the week or just a day. The district supplies the tools and materials, opens the bunkhouse for overnights, and provides electric and sewer hookups for RVs."

Those planning to participate should contact Mike at <makerrick@q.com> to get on the mailing list, and District Ranger Mary Allison at <malison@fs.fed.us> or Kathy Harbick at <kharbick@fs.fed.us> to let them know they plan to use the bunkhouse.

"I look forward to a good turnout this year," Mike said.

Editor's Note: Historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot is featured in this issue's Uncle Sam's Cabins section on page 18.

**OldSmokeys Get Out
and Get It Done!**



"Where Do We Go From Here" is Theme

OldSmokeys Go to Missoula in September for U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2009

September will find OldSmokeys from all over the Pacific Northwest and the rest of the country heading for Missoula, Montana, for the week-long U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2009 to be held September 7 through 11 at the Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center in Region 1's beautiful home city.

So mark your calendars and make your plans now to be part of what promises to be an event to remember!

The Reunion

Throughout the Reunion week, this national celebration will feature program activities including educational speakers, tours designed for fun and relaxation, banquets, breakout sessions, awards presentations, and meetings with the Forest Service Leadership Team.

The six-day celebration will begin on Sunday with an historic tour to Grant Kohrs Historic Ranch and the Old State Prison. Monday will usher in the Nifty Fifties Main Street's classic car show and a social with live music and hors d'oeuvres. Participants can also stroll through the Silent Auction, shop at the Reunion Store, and visit the arena of Exhibitor Tables during their leisure time. Tuesday tours will feature hunting for ghosts at Garnett ghost town, taking a raft trip down the Clark Fork River, and dining leisurely aboard the riverboat cruise on Flathead Lake. There are a dozen tours to choose from—including such Forest Service favorites as the Smoke Jumper Visitor Center, the National Museum of Forest Service History, and the historic Ninemile Ranger Station and Remount Depot. So, whatever suits you, it's guaranteed you'll enjoy a wide variety of activities.

Like other Forest Service reunions before it, this Forest Service Reunion 2009 will bring together a wide range of folks from all walks of life and many professions. Participants young and old will frequently "run into somebody" they know from years gone by and catch up on their lives and on happenings on national forests and at research stations throughout the country. Camaraderie plays a key role in reunion activities and attendee enjoyment.

The Accommodations

The luxurious Hilton Garden Inn & Conference Center at 3720 N. Reserve Street in Missoula is conveniently located within minutes of downtown Missoula and Missoula International Airport. All activities, meetings, and tours are being structured to and from this facility to enhance participants' experiences. The Hilton has just the right blend of American West charm and technological comforts to assure a delightful stay.

Other nearby accommodations and facilities for parking recreation vehicles are being scouted by the Reunion 2009 steering committee.

Additional Information

Additional information about Reunion 2009 is available now from the web site at www.2009forestservicereunion.net and will be published in the Summer 2009 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Co-sponsors of Reunion 2009 are the

National Museum of Forest Service History, the Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association, and the National Smokejumper Association.

Prepared from information supplied by Dianne Mullins, Public Relations Chair, U.S. Forest Service Reunion 2009, and the Reunion Web site.

OldSmokey Les Joslin Reports Historic Elk Lake Guard Station PIT Project Volunteer Schedule Full

Sixteen volunteer information and interpretive specialists have been recruited through the U.S. Forest Service's popular Passport in Time (PIT) project to staff Historic Elk Lake Guard Station on the Deschutes National Forest for 13 weeks this summer, according to OldSmokey **Les Joslin**, volunteer coordinator of the historic station restoration and utilization project he kicked off a dozen years ago.

Those uniformed representatives of the Forest Service will operate the station daily—for 91 eight-hour days—from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from Tuesday, June 16, through Monday, September 15, during its eighth consecutive year of season-long service. Historic Elk Lake Guard Station, restored by Forest Service personnel and PIT volunteers between 1998 and 2001, is the only Deschutes National Forest visitor contact and service point along the popular Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway. It served almost 5,000 visitors last summer.

"This is the first time I've filled the volunteer roster before the end of January," Les said. This year's volunteers come from Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Alberta, Canada, as well as the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon and Washington.

OldSmokeys Being Recruited Now for "High Desert Ranger Station" Service

A few OldSmokeys have already stepped forward to serve as volunteer interpreters at the beautifully-restored "High Desert Ranger Station" at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, this summer.

These OldSmokeys will sign on as High Desert Museum volunteers and be posted on the front porch of this historic district ranger's office to tell visitors of the ranger's job and the roles of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System in western American lifeways. They'll also throw in a wildland and wildland-urban interface fire prevention message.

Forest Service "Retiree" polo shirts worn with blue jeans, Forest Service belt and buckle, boots, and regulation hat of choice will help visitors identify the interpreter.

You've read about this OldSmokey-sponsored project in previous issues of the *OldSmokey Newsletter* and in an *OldSmokey E-Note*. This is an opportunity to be a part of it!

While this volunteer opportunity is a natural for OldSmokeys who live in Central Oregon, others are more than welcome. OldSmokeys interested in this project may contact OldSmokey **Les Joslin** by telephone at 541-330-0331, email at <lesjoslin@aol.com>, or letter mailed to him at 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

OldSmokey Jerry Williams' Book *The Forest Service: Fighting for Public Lands Reviewed in Environmental History*

"As the U.S. Forest Service enters its second era of custodial management, one largely dedicated to fighting wildfires with some underfunded land management activities making up the other 52 percent of its ever-shrinking budget, the publication of *The Forest Service: Fighting for Public Lands* comes at an interesting and opportune time."

So wrote James G. Lewis of OldSmokey **Jerry Williams'** 2007 book in the October 2008 issue of the quarterly *Environmental History* published jointly by the Forest History Society and the American Society for Environmental History. Lewis is Forest History Society staff historian.

Lewis found Jerry's contribution "a useful reference book that will effectively instruct a general audience as well as one in the classroom. Perhaps more important, given the Forest Service's current dilemma, he concluded that those "undertaking a study of federal land management policy and law [including, presumably, those tasked to deal with that dilemma] would benefit greatly from reading this text, particularly to appreciate the Sisyphean efforts of an agency beginning its second century of operation."

Editor's Note: Jerry's book, published by the Greenwood Publishing Group of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as part of its Understanding our Government series, was reviewed in the Spring 2007 issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Canada to Mexico, Again!

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Continues 2,700-Mile Continental Divide Trail Trek

OldSmokey **Jon Stewart**, whose 2003-2006 trek from Canada to Mexico on the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) was reported in the Winter 2007 issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and whose summer 2007 first 850 miles on the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) from Canada to Mexico were reported in the Fall 2007 issue, is scheduled to complete his second Canada-to-Mexico walk this summer.

Last summer, Jon walked an arduous 1,400 miles from Rawlins, Wyoming, through Colorado and New Mexico to Antelope Wells on the Mexican border. This leaves him only about 450 miles of Wyoming—from Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park to Rawlins, Wyoming—left to go this summer to complete the entire CDT.

"The CDT is not the PCT," Jon says. "The CDT isn't well planned or constructed like the PCT, but instead a half-heartedly glued-together route of whatever horse path, jeep track, or cow trail happens to wander in the right direction. It lacks a strong non-profit organization to support it, so as federal budgets decline finding the trail using guidebooks and maps becomes more and more a challenge." But, as Jon attests, the trek has its rewards.

Jon promises to share those rewards in a future issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* as soon as possible after he finishes those last 450 miles.

Forest Service News

President Barack Obama Signs the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, U.S. Forest Service Moves to Implement

President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) into law on February 13.

Approved by the 111th U.S. Congress a few days before, this \$787 billion economic recovery plan included about \$1.15 billion for the U.S. Forest Service to use for capital improvement and maintenance (roads, trails, facilities, abandoned mines), watershed restoration, and hazardous fuels reduction projects (on federal, state, and private land). Up to \$50 million of that may be used to make competitive grants for increased use of biomass from federal and non-federal forested lands.

