



# OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Fall 2010

## *President's Message—Bill Shenk*

Having area representatives promote Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association membership and interests over the years has had positive results, and those representatives' efforts on behalf of the OldSmokeys are greatly appreciated. Yet, membership has declined steadily during the past few years for many reasons, and revitalization of our area representative system is one way to address this.

The PNWFSA offers a positive product to its members. Most important is a way to keep in touch and socialize with old friends and meet new friends. Our last-Friday-of-the-month meetings and annual spring banquets and summer picnics are great for this, as is our always up-to-date membership directory. Our quarterly *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and frequent *E-Note* and *E-Forum* e-mails help us keep up with and involved not just with each other but with the Outfit in ways that contribute to its continued success and esprit de corps. So does our OldSmokeys website. That involvement is a two-way street; we receive assistance from the Forest Service, too.

*Much of the success of these efforts depends on active area representatives who recruit new members from and keep the lines of communication open between the administrative units they serve and the association as a whole.*

Membership Chairman **Bob Devlin** and I think our area representative system could be revitalized and made even more productive, especially in terms of recruiting the new members—both new retirees and those still working who qualify for membership—needed to keep the OldSmokeys relevant and viable. We think one way to do this is to select a second person to “shadow” and “supplement” current area representatives to help ensure all potential members are contacted and know about the value and benefits of PNWFSA membership, and we welcome your ideas about this. Please contact Bob or me about this and about your own ideas for moving forward in this area of endeavor.

Of course, recruiting new members isn't just the area representatives' job. Every OldSmokey should make it his or her business to invite eligible friends and colleagues into the ranks of the PNWFSA to help keep it the leading Forest Service regional retiree organization it is.

*Bill Shenk*

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

**Annual Dues of \$20 for 2011 are due on January 1, 2011. Editor failed to include article and coupon in this issue. Please use coupon at top of page 28 on website version of this issue or use the [coupon on the website](#) under Membership tab. Editor regrets error and inconvenience.**

## Forum

### A Campus and Curricula for a U.S. Forest Service Academy

It's one thing to propose and justify the notion of a U.S. Forest Service Academy as I did in the Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. It's quite another to give shape and substance to such a notion. Encouraged by positive responses to the academy notion from accomplished Forest Service people I have long admired and respected, I share a notion of what such an academy's campus might be and what it might teach.

#### *The Campus*

The residential campus of a U.S. Forest Service Academy—at which an entry-level officer candidate course and a mid-career advanced course would be offered—should be located at an easily accessible site on a national forest in the West that has a significantly diverse multiple-use resource management program and a large recreation and other public uses program that would provide the widest possible array of curriculum-related field experiences for students. Student field experiences would materially benefit the hosting national forest by accomplishing much of its workload. This hosting national forest would be, in effect, a “teaching national forest” operating akin to the way a “teaching hospital” operates with interns and residents.

The campus would be modern and functional and would reflect the aura of the Forest Service. It would comprise a central hall for administrative and instructional offices and classrooms and a library, residential dormitories, a practical skills center equipped with tools and a shop, an equestrian skills center and stock facility, a physical fitness facility and obstacle course, and other appropriate and essential outbuildings in a properly landscaped setting. Most building and grounds maintenance could be performed by students.

The academy staff would comprise a superintendent, a registrar, a counselor, a technology assistant, and a faculty organized into several instructional departments. All would have appropriate Forest Service as well as academic, professional, and practical experience backgrounds, and would be selected for their abilities to teach and inspire. All staff would work daily with students.

#### *The Curricula*

The curricula for both entry-level and advanced courses should be geared toward developing all-round forest officers with the psychological and physical wherewithal and the all-important desire to be forest officers first and specialists second.

Entry-level officer candidate students would be persons already possessed of academic degrees (or significant agency experience) in a natural resources management discipline, engineering, business and management, and the “ologies.” Every component of the entry-level curriculum would have classroom theory reinforced by practical and productive and meaningful fieldwork on the hosting national forest. Advanced students would be experienced forest officers selected for district ranger and other leadership and management positions. The curriculum of their shorter course would focus on administrative management and leadership skills updating for such positions. Academic rigor would be a feature of both curricula.

Four instructional departments would teach courses sequenced in a highly-structured flow in which academic theory and practical experience would be mutually reinforcing. In the officer candidate course, such departments as below could offer the instruction indicated:

*A Department of Heritage Studies* could help students gain appreciation for and knowledge of Forest Service history, tradition, literature, and ethics as a basis for professional service, and enhance their appreciation of what OldSmokey **Lyle Laverty** terms the “incredible treasures” of the National Forest System.

*A Department of Professional Skills* could teach the art and science of rangership (including how to look and act like a forest officer) as well as provide a common grounding in such basic forestry skills as cruising timber, surveying, road and trail engineering and layout, range surveys, and public speaking and presentation to a wide range of audiences.

*A Department of Leadership and Management Skills* would teach the difference between leadership (of people) and management (of assets) and the basics of each. Students would learn that to lead they must first learn to follow. They would learn leadership by precept and example. They would come to value a congenial and constructive form of command and control leadership and management that gets things done efficiently and effectively and that should replace the current counterproductive collaboration and cajole model that precludes timely progress at great personal and public cost. They would learn the organization and mission of the Forest Service, National Forest System law and policy, and Forest Service administrative management systems and procedures (which, one would hope, will be improved) which implement the law and the mission.

*A Department of Traditional Skills* would make woodsmen of students. Students would become adept at traditional backcountry skills including trail and cross-country travel on foot and horseback, animal packing, hand and power tool use in trails and facilities construction and maintenance, etc. Students would become adept at forest protection skills and qualifications, including skills leading to basic firefighting qualifications. Daily physical fitness training would continue throughout the course.

In sum, the officer candidate course, during an academically and physically rigorous and rewarding experience of perhaps four months, would teach much of what a junior professional on a ranger district should know how to do or at least know he or she should know how to do to be an effective and productive member of a district resource management team, cognizant of resource interfaces



and interoperability, and able to work across resource disciplines and in the field as well as in the office. In the process, these junior professionals would internalize a culture of pride and professionalism in public service that would enable them to provide appropriate orientation and training to the many seasonal employees and volunteers in their charge who often represent the Forest Service and the National Forest System to the public.

These same instructional departments would develop and present the curriculum for the mid-career advanced course.

### ***The Challenge***

The challenge is first to get the attention of U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forest Service leadership and communicate the need for such a U.S. Forest Service Academy in a way that convinces and compels that leadership to secure the resources needed for the academy's development and implementation. The challenge then would be to design entry-level and advanced-level programs of instruction and performance that would address the relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities elements identified above—and any I left out that should be added—in a reinforcing and rewarding program.

I don't know—given what I see these days—if such a concept has a snowball's chance of even being considered, but it's got no chance at all if we don't try.

I do know—as a former district-level supervisor and a university adjunct instructor who teaches a forestry course—that there is a lot of eager raw talent that, along with the National Forest System and the Forest Service, could benefit from such a career forest officer development program that, I believe, is essential to retool the Forest Service into the viable agency it once was and is essential to the future of the National Forest System.

I challenge the leadership in the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service to make it happen, and stand ready to help.

-- Les Joslin

## **Points to Ponder on Restoring the U.S. Forest Service**

The U.S. Forest Service Academy proposed in the Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter Forum* editorial is exactly what we need to restore the culture for and resume the nurturing of U.S. Forest Service personnel.

I offer the following additional points to ponder regarding restoration of the Forest Service.

- Despite having plenty of highly professional folks in the field, the outreach to and relations with our “clients” and communities is not what it needs to be. Rangers and staff no longer necessarily live in the communities where their offices are. It is hard for them to develop close and trusted relationships with community leaders, forest users, and state and national elected officials. Not sure why this is the case, but each administration seems to squelch this traditional means of informing and developing good will.
- The Forest Service more resembles the National Park Service in its insular outlook toward both public and private entities adjacent to national forests. There are significant exceptions to this, but overall there is a need to reach out and work together.
- Somehow the Forest Service needs to turn around the centralization of activities like human resources, budget, contracting, etc. Centralization minimizes competent employees' skills, production, and innovation. Nothing wrong with shared services, but they need to be local where possible.
- Although contractor and concessionaire reliance has in the past been a reasonable response to tough times, it is time to make the Forest Service visible as the provider of camping, picnicking, hiking, and all outdoor recreation. No uniforms or green trucks are visible in our campgrounds, recreation areas, ski slopes, etc.
- Volunteering could be exploited. How about a U.S. Forest Service Auxiliary something like the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary? Formalize it, advertise it, and in general make it a big deal.
- How about reinstating annual pack trips and open houses for key people and the public?
- Are we visible shoulder-to-shoulder with our sister agencies—local, state, and national? Why not include fish and game counterparts in public meetings and briefings?
- When is the last time each ranger/forest supervisor met with the editorial board of the local newspaper?
- We should make sure fire is the number one priority of *every* employee when circumstances require.
- Fight against “stove piping” activities such as law enforcement, contracting, business management, etc. Every line officer needs these and every other activity on his disciplinary team.

There's more, of course, and perhaps OldSmokeys and NAFSR can speak up convincingly about points such as these to help the Forest Service regain the authority and respect it needs as an agency to accomplish its mission. I am not among those willing to give up and turn the National Forest System over to the National Park Service, Research over to another agency, or State & Private Forestry over to the states alone.

-- Zane Grey Smith, Jr.

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

— *Attributed to Voltaire*

*Forum* continued from page 3

## A Statement of Controlling Purpose for the *OldSmokeys* Newsletter?

Most of you probably remember, as I do, high school English teachers and college English professors harping on the need of a “statement of controlling purpose” for anything we might write.

It is odd, therefore, that only recently in my almost five years as editor have I thought about a statement of controlling purpose for the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*—at least in terms of a statement that might go beyond something like “keeping PNWFSA members informed of activities of members and within the membership as well as happenings within the Outfit in which we served and some of us still serve.”

The latter purpose in that statement is evident in the fact that the U.S. Forest Service helps finance this newsletter as a means of keeping its retirees informed and involved. That assistance amounts to about one-quarter of the annual cost of producing this newsletter, and is greatly appreciated.

It is on behalf of that latter purpose that those who contribute to and produce this newsletter strive to make constructive contributions to the Forest Service’s continuing ability to accomplish the mission to which they dedicated their careers in the *Forum* section and to keep the readership apprised of the Forest Service’s progress in accomplishing the mission in the *Forest Service News* section. *OldSmokeys*’ interest in and dedication to the Forest Service doesn’t end with retirement. That seems to take up about a quarter of the publication.

The balance of the publication contains the *OldSmokeys News* section in which members’ activities—that range from banquets and picnics to continuing participation in professional associations and personal accomplishments through personal and organizational contributions to good causes ranging from heritage to humanitarian efforts—are recognized, and through which the association’s business is conducted and reported.

Following the *Features* section, those called *Changes*, *New Members*, *Memories*, and *Letters* address those specific aspects of the membership’s interests and business.

Finally, the membership’s continuing interest in what’s being written about the profession’s and the Outfit’s heritage and evolution is addressed in the *Books* section, the membership’s interest in places in which they served is addressed in the *Uncle Sam’s Cabin’s* section, and what some call “the good old days” are recalled in the *Out of the Past* and *The Way We Were* sections. These are published for reasons that range from personal and professional growth to sentiment and just plain fun.

So, what about that statement of controlling purpose? Do we need one? Is the newsletter doing what you think it should do and satisfying your needs? Or are there other things it should do that it could do and that should be specified in a statement of controlling purpose? If you think the latter, I’d like to know what those things are and to receive suggestions for a statement of controlling purpose that calls for them.

— Les Joslin

## OldSmokeys News

*Using Beetle-killed Timber*

### OldSmokeys Lyle Laverty and Rich Stem Honcho Transitional Shelter Project in Earthquake-Devastated Haiti

Two *OldSmokeys* are turning the proverbial “sows ear into a silk purse” as they lead a project to use wood from beetle-killed Colorado lodgepole pines to build temporary shelters for more than 100,000 people in Haiti left homeless in the wake of the powerful January 2010 earthquake that devastated that Caribbean island nation.

*OldSmokey* **Lyle Laverty**, who followed up his 35-year U.S. Forest Service career by serving six years as Colorado State Parks director and a stint as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks before starting a forest management issues consultancy called The Laverty Group, began working with The Salvation Army shortly after the earthquake to provide temporary shelters for displaced Haitians as quickly as possible. The Salvation Army is the United Nations-designated “lead agency” for some 20,000 Haitians living in tents in a Port-au-Prince soccer stadium after the earthquake.

“You just can’t describe the conditions these people are living in,” Lyle told an early March meeting of the Summit County, Colorado, forest health task force shortly after his initial three-week assessment and planning trip to Haiti. He briefed the Colorado group about his plan to use beetle-killed lodgepole pine timber from national forests in the state to provide frames for the Transitional Shelter Project’s simple rectangular structures with corrugated roofs and plastic siding. The shelters, standing 10 by 20 feet, are designed to last one to three years.

By mid-July, Lyle reported completion of the first phase of the Transitional Shelter Project in the Jacmel region with 600 units that will house 3,000 people. “These transitional shelters were constructed using salvaged lodgepole pine from Colo-



*A young Haitian transports temporary shelter components by burro.*



A prototype of a wood-frame temporary shelter is inspected on a street by young Haitians who will benefit from the project.

rado’s national forests.” OldSmokey **Rich Stem**, who retired from the Forest Service as Deputy Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region about two and one-half years ago, was operations chief on the job. “Other Forest Service retirees—notably Dan Nolan, Bruce Short, and Bjorn Dahl—served in various positions on the Haiti project incident management team, and retired U.S. armed forces personnel rounded out the team organized around the basic ICS model,” Rich emphasized.

“One of the neat things about the project is how we went down there, overcame many difficult situations with the ICS organization, and got 600 units built in five weeks,” Rich said. “It’s a story of former Forest Service people trained to always adapt and never give up, a story of the agency that trained us and not of individuals. Other non-government organizations initially questioned that we’d get it done. After we did, they wanted to know how we did it. It’s a testament to the training and experience gained by being part of our agency.”

“It has been an exciting and rewarding project and experience,” Lyle told the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* from Haiti on July 14. “It has been an amazing experience to share the joy as families receive the gift of shelter.” Another part of the gift, of course, is the training in basic carpentry Haitians needed to assemble the units—and the pride they take in working on their own recovery effort.

