



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Summer 2010

President's Message—Bill Shenk

I enjoyed the privilege of being a Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association member for close to 30 years before the nominating board caught up with me. They knew Vicky and I no longer head south in winter. I have enjoyed serving as President Elect with Bruce Hendrickson as President. He has done yeoman work and leaves the organization well tuned for me.

As in most organizations, there is in the PNWFSA a core group of very dedicated people who don't care about kudos. They just want a well-run, enjoyable experience. We have a number of such officers and board members, and other highly interested members who come to meetings and work. I'd like to instill this attitude as newer retirees join.

Thanks to the many who have made this year hum. There have been many positive actions such as large donations to museums, work by members who volunteer to improve forest conditions, great books written by members, and functions both planned and spur of the moment. As we age, we still find the interest and enthusiasm that has been our mainstay for many decades. We all wonder about the future of the organization and newer retirees who may or may not be as interested in the OldSmokeys as we are. I agree we need to brainstorm and implement a strong recruitment effort, but also believe in the long run current Forest Service retirees will be there to carry on if we set the example and point out the need.

I appreciate the monthly Board of Directors meetings. They seem to be the stepping stones to our continued involvement. There are many opportunities for meaningful retiree involvement with "the working generation," and the future of our organization depends on their interest.

I look forward to meeting with all of you, and to getting to know those of you whom I have not met in the past. By the way, don't forget the Picnic on Friday, August 13. This is one of the most enjoyable and best attended functions at which all may catch up with former work associates. See you there.

Bill Shenk

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

Sign Up for the Summer Picnic on August 13! See Page 14!

Forum

The Role of a U.S. Forest Service Academy in Restoring the Forest Service

Few would dispute the notion that the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service are impaled on the horns of a dilemma of dysfunction. On one horn is the lack of a clear-cut role for the national forests and grasslands. On the other is the lack of a clear-cut mandate for an agency to efficiently and effectively manage those lands.

The role of the National Forest System, of course, is a matter of law. Indeed, of laws—too many and often conflicting laws. Evolution of a clear-cut role for the national forests is as critical as it would be complicated. It would depend on a successful agency- and stakeholder-supported legislative review and revision that could result in a more workable set of laws that would facilitate more effective definition of that role and implementation of rules.

Whatever the role of the National Forest System, a viable U.S. Forest Service would be one with a well-defined mission implemented by leaders who lead effectively and followers learning to lead effectively—a professional corps of line and staff officers with field savvy and agency panache who understand and practice the art and science of rangering, supported by rather than subservient to appropriate technologies; a corps that capitalizes on rather than squanders its proud heritage, and attracts rather than alienates those who would serve in it rather than just work for it; a corps worthy of the admiration and respect and support of the National Forest System citizen-owners who should be served and would be served by it.

Where would we get such a corps? The functional U.S. Forest Service of yore grew its own corps of forest officers—dedicated professionals and technicians—on mostly rural or remote ranger districts on which the district ranger depended on each and every member of his small crew to ride for the brand and pull his or her weight to “get it done” together. Generations of Forest Service professionals and technicians learned the ropes in the field on such ranger districts. Most such ranger districts have been lost to lumping and urbanization and cultural change.

Without such ranger districts offering such formative experiences—unavailable now and in the future unless the lumped districts of today were split into smaller entities approximating the practical scale and functions of the past, the Forest Service should train qualified men and women selected to serve as forest officers at a special institution. This should be a national, residential, U.S. Forest Service Academy, situated on a national forest in the West that could accommodate and provide—and, incidentally, materially benefit from—a wide range of rigorous student field experiences. This academy would comprise an entry-level officer candidate course and a mid-career advanced course.

At the officer candidate school, those recruited to be the line and staff professionals and leaders of the Forest Service would learn to be forest officers first and specialists in one or more disciplines—in which they already would have academic degrees or significant experience—second. The challenging course would inspire the will and develop the physical and practical and philosophical wherewithal of a corps of professional and technical members—*not employees, but members*—who would be the able and willing and dedicated forest officers required by the Forest Service. After significant career assignments and experience, these forest officers could return to the academy for mid-career training to further their preparation for district ranger and senior line as well as staff assignments. The academy would be an intellectual and cultural wellspring of the Forest Service, an institutional home of the resolve and resourcefulness the Forest Service needs to succeed at a well-defined mission.

Audacious? You betcha! Expensive? You betcha! But certainly not too expensive for a U.S. Government that allocates hundreds of billions of dollars to rescue Wall Street and spends over \$2 billion (in 1997 dollars) per copy for B-2 Spirit stealth bombers. In fact, the entire U.S. Forest Service Academy could be established and operated for a decade or two for half the cost of just one of those bombers. Isn't investment in the future administration of the National Forest System and all the benefits derived by its citizen-owners in terms of commodity and amenity resources as well as jobs in more stable communities worth at least that much?

Impossible? Only if we tell ourselves it is and give up.

*And the sighing of the pines, up here near the timberline,
Makes me wish I'd done things different, but wishin' don't make it so.*

Let's hope that, fifty years from now, those plaintive lines from Ian Tyson's song *Fifty Years Ago* aren't the chorus of the U.S. Forest Service Hymn.

-- Les Joslin

U.S. Forest Service Should Operate National Forest Campgrounds

I was pleased to see the issue of concessionaire operation of National Forest System campgrounds addressed on the *Forum* page of the winter *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

I started my formal work for the Forest Service not as a member of the Forest Service but as an employee of a concessionaire operating a recreation area for the Forest Service on the Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania in 1952. This was a Forest Service experiment to see if by using a contractor and an entrance fee system it could gain enough income to keep this large swimming, camping, and picnicking facility open. I worked as a ticket taker, “sanitation engineer,” general maintenance helper, and occasional life guard.

The difference between then and now was the attitude of the concessionaire who really loved the Forest Service and was a local person known by many of the users. However, as good as he was, Forest Service visibility was greatly diminished and Forest Service interest in the area suffered.

Concessionaire operation of National Forest System recreation areas over the last almost 60 years, in my opinion, has not worked well. Forest rangers need to be on the ground taking care of people, facilities, and the land.

-- John Marker

When I retired, the National Park Service had begun to turn their campground jobs over to concessioners. Our experiences in their campgrounds became terrible. I was fairly confident that the Forest Service would never have to do that.

Hah! Recreation on national forests has since tripled, and the recreation funding continues to go down! Especially under the Bush administration.

I realize that it's mostly out of the hands of the Forest Service to provide the necessary funding for campground jobs. (Hell, we couldn't even fight fire with fire dollars under Bush.)

But I agree wholeheartedly! Profit motive subordinates peoples' needs and environmental needs. That's why I went with the Forest Service for a career instead of being a private forester. I have always been adamant in this regard.

-- Gene Holloter

The Opportunity Costs of Presidential Initiatives and Special Programs

It's hard to object to good projects such as President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors Initiative" (*see page 10*) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's "More Kids in the Woods" program (*see page 10*) that promise to benefit American citizens and the American environment.

To "reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's rivers and waterways, landscapes of national significance, ranches, farms, and forests, great parks, and coasts and beaches..." as President Obama's initiative proposes is laudable. So are "projects that promote active lifestyles and connect kids to nature."

But, at the same time, it's hard not to wonder—at a time of rising demands on federal resources and, closer to home for OldSmokeys, declining U.S. Forest Service budgets—the opportunity costs of such projects. Indeed, it's fair to ask: What is the Forest Service—and what are myriad other affected agencies—not doing as limited resources are directed toward pursuing such mandates?

After assigning extensive responsibilities for the initiative to several executive branch departments, Section 2 of President Obama's memorandum calls for reports from those departments. And Section 3(a) implies, when it states that the initiative "shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of any necessary appropriations"—a possible unfunded mandate. One wonders if other agency funds will be tapped to prepare required reports and otherwise implement the initiative.

The fact that the Forest Service selected 21 projects for funding from more than 130 agency proposals for "More Kids in the Woods" projects raises the question of what the Forest Service preparers of those proposals didn't do to prepare them and to what they charged that work. This writer is aware of the opportunity costs in one such instance.

This writer is not trying to rain on anyone's parade. He's just asking sober—and sobering—questions about commitments of limited resources in trying times of deficit spending to fund wars, entitlement programs, economic bailouts, oil spill cleanups, and—yes—wildfire suppression.

-- Les Joslin

The Forum is for expressing your opinions or sharing your ideas.