The Forest Service moved quickly to identify projects that meet the legislation's criteria of creating and retaining jobs that help sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands. The Act required federal agencies to submit a spending plan within 30 days of the bill being signed into law, including a list of projects that could be under way within seven days of enactment. Chief of the Forest Service Gail Kimbell asked each of the Regions to submit a list of priority projects to the WO by February 20.

"The Outfit hasn't had an opportunity like this since the Great Depression and CCC days," OldSmokey **John Marker** commented. Your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* will strive to keep you up to date on the Forest Service role in implementing the Act.

Prepared from numerous sources.

Dave Dillard Named U.S. Forest Service Economic Recovery Executive

Chief Gail Kimbell has named Dave Dillard, who served as Director of the Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff in the WO, as the Economic Recovery Executive to lead the Forest Service's contribution to the Economic Recovery Program hammered out by President Barack Obama's administration and Congress that became law on February 17, 2009, when the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

As the Economic Recovery Executive, Dillard will report directly to the Chief's Office. His duties will include:

- Communicating the President's priorities for economic recovery.
- Developing a clear set of guiding principles.
- Developing program accountability and accomplishment goals.
- Evaluating capacity needs and identifying and securing critical skills such as acquisition services, project oversight, and technical design.
- Developing performance metrics associated with jobs cre-

ated, jobs saved, and long term contributions to economic recovery.

Continuing communication with key interests including the Administration, Congress, OMB, state and local interests, and non-government organizations.

"All of Dave's efforts will be done in close coordination with WO and Field leadership," Chief Kimbell said in a February 2, 2008, *FS Today* statement. This work will include forest restoration and hazardous fuel reduction, improving recreation and administrative facilities, training workers in trades for green facilities management, supporting wood for energy opportunities, and other projects.

Dillard has varied Forest Service experience. He started his Forest Service career in Colorado in 1980 on the White River National Forest. He also served on the Pike and San Isabel national forests and was a district ranger on the Targhee and Idaho Panhandle national forests. In 1999, he became Director for Recreation, Wilderness, and Heritage programs for the Eastern Region. He became Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination in the WO in 2007.

"The work we will undertake directly addresses our mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands, and our current needs to adapt to climate change, pursue wood-based energy, improve city forests, produce abundant clean water, and improve the long term economic stability of local communities," Chief Kimbell explained.

"This will be an exciting and challenging opportunity for the Forest Service!" she concluded. "The nation will have high expectations for a government that works, a commitment made by our new President. This is the time for us to show that the Forest Service is an organization "that works."

U.S. Forest Service Budget Process Overshadowed in Congress by Economic Stimulus Effort

The focus in the U.S. Congress on an economic stimulus package for the nation has overshadowed the annual budget process, but not the importance of long-term adequate funding of U.S. Forest Service programs.

George Leonard, retired Associate Chief of the Forest Service and National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) board chairman, has spent considerable time contacting members of Congress and their staff to emphasize the need for adequate and stable funding for Forest Service missions.

George has emphasized the critical role the National Forest System and the Forest Service play in resolving national and international water shortages, carbon sequestration issues, air quality improvement, and alternative energy production as well as improvement and maintenance of wildlife habitat, recreation, scenery, rural economic stability, and forest products.

Watch this space in subsequent issues of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for Fiscal Year 2009 budget news.

Prepared from an article in the Winter 2009 issue of The Lookout published by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees.

Tom Vilsack is New Agriculture Secretary

Tom Vilsack was sworn in as the 20th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 21, 2009. Appointed by President Barack Obama, Secretary Vilsack was Governor of Iowa from 1998 to 2006.

Shortly after he took office, Secretary Vilsack outlined his priorities for the Department. He listed restoring the mission of the Forest Service as a protector of clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat; a provider of recreation opportunities; and a key player in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration as top priorities for his Department's largest agency. Vilsack indicated that it is important to budget for wildfires so the Forest Service has the resources it needs for both wildfires and its other missions.

Government Accountability Office Reports to Congress on Potential Effects of Moving U.S. Forest Service to the Department of the Interior

Robin M. Nazzaro, Government Accountability Office (GAO) director for natural resources and the environment, presented the results of GAO's yearlong study "Potential Effects and Factors to Consider in a Move of the Forest Service into the Department of the Interior" to the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in testimony and print on February 24, 2009. The report made no recommendations.

The GAO's study found that "moving the Forest Service into Interior could potentially improve federal land management by consolidating into one department key agencies with land management missions and increasing the effectiveness of their programs. At the same time, a move would provide few efficiencies in the short term and could diminish the role the Forest Service plays in state and private land management."

"According to many agency officials and experts," the report summary continued, "where the Forest Service mission is aligned with Interior's—in particular, the multiple-use mission comparable to BLM's—a move could increase the overall effectiveness of some of the agencies' programs and policies. Conversely, most agency officials and experts GAO interviewed believed that few short-term efficiencies would be realized from a move, although a number said opportunities would be created for potential long-term efficiencies. Many officials and experts suggested that if the objective of a move is to improve management and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the agencies' diverse programs, other options might achieve better results."

"If the Forest Service were moved into Interior, USDA and Interior would need to consider a number of cultural, organizational, and legal factors and related transition costs, some of which could be managed by certain practices successfully used in the past to merge and transform organizations. For example, integrating the Forest Service's reporting, budgeting, and human capital processes and systems into Interior's could be time-consuming, costly, and disruptive. Nevertheless, Interior and

USDA could implement some key merger and transformation practices to help manage any resulting disruptions and other transition costs. In considering a move of the Forest Service into Interior," the report concluded, "policymakers will need to carefully weigh mission and management gains against potential short-term disruption and operational costs."

GAO conducted the study at the request of the chairman and ranking member of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. "Growing ecological challenges, ranging from wildland fires to climate change, have revived interest in moving the Forest Service into Interior," the report explained.

Prepared from Director Nazzaro's testimony, published by GAO on February 24, 2009, and Environment & Energy Daily report "GAO to report on combining agency with Interior" by Noelle Straub, published on February 23, 2009.

Lenise Lago is New Region 6 Deputy Regional Forester

Lenise Lago is returning to Region 6 as Deputy Regional Forester. She is scheduled to report to her new job in Portland sometime late in May. She will remain in the WO Budget Director role to support the Obama administration transition and the Fiscal Year 2010 budget hearings.

Lenise grew up in Athens, Georgia, where she attended the University of Georgia. She earned a bachelor's degree in timber management and a master of forest resources degree from the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources. She worked briefly in the forest products industry before joining the U.S. Forest Service in 1989. She has worked in a variety of planning, budget, and resource management jobs. She has had assignments on two ranger districts, two national forests, and two regional offices all within Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

Lenise moved to Washington, D.C., as Assistant Budget Director in 2003. She became Director of Budget for the Forest Service in 2006. She prepared and presented the last five Agency Budget Requests to Congress, and has accompanied the Chief as a witness at annual budget hearings for the past three years.

Prepared from an article in the January 29, 2009, R6 Update.

U.S. Forest Service Collaborated with the State of the Black Union in February

The Eastern, Southern, and Pacific Northwest regions of the U.S. Forest Service partnered and participated in the State of the Black Union Symposium held in Los Angeles, California, on February 27. The theme for this year's symposium was "Making America as Good as its Promise."

Through the State of the Black Union, the Forest Service is positioning itself to collaborate with, reach, and further integrate African Americans as key players in addressing issues pertaining to natural resources. The Forest Service strives to have diverse populations and expose diverse youth to natural resources studies and careers, recruit and retain a diverse workforce, and link Job Corps graduates with the best coaches and mentors.

From the February 20, 2009, issue of "People, Places and Things" published by the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.