“We are actively planning the next phase, anticipating another 500 units in the Jacmel region and potentially 1,500 in the Petit Goave area,” Lyle reported, noting his hope that the two to three million board feet of finished beetle-killed timber product needed to finish the job would arrive in Haiti “around the first of September.” If all goes as planned, construction of those shelters should be under way as this *OldSmokeys Newsletter* reaches readers.

Eventually, 5,000 shelters are planned. Even delivery of wood for all these shelters “won’t put a dent in the supply of beetle-killed timber in Colorado. But it’s a start,” as Bob Berwyn wrote in a March 11 posting in the *Summit County Voice*

blog. And it’s a start that, as Lyle added, “highlights how the use of Colorado beetle-kill timber from public lands can help with the Haitian recovery efforts.”

*Editor’s Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will continue to track the success of this innovative use of beetle-killed timber by this humanitarian service project.*

*Prepared from various sources including e-mails from OldSmokeys Lyle Laverty and Rick Stem; Bob Berwyn’s March 11, 2010, posting “Colorado beetle-kill wood headed for Haiti” in the Summit County Voice blog; and a July 13, 2010, posting “Salvation Army Builds 600 Transitional Shelters in Haiti Following Destructive Earthquake” in The Salvation Army website. Photographs courtesy Lyle Laverty e-mail and Bob Berwyn’s blog.*

### **A Good Time Was Had By All!**

## **OldSmokeys Get Lucky on Friday the 13th at PNWFSA’s Annual Picnic in the Woods**

Over a hundred OldSmokeys—106 to be exact—gathered on Friday, August 13, 2010, at the Wildwood Recreation Area near Mount Hood for the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association’s annual Summer Picnic in the Woods.

“Perfect weather, much bull slinging, and good chow as usual,” reported OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** who covered the event in the absence of your editor. “Worth twenty-five bucks!” he effused. We’ll have to sign Vern up to be a reporter.

### **A New Area Rep!**

## **OldSmokeys Add PNW Research Station Representative of “Area Rep” Roster**

New OldSmokey **Cindy Miner** has taken on the job of Area Representative for the Pacific Northwest Research Station, and is now listed as such on the back page of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* along with those who represent the PNWFSA at Region 6’s regional office and national forests.

Area representatives are the PNWFSA’s key connection to each major unit. Active representatives recruit new OldSmokeys and report news from their areas to the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. Now we can expect more recruits and reports from the Research end of the Outfit.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

## **OldSmokey Tommy Thompson Announces 2012 Forest Service Reunion in Colorado**

OldSmokey **Tommy Thompson** has announced that the 2012 U.S. Forest Service Reunion will be held September 17 to 21 at the Vail Mountain Marriott, Lionshead, Vail, Colorado.

“This is a prime time for fall colors, crisp fall weather, and wonderful rates at an outstanding facility with wonderful views and atmosphere,” Tommy said. “We expect a record attendance and an outstanding program!”

Deep in the White River National Forest, Vail is a year-round destination resort with something for everyone—and just about everything an OldSmokey could want except, at that time of year, snow. Watch your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for details.



*OldSmokey Les Joslin helped a young visitor try on an early 20<sup>th</sup> century fire pack at the High Desert Ranger Station.*

*High Desert Museum photograph by Lee Schaefer*

## OldSmokeys Welcome 1,227 Visitors to High Desert Ranger Station

A team of nine OldSmokeys and one non-OldSmokey volunteer told the story of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest System to 1,227 High Desert Museum visitors during the 68 consecutive days they staffed the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit there between July 1 and Labor Day.

Every member of this team—OldSmokeys **Carl Anderson, George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Bill Fish, Les Joslin, Stan Kunzman, Joan Landsberg, Jon**



*OldSmokey Carl Anderson welcomed avid OldSmokeys Newsletter reader Valerie Jones, daughter of OldSmokey Lois Jones and the late Evan Jones and granddaughter of pioneer U.S. Forest Service forester Ira Jones, to the High Desert Ranger Station at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, on Tuesday, July 20, 2010.*

*Photograph by Les Joslin*

**Stewart, Desi Zamudio**, and volunteer Donna Noyes—held the fort for five to ten days. All enjoyed it and none felt over-worked.

A team like this, praised by Museum President Janeanne Upp, is essential to the success of the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon—an exhibit sponsored and run by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

## OldSmokeys and Others Incorporate Friends of Fish Lake as Non-Profit, Plan Operations, Recruit Members

“I got a letter today from the IRS saying that effective 2/23/2010 we are a nonprofit organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code!” justifiably excited OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** e-mailed to his fellow Friends of Fish Lake board members on July 26, 2010.

“I didn’t expect this. Usually they have some questions and it takes a lot longer,” said Mike, who is president of the new non-profit organization formed to protect, preserve, and interpret the historic Fish Lake area—the heart of which is historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot—on the Willamette National Forest.

With this wind in their sails, President Mike and his board of directors met at McKenzie River Ranger Station on August 11 with District Ranger Mary Allison and members of her staff to lay out the next steps of the Friends of Fish Lake-Willamette National Forest partnership formed to achieve their shared vision for the historic Fish Lake area. The very important step of developing a master plan for the area was quickly identified and discussed. “Now that the Friends of Fish Lake is recognized as a non-profit, we are anxious to get on with fund raising, and need something specific to share with grantors and donors,” Mike summed up that challenge. “Such a plan would serve as a guide for the next five or so years.”

“We see a future within five years where the Fish Lake historic structures have been completely restored to a high standard and funding and maintenance commitments are in place to keep them for the foreseeable future,” the Friends of Fish Lake vision statement reads in part.

After the meeting with District Ranger Allison and her staff officers, the board met to develop actions to implement the partnership and recruit members.

Members are essential to achieving this vision. Memberships in Friends of Fish Lake are available for \$35.00 per year to all who want to be a part of and contribute to this effort. Until an official application is promulgated, applicants may send their name and contact information and \$35.00 tax-deductible membership fee to Friends of Fish Lake, 41673 Madrone Street, Springfield, Oregon 97865.



## OldSmokeys Grant \$4,650 to Support Three Deserving Projects

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association approved three grants totaling \$4,650 to three organizations that requested assistance for projects that further OldSmokey goals at its August 27, 2010, Board of Directors meeting.

The Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center Foundation in Entiat, Washington, was awarded \$2,000 to fund a video about the old Goat Rocks Lookout.

The Deschutes County Historical Society in Bend, Oregon, was awarded \$500 dollars to be matched by another fund to help upgrade the Des Chutes Historical Museum’s forestry and timber exhibit to interpret the role the Deschutes National Forest has played in sustaining the county’s economy.

The Friends of Fish Lake (see previous article) were awarded \$2,150 for three startup projects at the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Willamette National Forest: \$700 to reassemble the current office kiosk, \$750 to help publish a walking tour brochure, and \$700 to construct and install a wood, steel, and plexiglass viewing screen at the remount depot’s blacksmith shop and tack room.

These awards are made from OldSmokey book project earnings and help PNWFSA meet both its assistance to projects that tell the U.S. Forest Service story goal and its Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) non-profit organization objectives.

## OldSmokey Caroline Davis Again Wore “The Dress” at Pendleton Round-Up

OldSmokey **Caroline Davis**, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, wore the 40-pound doeskin Native American dress—made for her 60 years ago—at the centennial Pendleton Round-Up last month, Katy Muldoon reported in the Saturday, September 11, 2010, edition of *The Oregonian*.



“Since she first slipped it on as a young teen, her four daughters and six of her eight granddaughters have donned it, sharing the family’s exquisitely beaded heirloom, relishing its history and theirs,” the story read. “Davis’s family has taken part since Day 1, and her dress has graced Round-Up pageants and parades every year since 1952, when she won the affiliated American Indian Beauty Contest.”

Caroline was 14 years old then, the product of a lumber camp and a two-room school-house outside La Grande, Oregon. “She learned to dance and made her family proud as the

Round-Up’s first Happy Canyon Princess in 1955 and again the following year. The experiences helped her overcome shyness, she says, and blossom into the warm, poised, easygoing woman she seems today.”

Caroline retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1994 after 25 years as a cartographic technician on the Umatilla National Forest. Attired in her historic dress, she rode in the daily Round-Up arena parades.

With luck, *OldSmokeys Newsletter* readers will be able to find Muldoon’s impressions of Caroline and her dress in *The Oregonian* article “2010 Pendleton Round-Up: One family’s history unfolds in a beloved doeskin dress” published in [oregonlive.com/O/index.ssf/2010/09/at\\_pendleton\\_round-up\\_one\\_fami.html](http://oregonlive.com/O/index.ssf/2010/09/at_pendleton_round-up_one_fami.html)

## OldSmokey Don Franks Urges Restoration and Rental of Historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station

“The old Cabin Lake Ranger Station on the Deschutes National Forest is falling into disrepair for lack of use and maintenance,” OldSmokey **Don Franks** of nearby Fort Rock, Oregon, reported to PNWFSA President **Bill Shenk** in an August 16, 2010, letter.

“The momentum and good work by local volunteers and Passport in Time (PIT) projects [organized and supervised by District Archaeologist and OldSmokey **Janine McFarland**] three and four years ago has been lost,” said Don, who was actively engaged in that work. Don’s 29 years in the U.S. Forest Service were spent in fire control on the Deschutes—as a fire guard at Fall River Guard Station until 1951, as Bend Ranger District headquarters fireman until 1953 and fire control officer until 1961, and as Deschutes National Forest FCO until he retired in 1975.

“The buildings are sound and could be fixed up and become part of the rental program,” Don explained the solution through which development of a recreation resource could preserve a heritage resource. “Along with the ranger’s house there are two other houses, the fire warehouse, the shop, bunkhouse, and gas-house” mostly built by the CCC during the Great Depression. Two of those structures pre-date the CCC era.

“This is where Ranger Henry Tonseth lived and led the Fort Rock Ranger District during the heyday of railroad logging in the 1930s and 1940s,” Don emphasized the station’s history. After the district’s headquarters was moved to Bend in 1945, the Cabin Lake facility was used as a work center and guard station into the twenty-first century. Its story was told on page 22 of the Fall 2009 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

“I hope the OldSmokeys will be interested in helping support preservation of this facility,” Don said as he noted its potential for reuse as a rental. “In addition to the buildings there are the water guzzlers and bird watching blinds that have become popular with birders throughout the United States and

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## Forest Service News

### U.S. Forest Service Faces GAO Probe of Station Fire Decisions and Tactics

The Governmental Accountability Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, has agreed at the request of two California U.S. senators and several U.S. House of Representatives members “to conduct a broad inquiry into the U.S. Forest Service’s handling of last year’s devastating Station Fire,” the *Los Angeles Times* reported on September 9, 2010.

“A GAO spokesman said the inquiry would not begin in earnest for about three months because of other commitments and preparatory work,” the *Los Angeles Times* article reported. “Typically, GAO probes produce detailed reports and testimony before Congress. The office also can refer findings to law enforcement authorities for criminal investigation.” The probe is set to begin in December 2010.

A congressional panel scheduled to meet in Pasadena on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, to investigate the fire suppression effort was postponed when Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (Democrat-California) had lawmakers return to Washington, D.C., for a special session on jobs-related legislation. This panel was rescheduled to convene on October 12, 2010.

The results of both inquiries will be published in your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* when available.

#### Review Denied

As reported in the Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, Forest Service retirees—many with extensive wildland fire management backgrounds—considered the Forest Service’s report on its Initial Attack Review of the Station Fire, published on November 13, 2009, incomplete. They recommended to Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell that a follow-up review be done.

“Over the next four months there was additional communication between retirees and Forest Service leadership at the regional and national levels including a January 13, 2010, meeting with Regional Forester Randy Moore to discuss retiree concerns regarding the Station Fire,” Forest Service retiree Bill Derr told the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* on September 3, 2010. Bill was Special Agent in charge of the investigative and law enforcement program in Region 5 for 18 of his 38 years in the Forest Service. His career also included 12 years in fire management on the Angeles National Forest. “Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials subsequently visited the Angeles National Forest. Due to fear of retaliation, [concerned] employees did not come forward and thus pertinent information was not obtained.

“On February 12, 2010, Mr. James E. Hubbard, Forest Service Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry, notified retirees by letter that: ‘I do not believe that additional inquiry into the initial attack phase of the Station Fire is needed, nor do I believe that it would be beneficial, and I do not intend to conduct it.’”

#### New Evidence

The *Los Angeles Times* reported on August 6, 2010, “that tele-

phone dispatch recordings made during the fire were withheld from the Forest Service review team and the public. The Times requested the recordings last year and again this year, but Forest Service officials said they did not exist.”

This disclosure “casts a dark cloud over the findings of the [Forest Service] review panel and immediately warrants an independent review of the Station Fire response” Democratic Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer along with three Democratic and two Republican representatives wrote to the GAO.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Chief Tidwell invited Congress to ask for the GAO investigation on Tuesday, August 3. “We welcome the opportunity to have the GAO review the actions of the Forest Service,” Chief Tidwell said on Thursday, August 5.

#### Review Importance

“We must establish what lessons were learned from this devastating fire. By identifying mistakes made and where different choices would have caused better outcomes, agencies tasked with preventing and fighting fires will be able to better prepare and respond in the future,” the lawmakers emphasized in their letter to the GAO.

*Prepared from multiple sources including: Bill Kisliuk, “Station fire panel postponed,” Glendale News Press, August 5, 2010; Paul Pringle, “Lawmakers seek broad probe into Forest Service response to Station fire,” Los Angeles Times, August 6, 2010; “Feinstein, Boxer Call For Federal Station Fire Investigation,” August 6, 2010, NBC Los Angeles; Paul Pringle, “GAO will probe Forest Service’s handling of Station Fire,” Los Angeles Times, September 9, 2010; and September 3 and 4, 2010, communications with Mr. Bill Derr.*

### U.S. Forest Service Former CFO Misused Credit Card and Still Got a Raise and a \$13,000 Bonus

An investigation sparked by two U.S. Forest Service officials at the Albuquerque Service Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, proved their allegations “that Jesse L. King, former Chief Financial Officer, Forest Service, violated federal regulations and abused his position by falsifying his official duty station, misusing his government issued travel credit card and failing to pay his travel credit card in a timely fashion,” according to a May 25, 2010, U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) letter to President Barack Obama.

In September 2008, during the investigation, King, whose annual base salary was about \$162,000, was given a “superior” performance rating, a 3 percent raise, and a \$13,000 bonus “even though at the time numerous people at the Department of Agriculture knew about the investigation,” a June 17, 2010, article by Hailey Heinz in the *Albuquerque Journal* reported.