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

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

— *Attributed to Voltaire*

OldSmokey News

OldSmokey Bill Shenk Takes PNWFSA Helm at Spring Banquet

Seventy OldSmokeys attended the May 16, 2010, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association annual Spring Banquet at Charbonneau Country Club at which OldSmokey **Bruce Hendrickson** passed the presidential gavel to OldSmokey **Bill Shenk** who vacated the office of President-Elect to begin a one-year term as President of the PNWFSA.

At the same time, OldSmokey **John Berry** became President-Elect, and Bruce relieved OldSmokey **John Nesbitt** as Past President.

OldSmokey Zane Grey Smith, Jr., Offers Testimony on Senator Wyden's Eastside Forest Compromise Bill

OldSmokey **Zane Grey Smith, Jr.**, applauded “the effort of Senator [Ron] Wyden and the various interests in breaking through the stalemate so adversely affecting the management of our National Forests” supposed to be represented by SB 2895, the Oregon Democrat’s proposed Oregon Eastside Forests Restoration, Old Growth Protection, and Jobs Act, he expressed “grave concerns about possible unintended consequences for the National Forest System.”

Zane explained these concerns to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that held a hearing in Bend, Oregon, on June 4, 2010, after noting that the proposal “has many positive provisions” that “the Forest Service under existing statutes is trying mightily to practice.”

“My concern surrounds what I feel could lead to the fragmentation and eventual elimination of the National Forest System. I am a third generation career Forest Service retiree. My career led me through every line position in the Forest Service except Chief. ... So, I admit to having a bias, but we all know that the National Forest System, put together by president Theodore Roosevelt and many others, is the envy of the World and represents an extraordinary treasure for our Nation.”

“The management of the National Forest System is guided by a host of statutes dating back to the Organic Act of 1897 followed by literally hundreds of Acts into the 21st Century. The thought of overlaying this direction with Bills such as SB 2895 and others like Montana Senator [John] Testor’s [proposed Forest Jobs and Recreation Act of 2009] absolutely staggers the mind. My fear is that it lays the groundwork for the demise of the National Forest System.”

“My plea is to keep these thoughts in mind, and I urge the Committee to consider carefully how the existing statutes can be cleaned up and added to, thus applying up-to-date direction to the entire National Forest System.”

Zane thanked the Committee for its consideration and for adding the statement he submitted to the record.

OldSmokeys Attended “1910 Fires: A Century Later” Conference in Wallace, Idaho

OldSmokeys **George Chesley**, **Duane Ecker**, **Lyle Jensen**, **Darrell Kenops**, **John Nesbitt**, and **Zane Smith** were among more than 200 who gathered in Wallace, Idaho, for the May 20-22, 2010 “1910 Fires: A Century Later” conference commemorating the 1910 fires in northern Idaho and western Montana. Collectively called “the Big Burn” and “the Big Blowup,” these wildfires influenced U.S. Forest Service fire policy for the better part of a century and wildfire conditions today.

“The presentations at the conference detailed the events and conditions leading up to the Big Burn, the burn itself, and the impacts of the burn on policy, fire behavior, fire suppression, and forestry education,” reported George. But the presentations extended beyond the Big Burn.

“Another bell-weather fire was the Mann Gulch Fire of 1949 which became the basis for fire research and adoption of the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders,” George said. “The most poignant moment for me was a talk by Bob Salle, the sole remaining survivor of the Mann Gulch Fire. Bob was a 17-year-old making his first fire jump on that fire. His recollections of that event were awesome.” On August 5, 1949, this fire on the Helena National Forest in Montana claimed the lives of 13 firefighters, including 12 of 15 smokejumpers who jumped the fire and a former smokejumper working as a recreation and fire prevention guard. Pioneer smokejumper Early Cooley, who died last November, was spotter for that fateful jump.

“The last presentation by Jerry Williams, retired Forest Service Director of Fire and Aviation Management, addressed the role of ‘megafires’ and the potential for an event such as the 1910 Big Burn to happen again.”

Other conference events included a two-mile interpretive trail to the abandoned War Eagle Mine tunnel, in which legendary Ranger Ed Pulaski and 45 firefighters took shelter from the blowup, and a gondola ride to Silver Mountain to view some of the area burned during the Big Burn.

Also at the conference were Chief Tom Tidwell, Chief Emeritus Dale Bosworth, Deputy Chief for National Forest System Joel Holtrop, Director of Fire and Aviation Management Tom Harbour, Associate Deputy Chief of Research David Cleaves, and Northern Region Regional Forester Leslie Weldon. Fire historian and author of the 2001 book *Year of the Fires: The Story of the Great Fires of 1910* Professor Stephen J. Pyne of Arizona State University and fire researchers Bob Mutch and Dick Rothermel lent expertise.

Actually the 2010 annual meeting of the Inland Empire Society of American Foresters, the conference was sponsored by several U.S. Forest Service units and the Forest History Society.

Editors Note: Thanks to George Chesley for this first-hand report. Read more about the commemoration of the 1910 fires in Forest Service News on page 8.

OldSmokeys Form Non-profit “Friends of Fish Lake” for Historic Area on Willamette National Forest

The fifth annual Fish Lake work week began on June 14 when a large contingent of OldSmokey volunteers assembled to work on a wide variety of projects to maintain and preserve the buildings and grounds of the historic Fish Lake Ranger Station and Remount Depot area on the Willamette National Forest and to form a non-profit organization to further that work.

Late on the afternoon of June 14, OldSmokeys **Mike Kerrick** and **Rolf Anderson** convened the first annual membership meeting of the Friends of Fish Lake (FFL), a soon-to-be Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Members heard a wide variety of speakers address the U.S. Forest Service -Friends of Fish Lake shared vision for the area, heard about a similar successful project at historic Ninemile Ranger Station and Remount Depot on the Lolo National Forest in Montana, elected a FFL Board of Directors, and discussed a 2010 FFL action plan and timeline.

Following a great dinner prepared by the McKenzie River Ranger District, the newly-elected FFL Board of Directors held its first meeting at which **Mike Kerrick** was elected President, **Steve Mealy** Vice President, **Phil Raab** Secretary, and **Randy Dumbarr** Treasurer. President Kerrick then presided over the rest of the Board’s business that included approving the FFL bylaws and vision statement, its membership dues schedule, its IRS Form 1023 non-profit organization application, a memorandum of understanding with the Forest Service, and several other items of business. Board members agreed to a future meeting with the McKenzie River Ranger District to critique the fifth annual work week and to develop an action plan for the remainder of the year.

Fish Lake Warehouse Ransacked

Not all the news from Fish Lake is good. It was learned at press time that the Fish Lake Remount Depot warehouse was looted of all the historic pack and riding saddles and tack intended to be displayed and interpreted at the historic site, as well as the tools being used for restoration work.

“A real tragedy,” is how OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick** summed up the theft. “The thieves apparently knew where the keys were hidden for the special locks for the tack room and tool shed,” Mike added.

The crime is being investigated by U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers, and results of the investigation will be reported in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokeys Helping Form Non-profit “Friends of Rager Ranger Station” for Area on Ochoco National Forest

The Friends of Rager Ranger Station began forming as a group during the station’s June 2008 centennial celebration. Two months later, the Ochoco National Forest began analyzing reorganization options for the Forest, one of which was to reduce

Rager Ranger Station from an administrative site to a work station. The fledgling group decided to move along in spite of the uncertainty of the station’s status. In January 2010, Ochoco National Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter decided to keep Rager Ranger Station open and functioning. The evolution of the Friends of Rager Ranger Station, now with pending Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) non-profit status, is “moving right along,” according to OldSmokey **Kathleen Martin**, Friends of Rager Ranger Station pro-tem secretary.

“The folks in the Upper Country really came on strong with convincing the Ochoco National Forest leadership to keep Rager fully functioning,” Kathleen said. There is great interest in maintaining the century-old relationship between the Paulina Ranger District and the Paulina Valley.

“We had a great Friends of Rager Ranger Station Board of Directors meeting on May 2 at Rager and drafted our bylaws and articles of incorporation,” Kathleen reported. Those, of course, are essential to achieving non-profit organization status. “We have a diverse board of directors, even though right now we are ‘pro-tem’ until we have our first formal election in the fall. I think our group is going to have a lot of fun doing some very worthwhile projects at the station and on the ranger district.”

“Our summer membership picnic and work project is scheduled for September 11-12. We will hold the picnic at the Sugar Creek Day Use Area, about four miles west of Rager Ranger Station, and our work project will be within the Sugar Creek drainage. The picnic is for all folks interested in becoming members of the Friends of Rager Ranger Station. The Board is furnishing all the food. We will take care of business and explain membership at the meeting, and just have fun visiting. Right now we are planning to work on some existing enclosure fences along the creek and maintain plastic cages around riparian vegetation planted along the creek.”