Feature

The Civilian Conservation Corps: A Retrospective (Part One)

By Emil Sabol, President, Chapter 4

National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni,
with a brief forward by the editor

“The best example of how FDR’s leadership style changed the nation during the [first] Hundred Days [of his administration] was the launching of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a tale of mobilization so rapid and so competent that it almost defies belief for later generations. The lessons for today could hardly be fresher.”

-- Jonathan Alter. The Defining Moment: FDR’s Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.

America was in the grip of the Great Depression when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated as the 32nd President of the United States on March 4, 1933. More than a quarter of the population was unemployed, hungry, and without hope, and the new president moved quickly to give Americans a New Deal. Now, 75 years later, our nation and our new president face a similar challenge to which the past may suggest a similar solution.

Last year the United States celebrated the 75th anniversary of the CCC that author and historian Jonathan Alter judged “the most popular New Deal Program” because it calmed social and political unrest even as it conserved natural resources and salvaged young men. One of those young men, OldSmokey Emil Sabol, offers his perspective on the CCC in this issue and the next issue of your OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Emil joined the CCC at Camp Norrie, Ironwood, Michigan, after he graduated from high school in 1941. As he recalls: “The CCC was my introduction to military life, so I had no problem becoming a part of the system when I went into the U.S. Army Air Corps a year later. We planted some trees and fought forest fires, but our camp, Camp 3601, was primarily engaged in campground construction. We had the usual construction equipment, but also a sawmill and logging crew which provided the logs and boards for the campground building.”

“I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work.... More important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work.”

That quotation from a message by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) is inscribed on a stone wall in the FDR Memorial in Washington, D.C. These words mark the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The CCC was an outstanding program that provided young men with an opportunity to work on conservation projects in forests, parks, and farmlands throughout the United States. Cooperatively managed by the Departments of Agriculture, Inte-

rior, Labor and War, the CCC program began in April 1933 and ended after the U.S. entered World War II. The U.S. Army provided housing, food, clothing, medical care, pay and education programs, while natural resource agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service and the National Park Service provided work project supervision and training.

Each state had a CCC operation during the nine-year history of the program. During this time there were over three million young men enrolled in the Corps in 4,500 different camps. Each camp was composed of a company of 200 men that was commanded by a U.S. Army officer, usually a Captain. He and his subordinate officers were responsible for the overall functioning of the company. It was run just as any U.S. Army company was run, including military discipline, KP, reveille, retreat and taps. (There was a bed check to ensure the enforcement of curfews.) There was a command structure of CCC enrollees that conducted the day-to-day functioning of the company. The senior enrollee was the First Sergeant (“Top Kick”). The Mess Sergeant saw to it that the men were properly fed and the Supply Sergeant was in charge of clothing. Medical attention was furnished by the camp doctor [usually an Army medical officer] and his assistant at the Dispensary, who was sometimes referred to as the “pill roller.” The Company Clerk functioned as an Administrative Assistant to the Company Commander. In the first years of the CCC the men wore standard Army olive drab uniforms, mostly left over from World War I. In the summer the uniform was the standard Army suntan. In later years the standard issue was a green uniform complete with trousers, coat, and overseas cap (and necktie). But the standard GI shoe remained as part of the regulation uniform.

Each enrollee was paid \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home to his parents, and the remaining \$5 was paid to him in cash for his personal use. The Top Sergeant, Mess Sergeant, and Supply Sergeant were paid \$45 per month as were Senior Leaders who oversaw work projects of various kinds. Assistant Leaders, who were also part of the overhead, were paid \$36.

While the Company Commander oversaw the administration of the “Army” portion of the camp, the Project Superintendent was responsible for the planning, training and supervision of all project field work. These field conservation projects were developed by one of the natural resource agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service or the Soil Conservation Service. The Project Superintendent had on his staff persons from a variety of disciplines, among them foresters, engineers, recreation planners, technical foremen and various expert craftsmen. There were natural resource conservation projects in

Continued on page 17



Opportunities

Reserve Now for May 17 OldSmokeys Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club!

Just about a month from now OldSmokeys from all over will converge on beautiful Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon, for the annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association Spring Banquet!

The banquet will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2009, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

That's right. Reserve your place or places **now** to visit with your friends, get updates on their lives, and enjoy an excellent meal at the annual PNWFSA OldSmokeys Spring Banquet at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville.

The banquet will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a **social hour** and no-host bar and appetizer table to help you get started. The buffet-style **dinner** will be served at 4:00 p.m. The price for this feast will be **\$23.00 per person**, gratuities included. Our old friend Dave Dalton will cater the meal again this year.

This year's banquet will feature a **silent auction** and **door prizes**. Silent auction and door prize donations are requested.

Silent auction donations should be given to **Mary** and **Elmer Moyer**. Many members donate works of art such as Mike Ash's or Dick Buscher's wood pieces or Bonna Wilson's pine needle baskets. Others donate antiques, framed photographs, old forestry books, and even Forest Service artifacts (like the really neat tally-whacker your editor—who really wants a marking axe—got a couple years ago). Still others donate services such as architectural or other professional services, window washing or yard work, or dinners. Anybody want to donate a weekend at Timberline Lodge? Even "white elephants" are acceptable! The earnings from these silent auctions, held every other year, help defray banquet costs. Contact Mary and Elmer to arrange your donation and its delivery.

Door prize donations may be given to **Dorine** and **Emil Sabol** either on the day of the banquet or before if you cannot attend. Dorine and Emil pull numbers out of a hat during the dinner hour, giving the prizes to the lucky number holders. Door prize items are often smaller or less valuable than silent auction items—sometimes they are books by members! Contact Dorine and Emil.

All silent auction and door prize donations are tax deductible!

To get to the Charbonneau Country Club from Portland or other points north, exit I-5 at Exit 282B (Charbonneau District) just after crossing the Willamette River bridge. Turn left (east) at first stop sign onto NE Miley road, and go .4 mile to French Prairie Road. Then turn left on French Prairie Road, and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn right onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau Country Club, building 3200. From Salem or points south, use Exit 282 (Canby) just north of the rest stop. Turn right (east) at stop sign onto NW Miley Road, and go .3 mile to French Prairie Road. Then turn left and go .7 mile to Charbonneau Drive. Turn right onto Charbonneau Drive and proceed to the Charbonneau Country Club, Building 3200.

Send in the form below to make your reservations not later than May 5, 2008!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SPRING BANQUET—MAY 17, 2009
Charbonneau Country Club, Wilsonville, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

Social Hour 3:00 p.m. (No Host Bar)—Dinner 4:00 p.m.

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$23.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ dinners at \$23.00 each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

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

Send your reservation form in to be received no later than May 5, 2008!