The investigation concluded that “Mr. King’s actions violated federal and USDA regulations and policies,” the May 25 OSC letter said. “The reports further found that USDA officials erred in issuing Mr. King [whose annual base salary was about \$162,000] a \$13,000 Senior Executive Service (SES) performance award soon after the USDA Office of Human Capital Management (OHCM) completed an investigation which substantiated Mr. King’s travel and credit card improprieties,” the

letter continued. “As a result of these findings, the USDA [instructed] Forest Service and OHCM officials that performance bonuses should not be awarded ‘to subjects of serious ongoing investigations without prior careful review of the Office of the Secretary.’”

In an August 17, 2009, letter to the OSC, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen A. Merrigan stated that a lack of oversight allowed King’s misuse to happen. “I have concluded that there should have been much closer oversight by senior Forest Service officials of the former official’s reports, travel, and travel card use.”

Comments by the Albuquerque Service Center officials—called “the whistleblowers” in the OSC letter reflected one’s “belief that the agency’s system of review of credit card activity held members of the SES to a lesser standard of conduct than other federal employees” and the other’s belief that “failure of Forest Service leadership to act upon Mr. King’s wrongdoing when it was originally reported.”

Although the Department of Agriculture “acknowledged that Mr. King’s removal was warranted in this matter,” the OSC letter noted, “Mr. King voluntarily retired from federal service [in February 2009] during the course of the OSC initiated investigation” and no disciplinary action was taken. Also, according to the OSC letter, “the agency referred this matter to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia for possible criminal action. The U.S. Attorney’s Office declined prosecution.”

After retirement from federal service, King was president and owner of Jesse L. King Consulting from February to May 2009, then a senior consultant at Federal Management Systems, Inc., from May 2009 to May 2010. His “LinkedIn” resume credits him with “cleaning up the accounting and operational problems preventing the [Forest Service] from obtaining a clean audit opinion” after which the agency received nine “consecutive clean audit opinions.” King holds a 1969 B.S. degree in accounting from Louisiana State University.

*Prepared from the May 25, 2010, U.S. Office of Special Counsel letter to The President, Re: OSC File Nos. DI-08-2143 and DI-09-0033; Hailey Heinz’s article “Boss Busted, Gets a Bonus” in the Albuquerque Journal of June 17, 2010; and Jesse L. King’s “LinkedIn” account.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Praised Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Ranger for Role in Capture of Fugitives**

An unidentified “U.S. Forest Service ranger” who played a key role in the August 19, 2010, capture of two fugitives who considered themselves a modern-day “Bonnie and Clyde” was praised by Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell as “a hero” according to an August 20, 2010, WO news release.

According to David Gonzales, U.S. Marshal for the District of Arizona as reported in the August 20 *Albuquerque Journal*, “a U.S. Forest Service ranger working in a campground in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest spotted an unattended fire. He noticed a silver car backed up into the trees.”

The forest officer reported the license plate number of the car, reported stolen about the time a couple was killed in New

Mexico, to the Apache County Sheriff’s Department, and a SWAT team captured fugitives John McClusky and Casslyn Welch. After he was captured, McClusky reportedly told police he should have killed the forest ranger when he had the chance.

Welch allegedly helped McClusky and two other men, captured in Colorado and Wyoming, escape from an Arizona prison near Kingman on July 30. New Mexico State Police claim to have forensic evidence linking McClusky, Welch, and one other escapee to the killings of the New Mexico couple.

“Our employee’s alert action in notifying the proper authorities of suspicious activities in our national forest led to a quick, safe defusion of a potentially explosive situation,” Chief Tidwell said. “I applaud his intuition, prudence, and quick action, which ended up protecting not only nearby campers but other communities in the area as well. I consider this guy to be a hero.”

*Prepared from “Fugitives Captured” by Abigail R. Ortiz in the August 20, 2010, Albuquerque Journal, and U.S. Forest Service News Release “Forest Service Chief’s Statement on Employee’s Action that Led to Arrest of Arizona Fugitives” released by Keith Riggs on August 20, 2010.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Ordered to Study Use of Toxic Fire Retardants**

U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy in Missoula, Montana, on July 28, 2010, ordered the U.S. Forest Service to reexamine its use of fire retardant in fighting wildfires.

Citing that the chemicals in fire retardants can be toxic to animals and fish, Judge Molloy found in favor of a suit brought by Andy Stahl, executive director of the Eugene, Oregon-based Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEE), who claimed the Forest Service’s 2008 environmental assessment on fire retardant use was inadequate. A previous FSEE suit, filed in 2003 after a 2002 drop on a wildfire near La Pine, Oregon, killed 22,000 trout in the Fall River, was dismissed after the 2008 assessment. The suit that brought Judge Molloy’s July 28 order was filed three weeks later.

The judge didn’t restrict use of fire retardant during the 2010 fire season, but did order the Forest Service and two other federal agencies—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service—to complete a new environmental impact statement on fire retardant use by the end of 2011.

A Forest Service spokesperson said the agency will “fully comply” with Judge Molloy’s order, but reiterated that retardant is a useful tool for protecting communities and wildlands from wildfire. “Protecting fish and wildlife habitat are our priorities and millions of acres are at risk of uncharacteristically large and severe wildfires that can cause long-term damage to wildlife habitat and human communities. Retardant is an effective tool in fire suppression both in the wild lands and near communities.”

Stahl contends that fire retardant is used as a public relations display for television cameras even when it cannot be effective, and that retardant use reflects “a fire-industrial complex between the government and contractors that keeps the money

*Continued on page 20*

## Feature

### Guard Station Kids

*The memories of Bob Lindsay, Dick and Dave Robins, and Fran Lattin tell us there were worse places to be a kid than Deschutes National Forest guard stations.*

By Les Joslin

#### **Bob Lindsay at Fall River Guard Station, 1937 to 1940**

Bob Lindsay was just a little shaver when his mom and dad were stationed at Fall River Guard Station on the Deschutes National Forest starting in the summer of 1937. His dad, Jesse Lewis Lindsay, a former buckaroo and packer, was assigned there as forest guard and CCC camp coordinator. His mom, Dortha Rose Lindsay, was fire dispatcher. The guard station, tied to the surrounding fire lookouts and other stations by No. 9 wire telephone lines, was the nerve center for fire operations on that part of the forest.

This was an impressionable environment for a young boy, and Bob was impressed. Bob recalled he'd visit the CCC camp and "hang out" at the cook tent where he would "eat pie even though [he] wasn't supposed to." His mom realized what his association with some of these tough boys from New York, New Jersey, and Chicago was doing for her little boy's social development when, at dinner, he once said: "Pass the god-damned potatoes, please."

Bob recalled that "Dad would settle CCC camp fights with a red pick handle he kept by the back door of the guard station house. He had a right-hand man, about six-foot three-inches tall and 240 pounds, to help him keep order among them."

Bob's mom ran the switchboard, to which fire lookouts reported by telephone, and dispatched fire crews. "Either 1938 or 1939 was a big fire season. A lot of lightning. Mother, running the switchboard, sat on a glass [bottomed] stool. A lightning strike blew the switchboard up and knocked Mother off her stool and against the wall. Three days later, a new switchboard with a safety switch was put in." One of Forest Guard Lindsay's biggest job was keeping the telephone lines repaired.



Fall River Guard Station in the 1930s. U.S. Forest Service photo



Dave Robins proudly wore the junior ranger badge given to him by Fort Rock District Ranger Henry Tonseth.

#### **Dick and Dave Robins at Paulina Lake Guard Station, 1942 to 1950s**

Early in the afternoon of June 15, 1942, John P. Robins, with his wife Helen and their sons Dick and Dave—ages seven and four, respectively—drove his 1935 Packard coupe over a rise and into the yard of the newly-completed Paulina Lake Guard Station.

District Ranger Henry Tonseth, who'd run the Fort Rock Ranger District that included

the famed Newberry Caldera—now centerpiece of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument—since 1934 and would until 1969, had hired Robins, a former principal of Sisters High School then teaching algebra in California, as his summer forest guard. Robins had previous experience as a Deschutes National Forest guard and fire lookout. He'd be at Paulina Lake Guard Station for 17 summers, and Dick and Dave would grow up there.

As they did, they progressed from tagging along with Forest Guard Robins as he went about his duties in the field and helping Mrs. Robins around the guard station—and, of course, fishing and playing with the Paulina Peak lookout's little boys—to being an increasing help to their dad in his duties.

Dave recalled helping pack supplies to Paulina Peak Lookout on burros when still just a little guy. "My job with the burros was to apply an electric shock from a battery operated [livestock prod] whenever the burros stopped walking to get them going



Paulina Peak Lookout was supplied by pack train. Dave Robins helped prod the pack train along.

again.” When old enough, Dave often accompanied Ranger Tonseth on his field work, sometimes for two or three days at a time.

Once when Forest Guard Robins and his boys were working at the start of the south trail up Paulina Peak, the boys spotted a mother bear and cub. When the bear began moving toward them, they ran to the truck, jumped in, and—taking normal precautions—locked the truck doors. The problem with this move was their dad was still outside the truck. He yelled to the boys, they opened a door, he jumped in, and all were safe from an angry mother bear.

Dick and Dave grew up, and eventually left Paulina Lake Guard Station for summers, lives, and successful careers. But they always came back to the Deschutes National Forest—specifically to the cabin their mom and dad had built in 1935 on a Metolius River summer home tract and named “Robinwood” for both their last names.

### Frances Lattin at Elk Lake Guard Station, 1947 and 1948

Dick and Dave were “old hands” at Paulina Lake Guard Station when, some 30 miles to the northwest, six-year-old Frances Wynkoop arrived at Elk Lake Guard Station in June 1947 for the first of two summers there with her parents. Her dad, Clifford Wynkoop, a teacher in Sherwood, Oregon, would be the forest guard there.

Fran recalls that her mother, Marjorie, who’d grown up in New York City, cried all the last 30-mile dirt road stretch from Bend to Elk Lake, wondering where the new Forest Guard Wynkoop was taking her. But when she looked out the cabin’s window the next morning, she exclaimed “I never want to leave!”

Just north of Elk Lake Lodge and surrounded by campgrounds and summer homes, Elk Lake Guard Station was the

hub of a major recreation area looked after by the guard there for the district ranger in Bend. There both Forest Guard Wynkoop and Mrs. Wynkoop greeted forest visitors, issued campfire permits, and provided information and assistance. Young Fran pitched right in around the station—where she helped with chores and trained a “c h i p m u n k” named Whiskey—and in the field-



Marjorie Wynkoop and Fran, under the sign, enjoyed the summers of 1947 and 1948 at Elk Lake Guard Station.



Fran helped her mom and dad cut wood for the station.

when her dad collected campground garbage in his own 1930 Model A Ford pickup.

Fran had a lot in common with the Robins boys. Her dad was a teacher, too, and her parents also built a summer home on the Metolius River not far from the Robins’ summer home. Fran spent teenage summers there, and remembers fondly the accordion duets she and Black Butte lookout Paul Strebel played at the Camp Sherman dances. In his sixties, Strebel was known for walking down the butte for those dances, then walking back up to the lookout when they were over.

*Editor’s Note: Many thanks to Bob Lindsay of Redmond, Oregon, with whom, along with his friend OldSmokey Don Pederson, I enjoyed a June 8, 2006, visit to Fall River Guard Station, now a Deschutes National Forest recreation lodging rental; to Dave Robins of Walnut Creek, California, and his late brother Dick, with whom I wrote Seventeen Summers at Paulina Lake Guard Station published by Wilderness Associates in 2006 and who provided photographs to illustrate this article; and to Fran Lattin of Salem, Oregon, who told me the stories about and provided the photographs of Historic Elk Lake Guard Station in 1947 and 1948 that is now the Deschutes National Forest’s only visitor service center on the Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway.*



Forest Guard Wynkoop, second from left, welcomed Deschutes National Forest Visitors to Elk Lake Guard Station in 1947 and 1948.



## Changes

**Captain, Harold E. & Frances L.** – New members: 4183 Syl via St SE, Salem, OR 97317; Telephone: 541-399-3789

**Connaughton, Kent P. & Susan N. Little** – New members: 3954 N Harcourt Pl, Shorewood, WI 53211; Telephone: 414-297-3765 E-mail: kconnaughton@fs.fed.us

**Devereaux, John** – Change address: now living with daughter Pam and son-in-law John Wilson at 27690 South Boundary Rd, Corvallis, OR 97330

**Enberg, Paul R. & Charlotte** – Change e-mail: eberg.paul@gmail.com

**Gouette, Nadine Florence** – Deceased, June 14, 2010; Mike survives

**Hastie, Toby & Dee** – Rejoined as life members: 37714 S Boulder Wind Dr, Tucson, AZ 85739; Telephone: 520-825-3666 E-mail: toby@wbhsi.net

**Hermesen, Leah M. & Rudy** – Change e-mail: lhersen@gmail.com

**Johnson, Frank H. & Janet** – Change address: 2217 NE 179<sup>th</sup> St, Unit 81, Ridgefield, WA 98642; Change e-mail: reforest@q.com

**Johnson, Kenneth R. & Emily** – New members: 102 Oakhurst Dr, Clinton, MS 39056; Telephone: 601-924-1502; E-mail: JohnsonKR04@aol.com

**Kerns, Joyce Avon Cole** – deceased, June 17, 2010; Mac survives

**Kerr, Jack C.** – Change address: 184 NW Harwood St, No 80, Prineville, OR 97754; Change e-mail: kerrjack@ bendbroadband.com

**Klingler, Gene E. & Margaret** – Change address: 4543 W South Jordan Pkwy, South Jordan, UT 84095; Telephone: 541-971-7039; E-mail remains the same

**Kreimeyer, Victor L. “Vic”** – Deceased, July 22, 2010; Roxa survives

**McGonagill, Elizabeth Ann Carr** – Deceased, April 30, 2010; Keith survives

**Miner, Cynthia L. “Cindy”** – New member: U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, PO Box 3890, Portland, OR 97204; Telephone: 503-808-2153 E-mail: clminer@fs.fed.us

**Robertson, F. Dale & Margie** – Change e-mail: fdalerober-son@gmail.com

**Sand, Steve & Beryl** – Change e-mail: sbsand@centurytel.net

**Skinner, William & Nancy** – Change e-mail: Billskinner@centurytel.net

**Smith, Richard W. “Dick”** – Deceased, June 20, 2010; Patricia survives

**Sullivan, Leslie James “Les”** – Deceased, July 4, 2010

**Torrence, James F. & Elizabeth** – Change e-mail: jetink1@frontier.com

**Widmark, David M. & Sherrill** – New members: 515 NW Wallula Ave, Gresham, OR 97030; Telephone: 503-310-5501 E-mail: dmwidmark@yahoo.com

**Wilson, John O.** – Deceased, June 18, 2010; Bonna survives

**Worstell, R. Larry** – Deceased, July 8, 2010; Charlotte survives

## New Members

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Summer 2010 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

**Harold E. & Frances L. Captain** of Salem, Oregon, joined June 17, 2010. Harold retired from the U.S. Forest Service on October 1, 1991, at Parkdale Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest after 37 years of federal service, 33.5 years in the Forest Service and all of those in Region 6, and 3.5 years in the U.S. Navy.