Visit the Friends of Rager Ranger Station web site at <<http://www.friendsofrager.com>> or contact Kathleen Martin at <ktmartin@bendbroadband> for more information.

OldSmokey Volunteers Interpret High Desert Ranger Station Again This Summer

A team of ten—OldSmokeys **Carl Anderson**, **George Chesley**, **Dick Connelly**, **Bill Fish**, **Stan Kunzman**, **Joan Landsberg**, **Jon Stewart**, **Desi Zamudio**, and one non-OldSmokey volunteer, led by OldSmokey **Les Joslin**—is staffing the High Desert Ranger Station exhibit at the High Desert Museum south of Bend, Oregon, again this summer.

Daily staffing began July 1 and extends into September. OldSmokey volunteers explain the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service to Museum visitors on a one-on-one basis. Interpretation emphasizes the national forests as “Lands of Many Uses” and Forest Service management of those uses.

The High Desert Ranger Station, a 1933 district ranger’s office building moved to the Museum in June 2008 from Reese River, Nevada, after years of disuse, is an OldSmokey project.

Acquisition and restoration of this historic Forest Service district ranger's office building were made possible by the generosity of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association as an organization and as individuals.

Now, as volunteers telling the National Forest System and Forest Service stories they know so well because they lived them, OldSmokeys help realize the High Desert Ranger Station's potential for public understanding and support.

OldSmokeys Spark Preservation of Historic Fall River Guard Station on Deschutes National Forest

When the Central Oregon Fire Management Services (COFMS) organization for fire management on the Deschutes and Ochoco national forests and the Prineville District of BLM redeployed engine units and left Fall River Guard Station unused, the opportunity to simultaneously preserve a significant U.S. Forest Service heritage resource and develop a valuable Deschutes National Forest recreation resource presented itself.

Over the past half-dozen years, OldSmokeys—as part of their official duties and, in one case, continuing in a volunteer effort—seized the opportunity and led the effort to include historic Fall River Guard Station in the Pacific Northwest Region's recreation lodging facility program authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005.

Given the go-ahead by District Ranger **Walt Schloer**, an OldSmokey soon to retire, **Les Joslin**—who'd become an OldSmokey before appointment as the District's RHWR team leader—and recently-arrived District Archaeologist **Janine McFarland**—who became an OldSmokey in 2008—started the paperwork and physical work balls rolling.

Janine took the many-faceted lead, including organizing Passport in Time (PIT) restoration projects and coordinating installation of a new restroom facility. After leaving the position in 2005, Les continued assisting as a volunteer and in 2008 drafted the required business plan for approval by Region 6's recreation advisory committee. OldSmokey **Bob Deane**, recently retired Forest Engineer and Recreation Staff Officer, facilitated the process in the SO.

As a result, the historic 1930s Fall River Guard Station entered a new era of public service in May 2010 as the newest addition to the Pacific Northwest Region's growing inventory of recreation lodging facility rentals. The historic cabin is available from June through October for \$90 per night for up to five occupants. Reserve through <www.RECREATION.gov>.

OldSmokeys Will Attend July 22-24 Mount St. Helens Eruption Reunion

OldSmokeys and other current and former U.S. Forest Service personnel will attend the July 22-24, 2010, Mount St. Helens Reunion at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Headquarters in Amboy, Washington, announced in the Spring 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens on Sunday morning, May 18, 1980. The July 22-24 reunion is “part of the commemoration of that event, a reunion of those involved at the time of the eruption and those who have worked on bringing [the area] to where it is today as the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument,” according to OldSmokey **Bob Williams**.

There are no scheduled activities on the first two days of the three-day reunion. Those two days, July 22 and 23, “are for people to visit the Monument on their own and to connect with others who may be there on their own,” according to OldSmokey **Phil Dodd**, a reunion organizer. “There is no registration required for these non-organization events.”

“Everyone planning to attend the July 24 events must have pre-registered and pre-paid by July 1,” added Kathy Boutwell of the reunion committee. That day's events include a buffet lunch catered by Timber Lake Job Corps Center (barbeque chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, garden burgers, and side dishes) from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. (meal price plus gratuity is included in registration fee); a short program by master of ceremonies OldSmokey **Bob Tokarczyk** at 2:00 p.m.; entertainment by the Forgettables; tours of the new Monument office; and volleyball court availability.

Registered attendees may check in at Monument headquarters from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, July 3, and from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 24.

Editor's Note: Because of the timing of the event and the publication of this issue of the OldSmokeys Newsletter, registration information was not available to readers in time to facilitate registration for the Saturday, July 24, events.

OldSmokey Skeeter Werner Receives Western Forest Insect Work Conference “Founders Award” for 2010

OldSmokey **Dr. Richard A. “Skeeter” Werner** of Corvallis, Oregon, and colleague Dr. Edward H. Holsten of Alaska were recently selected as recipients of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference (WFIWC) “Founders Award” for 2010.

This award is given annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of forest entomology. According to the detailed nomination of the two entomologists, “their intertwined professional achievements literally put Alaskan forest entomology on the map, and for many years had a profound effect on all of entomology, not just forest entomology.”

For example, in the late 1970s Skeeter had a large hand in helping Ed develop the Alaska Pest Scout Program (Alaska Cooperative Extension), whereas Ed had a major impact on Skeeter's basic and applied research related to spruce beetle and other important Alaskan forest insects.

Another example of their career-long relationship was publication of the monograph “Insects and Diseases of Alaskan Forests” in 1980, which was revised in 1985 (and again in 2001 and 2009 by Holsten and new co-authors).

Continued on page 23

OldSmokeys Treasurer Vern Clapp Presents PNWFSA 2009 Financial Report

OldSmokey Treasurer **Vern Clapp** offers comments to “help you better judge the state of our financial health for the year” as you review the PNWFSA Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the period January 1 through December 31, 2009, at right.

“First, note that this report shows our 2009 financial year ending in the red,” Vern says. “However, there are extenuating reasons for this, in particular the major donation expenses incurred during 2009. Here are some highlights with comments....”

Centennial Book. We realized another \$606 of *Centennial Book Sales Income*. However, these funds go directly into a dedicated book account and are not used for operating income.

History Book. The *History PA Payments Income* of \$5,740 is Forest Service reimbursement for our consultant payments and is offset by the same amount we paid to historian OldSmokey **Jerry Williams** as shown in *Expenses*.

Market Gain/Losses. Note that *Lifetime Trust Fund (LTF) Market Gains* show as \$2,440 income. This accounts for the change in the per share value of our Vanguard investment funds. However, this is an unrealized gain, a paper profit (until we sell).

Lifetime Dues. We use only 10% of *Lifetime Dues* as operating funds in the year of payment. The balance goes into Lifetime Trust Fund shown in *Expenses, Lifetime Dues to Vanguard*. This figure represents 90% of the 2008 (made in 09), as well as the 2009 Lifetime payments.

Newsletter/Directory. Once more, *Newsletter/Directory* printing and mailing costs are our single greatest expense. In 2009 we spent a total of \$8,322; that’s \$452 less than in 2008 despite the fact that printing costs keep rising. The reason is we now have 187 members who have volunteered to go Internet and forgo receiving hard directory and newsletters, thus reducing our printing and mailing costs.

Events. To balance the *Banquet* account, \$320 of income was used from the special *Restricted Raffle/Auction Fund*. (Our accounting program, QuickBooks, shows this as a negative expense in the report.) This leaves a balance in that restricted account of \$1,893 as shown in the *Statement of Assets/Liabilities*. The 2009 *Picnic* balance was a loss of \$76.

Donations Received. We received only \$530 in *Gifts and Donation Income* in 2009. This is considerably lower than in past years. The five-year average is \$998.

Donations Made. We donated \$10,300 this past year. It went to the National Museum of Forest Service History, the High Desert Museum, the Mt. Hood Museum, and the Elks. Much of this funding came from special accounts such as Reunion 2005 and Centennial Boo. However, these payouts show as an *Expense* in our 2009 Financial Report.