Changes compiled by Bev Pratt, Secretary, and Vern Clapp, Treasurer and Data Base Manager

Agpaoa, Liz – Change address: U.S. Forest Service, Region 8, 1720 Peachtree St NW, Ste 7605, Atlanta, GA 30309

Amann, Jim – Change e-mail:

Biglor, Gladys I. – Change e-mail:

Bjornsen, Helen L. – change address: Boise, ID

Currier, Art & Liz – New members: Powell Butte, OR

Davis, Caroline – Change e-mail:

Edgren, James W. – Deceased January 19, 2009; Barbara survives

Emch, Dallas J. & Cheryl – New members: Elmira, OR (*Editor's Note: Last issue listing incomplete.*)

Few, Shirley – Change address: Eugene, OR

Glaspey, Danny L. – Deceased November 23, 2008; Barbara survives

Graham, Margaret "Patti" – Deceased December 19, 2008; Ed survives

Herzstein, Leonard & Sharon – change e-mail:

Hokkanen, Virginia L. & Leo Marsh — New members: Oregon City, OR

Holman, Margaret A. – New member: Bend, OR

Howe, Steven W. & Suzanne – New members: Pasco, WA

Ivey, Carol — Change address: Woodburn, OR

Jacobsen, James F. "Jake" & Susal L. Vap –New members: Boise, ID

Jaszowski, Ralph T. & Martha – Change e-mail:

Johnson, Barbara J. – Change e-mail:

Kingsley, Dorothy H. — Deceased December 9, 2008; Duane survives

Kreger, Richard "Al" —Deceased February 12, 2009; Myrna survives

Leonard, Robert & Connie – Change address: Eugene, OR

Looney, Ray L. & Maxine – Change address: Powell Butte, OR

Miller, Walter F. "Walt" and Shirley – New members: Bend, OR

Nearhood, Don — Change e-mail (for PNWFSA business):

Note, Dave & Bervely – Change e-mail:

Robertson, Robbie — Change e-mail (for PNWFSA business):

Sigrist, Mark & Sundi – New members: Sandy, OR

Strong, Donald Lyle – Deceased January 26, 2009; Paulina survives

Stuck, Dean & Darlene – New e-mail:

Sullivan, Lee – Change address: La Grande, OR

Voltz, Ruth – Change e-mail:

Wacker, Peter J. & Jeanette Young – New members: Prineville, OR

Wagner, Mary & Jeff Waalkes – New members: Portland, OR

Wood, Marylou – Change address: Corvallis, OR

Zalunardo, David G. & Cindy – New members: Redmond, OR

Editor's Note: Accuracy and timeliness are watchwords of this effort — along with OldSmokey E-Notes—to help you update your annual Membership Directory. But we know we're not perfect. Additions and corrections are appreciated and requested.

OldSmokey volunteers to tell the U.S. Forest Service story at the High Desert Museum's restored High Desert Ranger Station starting this summer are being recruited now. Please see article on [page 6](#) for details.



New Members *compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt*

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Winter 2009 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Art & Liz Currier of Powell Butte, Oregon. Art retired on January 3, 2008, as District Ranger on the Lookout Mountain Ranger District of the Ochoco National Forest after 38 years in the U.S. Forest Service. His entire career was in Region 6 with assignments on the Malheur, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot, and Ochoco national forests. Liz retired several years ago after a career running her own business, holding positions in the private sector, and working in county government.

Steven W. & Suzanne Howes of Pasco, Washington. Steve retired as Soils Program Manager of the Natural Resources directorate in the RO in Portland on January 2, 2009, after 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service, all in Region 6. Suzanne retired from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in 1977 after 22 years of service. She served as secretary for forest supervisors Oard, Allen, and Richmond.

Virginia Hokkanen & Leo Marsh of Oregon City, Oregon. Virginia retired in September 2006 from the Support Services Group in the RO in Portland after 18 years of federal service, 13 of those years in the Forest Service in Region 6.

Margaret A. Holman of Bend, Oregon, retired after three years as recreation program manager on the Clackamas Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, and after 17 years in the U.S. Forest Service, all in Region 6. The majority of her Forest Service career was spent on the Ashland Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest where, in addition to winter and summer trails, special uses, and watershed management, she administered the Mt. Ashland Ski Area special use permit and was snow ranger there for 14 years.

James “Jake” & Susan “Sue” Jacobsen of Boise, Idaho. Jake served two years in the U.S. Army before serving 28 years in the U.S. Forest Service, 24 of those in Region 6. He retired on the Lake Wenatchee Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, on February 14, 2000. Sue’s 30 years of federal service included 24 years in the U.S. Forest Service of which she spent 20 in Region 6. Sue was Fire Staff Officer on the Wenatchee National Forest in 1999 when she transferred to the National Park Service to serve six years before retiring in July 2005 as that agency’s fire director at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise.

Walter F. “Walt” & Shirley Miller of Bend, Oregon. Walt retired as boundary and rights-of-way manager on the Deschutes National Forest SO on October 3, 2008, after 33 years of federal service, 29 of those in the U.S. Forest Service.

Mark & Sundi Sigrist of Sandy, Oregon. Mark retired as Head, Contracts/Sale Administration, in the Natural Resources directorate in the RO in Portland on January 2, 2009, after 34 years of federal service, 31 of those in the U.S. Forest Service and 11.5 of those in Region 6, the rest in the U.S. Army. Sundi is a GIS/Biological Technician in the Natural Resources directorate in the RO.

Peter J. “Pete” Wacker & Jeanette Young of Prineville, Oregon, are both U.S. Forest Service retirees. Pete’s 40 years in the U.S. Forest Service, all in Region 6, ended with his January 2, 2009, retirement as Timber Sale Administrator on the Ochoco National Forest. Jeanette retired on March 2, 2007, as a contracting officer in the Ochoco National Forest SO after 28 years in the Forest Service.

Mary Wagner & Jeff Waalkes of Portland, Oregon. Mary is Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region. Her 25 years in the U.S. Forest Service have included two district ranger assignments, deputy forest supervisor and forest supervisor assignments, and two WO assignments as the first National Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers and then as the Acting Forest Management Director.

David G. and Cindy Zalunardo of Prineville, Oregon. Dave’s 33 years of federal service included 21 in the U.S. Forest Service, all in Region 6. He retired on January 2, 2009, as Forest Biologist in the Ochoco National Forest SO. Cindy is a school teacher in Bend, Oregon.

New OldSmokey Dallas Emch is Willamette National Forest Supervisor

Dallas J. Emch, Forest Supervisor, Willamette National Forest, was introduced in the Winter 2009 *New Members* section without mention of **Cheryl**, his wife, and a without a complete career summary. A veteran of 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service in both line and staff positions, Dallas received a B.S. degree in forest resource management in 1976 and an M.S. degree in 1984 from West Virginia University. His experience spans four regions and eight national forests as well as RO and WO assignments. Prior to his current assignment, Dallas worked in Minerals and Geology Management and Strategic Planning in the WO. He has been Forest Supervisor, Willamette National Forest, since August 2002. Dallas and Cheryl live in Elmira, Oregon.

Editor’s Note: Dallas was profiled only briefly in the Winter 2009 issue because this information was not received until after deadline by which time all 20 pages of that issue were completely stuffed with good stuff. Again, welcome to Dallas and Cheryl!

Check It Out!

OldSmokeys Web Site is Great Outreach!

OldSmokey **Don Nearhood**, PNWFSA’s own website manager, does a great job keeping the OldSmokeys Web Site up to date with everything just about anybody might want to know about the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

And that’s great, because “just about anybody” is the target audience of the web site. That’s how we reach out to non-members to tell them who we are and what we do. Those people include potential members!

So, check out our web site at www.oldsmokeys.org and pass this address on to potential OldSmokeys and others who should know about us.

Memories compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist

Ian Stuart Bayliss died January 14, 2009, at age 54. Ian was born January 3, 1955, in Montreal, Canada, moved at age 2 to Southern California where he grew up primarily in Santa Ana. He was an assistant forest engineer for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest and worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years. Survivors include his wife Ruth Ann; son Sean; parents Jim and Margaret; and sisters Karen, Gail, and Sandra Krick.

Reb Edward Bennett died January 29, 2009, at age 65. Reb was born August 30, 1943, in Mt. Vernon, Washington, where he attended school and became an Eagle Scout before moving to California where he played football and was captain of the swimming team at Los Altos High School. Reb earned a B.S. degree in geology at the University of Oregon. He served in the U.S. Army as a radio transmitter instructor at Fort Wainwright, Arkansas, and Fort Ord, California. After he earned an M.S. degree in geology at San Jose State University, Reb served as a professional geologist for the Bureau of Land Management for many years before he transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in which he served as Regional Mining Engineer for the Pacific Northwest Region from 1987 until he retired in 1998. Survivors include his daughter Robyn, son Paul, and former wife Katherine Frederick.