**Kent P. Connaughton & Susan M. Little** of Shorewood, Wisconsin joined August 12, 2010. Kent is Regional Forester, Eastern Region. His 35 years of federal service, 32 of those in the U.S. Forest Service, included service in Region 6 before assignment as Associated Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in the WO. Kent holds a B.A. degree from Stanford University, a M.F. degree from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and was elected a Fellow of that professional society in 1991.

**Kenneth R. & Emily Johnson** of Clinton, Mississippi, joined recently. Kenneth, who served 23 of his 39 years in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 6, where his last duty station was the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, retired on January 3, 2003, as Assistant Director, Geology Program, Minerals and Geology Management, in the WO.

**Cynthia L. “Cindy” Miner** of Portland, Oregon, joined October 1, 2010. Cindy is the Assistant Station Director for Communications and Applications at the Pacific Northwest Research Station in Portland, Oregon, where she provides leadership at the Station for communicating with stakeholders, partners, and the public, and manages an integrated communications program to create awareness and promote use of Station services. Cindy started out in the 1970s as a GS-2 seasonal at the Intermountain Research Station, earned both a B.S. degree in forestry in 1978 and an M.A. degree in journalism and mass communications at the University of Minnesota, served on the Colville and Green Mountain national forests, at the North Central Research Station, and as a Peace Corps extension forester in Ecuador before she joined the PNW Research Station in 1987.

**David M. & Sherrill Widmark** of Gresham, Oregon, joined July 6, 2010. David served as an operations and public relations manager in the U.S. Forest Service and retired in 2003 after five years as national manager for public relations professional development in the Washington Office. He served 36.5 years in the Outfit, 31 of those years in Region 6. He was public spokesperson for fires and natural disasters for nine state and federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest from 1999 to 2004. Currently president of the Gresham City Council, he has volunteered for the City of Gresham for over 20 years and also serves as a West Gresham Urban Renewal District commissioner, on the Housing Authority of Portland, and on the Bi-State Bridge Commission. Sherrill was a primary school teacher for many years.

*Continued on page 17*

## Memories

**Warren Ellsworth Drake** died July 14, 2010, at age 95. Warren was born March 22, 1915, in New Jersey, and went west during the Great Depression to join the CCC. He returned to New Jersey to finish high school, then returned to the West Coast to work his way through the University of Washington, School of Forestry. Upon graduation, he landed his first U.S. Forest Service job on the old Chelan National Forest as a guard at Stehekin, Washington. After working at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard during World War II, Warren returned to the Forest Service at Packwood, Washington, and as assistant district ranger at Twisp, Washington. His career, all in Region 6, continued at the RO and as district ranger in Ellensburg, Washington, on the Wenatchee National Forest; Chiloquin, Oregon, on the Winema National Forest; and Cle Elum, Washington, again on the Wenatchee. He was assigned as fire boss on several large fires because of his excellent leadership skills. Among his Forest Service legacies is the section of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail from Snoqualmie Pass to Stevens Pass he located. He believed logging could be done in a way that left little sign of man and his machines, and showed how. Warren retired from the Forest Service in 1973, and he and his wife Willie moved to their home in Ellensburg where he began a second 10-year career with Forteen Log Company. Warren and Willie moved to Leavenworth, Washington, in 1990, and Willie died in 1998. Survivors include son Jon; daughter Suzanne Anderson; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Christen Theodore “Ted” Dyrness** died August 28, 2010, at age 77. Ted was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1933, and grew up in Wheaton, Illinois. He attended Wheaton Academy and Wheaton College. He specialized in botany and fell in love with the Pacific Northwest during a summer fighting fires and working in a saw mill. Ted earned a Ph.D. in soil science at Oregon State University, joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1960, and in 1962 married Clara Mina Wright in Corvallis. Ted conducted some of the earliest research work at the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, and in 1973 co-authored *Natural Vegetation of Oregon and Washington* with Jerry F. Franklin. He moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1974 to lead the Institute of Northern Forestry, one of the first interdisciplinary, multifunctional units within the Forest Service. He became a leader in setting up holistic ecosystem research. Ted retired from the Forest Service in 1990 and returned to Oregon. Survivors include Clara; their daughters Cynthia Louise Dyrness, Cheryl Dyrness Cloyd, Christina Dyrness Williams; and three grandchildren.

**Gary Lynn Evans** died in August 2010 at age 55. Gary was born August 8, 1955, in Council, Idaho, and grew up and went to school in Baker City, Oregon. After earning an associates degree at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering at Oregon State University, received his professional engineering license in 1982, and went to work with the U.S. Forest Service on the Willamette National Forest. Gary married Patricia Miller Evans in 1983. Gary worked in the Geotechnical and Materials Sec-

tion and served a stint as Lowell Ranger District road engineer. An innovative engineer, Gary pioneered use of slurry seals, cape seals, and cement treated bases for low volume roads. He began fish passage improvement projects before they became the thing to do. As part of a culvert design team, he received the Caring for the Land Award and Excellence in Ecosystem Management Award. After 18 years with the Forest Service, Gary received a promotion and he and Patricia moved in 2000 from the Eugene-Springfield area to Vancouver, Washington, where he worked for the Federal Highway Administration’s Western Federal Lands Office. Survivors include Patricia; sons Mark and Eric; and daughter Molly.

**Nadine Florence Gouette** died June 14, 2010, at age 71. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Mike Gouette**. Nadine Florence Gilbert was born January 7, 1939, in Wenatchee, Washington. Where she grew up, graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1957, and married her high school sweetheart, Mike Gouette, in 1957. Nadine and Mike lived in San Antonio, Texas, during Mike’s two years of service in the U.S. Army. Mike worked for the next 37 years as a U.S. Forest Service wildland firefighter, and they lived in Entiat, Washington, Bend, Oregon, and Klamath Falls, Oregon. Nadine worked as a high school bookkeeper for 18 years. She enjoyed sewing, knitting, needlepoint, cross-stitch, macramé, tatting, crocheting, making greeting cards and scrap books, gardening, cooking, and baking. She collected angels, jewelry, and western art. She enjoyed travel, and in 2007 she and Mike celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a cruise to Alaska. Survivors include Mike; sons Kelley and Geoffrey; and five grandchildren.

**Joyce Avon Cole Kerns** died June 17, 2010, at age 74. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Tom “Mac” Kerns**. Joyce was born June 18, 1935, in Mound Valley, Kansas, moved with her family to Baker City, Oregon, in 1941, and graduated from Baker High School in 1953. Joyce married Mac on June 21, 1953. She graduated from Baker Business College in 1955, and worked for the Dairy Science Department at Oregon State College while Mac was a forestry student there. Mac and Joyce lived in 24 houses in 32 years, three of which they designed and built. Joyce worked at home while their children were young. When Mac’s U.S. Forest Service career took them to Washington, D.C., Joyce worked for the Central Intelligence Agency. She later worked for the Forest Service, and finished her federal service career at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest SO in Baker City. Joyce continued to work as a partner in the family ranch at Haines, Oregon, and was a member of the Baker County Cattle Women. She was active in the United Methodist Church, and civic and education projects. Survivors include Mac; sons Brent and Wes; daughter Janni Kerns Eggers; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Victor L. “Vic” Kreimeyer** died July 23, 2010, at age 89. He was a PNWFSA member. Vic was born October 19, 1920, in a farm house in Geneva, Iowa. He graduated from Geneva High School in 1938, attended Elmhurst College for one year, married Doreen Lewis in Texas in 1942, and earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Iowa State University in 1943. Called to active

duty in 1943, he served the rest of World War II in the U.S. Army Air Corps. As a B-17 pilot, Vic flew 51 missions from Foggia, Italy, over enemy controlled territory until February 1945. He returned to the United States as a first lieutenant and an instructor pilot. After the war, he began his U.S. Forest Service career as an assistant ranger at Enterprise, Oregon, then served as district ranger at Wallowa, Oregon, on the old Wallowa National Forest, and at Heppner, Oregon, on the Umatilla National Forest. Vic moved to Portland, Oregon, in 1961 as regional environmental education officer and later assistant regional information officer. He completed his Forest Service career as director of information for the Pacific Northwest Region and retired in 1977. In 1971, before he retired, Vic helped pioneer the vineyard industry in Oregon as one of a group that started Hyland Vineyards out of McMinnville. He married Roxa Peters in 1985, and they lived at the vineyard in McMinnville until moving to a farm near Quincy in 1991 and to town in 2004. Vic had many hobbies and an active spiritual life. Survivors include Roxa; daughter Vicki Kreimeyer and son Greg Kreimeyer; stepchildren Rex Peters, Bill Peters, Hal Peters, Erin Peters, and Fran Ragsdale; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Elizabeth McGonagill** died April 30, 2010, at age 82. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Keith McGonagill**. Elizabeth Ann Carr was born May 17, 1927, in Sequim, Washington, and married Keith L. McGonagill on February 25, 1945, in Seattle, Washington. After their many adventures in the U.S. Forest Service, Elizabeth and Keith retired in Baker City, Oregon, in 1980. Survivors include Keith; daughters Marilyn Shankle and Lynn Sissel; son Jeffery; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Richard W. “Dick” Smith** died June 20, 2010, at age 82. He was a PNWFSA member. Dick was born May 8, 1928, in Thomaston, Connecticut, earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering at the University of Connecticut in 1955, and worked for the state highway departments in Connecticut from 1955 to 1957 and Oregon from 1958 to 1960 before he joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1960. He married Patricia Foell in Stamford, Connecticut, in 1958, and two years later in 1960 began his Forest Service career in Oak Ridge, Oregon, as district engineer on the Rigdon Ranger District, Willamette National Forest. Dick transferred to the RO in Portland in 1965 where he worked in Engineering and specialized in bridge design. He retired from the Forest Service in 1993. Dick’s favorite pastime was hiking. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, a psychiatric nurse from 1959 to 1991; son Lyle; and daughter Dawn Gieza.

**Mervin Merle “Merv” Schouten** died August 26, 2010, at age 87. Merle was born August 12, 1923, in Long Creek, Oregon, grew up on the family ranch in Fox and attended the one-room school there, and graduated from Long Creek High School. He began a 32-year career with the Malheur National Forest in 1946. Merle married Helen Baker of Burns, Oregon, in 1950, and they lived in Seneca and at Bear Valley Ranger Station before they moved to John Day in 1958. Survivors include Helen.

**Leslie James “Les” Sullivan** died July 4, 2010, at age 94. He was a PNWFSA member. Les was born September 21, 1915, in La Grande, Oregon. He grew up on the family ranch in Starkey, Oregon, graduated from La Grande High School in 1933 and Oregon State College in 1939. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and flew 30 combat missions in Europe during World War II as a navigator in B-24 bombers. For his exemplary service, Les was awarded the Air Medal with oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Before and after his military service, Les served in the U.S. Forest Service, rising through the ranks to become forest supervisor of the Ochoco National Forest. In 1948, he received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distinguished Service Award for saving the life of a co-worker trapped under a burning log in a forest fire. After he retired from the Forest Service in 1975, Les and the former Virginia Forbes, his wife of 60 years, lived in Prineville and La Grande and enjoyed travel and golf. Survivors include his daughters Christi Sullivan and Leslie Martin, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**John O. Wilson** died June 18, 2010, at age 86. He was a PNWFSA member. John was born March 28, 1924, in Tipton, Iowa, where he graduated from high school. He answered his country’s call during World War II, and served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945. John was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in combat, the American Campaign Medal, the European Campaign Medal with three battle stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. In 1947, he married Bonna Van’t Hull in Iowa. John earned a forestry degree from Iowa State University in 1952, joined the U.S. Forest Service, and began his career at Oakridge, Oregon, on the Willamette National Forest. In 1958, he transferred to the Tiller Ranger Station on the Umpqua National Forest where he served as district ranger on the Cow Creek Ranger District from 1958 to 1964 and, after a district name change, the Tiller Ranger District from 1964 to 1967. Then, in 1967, he transferred to Portland where he served as fire staff officer on the Mt. Hood National Forest until he retired from the Forest Service in 1979. He and Bonna then started traveling in their travel trailer. Survivors include Bonna, sons Carl J. and Frederick “Rick” J., and two grandchildren.

**R. Larry Worstell** died July 8, 2010, at age 90. He was a PNWFSA member. Larry was born February 5, 1920, in Enterprise, Oregon. After the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Larry enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended officer candidate school. As a lieutenant, he participated in the D-Day invasion, landing at Omaha Beach, and later fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Discharged as a captain, he married Charlotte Wales on December 2, 1945, in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Larry graduated from Oregon State College with a B.S. degree in forest management in 1949, and served in the U.S. Forest Service in various capacities including fire lookout, district ranger, and deputy supervisor of the Willamette National Forest before he retired in 1977. Survivors include Charlotte; sons Mike, Tom, and John; nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

## Letters

### **Lee Boeckstiegal** *remembers Warren Drake*

Warren was my first ranger when I came west to the Wenatchee National Forest and the great Northwest in August 1955. Our office was in the old Masonic Temple building. We were downstairs and they occupied the upper part. Warren was just made ranger coming from the Packwood Ranger Station on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The staff consisted of Whille Starkovich, Warren, and myself. We did have a part-time clerk.

Warren and his wife Wilma adopted me and my wife right off the bat. When our daughter arrived about a year later they became our local grandparents. Warren was a great tutor with lots of local knowledge and patience as well as a good disposition. Warren did not know of time constraints when in the field. You went out to do a job and came back when it was finished or it got too dark to see what you were doing. Warren was a true lover of the woods and a great representative for the Forest Service. He will be missed.