Lifetime Trust Fund. The Lifetime Trust Fund has actually decreased a little from last year, dropping \$40. This is despite depositing \$2,700 of lifetime dues. The donations made during the year had to be drawn from these LT funds. Note also in the 2009 Financial Report *Expenses* that \$2,500 was transferred from the Lifetime Fund to cover operating expenses.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Revenue & Expenses January 1 through December 31, 2009

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

Income	
Dues Payment	8,150
Events Payments	5,062
Gifts & Donations Received	530
Bank Interest Income	2
Lifetime Trust Fund Income	3,708
Lifetime Trust Fund Market Gain	2,444
Other Income	3,000
Publication Sales/Income	6,346
Transfer from LTF Investments	3,500
Total Income	32,742
Expenses	
Administrative Expenses	445
Event Expenses	4,986
Fees & Charges (Miscellaneous)	160
Fees (Professional)	418
Gifts & Donations Made	10,300
Insurance	620
Lifetime Trust Fund Sell	3,500
Newsletter	8,322
Other Expenses	826
Publication Expenses	5,740
Total Expenses	35,317
Net Income	(2,575)

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, Inc. Statement of Assets & Liabilities As of December 31, 2009

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings (Wells Fargo)	2,625
Other Current Assets (Lifetime Trust Funds)	100,493
Total Current Assets	103,118

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Restricted Raffle/Auction Account	1,893
Unrestricted Net Assets	94,315
Retained Earnings	9,483
Net Income	(2,573)
Total Equity	103,118
Total Liabilities & Equity	103,118

--Vern Clapp
Treasurer

Forest Service News

U.S. Forest Service Remembers 1910 Fires, Reflects on Significance

This summer marks the 100th anniversary of the 1910 Northern Rockies forest fires. Lincoln Bramwell, U.S. Forest Service Chief Historian, has summarized these fires and their significance in Forest Service history.

That summer of 1910, thousands of fires swept across Oregon, northern Idaho and western Montana, culminating in a firestorm that consumed over one million acres in a single 24-hour period between August 21 and 22.

Although the fires burned three million acres in Idaho and Montana, they affected the entire country's forestlands for the next century.

The heroic and somewhat pyrrhic efforts of the Forest Service's overwhelmed rangers, who lost 78 firefighters in the firestorm, touched the hearts of the public and prompted legislative action.

Following the fires, the Forest Service committed itself to extinguishing every fire in the national forests, a policy the agency followed for nearly a century. To support this effort, Congress doubled the agency's budget the following year and more importantly facilitated passage of the 1911 Weeks Act.

The Act provided the statutory foundation for the agency's cooperative agreements with private landowners and states for fire suppression and forest management. In addition, the Weeks Act authorized the agency to purchase private forestlands east of the Mississippi River, creating the eastern national forests.

Editor's Note: To commemorate the young U.S. Forest Service's formative "trial by fire" 100 years ago this summer, Region One has produced the on-line "1910 Fire Commemoration Information Site" that provides extensive information about the fires including:

- *Eye-witness accounts by people who experienced the 1910 fires*
- *Stories about the people involved with the 1910 fires*
- *Press coverage of the 1910 fires*
- *Photographs of the 1910 fires and how to request copies*
- *A list of books about the 1910 fires*

A list of local commemorative events and links to additional information resources

Visit this on-line site at < <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/1910-centennial/> > to connect with its informative links.

Prepared from multiple sources including the U.S. Forest Service Looking Back web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/jstoday/10052/103.1LOOKING_BACK/1910fires.html.



U.S. Forest Service Failed to Fill Air Tanker Order on 2009 Station Fire, Reports *Los Angeles Times*

"The U.S. Forest Service failed to fill an order for air tankers that its own commanders urgently requested for an assault on the disastrous Station Fire before it began raging out of control, according to records and state officials—a finding that rebuts months of assertions by the federal agency that it took every step to deploy the planes as quickly as possible," Paul Pringle reported in the June 16, 2010, *Los Angeles Times* article.

As reported in the Winter 2010 *OldSmokeys* Newsletter, both the Forest Service's handling of and report on the Station Fire—the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history—and its muddy aftermath drew the ire of many area citizens, officials, and politicians.

An earlier "probe by the Forest Service's Washington, D.C., headquarters found no tactical errors in the initial attack on the fire," Pringle wrote in a May 18, 2010, article. That probe "blamed hazardous terrain for the lack of a heavy air assault early on the fateful second day, when the blaze began to race across the Angeles National Forest."

"I don't think that conclusion was even close to being correct," Pringle quoted Larry Boggs, a former fire management officer who worked for the Forest Service for 31 years, 13 of those years on the Angeles. "It was a whitewash. Aircraft would have been quite effective on the fire that day."

"An early assault by the heavy tankers [requested by Forest Service commanders] could have helped ground crews contain the blaze...when it was still small," Pringle's June 16 article reported firefighters who were at the scene have said. But, in what "former Forest Service officials and other experts termed...a monumental error," Pringle reported "that deployment documents showed the tanker request had been canceled. [Regional Forester Jody] Noiron said the request was marked canceled by mistake...due to 'messy paperwork.'"

"By the time the planes were over the flames," Pringle concluded his June 16 article, "the fire had scaled the Angeles Crest Highway, a crucial battle line, and was exploding through tall trees and paper-dry brush."

Forest Service officials have denied that budget considerations caused it to move slowly on ordering tanker missions.

Representative Adam Schiff (Republican-Burbank), who played a prominent role in a Senate hearing on the incident at which, Pringle reported, "officials including Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell...offered varying explanations for the late arrival of the tankers," has announced "that a House panel he plans to convene in Los Angeles would examine the 'conflicting claims about the decision-making during the early hours of the Station fire.'"

Prepared from and extensively quoting Paul Pringle's May 18, 2010, Los Angeles Times article "Former Forest Service officials want a wider probe of the Station Fire" and June 16, 2010, Los Angeles Times article "U.S. failed to fill order for aircraft in Station Fire" provided to your editor by John Marker. Pringle's June 16 article necessitated a last-minute update of this article.

U.S. Forest Service, Partners Begin Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy Development Work

By Bruce Palmer, Washington Office, U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service, along with other wildland fire partners, is beginning work to develop a national Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy.

The finished product will not be a federal strategy, but rather a national plan for addressing wildfire issues across the country. It will be a collaborative effort between federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as non-government organizations.

The Cohesive Strategy was authorized in the 2010 FLAME Act. Its purpose is to develop common goals and solutions for future wildfire management across the country, and it will identify what the different solutions might cost and what the tradeoffs will be.

The Cohesive Strategy is currently in the first phase of development. A series of fourteen field forums have (*sic*) been held in virtually every part of the country, from New Jersey to Anchorage to Phoenix to Chattanooga. A diverse group, representing county officials, state foresters, local fire chiefs, conservation groups and tribal governments, provided input at these sessions.

The purpose of the field forums was to identify the range of wildfire issues around the country. Some of the issues included limited budgets and markets to thin crowded forests, a need for local planning in the wildland/urban interface, the sensitivity of different agency missions, and how to educate homeowners about being responsible for their property.

The broad range of approaches to addressing these national issues will be arranged around the principles of response to wildfire, landscape restoration and fire-adapted communities. Response to wildfire includes the way we manage wildfires and the capabilities of firefighters and equipment; landscape restoration considers the ecological needs of natural systems and how they are affected by wildfire. In fire-adapted communities, homes are able to survive a wildfire with minimal intervention from the fire department through the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, land-use zoning, and *Firewise* practices.

The first phase will be completed by November 1, 2010. Subsequent phases will develop more regionally specific approaches, with the final product establishing a broad approach that will meet the needs at local, state, and national levels.

Progress on the Cohesive Strategy can be viewed on the Forest and Rangelands web site at <<http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/>>. Regular updates and findings will be posted there as work proceeds.

Bruce Palmer's article "Work begins on Strategy to Address Wildfire Issues" reprinted from May 21, 2010, FS Today at <http://www.fs.fed.us/fstoday/>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture OIG Expresses Concern for Future of Forest Service Firefighting

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) in a March 31, 2010, audit report on the "Forest Service's Firefighting Succession Planning Process" evaluated whether the U.S. Forest Service has adequately planned for the timely replacement of its critical fire management staff as retirements increase and fewer of the staff volunteer for fire-related assignments.

The audit concluded "that the Forest Service has not taken the necessary steps to ensure it has a sufficient number of qualified staff to meet its future wildland fire management responsibilities."

The resulting "need for increased Forest Service emergency response capability, coupled with the retirement of the Forest Service's aging workforce, is setting the stage for future shortages of qualified firefighters," the report concludes. Unless properly addressed, the Forest Service "will be fighting larger fires with fewer available critical firefighters."

"Workforce planning...designed to address such shortages" is required. Such planning would:

- identify the current skills, competencies, and capacity of the Forest Service firefighter workforce;
- evaluate what is needed to meet future challenges
- develop specific actions to ensure the right people are in the right place at the right times to successfully complete the agency's wildfire suppression mission.

Firefighters comment

The report brought comment from retired Forest Service fire hands. OldSmokey **John Marker** found it a "sobering" report that "certainly points to serious challenges for the agency's future ability to respond to fire emergencies and other natural disaster incidents."