Arthur H. “Art” Casteel died January 5, 2009, at age 87. Art was born April 23, 1921, in Mershong, Kentucky. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. Art married Irene E. Klein in 1946. He lived for 50 years in Portland, Oregon, and was a financial manager for the U.S. Forest Service. Survivors include his wife, daughter Peggy Casebier, son Vic, one grandchild, and three great-grandchildren.

James W. “Jim” Edgren died January 19, 2009, at age 79. He was a former PNWFSA member. Jim was born August 17, 1929, in Iowa Falls, Iowa, grew up in Iowa and Nebraska, and graduated from high school in Des Moines, Iowa. He attended Iowa State College, served in the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1954, and returned to Iowa State where he earned a B.S. degree and then an M.S. degree in plant pathology. Jim taught botany at Iowa State before he joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1959 and moved to Oregon. He worked at the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland for eight years and at its Corvallis laboratory for five years before returning to Portland at the RO as a silviculturist with a reputation for reforestation expertise. Jim retired from the Forest Service after 32 years of service, then did some contract work. Jim enjoyed wood-working and leather tooling, and he and Barbara enjoyed traveling. Survivors include his wife Barbara and their two sons.

Wayne Gilman died January 4, 2009, at age 73. Wayne was a U.S. Forest Service contracting officer on the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests and for the RO in Portland. He lived in the Wenatchee Valley for 32 years. Survivors include his wife Chris; brothers Raymond, Harold, and Jim; and sister Eve-

lyn Schmidt.

Danny L. Glaspey died November 23, 2008, at age 68. He was a PNWFSA member. Danny was born October 22, 1940, in Eugene, Oregon, and graduated from Lowell High School in Eugene in 1959. Starting on the old Salt Creek Ranger District in 1959, Danny worked for the U.S. Forest Service in fire and timber management on the Willamette National Forest until he retired in 1993. He married Charlene M. Bristow in 1959; she died in 2001. He married Barbara Wohlert on August 24, 2002. Survivors include his wife, sons Dwayne Glaspey and Michael Vargas, daughter Karen Hale, brothers Larry and Eddy, and four grandchildren.

Patricia Ruth “Patsy” Goehring died January 18, 2009, at age 79. Patsy Miller was born July 4, 1929, in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, and was the wife of Fremont National Forest retiree Arlow Goehring with whom she worked in the successful management of two Lakeview, Oregon, businesses, a motel and a restaurant. Survivors include her husband, sons David and Patrick, and daughter Virginia Christensen.

Margaret “Patti” Graham died December 19, 2008, at age 87. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Ed Graham. Margaret Elizabeth Ann Eller was born July 31, 1921, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and grew up in St. Cloud where she completed three years of high school, and then earned a G.E.D. Patti worked in Minneapolis until she enlisted in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) in 1943, trained as a surgical technician, and served as a nurse at Camp Abbot south of Bend, Oregon, where Sunriver is today, then at Madigan Army Hospital at Fort Lewis, Washington. There she met Ed, also serving as a laboratory technician. They married in 1946 when Ed was a forestry student at the University of Washington. They served together on the Snoqualmie National Forest on the Sun Top Lookout in 1947 and at Boundary Guard Station near Enumclaw, Washington, in 1948 where she helped with fire dispatching. After Ed graduated from the university, Patti continued to partner with Ed’s work during his career on the Willamette National Forest where he was district ranger on the Detroit Ranger District from 1958 to 1963 and the McKenzie Ranger District from 1963 to 1975. Patti and Ed lived in Sunriver after Ed retired from the Forest Service in 1980. Patti and Ed served on the Mt. Bachelor Ski Patrol for 20 years, and she was the first woman to complete the ski patrol’s national avalanche course. Survivors include her husband; daughter Pam; sons Ed and David (who works for the Forest Service on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana); two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Dorothy H. Kingsley died December 9, 2008, at age 82. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of Duane Kingsley. Dorothy H. Musterer was born February 1, 1926, in a log cabin farmhouse six miles south of Mayerthorpe, Alberta, Canada. After graduating from high school, she taught in country grade schools for six years and, through correspondence courses and summer school, earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Alberta in Edmonton and later a master’s degree in librarianship at the University of Washington. She then worked in the county and city libraries in Bellingham, Wash-

ington, for seven years. Dorothy met and married Duane Kingsley in Bellingham in 1961, and became a Forest Service wife—first in Cave Junction, Oregon, then for two years in Olympia, Washington, and then in Medford, Oregon, where Duane was Rogue River National Forest silviculturist for 12 years until he retired. Survivors include her husband, sons David and Gary and their families, and many nieces and nephews.

Alvin Richard “Al” Kreger died February 12, 2009, at age 84. He was a PNWFSA member. Al was born April 21, 1924, on a dairy farm in Albany, Oregon. He attended Millersburg Grade School and graduated from Albany High School where he was active in Future Farmers of America. During World War II he served in the Oregon National Guard in Albany, and was discharged at the rank of sergeant. He married Myrna Pearl Hayes at Marion, Oregon, in 1947. Al joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1953 and worked on the Cascadia Ranger District (name changed to Sweet Home Ranger District in 1963), Willamette National Forest, until he was transferred to the Dale Ranger District, Umatilla National Forest, in 1969. He retired from the Forest Service as fire management officer at Dale in 1975, and he and Myrna moved to a small farm near Pendleton where he raised beef cattle, drove wheat trucks, and school busses. In 1984, Al and Myrna started Furniture Doctors, an antique refurbishing and refinishing business they continued when they moved to Pendleton in 1993 until ill health forced him to quit in 2005. Active in his communities, he served as a school board member, McKenzie River Search and Rescue unit director, Red Cross first aid instructor, Boy Scout leader and Babe Ruth baseball umpire. He was a member of the Lutheran Church, and an avid hunter and fisherman. Survivors include Myrna, daughter Starla Sprague, son Richard, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Carl Richard Purri died January 23, 2009, at age 76. Carl was born January 2, 1933, in Houghton, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Army, earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan Tech and a master's degree from Washington State University, and served as a forester in the U.S. Forest Service for over 25 years. Carl spent many of his Forest Service years in Region 1, and came to Region 6 when the Colville National Forest was “adopted” from that region. He also served on the Malheur National Forest and in the RO in Portland from which he went to the WO to work in Timber Management until he retired. After he retired, Carl worked as a forestry consultant in Michigan. Survivors include his wife Evelyn, son Jeffrey, daughter Jill Sparks, and a grandson.

Clyde Gerald “Bud” Rau died in February 12, 2009, at age 70. Bud was born March 7, 1938, in Two Rivers, Wisconsin. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1958, and graduated from the New York State Ranger School in Syracuse, New York, in 1960. He married Sonja Kerr on September 5, 1961, in Redmond, Oregon. Bud served in the U.S. Forest Service on several national forests. He arrived on the White River Ranger District of the old Snoqualmie National Forest as a reforestation specialist about 1966 from the Black Hills National Forest. He

continued in that capacity and in tree improvement work until he transferred to the Olympic National Forest where he worked in the seed orchard and tree improvement program. Bud invented a tool he called the “hoe dad” used to plant tree seedlings to this day. He retired from the Forest Service in 1993 and settled in Shelton, Washington. Sonya died in 2002. Survivors include sons Matthew, Andres, and Nathan; daughters Beth Blue, Anjanette, and Jennifer Sousley; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donald Lyle “Don” Strong died January 26, 2009, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Don was born March 6, 1923, in St. Louis, Missouri, graduated from high school in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1941, and during World War II served in the U.S. Army from which he was discharged as a technical sergeant in December 1943. He later served 25 years in the National Guard and Army Reserve in which he attained the rank of captain. Don married Barbara Blackstone Peck in Iowa in 1946, graduated from Iowa State College with a B.S. degree in forestry in 1949, and joined the U.S. Forest Service. He served as district ranger on the Butte Falls Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest before he and Barbara moved to eastern Oregon where they raised their six children and he served as district ranger on the Baker Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and seven years as district ranger on the Prairie City Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. After a stint in the RO in Portland, he retired in Prairie City in December 1978 after a 33-year Forest Service career. There he served as mayor, a long-time city council member, and school board member. Don married Paulina Pauley in 1993. Survivors include Paulina; sister Shirley Van Auken; daughters Sue Ann, Debbie, and Cynthia Harris; son Marc; six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Rhea Van Den Berg died February 10, 2009, at age 68. Rhea Garrett was born July 27, 1940, in Lakeview, Oregon, where she lived her entire life. Rhea was a ranch girl and a true buckaroo. She worked on her parents' ranch, and was queen of the Lake County Round-Up in 1957. She graduated from Lakeview High School in 1958 and married Dan Van Den Berg. She served in the U.S. Forest Service for 30 years on the Fremont National Forest. After working in a number of positions, Rhea settled into the fire dispatch office. She loved her dispatch work and was very loyal to the fire crews she tracked. Survivors include Dan, daughters Vickie Childress and Pam Cody, Son Kevin, and six grandchildren.