### **John Hargrove** *remembers Warren Drake*

I hate that I [couldn't] be there for "The Warren Stories." Warren was the best boss I ever had. My first district assignment was district engineer in 1961. I was Warren's first personal engineer, after years of griping at how slow the SO was in getting OHP engineers over the hill from Leavenworth to help him out.

I'll never forget how, each spring, our FCO Ed Susich could count on Warren pushing the snowballs back too far and then having to go in and drag him out from the last snow drift he couldn't get across. They even had their own radio code for this.

His advice to me, in hiring summer help, was always "Get 'em with a pointy head and thick legs!" Knowing he is gone hurts.

### **Gene Klinger** *remembers Warren Drake*

I will not ever forget working for Warren at Chiloquin. He was a great person to work for as district ranger. It was not soon after I arrived that it became apparent that we had a conflict. On occasion, I would be five to 10 minutes late to work. About the second or third time I was late, he met me at the door holding up his arm looking at his watch. I made a suggestion to him. I would henceforth be at work at or before 8:00 a.m., but I would leave work at 5:00 p.m. promptly. If he would overlook my occasional lateness, I would not leave work until 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

I do not remember his exact response. I do remember that he never once again met me at the door if I was late. I did work until 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. most days. I had crews out working. I needed to be there to discuss the day's work and plans for the next day. It was great to work at Chiloquin with Warren and many others on my first assignment there. I did have a second assignment, and I hope I lived up to Warren's example.

### **Bill Shenk** *remembers Warren Drake*

I was on my first formal overhead team assignment on the Lostine River Fire as line boss with Warren. Nice guy. I think

that fire was sometime around 1965 or 1966.

### **Jim Torrence** *remembers Warren Drake*

Warren Drake—"The Stud Duck" as many called him—was my friend and neighboring ranger on the Winema National Forest. Warren was the consummate ranger, strong willed, honest, a person of integrity with a great sense of humor. He had the old fashioned idea that getting the job done was more important than the paper work. What a concept! We could use a bit of that today. I talked with Warren over the years and it was always a time of pleasure. I will miss him.

### **Mary Anne Sanford** *remembers Gary Evans*

I knew Gary Evans from 1981 to 1992 when I worked for Willamette National Forest engineering both at Lowell and at the SO. Gary worked at the old warehouse near 5<sup>th</sup> and Blair in Eugene with me. What a great guy. He was, indeed, an innovative engineer. Always with the great ideas, a smile, and a twinkle in his eye.

### **Susan Butruille** *remembers Vic Kreimeyer*

Vic Kreimeyer was a dear and wonderful man, a gentle and wise man. John highly respected him and his Forest Service work—a class act, he often has said.

### **Jerry Gause** *remembers Vic Kreimeyer*

There was probably no kinder person than Vic. He was a great host, a great smile, a great one-to-one conversationalist. Everything Vic said was spontaneous and genuine. His real home was the east side on the Wallowa-Whitman. He was engrossed in Native American history and had his favorite Indian chief portrait hung on the wall in his office. Vic did a great job for the Forest Service and was one of the first of us to get the public involvement era up and running in the early 1970s. He reached out to the public and always did a great job.

Can't help but miss a guy like that!

### **Beth Horn** *remembers Vic Kreimeyer*

I remember Vic Kreimeyer so well. He was in the old Information and Education department in R-6 when I was just a young person. I remember his infectious laugh and good humor, always upbeat. We worked on many projects together. We stayed in touch after he retired and became a little old winemaker, and I recall pleasant memories of staff get-togethers at the vineyard after he retired.

### **Zane Smith** *remembers Vic Kreimeyer*

Vic Kreimeyer has been accurately described by many before me. As a ranger and forest supervisor during my growing up, Vic was a model, a coach, and a good friend. He reflected the best of the Forest Service at a time when professionalism, team work, and community support was at its height. My heart goes out to Roxa and family.

### **Zane Smith** *remembers Les Sullivan*

Les Sullivan was one of the kindest and most caring Forest Service people I had the pleasure of knowing. I never worked with him or for him, but remember his supportive nature early in my career when on the Malheur National Forest when he was forest supervisor of the Ochoco National Forest. Some of his "Iron Triangle" colleagues did not have good words for him, in part



because of his collaborate nature. His obituary is testimony to his exceptional career.

**Elton Thomas** *remembers Bill Taylor*

Bill Taylor was my district ranger at Diamond Lake from 1974 to late 1975 or so when Dennis Martin replaced him. He took a chance by agreeing to an exchange between me and Bob Ray. Bill was a very good ranger cut out of the cloth where duty, respect, integrity, hard work, and mission were guiding principles that he passed along to his staff.

These were great years for our family as most of the RDMA were of the same age. Bill and Janet Taylor loved square dancing and they delighted in teaching heir skills to many of us that lived on the compound at the Toketee Ranger Station that we shared with an equal number of Pacific Power and Light employees.

These were full days, as we were cutting 66 million board feet and the recreation/special uses program was very active. I will always cherish my days at Diamond Lake and Bill Taylor was a big part of those memories.

**Zane Smith** *remembers Larry Worstell*

Larry Worstell was one of the most exceptional persons I have known. I had the good fortune to work closely with him for four years. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that I “partnered” with him while I was forest supervisor of the Willamette National Forest in the early 1970s. Larry spent his entire Forest Service career on the Willamette and rose to a top leadership position as deputy forest supervisor during a period the Forest was one of the heaviest and most complex units in the System—if not the most. Larry and Sharlee were a respected and effective team, modeling Forest Service professionalism and family so important to the Outfit.

I often thought of Larry as a super DA, one who kept the Willamette going during all the transitions that occurred in those days. Several forest supervisors of the Forest became regional foresters, an associate chief, and other top leadership jobs. I attribute much of that success to Larry’s coaching, uncanny sense of the right direction for unusually complex issues, and a moderating demeanor that kept the Forest on the level. My belief is that Larry never became a forest supervisor because the agency could ill afford to lose him on the Willamette. A more patient and caring leader would never be found.

People like that are hard to lose. It is difficult to think he is not with us any more.

**Harold Welborn** *remembers Larry Worstell*

I agree with [OldSmokey] **Zane Smith** about Larry Worstell. He was a calming and leveling presence on the Forest.

I arrived on the Willamette National Forest in 1975 as a new assistant forest supervisor for administration. Larry was assistant for resources and we also had a third assistant for planning. Larry and Zane had gone through a tough organizational examination and change that had the whole forest in turmoil over the changes. Then Zane moved on and Jack Alcock came in behind him and shortly after that I came in behind Stan Norton. Larry and the union were the organizational memories for the Forest and the people. We had a real challenge getting the place settled

down. The change was not that big of a change for most of the 800 to 1200 folks on the Forest but the feelings were still running high. It was a challenge to get the old unit back in shape while we all strived to make it the “best” and not just the biggest. There were always many folks on the outside, our friends and foes who wanted their oars in the water on any plans there, too. Alcock, Worstell, and the other two of us went a long way to settling in; then [OldSmokey] **Mike Kerrick** smoothed it out even more as he steered it back to the old organization of one deputy and several staff reporting to the supervisor. There was little trauma on folks going back to the old organization.

Larry was a fine gentleman and kept the old battleship on a even keel during his latter years on the Forest.

**Bob Hetzer** *remembers John Wilson*

John Wilson was my mentor, true friend, and one of “The Greatest Generation.” He provided the opportunity for many Tipton, Iowa, boys to obtain summer jobs with the U.S. Forest Service. Some of us, like Jim Hunt and myself, spent our careers working on the national forests. After a 1953 summer job of phone line maintenance, slash piling, and timber type and topographic mapping on the Rigdon Ranger District, I returned to Iowa State University and changed my major to forestry.

In January 1958, Judy and I arrived in Oakridge, Oregon, to begin our permanent career assignment and family. John and Bonna, along with others on the Rigdon and Oakridge ranger districts, became our family. We’ve had annual gatherings with many of the Oakridge gang for many years. John will be greatly missed!

**Richard Werner** *remembers John Wilson*

I first met John Wilson in 1958 in Tiller, Oregon. I worked for Hillard Lilligren and Gene Carlson on the South Umpqua Ranger District, Umpqua National forest, and John was district ranger on the Cow Creek Ranger District. I remember every morning John would line his “troops” up for brief instructions and a safety meeting for the work day. John was like a father to us junior foresters away from home for the first time. At the end of a hot summer day, we would all gather at the favorite swimming hole in the South Umpqua River.

I sat with John and Bonna at the banquet during last year’s Forest Service reunion in Missoula, and we had a great time reminiscing about the “good old days” in the Forest Service. He was a great friend and professional forester.

**Ron Skrip** *remembers Forest Service gentlemen*

There was a point in time in which Region 6 was blessed with a group of leaders who were gentlemen: Les Sullivan, John Wilson, Harve Seeley, John Rogers, Don Smith, Dick Worthington, Herb Rudolph, and many more! It was a pleasure for me to serve with and be influenced by them and many more in my tour. I served as district ranger on the Snow Mountain Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest, under Les Sullivan. I was geographically closer to three other SOs, but Prineville was where the “boss” was. Many a [trip to a] meeting [at] the SO on U.S. 20 without seeing a vehicle either way for two hours. Les entrusted me with that side of the Forest to deal with Harney County, Edward Hines Lumber Company, etc. I was chided a

time or three but it was deserved. T'was a GOOD time to be part of the Forest Service scene.

**John Marker** *comments on OldSmokeys Newsletter and Forest Service Academy proposal*

The entire summer issue is outstanding in all respects. You have done a very professional job of building and producing a newsletter, now better called a newspaper. [Regarding the] outstanding comments about [a] Forest Service academy, I would like to endorse it and share it with National Association of Forest Service Retirees members.

**Zane Smith** *comments on OldSmokeys Newsletter and Forest Service Academy proposal*

The Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is about the best we've ever had the pleasure of reading. Your coverage of the Wallace meeting, 1910 fires, Fish Lake, and report on the Wyden Bill all were well done and timely. I especially like your piece on restoring the Forest Service through an academy. Bravo!!!! It is exactly what we need to replace the culture and nurturing [of] new employees [we] had throughout our previous history. Keep up the good work and know we genuinely appreciate your efforts.

**Ron Koenig** *comments on the OldSmokeys picnic*

We had a great time visiting with many of our old friends at the 2010 OldSmokeys picnic at Wildwood. But attendance was 106, or less than half of what it was two or three years ago.

While we can afford the tab, and will definitely be there in the future (regardless of cost), we heard some grumbling about \$25.00 per plate.

Our church (Peace Lutheran in Estacada) had its annual picnic two weeks ago and the cost for Buster's Bar-B-Q to do the whole setup for 65 people was less than half that cost.

When I approached our leader, he said we had to be loyal to the caterer! I suggest we reconsider that and consider the membership.

**Bill Shenk** *replies to Ron Koenig's picnic comment*

Just to clarify, I didn't say "we had to be loyal to the caterer." I said, basically, we have had him there for a long time, we have always been happy with his product, and I see no reason to change based on cost.

**"CanbyCF@aol.com"** *comments on the OldSmokeys picnic*

I think \$25.00 per plate is a bit much, but when you figure how far he travels, the dinner is generally hot dishes hot and cold dishes cold... I like the suggestions to charge for drinks, to use paper instead of regular plates. Perhaps some regular attendees in the past should be asked why they were unable to attend. I wouldn't be surprised if price isn't part of it.

I did not know for years that any employee could attend. I thought it was for retirees only. Maybe a little more publicity, price adjustments, a new caterer...?

The location is really great for both eastern and western Oregon. I don't know about Washington. Having the same location each year is great for planning purposes....

**Ross Files** *comments on "Wildfire!" article*

Your article "Wildfire!" [Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newslet-*

*ter*, pages 22-23] brought me "Out of the Past."

I recall a winter 1970 meeting with an MGM producer about producing a documentary film on forest fire fighting. Vic Kreimeyer, Division of Information and Education, my boss, and [OldSmokey] **Frank Lewis**, Division of Fire Control, asked me to attend as I had some experience with film crews on fires.

MGM producer Jeff Myron's proposal was to use several film crews to document all the actions of a large fire operation, from planning through all phases of control, but the main theme would show the fire boss planning and directing operations. A film crew would follow the fire boss and document all his actions throughout the fire. At no time would film crews interfere with control activities or be asked to repeat a scene. Jeff was very positive that he did not want any appearance of acting or "staging" of any scene.

Frank and Vic agreed with the proposal and offered a cooperative operating plan for film crew safety and assurance of an operation without any interference with fire control activities.

1. Each film crew would be transported in a Forest Service vehicle escorted by a Forest Service employee of sector boss or better fire qualification at all times in the fire location.

2. Each film crew would follow Forest Service safety regulations and direction of their Forest Service escort regarding fire action or safety.

Forest Service escorts, to avoid conflict, would be under the direct supervision of a RO representative during the fire assignment.

The morning of "The Fire" I was on a flight to the Okanogan National Forest to participate in planning on the North Cascades Highway. We could see many fires burning on the ridge tops as we approached the Wenatchee National Forest and expected to be called back to Portland. About 1500 I was called to return to Wenatchee and set up to handle nine film crews that would be arriving en route Chelan and the big fire.

Imagine my surprise when my old friend Don Peters walked out of the plans tent!

It was a pleasure to be able to sit back and watch a capable fire boss do a fine job under so much scrutiny. As I told him some time later, "Good job, Peters!"

My best wishes to Ollie.

*Editor's Note: Letters may be edited for clarity, style consistency, and to fit space available. Letters for which writer's personal identity is not known may be attributed to e-mail address.*

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**New Members** *continued from page 12*

And welcome back to **Toby & Dee Hastie** of Tucson, Arizona, who return as life members! Toby retired from the North Bend Ranger District, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, in 2005 after 30 years of federal service, 28 of those in the U.S. Forest Service and 25 of those in Region 6. "I let my membership lapse several years ago. I think it was in 2007," Toby wrote. Now he and Dee are life members, they won't have to worry about that any more!

*OldSmokeys News continued from page 7*

Canada. That group of people would certainly be interested if the buildings were available to rent. I believe several colleges would like to have field courses there. The Oregon State Police have held field training for game officers there for several years.” There are other potential recreation users, too. And the view of the Fort Rock Basin from the historic ranger station on the edge of the ponderosa pine forest can’t be beat.