And retired Forest Service fire expert **Carl Pence** commented that the OIG report reflects "a very deep and disturbing problem within the agency" he thinks "goes much deeper than OIG or many within the current Forest Service understand."

"In my mind," Carl explained, "the agency's basic mission must be revisited and employees need to understand and accept [that] involvement with fire management is part of everyone's job. I remember there were numerous incentives for involvement during my time. For example, if your goal was to become a ranger, especially on a district with a significant fire workload, you had to have significant fire experience and qualifications. That disappeared during the push for diversity. Of course, there were also some significant budgetary incentives that no longer exist.

"But, most significant was the team atmosphere inherent in the Outfit which presented the idea that in order to be a 'team player' you had to be willing to do 'strange things' like participate in fire management. This also seemed to disappear with diversity and the agency's trend toward specialization and isolation within each individual discipline. That is, each discipline now perceives its mission to protect its 'resource' from any

damages from other interests.” These perspectives of specialization and isolation show up when “many of the young, full-time employees [who have fire qualifications] do not make themselves available” for fire duties.

In addition to the cultural changes Carl identified, the OIG report identified training program inadequacies and workforce management disincentives that result in non-qualification of personnel for and non-participation by qualified personnel in fire management, and called for improvements in the Forest Service’s firefighting succession planning process that would ensure the agency’s ability to carry out its wildfire management mission in the future.

Prepared from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General Audit Report 08601-54-SF, March 2010, “Forest Service’s Firefighting Succession Planning Process” and April 26, 2008, e-mails from John Marker and Carl Pence.

President Barack Obama Launches “America’s Great Outdoors” Initiative

President Barack Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum on April 16, 2010, establishing the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.

President Obama launched the initiative at the White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors at which he spoke at length about President Theodore Roosevelt and his conservation legacy. “Now I am mindful that the first such conference was held over one century ago by one of my favorite presidents, one of our grandest presidents—and certainly our greatest conservation president,” President Obama said, referring to the first White House conference on conservation President Roosevelt held in 1908. “Upon taking office, Theodore Roosevelt—avid birdwatcher, bear hunter—set out on a tour of the American West that would change his life and the life of a nation forever.”

President Obama’s initiative calls on the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to lead the charge in coordination with the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Labor, Transportation, Education, and the Office of Management and Budget.

“The initiative will support a 21st century conservation agenda that builds on successes in communities across the country, and will start a national dialog about conservation that supports the efforts of private citizens and local communities,” according to a White House press release.

President Obama laid out four main initiative goals:

- First, we’re going to build on successful conservation efforts being spearheaded outside of Washington—by local and state governments, by tribes, and by private groups—so we can write a new chapter in the protection of rivers, wildlife habitats, historic sites, and the great landscapes of our country.

- Secondly, we’re going to help farmers, ranchers, property owners who want to protect their lands for their children and their grandchildren.
- Third, we’ll help families spend more time outdoors, building on what the First Lady has done through the “Let’s Move” initiative to encourage young people to hike and bike and get outside more often.
- And fourth, we want to foster a new generation of community and urban parks so that children across America have the chance to experience places like Millennium Park in my own Chicago.

“Understand, we’re not talking about a big federal agenda being driven out of Washington. We’re talking about how we can collect the best ideas on conservation; how we can pursue good ideas that local communities embrace; and how we can be more responsible stewards of tax dollars to promote conservation,” President Obama emphasized.

“President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative will play an important role in confronting the serious challenges our natural resources face today: climate change, air and water pollution, landscape fragmentation and loss of open space,” said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. “This effort will bring Americans from across the country together to look for new approaches to protect our national treasures. And it will heighten the importance of working across ownership boundaries to restore and conserve both public and private lands in a way that recognizes that conservation and economic vitality are inextricably linked.”

The significance this initiative may—or may not—hold for the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service remains to be seen.

Editor’s Note: The full text of President Obama’s memorandum can be found at <<http://doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/upload.2010outdoors-mem-rel-2.pdf>>.

Prepared from the April 16, 2010, White House Memorandum “A 21st Century Strategy for America’s Great Outdoors;” the April 16, 2010, White House News Release “President Obama Launches Initiative to Develop a 21st Century Strategy for America’s Great Outdoors;” and the April 17, 2010, examiner.com article “President Obama launches America’s Great Outdoors Initiative” by Marilyn Crane.

U.S. Forest Service Funds 21 “More Kids in the Woods” Projects, Three in Pacific Northwest Region

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced on April 27, 2010, that the U.S. Forest Service will contribute \$500,000 in 2010 to the “More Kids in the Woods” program for projects that promote active lifestyles and connect kids to nature.

“If we are going to put an end to childhood obesity, we must promote healthy, active lifestyles and encourage our kids to get off the couch and go outside,” said Secretary Vilsack. “Our ‘More Kids in the Woods’ challenge not only promotes physical activity, it fosters environmental awareness and stewardship among young people as we face critical environmental challenges, such as the effects of climate change. ‘More Kids in the

Woods’ helps kids make the connection between healthy forests, healthy communities, and their own healthy lifestyles.”

The Forest Service contribution will be leveraged with \$1.5 million in donations and in-kind services from partners. The ‘More Kids in the Woods’ challenge is a cost-share program in the Forest Service’s long-standing Kids in the Woods program that involves thousands of partners who contribute their time, energy, and resources to help connect kids and families with the natural world.

The Forest Service selected 21 projects for funding from more than 130 agency proposals created to promote environmental stewardship through innovative, hands-on activities. Three of these projects are in Region 6.

The Ryan Meadow Wetland Restoration and Conservation Education Project, Phase I, on the Deschutes National Forest, in partnership with Discover Your Northwest, is a \$214,000 project “focused on a restored 60-acre wetland along the Deschutes River.” This project “will develop a comprehensive ecosystem monitoring program with standards-correlated curriculum, hands-on field trips, and community outreach.”

Canopy Connections is a Pacific Northwest Research Station and H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest project funded at \$47,514. In this project, “Quiet observation time, creative writing, art and science inquiry projects are wrapped around each participant’s personal guided ascent seventy feet above the forest floor into the canopy of an old-growth Douglas-fir tree.”

Greenway Trust is a Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest partnership with The Mountains-to-the-Sound Greenway Trust budgeted at \$93,450. “Partners will engage and energize more than 2,500 youth through a year-round series of scaffolded land stewardship and education projects in and adjacent to the Snoqualmie Watershed.”

“All ‘More Kids in the Woods’ projects are designed to spark curiosity about nature and promote understanding of the role of the nation’s forests and grasslands in providing clean, abundant water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and recreation,” according to the Forest Service news release announcing the projects. “Project partners are committed to helping children develop a love for the land that will enable them to meet the conservation challenges of the 21st century through healthy lifestyles choices and natural resource careers.”

Prepared from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service News Release “USDA Promotes Physical Activity Among Nation’s Youth Through Expanded Programs” of April 27, 2010.

U.S. Forest Service Contributes to ARRA Job Creation Successes

The U.S. Forest Service continues to contribute to its parent Department of Agriculture’s success at creating jobs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as ARRA.

“President Obama’s Recovery Act has helped create jobs and lay a new foundation for economic growth during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression,” Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment

Harris Sherman said on April 2, 2010, as the spring issue of your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press. “USDA has used Recovery Act funding to create badly-needed jobs and stimulate local economies, help farmers and rural businesses make it through tough times, ensure that struggling families can put food on the table, and build and revitalize critical infrastructure in rural communities across America.”

Since the ARRA was signed into law a year ago, the Forest Service “has distributed over \$1 billion to create private sector jobs and produce significant resource benefits” of the nearly \$28 billion “USDA has moved quickly...to get out the door,” according to an April 2, 2010, WO news release. “Forest Service Recovery Act projects are focused on: reducing wildfire risks; maintaining forest roads and trails; producing clean and abundant water; restoring forest health; improving energy efficiency of public and administrative facilities; converting wood to clean energy; and offering job training opportunities to youth,” the release continued.

“This spring and summer, over 600 Forest Service Economic Recovery projects will be going on across the nation, accomplishing critical resource work and providing jobs and training to people who need them,” said Under Secretary Sherman.

More information on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s ARRA efforts is available at <www.usda.gov/recovery>.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service April 2, 2010, News Release “USDA Highlights Jobs Created by the Recovery Act.”

U.S. Forest Service Continues National Forest Campground Discounts

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced on March 17, 2010, his decision not to implement proposed changes to fees charged to holders of passes at National Forest System campgrounds operated by private businesses. The Chief’s decision means that senior citizens and people with disabilities will continue to receive a discount at national forest campgrounds operated by private concessions.