Curtis M. “Curt” Von Ahn died February 3, 2009, at age 77. Curt was born March 25, 1931, in Miller, South Dakota, and spent his entire U.S. Forest Service career on the Mt. Hood National Forest where he was a fire control officer on the old Columbia Gorge Ranger District. Survivors include his wife Geraldine; sons Jeffrey, Loren, and Curtis; and daughter Lavonne Bailey. No further information was available.



Letters

Ron & Dianne Harris *praise Vern Clapp*

Vern deserves a big thank you from all OldSmokeys. He is dedicated to getting as much information out to us as soon as he is made aware of anything. Thanks for all your hard work, Vern!

Bruce Brown *thanks Vern Clapp for OldSmokeys e-Forum*

Thanks so much for your continuing stewardship of the OldSmokeys eForum. I know a lot of folks depend on it for their window into the current Forest Service world.

John Sandor *on OldSmokeys e-Notes*

It is really great to get these OldSmokeys Notes!

Richard Zechentmayer *on electronic OldSmokeys Newsletter*

The electronic newsletter would be much easier to read if we did not have to switch columns in story.

Ora Lee LeBlanc *on newsletter and Carroll Brown*

So glad to see so many names I recognize [in the newsletter]. I, too, remember Carroll Brown. He was in Lakeview when I began with the Forest Service in 1948. A really nice person.

Lee Boeckstiegel *remembers Jim Edgren*

I worked with Jim as forest silviculturist on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Jim always helped in training sessions on planting seedlings and other needs that required his expertise. He was a great one for examining new techniques and applying them to the ground. He liked research. He had an easy-going manner, a soft voice, and a great smile which really made you want to pay attention to what he had to say.

Bob Devlin *remembers Jim Edgren*

I first met Jim when he came to the Rogue River National Forest in 1980. The Ashland Ranger District was having a “turf battle” between “cows vs. trees.” Jim came down from the RO with someone from Range Management and we went out on the ground. District folks presented different opinions and did a good job. The guy from Range went off on some pontifical dialogue about how there could only be one resource dedication on the ground. Not sure what Jim said but his calmness, professional way and style resolved the issue. Just the fact that I remember Jim and can’t remember the other guy should tell us something. Jim was a friend and a great resource from the RO.

Bruce Hendrickson *remembers Jim Edgren*

I remember working with Jim on the seed extractory project at the Bend Pine Nursery in the 1980s. It was difficult to establish design requirements that we in Engineering could work with and understand. Because of his calm, reflective attitude we were able to reach agreement on a practical set of requirements and parameters for a very complex project. It was a pleasure working with Jim.

John Hughes *remembers Jim Edgren*

I worked with Jim for a number of years and I always admired his professional approach to his job. He was a great addition to the silviculture staff of the RO. His hard work was much admired and appreciated by the silviculturists in Region 6. He was a kind and gentle soul. He will be sorely missed by all who

worked with him in the Forest Service.

Ralph Jaszowski *remembers Jim Edgren*

Jim Edgren was a skilled scientist. He developed much effective reforestation technology and his publications were widely studied. Following his research career he taught the art of successful reforestation throughout the Northwest. There are tens of thousands of acres now growing thrifty young forests because of his influence. He was a heck of a nice guy.

Frank Johnson *remembers Jim Edgren*

I respected Jim very much as a person and as a forester. He did as much or more for reforestation in Washington and Oregon national forests as anyone.

Wendall Jones *remembers Jim Edgren*

Jim Edgren was highly respected by each and every person he worked with. Yes, his physical appearance helped (he was a big and trim guy), but his approach to problem solving—friendly attitude, his readiness to help.... He also was a teacher. He was one of those rare people who treated everyone as his equal. In our era we probably never told him, but we loved him.

Chris Rusch *remembers Jim Edgren*

I met Jim in the early 1980s when I was beginning a stewardship reforestation program and he was at the RO. He came to Tiller and spent several days reviewing the contract. He even became part of the first evaluation panel. He was so supportive. I really appreciated his positive support of this program that was thought of at the time to be a risky type of contract.

Bob Blakey *remembers Wayne Gilman*

I have fond memories of working with Wayne. It was always a pleasure and he seemed to always have that nice smile and twinkle in his eye. On the other side he was always very professional and knew the fine line between efficiency and legal, doing the right thing. One of the good people....

Connie Franz *remembers Wayne Gilman*

Wayne Gilman was a contracting officer on the Okanogan National Forest, then went to the RO, and then went to the Wenatchee National Forest. He was very intelligent, worked fires, and taught a lot of us “older” contracting officers how to solve Service & Supply problems quickly. I will miss him terribly.

Rolf Anderson *remembers Danny Glaspey*

I worked with Danny on the short-lived Salt Creek Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, in the early 60s. He was a great pre-sale layout compadre in the days of few roads, camping out, and endless walking up and down hills—sometimes even on trails. He helped introduce tote goats to our work. Danny was full of energy, ready to take on any task, and very innovative creating chairs and other necessities for our camps. Those were the fun days and Danny was a great contributor—to the task at hand and to the fun.

Dave Kolb *remembers Danny Glaspey*

Danny was a dedicated employee and did a good job with me on the Rigdon Ranger District, Willamette National Forest.

Bill Shenk *remembers Al Kreger*

I worked a considerable number of fires with Al Kreger. He was a great camp officer. He was always doing his best to see to the comfort of people in the fire camps. That was hard to do

with all the noise and hubbub. If we needed something done, he found a way to help us out. Al was a real asset. I also got to know Dick, Al's son, on fires. He was a real hard working foreman on the Redmond Hotshots. That was a real pair the Forest Service could be proud of in every way.

Phil Hirl *remembers Don Strong*

Don was district ranger at Prairie City the years I was on the Malheur National Forest. He gave me a few helpful hints on how to drive a Forest Service rig any time we rode together. Don really got into Prairie City. Not sure when he left, but he was in RO for a time. As soon as he retired he went back to Prairie City. I ran into him in a restaurant in John Day. He was driving the local "bus" to Bend and back and he was waiting for passengers. He was very glad to be back in Grant County.

Ron Ketchum *remembers Don Strong*

Don was my ranger from 1966 to 1971 when I was timber and watershed assistant at Prairie City. The job was challenging, mainly because of the dealings with Edward Hines Lumber Co., specifically the administration of land for timber exchange. Don had a history with Hines, knew the background. He was supported the change in culture we tried to instill in dealing with Hines. Our partial success wouldn't have been possible without his support. We remained friends after I left to become a district ranger, and he and Barb visited us in Medford after we moved here. He was easy to work for and stayed out of your way as long as things were going okay. I appreciated that. He also was very active in town and obviously cared about Prairie City.