Don wrote he’d “lead a tour [of the historic Cabin Lake Ranger Station facility and area] for [Bill] and others who might be willing to lend a hand through letter writing or volunteer work.” Bill replied that “the idea of a trip to assess needs and get an idea of what is to take place there sounds interesting, and suggested that Bend area OldSmokeys “could consider a project like the [Friends of Fish Lake] project Willamette National Forest retirees are conducting at historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot.”

*Prepared from Don Franks’ August 16 e-mail to Bill Shenk and Bill’s August 17 e-mail reply.*

## OldSmokey Carolyn Rondthaler Seeks Support for a “Rondy Trail” on the Mt. Hood National Forest

Naming a trail on the Mt. Hood National Forest for career U.S. Forest Service trailsman and OldSmokey **Howard M. “Rondy” Rondthaler**, who died in August 2007 after 30 years caring for that forest’s trails, is the objective of a campaign run by his widow, OldSmokey **Carolyn Rondthaler**. Jane Rondthaler, Rondy’s former wife known by many OldSmokeys, and their three daughters are also very involved in the effort.

“We feel the greatest way to honor Rondy is to name a trail in ‘his’ forest after him,” Carolyn says in the Rondy Trail blog at <<http://rondytrail.blogspot.com/p/home.html>> that asks supporters of the idea to sign a petition requesting the Forest Service to approve “The Rondy Trail” in his memory.

During his career on the Mt. Hood National Forest, Rondy’s job as “trail coordinator” was to take care of the forest’s roughly 1,000 miles of trails and expand the trail system. It was a job he loved, and that love showed.

A native of North Carolina, Rondy arrived in Oregon as a 21-year-old refugee from work as a laborer in the Pullman Company shops in Chicago to take a summer job on the Estacada Ranger District. That was in 1949. After five more summers of work, Rondy graduated from Reed College with a degree in history in 1955 and the Forest Service offered him permanent employment. He rose through the ranks to head the Mt. Hood’s trails construction and maintenance programs to which he devoted himself until he retired in 1984.

“Rondy was the heart and soul of the trails system in the entire Mt. Hood National Forest for 30 years,” the blog sums up his career. “His commitment to creating the best possible trails for all hikers to enjoy has left a lasting legacy. He gave his time, his knowledge, and his creativity so that generations can enjoy well-built trails for years to come.”

You can support “The Rondy Trail” by going to the Rondy

Trail blog, reading up on the project, clicking on “Sign the Petition,” and doing just that.

*Prepared from multiple sources including the Rondy Trail blog, an article by Karen McCowan “Mountain trail blazer has wily way in woods in The Oregonian (date not known), and an article by Jim Running “Oregon job bet pays off in hikes galore” in The Oregonian of March 5, 1984.*

## OldSmokey John Marker Reports on NAFSR 2010 Annual Meeting

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was an intense set of meetings characterized by many association governance issues and a visit with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

A major issue is the need to immediately increase NAFSR’s ability to meet an ever-expanding workload as the association’s influence expands.

### Chief Tidwell’s Visit

Chief Tidwell talked about his agenda and hope to spend many years leading the Forest Service. He is pleased with his working relationship with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. His priority agenda includes better safety for Forest Service people and the public, continued emphasis on forest health, increased cooperation with adjacent communities and landowners, encouraging the landscape management concept, and good science to help forests adapt to climate change.

He also stressed the importance of the Forest Service to increasing jobs in and adjacent to the forests as part of forest management activities and increasing forest and community fire resiliency. He stressed the need for more forest product infrastructure to process materials removed for improving forest resistance to fire, insect, and disease damage. He observed that not too long ago the forest product industry needed the forests, and today the forests need the industry.

He was encouraged by positive discussions with major environmental groups about forest management issues, and wants the positive dialogue to continue.

He greatly appreciated NAFSR’s hard work to support the FLAME Act. He urged the association to continue to support Forest Service research, recreation, and road maintenance programs as well as general forest management and protection efforts.

The Chief addressed the Station Fire incident and the Albuquerque issue of an individual misuse of a government travel card. He is personally involved in corrective actions to reduce recurrence of similar situations. In the Albuquerque incident [see “U.S. Forest Service Former CFO Misused Credit Card and Still Got a Raise and a \$13,000 Bonus” on pages 8 and 9], he found his options to recover the performance bonus limited by law, but when the individual involved went to work for a firm contracting with the Forest Service he was able to have him terminated because of contract rules against hiring former Forest Service employees.

The Station Fire is still simmering and has become political. The Chief is satisfied that the Forest Service leadership made correct decisions during the initial attack which has been the



focal point of criticism. Lack of clear information flowing to the retiree community may have contributed to the situation and steps will be taken to make sure retirees have access to reliable information the future.

NAFSR appreciated Chief Tidwell spending a morning discussing issues and providing his perspective on Forest Service and national forest issues.

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors meeting that followed Chief Tidwell's visit focused on NAFSR governance and a plan developed by CEO and OldSmokey **Darrel Kenops** to more effectively meet both challenges and opportunities facing the association.

Representatives of the National Forest Foundation and National Museum of Forest Service History were welcomed to the meeting and took an active role in the discussions.

Thanks to members' efforts the association is working with twenty-plus allied organizations on a variety of national forest and Forest Service issues. NAFSR is seen as a "go to" organization for professional forest management information, and on Capitol Hill, thanks to George Leonard's hard work, NAFSR is respected and listened to by many members of Congress.

Chair and OldSmokey **Jim Golden** discussed the need for bylaw changes and commented on his work with the NAFSR Reforestation Committee to understand the issues contributing to national forest reforestation backlog.

Darrel presented a plan to create standing committees focused on specific subject areas, form an executive committee for day-to-day decisions, and provide for ad hoc committees for special projects. The standing committees proposed are:

**Audit Committee.** A small committee with responsibility to ensure NAFSR is meeting the requirements of IRS Code 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and following accepted accounting practices for managing its funds.

**Development Committee.** Charged with developing strategies and programs for increasing NAFSR's operating budget. As association influence increases the need for increased operating funds is imperative. It is no longer fair or appropriate to ask members to cover major travel and other significant association costs with their own resources.

**Membership Committee.** NAFSR's strength depends on Forest Service retirees being willing to step forward with their wisdom and commitment to the nation's public forests and spend a few hours a month actively involved in association programs and activities. The short-term goal is to reach a membership of 1,000 in three years.

**Communications Committee.** NAFSR must have the ability to reach beyond members with information about and discussion of issues important to the well being of the national forests and to counter misinformation about forest management programs on federal and state lands. Currently the newsletter, *The Lookout*, is NAFSR's only mass communication vehicle and is inadequate for today's gigantic national/international electronic movement of information.

**Awards and Recognition Committee.** There is expansion of committee responsibilities beyond the John McGuire Award to develop and manage an award program to recognize accom-

plishments of NAFSR members and people in partner organizations who have made significant contributions to NAFSR.

**Fire Committee.** This committee is active and working closely with the Forest Service on a variety of fire protection and management policy issues and on providing a link between serving fire management leaders and retirees with the experience and wisdom derived from years of dealing with the complexities of fire protection and use.

### **OldSmokeys are Urged to Join!**

## **U.S. Forest Service Retirees**

## **Belong in the National Association of Forest Service Retirees**

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is a private, independent, non-partisan, non-profit association whose members are *just like you* in that they believe in the U.S. Forest Service and its mission.

Just like you, NAFSR members dedicated their careers to protecting, developing, and managing the nation's National Forest System lands and to advising and cooperating with in the United States and around the world on such matters.

Just like you, NAFSR members remain dedicated to promotion of the ideas and principles of natural resource conservation upon which the U.S. Forest Service was founded and to providing a world-wide forum to encourage progress in their refinement and application.

That's why OldSmokeys should be NAFSR members —

- who are Forest Service retirees and others with germane training and experience;
- who apply their combined knowledge and experience to provide sound and timely professional advice and public education relating to crucial issues involving forestry and related specialties;
- and who provide information about natural resource management to the American people, their elected representatives, and public and private agencies with the objectives of enhancing public understanding or natural resources and their management.

Those are all things you as an OldSmokeys can do as a NAFSR member—things that are much harder to do on your own.

Regular membership in NAFSR is open to Forest Service retirees, their spouses and surviving spouses who are the voting members of the association. There are also associate members and sustaining members.

Check out the NAFSR website at [www.fsx.org/](http://www.fsx.org/) for complete information about the association and its activities and for complete membership information and to apply for membership online or by regular mail.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FOREST SERVICE RETIREES**  
*"Sustaining the Heritage"*

## *Forest Service News continued from page 9*

flowing” and “has led to a quintupling of Forest Service fire-fighting expenses in the last 10 years.”

*Prepared from multiple sources including an article by Jeff Barnard of The Associated Press “Judge challenges Forest Service study of toxic fire retardant” published in The Seattle Times on July 28, 2010; an article by Keith Chu “Ruling calls for study of fire retardant drops” published in the Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper The Bulletin on July 29, 2010; and an Oregon Public Broadcasting story by David Noguera aired on July 29, 2010.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Confirms Ochoco National Forest Decision to Retain Rager Ranger Station**

After flirting with ending full-time operations at both Rager Ranger Station and the Crooked River National Grasslands office—a move that would have pulled all Ochoco National Forest personnel into the SO in Prineville to create a one-office national forest, Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter decided to keep both Rager Ranger Station 73 miles east of Prineville and the Crooked River National Grassland office in Madras open at lower staffing levels. The Washington Office signed off on Walter’s decision, according to a July 3 article in *The Bulletin*, Bend’s daily newspaper.

The proposed cost-cutting move was overridden by public concern and, perhaps, common sense. Rager Ranger Station, headquarters of the Paulina Ranger District, is the most remote ranger station in the Pacific Northwest. Closing it would have cost the remote eastern Crook County town of Paulina and its ranching community its ambulance service. The community’s ambulance has traditionally been staffed by qualified Forest Service personnel at the ranger station, 15 miles east of Paulina. Ambulances from Prineville require an additional hour or more to reach area emergencies.

And it makes sense to “leave Forest Service employees who must be in the field to do their jobs in the field, while bringing those employees who regularly work together on collaborative projects under one roof” to the SO. The daily commute from the SO to Rager Ranger Station would be over 140 miles round trip. The decision also preserves a Forest Service presence in the field.

As a result of the decision, “five to seven employees will remain at Rager with six Rager employees moving to Prineville” and “two or three...will remain at the Crooked River National Grassland office in Madras while two move to Prineville.”

*Prepared from “Ranger station will stay” by Scott Hammers in the July 3, 2010, issue of Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper, The Bulletin.*

## **U.S. Forest Service Offices, Visitor Center, and Historic Warehouse Destroyed by Fire**

A U.S. Forest Service building housing a Wallowa-Whitman National Forest visitor center and administrative offices in Enterprise, on northeastern Oregon, was destroyed by fire on July 11, 2010. No one was injured.

The 20-year old, leased, log building in the outskirts of En-

terprise housed the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area office and the Eagle Cap and Wallowa Valley ranger district headquarters, and offices of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center which included the Enterprise Service Center of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Wallowa County Farm Service Agency.

The approximately 80 Forest Service personnel whose offices were lost were temporarily relocated to the Wallowa Mountain Center warehouse pending a move to a more functional office site at the Joseph Elementary School, available for lease because of dwindling enrollment. The elementary school will be combined with the Joseph High School. The visitor center staff operated out of the Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce and field operations continued out of the barn and warehouse.

Spontaneous combustion of rags and/or tarps used by a contractor’s workers staining exterior walls is thought the cause.

Just over a month later, on August 16, 2010, fire claimed an historic Forest Service warehouse in the Entiat Valley of Washington state. Built at the former Steliko Ranger Station of the old Lower Entiat Ranger District by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, the burned warehouse was part of a compound that is now a work center on the Entiat Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

*Prepared from a July 12, 2010, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, News Release “Enterprise Forest Service Office Destroyed in Fire” by Judy Wing, the August 19, 2010, Wallowa County Chieftain article “Fire probe zeroes in on log staining” by Chuck Anderson, and the August 17, 2010, Wenatchee World article “Fire destroys historic Forest Service warehouse” by Dee Riggs forwarded by OldSmokey Bob Blakey.*

## **Pacific Northwest Region Forests Selected for Two of Ten Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Projects**

Projects on two Pacific Northwest Region national forests—the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington—were among the 10 projects in nine states selected for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration funding, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced on August 13, 2010.

Congress, under title IV of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The projects include partnership efforts on forest restoration treatments that reduce wildfire risk, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and maintain and improve water quality.

“Working collaboratively with partners at the state, local, and private levels is an important part of the all-lands approach to improving the health of our nation’s forests,” Secretary Vilsack said. “These projects will address forest restoration across landscapes, irrespective of ownership boundaries, and [help] create not only healthy forests and waterways [but] green jobs and economic opportunity in rural communities.”

The projects, funded at \$10 million, were selected based on the recommendations of a 15-member advisory committee. Advisory committee members were selected based on their technical expertise, the points of view represented, which geographic region of the country they represent, and diverse backgrounds.

“With announcement of these selections, this valuable restoration work can begin to promote healthier, resilient, and more productive forested landscapes,” said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. “We look forward to working with our community partners to achieve this vitally important work.”

### ***Pacific Northwest Region Projects***

The Deschutes National Forest’s project, called Deschutes Skyline, received a \$500,000 grant. This project is located on 97,000 acres in the Deschutes National Forest between Bend and Sisters where the majority of the landscape is ponderosa pine and dry mixed conifer forest types. The goal of the project is to restore forest ecosystems to be resilient natural processes. This will also help to achieve a variety of community goals such as job creation, reduced risk of high-severity fire in wildland-urban interface residential areas, protection of drinking water source watersheds, preservation of the scenic and environmental quality of extremely high use recreational areas, and wood fiber for local economic benefit.

The Tapash Sustainable Forest project, which received a \$1.63 million grant, aims at treatment to enhance the resilience and sustainability of 168,617 acres on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest over ten years. This project is a joint effort between the Forest Service, the Yakima Nation, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The restoration strategy uses a diverse array of treatment methods including pre-commercial and commercial thinning (including biomass removal), prescribed fire, and trail management activities.

These projects—and the eight other projects in seven other states—are slated to continue over the next decade if Congress appropriates the funds each year.

Other states in which projects were approved are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Montana, and New Mexico.

Additional information about the CFLRP, including the size and uses and limitations of the CFLR Fund, is available at [www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/](http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLR/).