The Forest Service had proposed changes to discounts provided to holders of Golden Age and Golden Access passports and Senior and Access passes. Under the proposal, discounts at concession-operated campgrounds would have changed from the current 50 percent to 10 percent. After considering many public comments, the Chief determined the proposed changes are not the best way to address growing challenges regarding services provided by private businesses at national forest recreation facilities.

“Each year more than 175 million people enjoy recreational opportunities on national forests and grasslands, and that includes more than 15 million visits to our campgrounds,” said Chief Tidwell. “Particularly in these difficult economic times, it is very important to maintain affordable access to our national forests and grasslands, giving people easy ways to recreate and find respite in the great outdoors.”

Chief Tidwell’s decision leaves in place a 50 percent discount at campgrounds run by private concessions for holders of Golden Age and Golden Access passports and interagency Sen-

ior and Access passes. Concessioners are not required to accept passes at day use sites. Seniors age 62 and older pay a one-time \$10 fee for the Senior Pass. Lifetime Access passes for people with disabilities are free.

The Forest Service conducted a 60-day public notice and comment period on the proposed changes. More than 4,000 comments were received.

Prepared from a U.S. Forest Service press release “USDA Forest Service Continues Discounts at Campgrounds” of March 17, 2010.

U.S. Forest Service Loses Forest Genetics Pioneer Clyde Berriman at 104

Forest genetics pioneer Clyde Berriman died at the age of 104 on April 1, 2010. Berriman was a supervisor and foreman at the Pacific Southwest Research Station’s Institute of Forest Genetics near Placerville, California, from 1927 to 1940.

His father, Robert Cyrus Meade Berriman, was a Forest Service ranger on the Eldorado National Forest from 1910 to 1939. Interviewed at age 103, Clyde Berriman recalled his father asking him and his siblings if they wanted a mountain lake named after them. At their request, Clyde Lake, Leland Lake, Lois Lake, Doris Lake, and Winifred Lake, all on the Eldorado National Forest, are named after Berriman family members.

Prepared from an entry in the April 16, 2010, “The Chief’s Desk.”

Memories continued from page 18

Steve J. Zitkovich died March 4, 2010, at age 87. Steve was born July 20, 1922, in Hinsdale, Illinois, and grew up and attended school in that state. Steve enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard and served during World War II in the Pacific. After the war, he earned a B.S. degree in forestry at Michigan State University, joined the U.S. Forest Service, and married Theresa Marie Gwynn. Steve served as a forester on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest until he retired from the Forest Service in 1984. Theresa died in 1993. Survivors include sons Stephen, Thomas, John, Michael, Andrew, and Vincent; daughters Ann, Monica Blakely, Rita Hundahl, and Ellen Gordon; 17 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Letters continued from page 19

agencies, be they local, county, state, or federal, urban or wildland, and which would be used for day-to-day internal agency or department operations as well as in multi-agency fire or other emergency situations. Given the diversity of agencies involved, it was quickly agreed that a set of terminology that would be new to everyone was the only way to achieve agreement, and that’s what we proceeded to create through many hours of give-and-take discussion. Its eventual acceptance for standardized use by emergency services agencies nationally when implemented through the incident Command System (ICS) shows, I think, that we took the right approach.

Bob Blakey comments on “new terminology”

I was working on the San Bernardino and Angeles national forests while the Firescope work was going on at Riverside and

was very much aware of it although not directly involved other than giving occasional input. I totally supported and now see the appropriateness of the new terminology.

While on the Angeles team, I was involved in some significant non-fire situations, and I was also back-up information officer for the Forest. We were starting to adopt the new terminology even before it became “official” because it seemed much more appropriate during earthquakes and bridge collapses than terms like Fire Boss or Fire Team. I also think the public could relate much better to the new terminology which then gave us much more acceptance, even in Southern California, than the terms Fire Team or Fire Boss. It is also a statement that the teams and leaders are professionals in lots more than just fires.

Adding to Dick Chase’s excellent summary, the concept and terminology has now gone international as I noted on some recent CNN news reports.

What I don’t like is that we are becoming so specialized we are losing some of our generalist “can-do” spirit and broad perspective with some team members.

Eric Morse checks in from *Camdenton, Missouri*

The second week of July 2009 my family—wife [Sheila], kids, grandkids, sister, brother, and sister-in-law—gathered at Steamboat Inn [on the Umpqua National Forest] to celebrate my 70th trip around the sun coming from Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, Washington, Texas, and Tennessee it was a wonderful week—21 of us in all.

The steelhead were in but evaded us—but none of us fishing cared. My kids got re-grounded in their roots—including the Forest Service homes we lived in. The grandchildren could scarce believe “Mom and Dad” grew up in such surroundings.

I continue to volunteer for Hospice and as a health care chaplain.

Living on the Lake of the Ozarks is great. Glad to be retired from the Forest Service. I believe we worked during the best of its days. Our turn was a good one.

Books continued from page 20

This is what Professor Pyne of Arizona State University, the world’s leading fire historian, has done in this volume Dr. Anderson terms “a significant revision from the original *America’s Fires* book published [by the Forest History Society] in 1997. Much has happened in the world of fire since then, including the continued growth of catastrophic conflagrations. The author says that ‘America does not have a fire problem. It has many fire problems.’ This book is intended to provide a way for general audiences to gain familiarity with the often-contentious subjects of wildfire and prescribed fire.”

Single copies of *America’s Fire* (paperback, xv plus 93 pages, ISBN 978-0-89030-073-2) are available from the Forest History Society for \$9.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. Orders for 10 or more receive a significant discount; call 919-682-9319 for details. To order by credit card, call the Forest History Society headquarters at 919-682-9319. You can probably search the many internet book sellers and order copies online.



Feature

One OldSmokey, Three Trails, 6,350 Miles

By Jon Stewart

“Re-tire-ment” does not mean replacing your car’s tires. It can mean investing in a pair of hiking shoes and walking America’s national scenic trails.

I first got the bug while working as a U.S. Forest Service backcountry ranger in the Columbia River Gorge in the 1970s. That was on the old Columbia Gorge Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest. Now it’s part of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. But the bug had to wait.

The Pacific Crest Trail

I began to fulfill my dream of hiking the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail—called the PCT for short—in the summer of 2003 by walking 550 miles from the Columbia River to Canada. I’d helped build stretches of the PCT and knew it showcased some incredible scenery. What I didn’t realize was it does this for its entire length—over 2,650 miles.

That first summer—I was still in the Forest Service, on the Deschutes National Forest—superb vistas pulled me northward in Washington state through one wilderness after another: Indian Heaven, Mt. Adams, Goat Rocks, William O. Douglas, Norse, Alpine Lakes, Henry M. Jackson, Glacier Peak, and Payseten. The scenery just kept getting better and better.

The next summer, I spent three weeks hiking from Ashland to Cascade Locks, tracing the PCT through Oregon from one sentinel Cascade peak to the next for another 500 miles. The gentle grades, myriad alpine lakes, and spacious wildernesses made for an easy trek.

In April 2005, after retiring from the Deschutes National Forest, I planned to walk the length of California on the PCT. In Campo, on the Mexican border, I joined 300 hopeful thru-hikers, but the PCT’s mountains and deserts soon whittled down their number. Two months later, when we reached the High Sierra, our number had been cut in half. To avoid heavy Sierra snows that year, I skipped north to Ashland, turned around, and very much alone, started hiking southward.

For the next four weeks it was just the bears—five black bears, to be exact—and I. We met nose to nose, but after just one whiff of me they turned tail and ran. I was almost swept

into oblivion by a snow avalanche in the Marble Mountains, but by using crampons and an ice axe arrived in Sierra City, north of Lake Tahoe, on the Fourth of July. Heavy snow still blanked the Sierra. Reason prevailed. I returned to complete the PCT in the fall of 2006. For two months I followed the “Range of Light” southward to Mt. Whitney and a little beyond, tracing the PCT and the John Muir Trail through some of North America’s finest alpine scenery.

The Continental Divide Trail

The 3,100-mile Continental Divide Trail—called the CDT—was next. In 2007, I started at Chief Mountain in Glacier National Park and for the next two months walked southward through the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, Anaconda, and Bitterroot wildernesses to Yellowstone National Park.

In 2008, heavy snow kept me from starting in Yellowstone, so for three months I hiked southward from Rawlins, Wyoming, the length of Colorado and New Mexico to the Mexican border. The high peaks and meadows of the San Juans in southern Colorado were the highlight of this trek.

In July 2009, I returned to Rawlins, and completed my CDT trek by crossing the Great Divide Basin, climbing into the glorious peaks of the Wind River Range, and ending my hike just north of Yellowstone.