John Poppino *remembers Don Strong*

Don was district ranger at Prairie City when I was in the SO on the Malheur National Forest in the late 60s and early 70s. We were in the field on several occasions, and I remember vividly the time we were walking through a meadow when Don started dancing around and grabbing his upper leg. Holding his leg with one hand, he unbuckled his belt and undid his pants with the other. He turned his pants inside out and released the mouse that had crawled up his leg! He was a dedicated handloader, and his garage was jammed with rows of shelves of shooting paraphernalia. I still have a box of rifle shells that he loaded in the 70s. I wonder if they are still "hot."

Zane Smith *remembers Don Strong*

When I returned from active duty in the Air Force in the late 50s, I believe Don succeeded Ralph Wiese as district ranger on the Butte Falls Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest. He and his family were great friends and an inspiration in all the hard work they did. He was a real sharpshooter and took pride in a smudge on his glasses resulting from kickbacks on the weapons he used. His spouse was an extraordinary wood splitter, feeding the wood furnaces for the ranger's large CCC vintage home which still remains on the compound.

Jim Torrence *remembers Don Strong*

Don was my second boss. He was TMA on the Prineville Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest, when I returned from active duty in the Army. He was great to work for. He was also my boss off the job. I was a lieutenant for him in the Prineville Army Reserve unit. Don was commanding officer. That artillery battery was heavily Forest Service. Jim Overbay and Jim

Davis were lieutenants, and Fred Hall was a Marine lieutenant attached to the unit. Those were good times. Don went on to be a district ranger on the Rogue River National Forest. I also saw a lot of Don when he was district ranger at Baker City and I was assistant district ranger at La Grande. Don was a great guy and very serious about what he did.

Elton Thomas *remembers Don Strong*

I have some very fond memories of Don Strong. He was district ranger in Baker City and I had left Baker City to be an assistant lands staff in Lakeview. I was a new Army National Guard second lieutenant just out of OCS and Don was a master sergeant. He had been a captain, but took a reduction in grade to stay in the Army Guard.

On one occasion, we were activated for riot control duty and Don was assigned to me as my platoon sergeant. He was all business and we clicked. The men responded well to his discipline. We did not have to mobilize for any riots, but I would not have hesitated to do my duty due in large part to Don's excellent leadership.

The last time I saw Don was in Prairie City after he retired. Don and I had lunch together and he took me for a drive around his old ranger district and we had a great time reminiscing. He was a role model for me as I later became a district ranger and a captain in the Army National Guard. He was a no nonsense manager with an ability to lead. The Outfit is certainly better off for him having traveled this way.

Bill Ciesla *checks in from Fort Collins, Colorado*

Pat and I are staying busy and enjoying life in sunny Colorado. Forest Health Management International, the one-person business I began in 1995 when we returned from Rome, Italy, is still busy. I have been working with the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado State Forest Service conducting aerial forest health surveys over portions of Colorado and New Mexico. In addition, I have been training young aerial observers and have written two guides on how to recognize aerial signatures of various damage types for the western and eastern United States. Last October we traveled to Brazil where I taught a short course on remote sensing for forest damage assessment to forestry students at UNICENTRO in Irati, Panama State.

Let's hope that 2009 is a better year all around with fewer notices about Forest Service colleagues passing away.

We look forward to seeing lots of old friends at the upcoming retirees' reunion in Missoula in September.

Donald & Mary Nelson *encourage OldSmokeys to attend Forest Service Reunion 2009 in Missoula*

Be sure to plan on coming to the 2009 Forest Service Reunion. We have a fun reunion planned for you. The dates are September 7-11, 2009.

Editor's Note: Donald and Mary live in Florence, Montana, just down the road a piece from Missoula.

Letters is for sharing thoughts, feelings, remembrances, and updates with fellow OldSmokeys. Many of these letters are slightly edited from OldSmokeys E-Forum and reprinted for all to read. All letters that space permits are published. You may send letters to Secretary Bev Pratt at P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228, or directly to editor Les Joslin.

Books

OldSmokey Beth Horn is Author of Three Wildflower Books

Wildflower books—at least three of which are still in print—are some of the many contributions OldSmokey **Beth Horn** has made to visitors' appreciation of natural history on the national forests and other lands of the West. Beth's books remain standards of their genre.

Beth joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1966 after Purdue University classmate Ernie McDonald told her about a visitor center being constructed along the Oregon Coast on the Siuslaw National Forest at which there just might be a job for her.

Beth followed up on that lead and, after a summer working for now-OldSmokey **Tom Harlan** in the Siuslaw SO, took up residence in 1967 on the Waldport Ranger District where now-OldSmokey **Kent Mays** was district ranger to work at the new Cape Perpetua Visitor Center.

It was later, however, when she was working on the Mt. Hood National Forest, that the idea for her first wildflower book was born. She and her now-OldSmokey husband **Kirk Horn** were stationed at ZigZag Ranger Station where now-OldSmokey **Dick Buscher** was district ranger during the summers while Kirk attended graduate school. Kirk's frequent lament that there was no good wildflower guide for visitors stimulated Beth to write one. Titled *Wildflowers I: The Cascades*, the result was one of the first—if not the first—wildflower guides in the Northwest with color photographs. Most wildflower guides in those days had black-and-white photographs or line drawings. This first book has long been out of print.

But other wildflower books would follow.

Beth moved on to the RO in Portland, first in the Information and Education Office and later on the Recreation Staff where she enjoyed serving with now-OldSmokeys **Vic Kreimeyer** and **Dale Farley** and the late OldSmokey **Joe Higgins**.

She especially enjoyed working on Region 6 national forests projects large and small, from nature trails and interpretive overlooks to larger visitor facilities including the Lava Lands and Mount St. Helens visitor centers. It was during these years, in her spare time, Beth authored *Coastal Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest* published by Mountain Press Publishing Company in 1994 and *Sierra Nevada Wildflowers* published by the same Missoula firm in 1998.

Beth and Kirk went on to the WO in the mid-1980s, always vowing to return to Oregon. They were able to move west, but only as far as Montana where Kirk became the Region 1 director of Wildlife and Fisheries and Beth the region's Public Affairs director. OldSmokey **Jim Overbay** was regional forester in Missoula at the time.

Beth and Kirk decided to remain in Montana when they retired in 1999 and moved to West Yellowstone. Beth hankered to do another book and found a publisher with a series on wildflower trails. So she and Kirk spent two delightful summers getting reacquainted with southwestern Oregon, hiking the trails around Diamond Lake, Union Creek, McKenzie Pass, Crater Lake, Gold Beach, Cave Junction, the Cascade Lakes Highway, and other places remembered from their Region 6 days. The result was *Oregon's Best Wildflower Hikes: Southwest Region* published by Westcliffe Publishers in 2006.

Beth believes that people don't appreciate what they don't know, and asks rhetorically "What better way to get people out into their national forests than to entice them to wildflower-studded scenery?" In her view, there is nothing better than hiking up a ridge to enjoy a vista of wildflower meadows. She hopes her books help other feel the same way.

Beth's—Elizabeth L. Horn's—books are available at booksellers and national forest visitor center outlets and may be ordered through booksellers or directly from the publishers. To order directly from publishers, see Mountain Press Publishing Company on the Internet or call toll-free at 1-800-234-5308, or Westcliffe Publishers on the Internet or call toll-free at 1-800-258-5830, depending on the title you want.

The Civilian Conservation Corps

Continued from page 9

every State in the Union. These ranged from vast tree planting programs throughout the country (such as the Shelterbelt Project in the Plains States), burn rehabilitation projects (e.g., Tillamook), restocking of cutover timberlands, parks and campground construction, flood control and erosion control. The record shows some of the accomplishments of the CCC.