*Prepared from multiple sources including the U.S. Department of Agriculture News Release No. 0406.10 “Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Selection of Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects” of August 13, 2010; the U.S. Forest Service Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program website at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration.CFLR/>>; and the article “\$500,000 grant to fund thinning project” by Kate Ramsayer in the August 18, 2010, issue of The Bulletin, Bend, Oregon’s daily newspaper.*

## **Pacific Northwest Research Station Reports on Healthy Watersheds in a Changing Climate**

The U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station has published a report about the role of forests in the stewardship of water in a changing climate.

Titled *Water, Climate Change, and Forests: Watershed Stewardship for a Changing Climate*, this general technical report “describes healthy, resilient watersheds as a primary strategy for sustaining ecosystems and the clean, abundant water they produce,” according to a June 28, 2010, PNW Research Station news release.

“Water from forested lands supports people, ecosystems, agriculture, industry, and energy production and is immensely valuable and irreplaceable,” said Michael Furniss, a PNW Research Station hydrologist and lead author of the publication. “With a changing climate, the need for stewardship of forested watersheds to secure high-quality water supplies and healthy aquatic ecosystems is more important than ever.”

The report’s 13 primary authors and more than 40 contributors and reviewers are Forest Service earth scientists and aquatic biologists who worked for two years to develop the technical details for managing watersheds for resilience and for protecting water.

“We face many serious challenges in managing forested watersheds, and it is notable that the Forest Service has remarkable expertise and experience to do this work,” Furniss said. “The Forest Service has over 800 water and aquatic ecosystem specialists posted in hundreds of locations all over the country, a robust research base and capacity, and decades of experience in watershed experience.”

*Editor’s Note: The report is available online at <[http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr812.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr812.pdf)> and is available in print by e-mailing <[pnw\\_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us)> and referencing “PNW-GTR-812.”*

*Prepared from a June 28, 2010, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station News Release “Healthy watersheds can sustain water supplies, aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate.”*

## **U.S. Forest Service Arrests “Displaced Foreign Traveler” on Shasta-Trinity National Forest**

During a July 9, 2010, action against an illegal marijuana growing operation on the Shasta-Trinity national Forest—a garden from which 7,434 marijuana plants were eradicated—U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers arrested an Hispanic male ordered detained for trial by a judge during a July 19 hearing.

Among the boxes checked on the detention order form was one that stated: “The defendant is an illegal alien and is subject to deportation.”

On July 20, a Shasta-Trinity National Forest press release headlined “Arrest made in U.S. Forest Service operation at illegal marijuana site” referred to the defendant as “a displaced foreign traveler” from Mexico.

Redding, California, where the Shasta-Trinity National Forest SO is located, is 765 miles north of the Mexican Border. The defendant’s home in Mexico is about 1,475 driving miles south of the border. The defendant was “displaced” some 2,240 miles from his home in Mexico.

*Prepared from the article “‘Displaced foreign traveler’ indicted for manufacture of marijuana” by Linda Bently in the July28-August 3, 2010, Sonoran News, published in Arizona.*



## Pacific Northwest Region Personnel Receive National Awards

“Three Region 6 employees are recipients of national awards in the fields of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers,” the WO reported on July 30, 2010, in “The Chief’s Desk.”

Rusty Thompson and Mollie Chaudet will receive their awards on October 14, 2010, in Washington, D.C., and Maret Pajutee has received her award.

Thompson, trails manager on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, has been selected to receive the Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership Award, a part of the agency’s National Wilderness Award series.

Chaudet, case management specialist on the Deschutes National Forest, was selected for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Outstanding River Manager Award.

Pajutee, ecologist on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, was honored by the River Management Society with the Frank Church Wild and Scenic Rivers Award.

*Prepared from the July 30, 2010, edition of The Chief’s Desk...People, Places and Things.*

## District Ranger Mark Morris Retires on Forty-plus Years

District Ranger Mark Morris, Tonasket District, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, retired at the end of June, 2010, after more than 40 years in the U.S. Forest Service.

Mark’s career took him from Lake Tahoe, California, to Tonasket, Washington—with several stops along the way. The last stop, as district ranger at Tonasket, lasted 10 years.

“Having district rangers like Mark makes the forest supervisor’s job easier,” said Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor and OldSmokey **Becki Heath**. “He’s experienced, and has a long history with the Forest Service and this forest in particular. We, as a forest, will miss his leadership.”

Mark’s career in the Forest Service began when he was 19 years old. After he earned a master’s degree, he accepted the job of administrative officer on the Waldport Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon. Before he arrived in Tonasket in 2000, he’d served in positions in the three West Coast states.

*Prepared from a June 25, 2010, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests news release “District Ranger Retires From 40 Year Career.”*

## Books

*Good books make great gifts, and they’re easy to wrap. With that and the time of year in mind, your OldSmokeys Newsletter offers some new books of interest you might not read about in the major metropolitan dailies and reprises mention of some recent U.S. Forest Service heritage books you’re also not likely to see mentioned by the mainstream media.*

### Bill Hagenstein’s *Corks & Suspenders: Memoir of an Early Forester* is “the Story of Forestry in America” and Much More

When the likes of *Evergreen Magazine* editor Jim Petersen and Forest History Society president Steve Anderson review and David Weyerhaeuser and Gary Hartshorn comment on Bill Hagenstein and his 2010 memoir *Corks & Suspenders*, there’s little left for a less illustrious reader who concurs to do than pass it on.

Here’s some of what Jim Peterson says in the forward:

“*Corks & Suspenders*...is Bill Hagenstein’s story, written in his own words, a memoir of the heart laid at history’s doorstep by a man who is perhaps America’s greatest living forester.

“A gifted orator with a photographic memory, Hagenstein was for more than 40 years the most articulate spokesman and passionate defender for American forestry. In his 35 years as executive vice president of the old Industrial Forestry Association, he testified before Congress more than 250 times and spoke publicly 770 times—once every 10 working days.

“No living American has done more to help advance the cause of forestry—real, science-based forest management, free of political betrayal and all of its modern-day hubris than Bill Hagenstein. Now 95, he remains as passionate about forestry as he was 70 years ago, and his message has never changed: good forestry is good for America.

“Hagenstein gives most of the credit for his extraordinary success to his widowed Irish mother, Jennie, and his late wife, Ruth, two tough as nails women who saw greatness in him and would not allow him to quit when his lesser angels would have betrayed him.

“Despite his towering achievements, Hagenstein remains a modest man. During one of our numerous interviews, I asked him how he wanted to be remembered. ‘I was a worker in the vineyard,’ he replied. ‘That’s all, just a worker in the vineyard.’”

And here’s what Steve Anderson said as he contributed the title of this review.

“Bill Hagenstein’s story is the story of forestry in America. When I read this book I could hear him telling histories as if I were there with him. It not only traces his exploits fighting fires, harvesting trees, and as ‘missionary’ for good forestry with the WCLA and the IFA, it truly makes the history come alive.

“Thank goodness Colonel Greeley hired this forester. He has given so much to the profession and to the nation. All foresters,

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conservationists, and anyone remotely interested in forest policy, will find nuggets of wisdom and practicality throughout.”

David Weyerhaeuser told Bill: “The industry made a hell of a mistake when they let you retire because you used to tell the story of what we were doing in forestry and no one’s told it since.”

And Gary Hartshorn summed it all up: “Bill Hagenstein is a remarkable resource who personally witnessed and influenced American forestry for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Bill’s *Corks & Suspenders* memoir is not only a must read, but also an exceptional historical contribution about 20<sup>th</sup> century forestry.”

So, what’s left for me to say? Well, you know me. I really like the part about Bill’s early U.S. Forest Service experiences, and the parts in which Forest Service pioneers such as Greeley and Osborne transcend the historical figures I’ve known to become real people. And, of course, I *really* liked the part that starts “I got my editorial britches up in a lather.” That sorta reminds me of somebody.

But I really *value* the wisdom and ethics of this man who, in every sense of the word and despite his admitted propensity for cussing, is a true gentleman. He tells the truth. And the truths he tells on page 109 and 110 apply as much to what has become of the Forest Service he started out in as it does to the industry in which he spent most of his life.

And I really *believe* that, as a template for a contributing and—yes, I’ll use the word in a slightly different but most appropriate way—sustainable personal and professional life, *Corks & Suspenders* should be required reading not just for forestry students in introduction to forestry courses—if university colleges and schools of forestry (or whatever some of them call themselves these days) still have such courses—but for all the students in all the colleges and universities all over this land on whom our society seems to depend for its sustainability.

Bill Hagenstein’s book is all about what life is all about.

*Corks & Suspenders: Memoir of an Early Forester* by William D. Hagenstein is 120 pages of fascinating history and stories of America’s love of timber. Measuring 9¼ inches by 7 ¾ inches, softbound, including full color and black and white photographs, charts, diagrams, newspaper accounts, historical documents, and Bill’s incredible wit and charm, is available for \$18.95 per copy plus shipping and handling (\$4.50 for one copy, \$8.30 for two copies, \$12 for three to 12 copies) by contacting Kristi at 541-345-2301 or at P.O. Box 989, Eugene, Oregon 97440. You can also check the book website at <<http://www.corksandsuspenders.com/>> to order from one to 12 copies by PayPal.

-- Les Joslin

## Ned and Carl Pence Find the U.S. Forest Service *Lost in the Forest* After “Four Decades of Change”

Retired U.S. Forest Service professionals Ned and Carl Pence penetrate the complexities of more than a hundred years of agency evolution to explain how the Forest Service in which

they served had “lost its mission by 1985” and to detail some of the costs and consequences of that loss.

In 140 sometimes gut-wrenching and not-always-politically-correct pages, these two veteran foresters pull no punches as they trace the roles that myriad social, cultural, economic, political, legislative, litigious, and bureaucratic forces have played in changing a “can do” agency “from one that accomplished on the ground projects to an agency that worked hard on plans with many interdisciplinary team meetings, public involvement meetings, and a computer on every desk” to produce “plans [that] were seldom completed or implemented. Constant planning with little on the ground accomplishment compounded the rapidly building public mistrust toward the Forest Service’s ability to manage the National Forest System wisely.”

“Many things changed during our active [Forest Service] careers from 1960 to 2000,” the authors wrote in the introduction. “During these four decades the Nation began a shift from capitalism to socialism and management of natural resources changed from active management for multiple use to environmentalism and the belief that nature knows best. The change transcended every aspect of our professional lives. It was so complex that even those of us who lived and worked through it can’t comprehend all that occurred.”

This, of course, is the era of drastic and definitive change experienced by many OldSmokeys and other Forest Service retirees, and the authors do a good job of sorting out many of the causes and effects of those changes. They wrote not to make money, but to tell the “total story of the Outfit. It also helped us deal with the deep personal sense of loss we felt as we finished our careers.”

“We acknowledge that our account is limited and others may view it differently,” they continued in the introduction, noting that theirs is a view “from what we refer to as the ‘ground level.’ Neither of us held positions above the national forest organizational level. Certainly those who spent significant time at the Region or Washington level would have a different perspective.”

The authors’ perspective is well-informed. Ned and Carl are two of five brothers from Mackay, Idaho, all of whom majored in forestry or range management at the University of Idaho and had successful natural resource management careers. “Ned and Carl followed different career paths,” they wrote in their introduction of themselves. “Ned focused primarily on active management of timber resources, fire management, and ranger district administration. Carl’s career included range, wildlife, and recreation resource management with an emphasis on long-range planning and coordination of resource use.” These are guys many OldSmokeys know, and to whom almost all can relate.

And they’re not finished telling the story. “We are working on a sequel [to *Lost in the Forest*],” Carl replied to a question from this reviewer. “But things are progressing (deteriorating) faster than anyone would have thought. We finished *Lost in the Forest* a couple years ago, and many of the predictions we made in the last chapter about what we saw happening in ten or so years have already happened or are well in progress. And, as we work on the sequel, events seem to be happening right after

we include them, so it is hard to keep up.” Indeed, in more ways than one, *Lost in the Forest* is a book of moment.

Self-published in 2008, *Lost in the Forest* is a 146-page, 8½ by 11 inch, illustrated, spiral-bound publication available from <anpence@cpcinternet.com> or <pencavi@msn.com> for \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling; inquire about multiple copy price breaks.

-- Les Joslin

## **T. R. Cox's *The Lumberman's Frontier* Assesses Three Centuries of Land Use, Society, and Change in America's Forests**

“With *The Lumberman's Frontier*,” Oregon State University Press announced when the book was published earlier this year, “Thomas R. Cox has reconstructed a groundbreaking history that stands apart from all previous studies of American forests.”

“Forests were ubiquitous in early America, but it was only in selected areas that trees, rather than farming, attracted settlement. These areas constitute the lumberman's frontier, which appeared first in northern New England in the seventeenth century, followed by upstate New York, the Allegheny Plateau, the upper Great Lakes states, the Gulf South, and the Far West

“The forest frontiers generated capital and building materials important to the nation's development, but they also left a legacy of environmental problems, class and urban-rural divisions, and economic frictions. The 1930s marked the end of the lumberman's frontier, but these consequences continue to shape attitudes and policies toward forests, most notably the questions, ‘Whose forests are they?’ and ‘How and by whom should forests be used?’

“Drawing upon recent work in social and economic history, as well as a wealth of historical data on forest industries and individuals, *The Lumberman's Frontier* neither glorifies economic development nor falls into the maw of gloom-and-doom. It puts individual actors at center stage, allowing the points of view of the workers and lumberman to emerge.”

*Editor's Note: Thomas R. Cox is Professor Emeritus of History at San Diego State University. He earned a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon and is a fellow and former president of the Forest History Society. I have brought this book to your attention not by reading and reviewing it myself but by quoting the publisher's press release that makes me want to read the book to see if Professor Cox has done for the forest frontiers what Frederick Jackson Turner did for the entire frontier of the American West as well as for the insights into forest history it promises.*

## ***The Sandy Knoll Murder: Legacy of the Sheepshooters* Offers Some Forest Service History as it Solves a Cold Case**

This is the first—and probably the last—time a book of the “true crime” genre has been and will be reviewed in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. But, given how things are going these days, one never knows. So, never say never.

The book in question, *The Sandy Knoll Murder: Legacy of the Sheepshooters* by Melany Tupper, is the result of an exhaustive analysis of the 1904 murder of John Creed Conn, long attributed to the sheepshooters of Central Oregon range wars of the late 1800s and early 1900s that ended only when the new U.S. Forest Service took control of and regulated use of much of the contested rangelands.