I was finished with the Colorado Divide Trail.

The Great Divide Trail

But I was not quite finished with the Rockies. I’d heard of the Great Divide Trail—you guessed it, the GDT—that stretches 600 miles from Waterton National Park on the Canadian boarder northward through the heart of the Canadian Rockies to Jasper National Park.

Long distance trail use statistics underline the GDT’s difficulty. The Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia gets 3,000 thru-hikers a year, the PCT 300, the CDT 30, and the GDT in 2009 got three—two others and me. This trek through Canada’s provincial and national parks was a visual delight, but it reminded me how lucky we are to have the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the BLM to help build and maintain our trails.

We live in an incredible part of the world. There is no better way to see our national parks and national forests than by hiking our national scenic trails. Take advantage of today’s lightweight backpacking technology and opportunities to mail your supplies to post offices along the trails, carry a 20-pound backpack, and take the walk of your life.

Editor’s Note: OldSmokey Jon Stewart retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2005 after 33 years that included extensive backcountry ranger duty, a smokejumper tour, and a fire control officer tour before he specialized in youth, volunteer, and partnership programs. That all came after earning a bachelor’s degree in history at the University of Oregon, serving in the Peace Corps in Nepal, and returning to Eugene to earn a master’s degree in journalism. He lives in Bend, commutes to his 120-acre tree farm near Mt. Hood, and at press time was starting a trek on the Pacific Northwest Trail from Glacier National Park to Olympic National Park.



Opportunities

OldSmokeys Summer Picnic in the Woods 2010 is Friday, August 13!

It's summertime, and just as they have every summer since Smokey Bear was a cub OldSmokeys will gather for their annual summer picnic at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2010, at the BLM Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag, Oregon.

So, just like always, please use the form below to sign up now to be sure you don't miss it!

Socializing will begin—officially, at least—at 11:30 a.m., and barbeque buffet service will begin at 12:30 p.m.

The menu is barbeque chicken and hot carved beef brisket with tasty sauces, a great choice of salads and dressings, vegetables, fresh baked biscuits with honey and jams, fresh homemade baked beans, fruits, drinks (soft drinks, iced tea, lemonade, beer, wine, coffee)—all topped off by an ice cream sundae!

As usual, you'll enjoy a good lunch catered by Dave Dalton along with great OldSmokey companionship. You may well see folks you haven't seen in many years, and you should meet many new members.

So, mark your calendars and make your plans and reservations soon! Use the form below to reserve your picnic place or places by July 31, 2010. The cost per person is **\$25.00** a plate.

Wildwood, as most OldSmokeys know well, is about 40 miles east of Portland on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag. Watch for the BLM sign on the south side of the highway, and follow the signs to the area reserved for the picnic.

There's a \$5.00 per vehicle fee that helps BLM maintain this area as the special place it is. The America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass in either the \$10 lifetime senior version, for which most OldSmokeys qualify, the \$80 annual version, the free lifetime version for citizens with permanent disabilities, the free annual volunteer pass, or other valid existing passes such as the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and Golden Access passports will do the parking fee trick. If you use one of these, please either display your pass or write your pass number on the payment envelope and place it on the dashboard of your car.

If you have any questions, call **Rick Larson** at 541-380-0497 or e-mail him at <rlarson@gorge.net>.

Send in this reservation form (or a copy of it) now! Reservations are due not later than July 31!

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC—AUGUST 13, 2010
BLM Wildwood Recreation Area

RESERVATION FORM

Socializing at 11:30—Lunch at 12:30

*Mail this reservation form and a check for \$25.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at \$25.00 each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

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

Please send your reservation form in to be received no later than July 31, 2010!

Changes

- Anderson, David W. & Jo Ann** – Add e-mail:
davjoann@verizon.net
- Arneson, Carol** – Change address: 1400 Central, Apt 1301,
Wenatchee, WA 98801
- Bennett, Walter F. & Marlene** – Change address: 405 Cedar
St, Hillsboro, OR 97123 (no e-mail)
- Bown, Kimberly Evart & Stephen** — New members:
749 NE Hazelfern Pl, Portland, OR 97232
Telephone: 503-731-0945 E-mail: bown3@comcast.net
- Canutt, Paul R. & Kay** – Change e-mail: rkcanutt@gmail.com
- Devereaux, Panagiota “Pennie”** – Deceased, May 27, 2010;
John survives
- Enberg, Paul R. & Charlotte** – Change e-mail:
enberg.paul@gmail.com
- Evans, Rob E.** – Change e-mail: bola@bendbroadband.com
- Ewing, Harold T. “Hal”** – Deceased, March 9, 2010
- Files, Roscoe T.** – Change address: 20 SE 103rd Ave, Apt 223,
Portland, OR 97216
- Franks, Beverly** – Deceased, April 14, 2010; Don survives
- Franks, Don** – Change e-mail: donfranks@netzero.net
- Landsberg, Joan** – Change e-mail:
j3 lands@bendbroadband.com
- Lane, Paul Hartle** – Deceased, April 20, 2010
- Lewis, Ted & Joan** – Change e-mail: lewistj@gmail.com
- McCoy, Marvin K. “Marv”** – Deceased, March 13, 2010;
Imagean survives
- Naish, Robert A. & Jean L.** — New members:
58207 S Bachelor Flat Rd, Warren, OR 97053
Telephone: 503-397-5570 E-mail: rnaish@opusnet.com
- Norris, Patricia C.** – Deceased March 30, 2019; Robert
survives
- Schlapfer, Ted A.** – Change address: Clare Bridge of Bend,
1099 NE Watt Way, Bend, OR 97701
- Sigler, Charles K.** – Deceased, March 21, 2010; Anne survives
- Stormer, Fred A. & Rose** – Change e-mail:
stormer4782@comcast.net
- Stratton, Ann & Jerry** – Change address: 1863 Pioneer
Pkwy E, No. 511, Springfield, OR 97477
Change telephone: 541-517-2101 Change e-mail:
eanns97478@yahoo.com
- Taylor, William R.** – Deceased, May 28, 2010; Betty survives
- Tyrrel, Robert R.** – Deceased May 5, 2010; Janet survives
- Williams, Margaret E.** – Deceased, March 8, 2010

New Members

- Kimberly Evart Bown & Stephen Bown** of Portland, Oregon, joined May 25, 2010. Kimberly retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Director, Recreation, Lands and Mineral Resources for the Pacific Northwest Region in July 2008 after more than 30 years in the Forest Service, 11 of those years in Region 6.
- Robert A. & Jean L. Naish** of Warren, Oregon, joined June 1, 2010. Robert retired from the U.S. Forest Service on April 29, 1985, at the RO in Portland after 33 years in the Forest Service.

Memories *compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist*

Alvin “Ray” Cooley, Jr., died March 6, 2010, at age 78. Ray was born April 2, 1931, in Bloomsville, Ohio, graduated from Bloomsville High School in 1949, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955. He attended Ohio State University before transferring to and earning a B.S. degree in forest management at Oregon State University in 1961. Ray joined the U.S. Forest Service and moved to Bend, which became his permanent home, in 1961. He married Elizabeth Overbay in 1963. Ray worked in timber (reforestation) on the Bend Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, and retired from the Forest Service in 1986. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was an active member of the Bend Elks and Bend Moose. Survivors include stepdaughters Linda Baird and Karen Forster, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Panagiota “Pennie” Devereaux died May 27, 2010, at age 84. She was a PNWFSA member, wife of OldSmokey **John Devereaux**, and mother of OldSmokey **Pam Devereaux Wilson**. Pennie met John when her brother brought him home from Chanute Air Force Base. They married in January 1944 in Raleigh, North Carolina. For the next six years, they moved where the U.S. Air Force sent them until they returned to Cle Elum, Washington, where John began his U.S. Forest Service career. Transfers took them to Lake Wenatchee and Entiat, Washington, and Oakridge, Eugene, Mill City, and Corvallis, Oregon. Pennie loved the mountains and forests of the Northwest, learning to ride horses, work in fire camps and on forest fires, butcher and preserve wild game, garden, and ice fish. She packed apples in Entiat warehouses, was an optometrist’s assistant, then a secretary for Pope & Talbot and Freres lumber companies. Pennie was an excellent cook, and loved to entertain in her home. She golfed, danced, was an active Red Hatter, and sang in her church choir. Pennie loved her family with fierce devotion and always put them first. John and Pennie lived in Surprise, Arizona. Survivors include John; daughters Renee Devereaux and Pam Devereaux Wilson, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Douglas Allen “Doug” Dow died April 1, 2010, at age 66. Doug was born March 30, 1944, in Omak, Washington, and grew up in Tonasket, Washington. After graduation from Tonasket High School in 1962, Doug went to work seasonally for the U.S. Forest Service. He was appointed permanently in 1969 on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He met Mollie Mallory in Amboy, Washington, and they married in 1975. Doug moved to the Snoqualmie National Forest in 1976, and he and Mollie raised their four daughters in Enumclaw. Doug retired from the Forest Service in 2000, but continued working in construction engineering until shortly before his death. Survivors include Mollie; daughters Cheryl Garrison, Christine Olson, Heather Wills, and Nicki Dow; and five grandchildren.