Number of trees planted: about 2.5 billion
Number of fish stocked: 972 million
Range re-vegetation: 814,000 acres
Farmlands erosion protection: 40 million acres
Stream & bank protection: 154 million square yards
Public campground construction: 52,000 acres
State parks developed: 800
Roads built: 125,000 miles

Foot trails built: 13,100 miles
Telephone lines strung: 89,000 miles
Mosquito control: 240,000 acres
Fire-fighting man-days: over 8 million
Historic preservation: 3,980 structures

Part One depicts the organization and material accomplishments of the CCC. In the next issue, Part Two will explain the social accomplishments of the CCC and the role of the NACCCA in preserving the CCC heritage.

The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) is dedicated to preserving the history and accomplishments of the CCC.

For more information about the CCC and the NACCCA and to become an NACCCA member, see the NACCCA web site at www.ccclegacy.org

Uncle Sam's Cabins

Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot

Willamette National Forest, Oregon

By Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service and Les Joslin photographs

The old Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot, more recently a guard station and work center and now also winter season recreation rentals, dates from 1906 when its twenty-acre site on Fish Lake's northeastern shore was withdrawn from potential homestead entry for U.S. Forest Service administrative use. During the previous four decades, from 1868 to 1906, a way station for Santiam Wagon Road travelers occupied the site.

A log cabin ranger station was built in 1908 to support fire patrols in the surrounding Cascade National Forest. The station began service as the old Santiam National Forest—split off from the Cascade National Forest in 1911—summer field headquarters in 1911. The original cabin was crushed by snow during the winter of 1912-13. By the summer of 1914, the Cascadia Ranger District of the Santiam National Forest had replaced the crushed cabin with a 14-foot by 28-foot two-room cabin and built a 26-foot by 28-foot six-stall barn at a total cost of \$436.74. An 800-foot wire fence added \$51.74 to the cost of this ranger station.

As time went on, other buildings were added. Those still in use include the 1921 dispatcher's cabin, the 1924 supervisor's cabin to house legendary Forest Supervisor C.C. Hall (so it's called the "Hall House"), and the 1924 springhouse shed and fire hose shelter. In 1926 the station was described as "a group of very attractive log cabins...[that] house the [fire] dispatcher and his office, the two or three firemen stationed there, [and the] packer and pack animals."

Fish Lake itself, while filled with water in the winter and spring, is dry during the summer. Its dry bed was used to grow hay for the pack animals. Hackleman Creek, which flows into Fish Lake from the west, harbors the lake's fish which retreat upstream when the lake drains naturally through its porous lava-rock bottom.

During the 1930s, Fish Lake became an important fire-fighting and remount station for crews and pack animals sent to forest fires throughout the central Cascades, and served as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work camp on the Willamette National Forest—a forest formed in 1933 by merging the Santiam and Cascade national forests. Beginning in 1934, the CCC built several buildings and other facilities at the site. By 1940 the station comprised just over a dozen major structures.

Fish Lake remained a firefighting remount depot into the 1960s, when vehicles and aircraft largely replaced pack animal transportation of crews and equipment to forest fires. Until recently, the 1921 dispatcher's cabin and 1924 commissary cabin housed the Fish Lake Guard Station, and the 1924 Hall House housed the Willamette National Forest's packer while the 1934



Fish Lake Ranger Station dispatcher's office cabin in 1926 (top) and after recent renovation of roof and porch (bottom).

barns, sheds, corrals, and lava rock walls built by the CCC served as the Fish Lake Remount Depot that provided pack animals to support wilderness, trails, and fire management operations. A crew barracks built in 1960 housed employees. The packing operation continued until the end of the 2005 season. For several years, OldSmokey work parties have helped maintain the historic station's facilities.

Today, the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station is used as a summer work center, and the commissary cabin and Hall House serve as winter season recreation rentals near marked Nordic ski trails and snowmobile trails.

Editor's note: To visit historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot, turn off Oregon Highway 126, the McKenzie Highway, two miles north of Clear Lake and about a mile south of U.S. Highway 20, into Fish Lake Campground. Park near the interpretive signs and walk a short distance northwest along the old Santiam Wagon Road, passing through two gates. The remount depot barns and corrals are on the right, the dispatcher's cabin and commissary cabin are straight ahead beyond the flag pole, and Hall House is beyond them and to the left. For winter rental information, see the Willamette National Forest website.



The Way We Were

One Week in the Life of Wilderness Ranger Jim Leep

Story and photographs by Les Joslin

OldSmokey **Jim Leep**, who served a dozen summers in the Three Sisters Wilderness, is the special kind of guy it takes to be a U.S. Forest Service mounted wilderness ranger and packer.

Just how special Jim proved every week of every summer those dozen years. Take the week of July 21 to 27, 2002. That week tested him and the two horses and five mules he lovingly called “the critters” almost to the limit. That’s *almost* to the limit. Jim took good care of his animal partners.

Sunday was routine. Jim and another wilderness ranger “logged out” the Corral Swamp trail. Clearing downed trees off trails—a job done with hand tools in wilderness—is a late spring-early summer job that follows the snowline.

Monday, one of Jim’s three days off on a “four-ten” work-week schedule, found him tasked to pack a Deschutes County Sheriff’s Office search and rescue team and its camp into the Green Lakes area to continue its search for a hiker missing on Broken Top since the previous November.

Tuesday was another day off until late morning when Jim was summoned to help a Forest Service scientist whose vehicle was stuck in deep pumice off a back road. He did the job, then returned to his field camp and day-off chores that included caring for his stock.

But this day off ended—again—when he was tapped out to help rescue an injured hiker on South Sister. On the trail up the mountain, Jim promised his mount, Bobby, a veteran of many rescues, a pass on the next mission in exchange for the long afternoon and evening ahead. Bobby was used to move the victim to a safe landing zone, from which an Air Life of Oregon helicopter flew him to the Bend hospital. Jim and Bobby got back to camp at 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday was another scheduled day off on which, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jim packed the search and rescue camp out of the Green Lakes area. Bobby got his promised day off, but there wasn’t much rest for Jim. Never mind. Thursday would com-

pensate for the three days off he’d missed.

Thursday, however, Jim was dispatched to the Diamond Peak Wilderness at 6:30 a.m. to pack out five smokejumpers and their firefighting gear. On foot this time, leading three mules, he beat the heat by wading icy, thigh-deep Trapper Creek twice during the nine-mile round trip. Back in camp by 7:30 p.m., he cared for his stock and planned long-delayed chores for Friday.

Jim got a good start on those Friday chores before hikers found human remains near the base of Broken Top that afternoon. Jim was dispatched. It was a job for his best animals. There could be no mistakes. He selected Bobby, along with mules Charlie and China, all rock-solid and well-rested veterans of many seasons on congested trails, for the mission. Jim and a sheriff’s detective left the Green Lakes Trailhead about 4 p.m., followed by a search and rescue team. They packed the remains of the hiker, the one missing since November, out of the wilderness for transportation to the state medical examiner’s office in Portland.

Saturday found Jim and three mules packing a trail crew’s camp and equipment into the Wickiup Plain. It had been an eventful seven days, and another week was starting. Since there was more trail crew gear and materials to pack in, Jim and the pack string were back on the job Sunday.

The pace of that July week was just a notch above routine. But the work was not especially routine. A more routine week—if there was such a thing—emphasized visitor information and education patrol work.

Jim, then 60, was a leading member of the Deschutes National Forest’s small wilderness team. A retired Portland police officer, he’d run his own pack string for more than twenty years. His many skills, especially his own combination of people and packing skills, were as rare as good pack strings. Each year the district ranger in Bend hired him and his pack string to patrol and carry the load—literally as well as figuratively—in the Three Sisters Wilderness. He was always on call and always ready to answer the call.

Hard work and low pay were the order of the day for Jim Leep, one of a vanishing breed of dedicated wilderness rangers who spend summers, as the Forest Service slogan says, “caring for the land and serving people.”





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Spring 2009

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

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