That the author's research seems to have solved the case—proved that Conn was murdered and by whom—is not the reason for her book's brief mention in this newsletter. The reason is the roles the likes of Chief Filbert Roth and Inspector Harold D. “Doug” Langille of the Department of the Interior's forestry branch, known as “Division R,” and such U.S. Forest Service successors as Ranger William “Bill” Kreutzer—way out in Colorado—and Ranger Charles S. Congleton of the Ochoco National Forest—much closer to the scene in Central Oregon—played in range wars and their resolution.

In the end: “The Forest Service had solved a problem with its controlled range management which the stockmen would never have solved with their ropes, rifles, and six-shooters.”

But the Forest Service story is brief sideshow to the author's apparent solving of Conn's long-mysterious death which was covered on the front page of *The Oregonian* for nine months and which the *Prineville Review* called “one of the most sensational murders in the history of the state.”

*The Sandy Knoll Murder*, a 320-page paperback (ISBN 978-0-615-36077-5) published by Christmas Valley Books, LLC, of Christmas Valley, Oregon, retails for \$15.00 and is available at [www.christmasvalley.net](http://www.christmasvalley.net).

-- Les Joslin

## **Ride the Ranger Trail with Three U.S. Forest Service Pioneers in Three Great Heritage Books**

*Timothy Egan's The Big Burn—reviewed in the Spring 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter—certainly caught on with OldSmokeys. Stories of three rangers of the same era—one of whom fought a Big Burn fire in Idaho but didn't make Egan's book—provide perspectives on the Outfit's early days OldSmokeys will savor. Two of these have previously been reviewed on this page.*

The names of Jim Cayton, John Riis, and Walt Perry are not as famous as those of Pinchot and Pulaski in U.S. Forest Service history, but each lived an exemplary Forest Service life and left stories of keen interest to those who treasure and would better understand the Outfit's heritage.

Jim Cayton, a U.S. Department of the Interior forest ranger in Colorado since 1903, joined Gifford Pinchot's new U.S. Forest Service in 1905 and served on two national forests in that state until he retired in 1939. David W. Cayton, his grand-nephew, has done Forest Service history a great favor by chronicling his great-uncle's career in the beautifully written and illustrated *James G. Cayton, Pioneer Forest Ranger* published in 2009 and reviewed in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

James G. Cayton: *Pioneer Forest Ranger*, ix plus 229 pages, illustrated, ISBN 9-78-1-882426-33-1, is available for \$64.95 from Cayton Ranger Station Foundation in Rifle, Colorado, website at <<http://www.caytonrangerstation.org>> click on “Books.” A portion of book sale proceeds supports historic Cayton Ranger Station on the White River National Forest in Colorado.

John Riis, the son of famous New York journalist and social reformer Jacob Riis, joined the Forest Service in 1907 and served on the La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes national forests before going on to his own journalism career. In 1937 he published *Ranger Trails* about those years, a book one-time Deputy District Forester John D. Guthrie of the North Pacific District (now Pacific Northwest Region) of the Forest Service reviewed in the November 1937 *Journal of Forestry* as “most readable...early-day Forest Service and conservation history, ending with a touch of romance.” It was rediscovered and reprinted with a prologue and epilogue in 2008. Gifford Pinchot biographer Professor Char Miller reviewed Riis’s “compelling memoir” of his “experiences as a ranger in the early Forest Service” in the October/November 2008 *Journal of Forestry* as “arguably the single best recounting of that pioneering life.”

*Ranger Trails: The Life and Times of a Pioneer U.S. Forest Service Ranger in the West on the La Sal, Santa Barbara, Cache, and Deschutes National Forests, 1907-1913* by John Riis, introduction by Gifford Pinchot, prologue and epilogue by Martha Riis Moore and Les Joslin, 222 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9647167-3, is available for \$15.00 postpaid from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822. Bend, Oregon 97708.

John D. Guthrie in 1937 sent a copy of *Ranger Trails* to his just-retired U.S. Forest Service friend Walter J. Perry in Bend, Oregon, with a note encouraging him to “go and do likewise! You write well and interestingly. Think it over.” Guthrie prevailed. “I yield to the urgings of many of my friends...to put on paper some of my experiences,” Perry wrote on February 4, 1938. “There is much that might be found interesting, but putting it into readable shape comes not too easy for me, particularly as it has never been my habit to look back over my shoulder very much.” There definitely was “much that might be found interesting” in Perry’s memoir, but it gathered dust for 60 years until it was edited “into readable shape,” illustrated with never-before-published historic photographs, and published in 1999 as *Walt Perry: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon*. The original printing sold out some years back, but a limited reprinting in 2009 makes this fascinating Forest Service heritage book available again.

*Walt Perry: An Early-Day Forest Ranger in New Mexico and Oregon* by Walter J. Perry, edited by Les Joslin, xv plus 190 pages, illustrated, ISBN 0-9647167-2-0, is available for \$20.00 postpaid from Wilderness Associates, P.O. Box 5822, Bend, Oregon 97708.

**Remember...**

**GOOD BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!**

## Uncle Sam’s Cabins



*District Ranger Robert Foote welcomed visitors to the new Chelan Ranger Station on the old Chelan National Forest in July 1941. Fifty-five mile long Lake Chelan shows behind.*

### Chelan Ranger Station Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin

*U.S. Forest Service Photograph by Fred W. Cleator*

The value of U.S. Forest Service ranger stations for serving the public guided the 1930s decision to locate the new Chelan Ranger Station in the town of Chelan, Washington, at the southern end of scenic Lake Chelan, rather than in a more isolated location closer to the forests.

When work began in early 1940, about 30 Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrollees from the Twenty-five Mile CCC Camp some 15 miles up Lake Chelan set up a spike camp to prepare the ranger station site. This involved constructing an artificial lakeshore landform of truckloads of fill dirt and rocks “that the CCC men spread with muscles and shovels” and around which “a sea wall of rocks was built to hold back high waves.”

Construction of the three buildings—an office, a residence, and a warehouse-shop complex in the Cascadian Rustic style characteristic of Pacific Northwest Region structures of the time—began in the spring of 1940 and was completed in the fall of 1941.

“Wood and stone predominate on [the three structures’] front facades, emphasizing the facility’s association with, and proximity to, the nearby forested mountains,” Robin Bruce and Craig Holstine wrote in an article on the CCC and the Chelan Ranger Station in the Winter-Spring 1990 issue of *The Pacific Northwest Forum*. “More than any other element, the ‘Pine Tree’ silhouettes [cut in the gables] provide a symbol of the ranger station’s significance.” The completed buildings were stained light gray, and the roofs and trim a darker gray.

An article in the February 27, 1941, *Chelan Valley Mirror* credited CCC labor for the nominal cost of the new ranger station: “Although only \$5,000 was appropriated for this project, CCC labor has been used and the finished product is several times a \$5,000 valuation.” Decades later, analysis of building records showed the final cost of the office building was \$5,069 and the warehouse-shop complex \$11,580. The cost of the residence is not known. That’s not a bad price for buildings still in service 70 years later.

Since completion, all three buildings have been altered. “In April 1943,” according to Bruce and Holstine, “Forest Supervisor N.J. Penick initiated plans to move the [residence] from its close proximity to the warehouse. Apparently the Supervisor thought the two buildings standing side by side were not pleasing in appearance. ‘It looked like hell,’ said a former assistant ranger who shared Penick’s opinion.” And so, sometime in the mid 1940s, the residence was moved to its current location between and behind the other two buildings. When its use as a residence for the district ranger ended, its interior was remodeled for use as a fire dispatch office. It is now known as the administrative annex. Other changes followed.

And, in 1955, the Chelan Ranger District—when the old Chelan National Forest became the Okanogan National Forest—became part of the Wenatchee National Forest. Later, in 2000, the Wenatchee and Okanogan national forests were combined as one management unit.

“Like the Forest Service and the public it serves,” Bruce and Holstine wrote in 1989, “the buildings at the Chelan Ranger Station have changed over the years. But overall the structures retain their original appearance and stand as representative examples of the rustic architectural style built by the CCC for the U.S. Forest Service in the era of the Great Depression.”

And the public-service vision for the Chelan Ranger Station has been confirmed. “Now more than ever,” as year-round recreation has grown in the Lake Chelan area of the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, “the Chelan Ranger Station is a focal point of public activity and attention.”

*Editor’s Note: Chelan Ranger Station is located at 428 West Woodin Avenue in Chelan, Washington, at the southern tip of Lake Chelan just off U.S. Highway 97.*

*This article was prepared with the generous assistance of Powys Gadd, Archaeologist, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.*

***Do you have a favorite historic Pacific Northwest Ranger Station that should appear in this Uncle Sam’s Cabins feature? If so, write it up and send it in with a photograph or two to the editor, Les Joslin, 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.***

## ***The Way We Were***

### **The Fish Lake Fire Crew: 1950 and 1951**

*By Wendall Jones*

I arrived at Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot for the summer of 1950 in the middle of June 1950, but could not go to work on the fire crew until June 23, my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. I worked on the Fish Lake Fire Crew for the next two summers. We were one of several regional crews established per relatively new fire policy.

#### ***The Summer of 1950***

We had very little fire duty in 1950. We went through rigorous physical training and training in use of tools and fire line construction. Forest fire staff officer Roy Elliot visited us after a couple of weeks and declared us ready for action. Our crew foreman was Jerry Gabriel, a great and tough boss. Jerry had lost an eye in a hunting accident, and his left eye was surgically patched over with grafted skin. So he looked tough, too.

We went to a fire on the Mapleton Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, but returned the next day because the district had the fire under control. Later we went to a logging fire on the north end of the Umpqua National Forest. We stayed only a few days, but got some real scares from snag fallers working above us on the fire. We were lucky not to have anyone hurt or killed. Someone screwed up by putting us in that position...or putting the snag fallers in that position.

Our last fire was a small one at Detroit. It was called the Hall’s Ridge Fire. It didn’t get very big, but any escaped fire near the hundreds of acres of slash from clearing for the Detroit reservoir was a great concern. We experienced our first helicopter rides. This was more an experiment than a fire suppression necessity. We were shuttled one at a time in a one-passenger chopper to the ridge top where the fire was. We could have hiked up in less time, but this may have been a “first” in the region.

The area around Fish Lake was being aerial sprayed with DDT for spruce budworm that summer, using an airfield near Santiam Junction. The mosquitoes were really bad at Fish Lake, so the district ranger requested that the planes make a pass over the lake to take care of the problem. Can you imagine that happening today? Anyway, it worked.

Without much fire duty, we were kept busy getting in the firewood supply for the year for the cookhouse and cabins, Hall House, and the laundry and shower room. We used a drag saw to cut up big Douglas-fir blowdown nearby, then split the wood with axe and sledges. We



Wendall Jones (left) and Gerald Helmer (right) and the Dodge Power Wagon at the He He Fire Camp in 1951. “Gerry and I became the best of friends during our two years on the Fish Lake suppression crew,” Wendall recalled. “Gerry was a local Sweet Home, Oregon, guy. He wanted to be a smokejumper, but his eyesight problems kept him out of that. He became a cargo dropper working out of the jumper base on the Okanogan National Forest. Gerry was killed in a Twin Beech crash while cargo dropping sometime in the early 1960s.

used the crew truck to move the wood to the station.

Our cook was Carrie Mason, wife of Chick, the road crew foreman on the Detroit and Cascadia ranger districts. Carrie was a great cook, and was helped by her daughter. Her daughter improved the “scenery” around Fish Lake, but was a bit old for us and her boyfriend, Bill Gabriel, was our crew foreman Jerry’s brother.

We stayed in the old bunkhouse, probably a 1920s pre-CCC structure. It wasn’t heated, but we didn’t suffer. Our entertainment was trying to kill rats in the middle of the night—flashlights and baseball bats swinging. No one was hurt or killed, but we did get a few rats.

On weekends we walked down to Clear Lake to go fishing, but were still on call. There was no overtime pay until the fire bell rang.

### ***The Summer of 1951***

The next summer was a different story. After the first week of training, we were reviewed by the fire staff officer. Roy Elliot had retired, and the new fire staff was [OldSmokey] **Jack Smith**. Jack’s initial fire season on the Willamette was a hot one. We went on just two fires, but they lasted all summer.

Early in July we went on the HeHe Fire on the West Boundary Ranger District—later named the Lowell Ranger District—where [OldSmokey] **Bev Pratt**’s dad

was district ranger. After the fire was controlled, the Fish Lake fire crew stayed to control “flare-ups” that occasionally occurred. The crew was divided into three separate crews, and we walked each day to our pre-selected standby positions. Spotters on high points watched for hot spots to show up. The fire map was divided into a grid system so the spotters could more finitely locate the flare-ups for us. When they did, they radioed the sub-crew closest to the flare-up, and told us the position in, say, M-3. We’d go and douse the flare-up.

The Dodge Power Wagon was our only connection with civilization over a road built for access to the fire camp. All the skid row bums were gone when we got there. The forest kept a retired Weyerhaeuser camp cook to be the camp cook. We ate well, both quality and quantity. He cooked on wood-fired stoves and ovens. We kept him in firewood. He baked pies every day, so many that we took whole pies with us to share for lunch.

We were at this camp for several weeks. We made one trip to Eugene for haircuts and a good bath. Most of us didn’t have suitable shoes to wear to Eugene other than our caulked boots. Jerry Gabriel, our foreman, managed to provide us some beer on the way back to camp. When we got to the end of the road in the crew truck and had to transfer to the Power Wagon, the Power Wagon lights would not click on. Since it was unsafe to use the Power Wagon on this improved “cat trail” (without headlights), we had to walk the rest of the way to camp and not one of us had a flashlight. But the beer gave us (false?) courage.

About August 1, we were dispatched to the big Sardine Creek Fire on the Detroit Ranger District. We had our first encounter with a massive blowout fire, an experience I will never forget. This fire was rained out and it was time for me to return to school. I never cashed a check all that summer, and put about \$1,200 in the bank when I got to Corvallis. That doesn’t sound like much today, but in 1951 it covered my tuition, room and board, and I had a little left over.

### ***Fond Memories***

My fond memories of Fish Lake in 1950 and 1951 have stayed with me for 60 years now. I probably wouldn’t have retained them if I hadn’t started writing my “memoirs” shortly before I retired.

*Editor’s Note: Wendall and I were shoveling dirt at Fish Lake on June 14. “I first showed up here for work about 60 years ago to the date,” Wendall volunteered. And so this story happened.*

***Share your fond memories of the old days in the Out of the Past section of your OldSmokeys Newsletter. Just write your story and send it in to the editor, Les Joslin, 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.***



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