Harold Thomas “Hal” Ewing died March 9, 2010, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Hal was born June 14, 1924, in Great Falls, Montana, where he grew up, graduated from high school, and learned to fly. During World War II, Hal’s love of

flying took him to the U.S. Navy in which he completed Navy flight training, was commissioned an ensign and designated a naval aviator, and served as a fighter pilot. Later, as a Navy test pilot, he helped develop the F-4 Phantom and Phantom II jet fighters and the Sparrow air-to-air missile system. During his naval career, Hal met Gladys Snider in New York City. An actress on Broadway, she appeared in “Tobacco Road.” They married and had a family. After 23 years of service, Hal retired from the Navy at the rank of commander in 1965. He then pursued a second career flying for the U.S. Forest Service as a smokejumper pilot based at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base, Illinois Valley Airport, Cave Junction, Oregon, and after that base closed as a lead plane pilot based at the Medford Airtanker Base, Medford, Oregon. Hal lived in Cave Junction, Oregon, where in his later years he was an active supporter of the Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum Project. Survivors include his sons Gary, of Cave Junction, and Tommy, of Oberlin, Kansas.

Editor's Note: This information was provided by Hal's son Tommy Ewing of Oberlin, Kansas, also a pilot who has flown for the Forest Service as an employee of a contracting firm. Many thanks to Tommy and to Gary Buck, President, Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum Project, for suggesting him as a source.

Gerald R. “Gerry” Garrison died May 11, 2010. A resident of Sisters, Oregon, for 52 years, Gerry was timber staff administrator on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1985.

Alice Cecelia Gibson died April 5, 2010, at age 82. Alice Cecelia Smith was born April 9, 1927, in Grants Pass, Oregon, was raised in the Illinois Valley, and graduated from Kerby Union High School, and married Wesley Vahrenwald. Alice Vahrenwald served as a Siskiyou National Forest fire dispatcher from 1963 until her retirement from the U.S. Forest Service in 1984. Near the end of her Forest Service career, she married Siskiyou National Forest timber scaler Donald Moulton. Twice widowed, Alice married Jim D. Gibson in 1996. Survivors include Jim; sons Jim Vahrenwald, Thomas Moulton, Larry Gibson, and Spike Gibson; daughters Linda Pell, Lorrie Turner, Robin Gibson, and Judy Stevenson; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Florice Marie “Flo” Frank died March 21, 2010, at age 87. Flo was born October 15, 1922, in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, and moved west with her family in 1926. She graduated from Yreka High School in Yreka, California, and attended Heald Business College in Sacramento before she married U.S. Army Air Corps pilot Kenneth L. Frank in 1942. About 20 years and four children later, Ken was killed in an aircraft accident, and Flo joined the U.S. Forest Service. Although she served most of her 1962 to 1985 career in Region 5, Flo worked in Region 6 as Winema National Forest contracting officer for several years. After retirement, she and Gil Davies, retired Klamath National Forest administrative officer and her partner for many years, lived in Hat Creek, California, from 1990 to 2008, where they co-owned History Ink Books and published more than two dozen titles, many on Forest Service subjects. Survivors include Gil and her three sons Gregory, William, and Kenneth.

Beverly Ann “Bev” Franks died April 14, 2010, at age 77. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Don Franks**. Beverly Ann Grubb was born December 2, 1932, in Bend, Oregon, where she lived most of her life. Bev and her first husband, James Cook, built Northgate Mobile Park and owned two Dairy Queens in Bend, and were foster parents of 26 children over a 19-year span. She became the owner-operator of those stores on her husband's death in 1982. Bev was married to Don the last 24 years of her life. For seven of those years she was a “meals on wheels” volunteer, and for nine years was a volunteer church clerk. She and Don lived the last few years in Fort Rock, Oregon, where she enjoyed volunteering at the Fort Rock Homesteaders Museum. She and Don sponsored several children from third-world countries. Also an artist, Bev enjoyed painting landscapes and animals. Fort Rock was a favorite landscape feature, and many of her paintings were displayed at the Fort Rock Restaurant. Survivors include Don; her four children Shelley, Ruth, Roxanne, and Rocky; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Wayne Hyde died April 14, 2010, at age 84. Wayne worked in fleet dispatch on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Edwin Max “Red” Justice died March 9, 2010, at age 79. Red was born January 21, 1931, at Mount Vernon Hot Springs, Oregon; graduated from Long Creek High School, Long Creek, Oregon, in 1949; and married Janice Good in Vale, Oregon, in 1956. Red joined the U.S. Forest Service and served for 31 years as a range and mineral technician on the Malheur National Forest before he retired in 1987. Survivors include Janice; daughters Jeri Young and Jeanine Justice-Morgan; sons Donald and Kenneth; and seven grandchildren.

Paul Hartle Lane died April 20, 2010, at age 97. He was a PNWFSA member. Paul was born September 30, 1912, in Columbus, Ohio, and married Helen Louise Blysmas, his wife until she died June 18, 1985, in Frankfort, Indiana, on September 30, 1934. Paul served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was decorated as a commanding officer of an LST (an amphibious transport—a landing ship, tank—that delivers troops and tanks during amphibious assault landings) for participation in multiple Pacific island campaigns. Paul earned an M.S. degree in forestry at Purdue University in 1953 and served in the U.S. Forest Service as head of forest product research, based in Portland, Oregon, until his retirement. After retirement, Paul realized his dream of coastal living in Yachats, Oregon, for several years before he returned to the Portland area. Survivors include three children, eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and Mrs. Barbara White with whom he shared his last 25 years in a close, loving relationship.

Marvin K. “Marv” McCoy died March 13, 2010, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Marv was born November 27, 1924, in Sparks, Kansas. He attended Oregon State University and Oregon Institute of Technology. After college, Marv joined the U.S. Forest Service as an engineer and served 31 years that included many years on the Ochoco National Forest. Marv married Wilma Hatch, who died in 1993, and in 1994 married Imagean Tucker in Prineville, Oregon. After he retired

from the Forest Service, Marv did remodeling work and custom haying in the Prineville area. He had a small ranch and raised cattle. In addition to fishing, Marv enjoyed woodworking and masonry rock work. He built the Prineville Community Church sanctuary. Marv was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Madras. Survivors include Imagean; sons Stephen, Dwight, and Bruce; stepdaughters Patsy Owens, Alicia Freelund, and Mary Chapman; stepson Roy Pack; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Betty J. Messinger died March 17, 2010, at age 86. Betty worked in the SO on the Rogue River National Forest for 20 years before she retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 1986. Survivors include her daughter Valerie Cooley and two granddaughters.

Dennis Raul Morentin died April 5, 2010, at age 60. Dennis was born June 2, 1949, in Los Angeles, California. His service in the U.S. Air Force, in the electronics career field, led to a successful U.S. Forest Service career at the Redmond Air Center in Redmond, Oregon, as an avionics technician. Dennis retired from the Forest Service in 2005. Survivors include his wife, Peggy; son Dana; married daughters Dionne and Debbie; and nine grandchildren.

Patricia C. Norris died March 30, 2010, at age 79. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Robert E. Norris**. Patricia was born February 25, 1931, in Cleveland, Utah. She was a registered nurse. Survivors include Robert, son Martin, and daughter Camille Vigue.

Kenneth Andrew “Ken” Perreard died March 9, 2010, at age 69. Kenneth was born February 24, 1941, in Suffolk, New York, moved to the Rogue Valley of Oregon in 1947, and graduated from Jacksonville High School in Jacksonville, Oregon. He served in the U.S. Forest Service for 34 years as a Rogue River National Forest project engineer. During this career, he and the late Rogue River National Forest logging engineer Gary Bergstrom developed a collapsible yarder-lowboy simulator for determining reconstruction needs on existing roads. Survivors include his wife Diane, sons Ted and Bryan, and daughters Vickie and Lisa Fisher.

James R. “Jim” Rodeheaver died February 27, 2010, at age 69. He was a former PNWFSA member. Jim graduated from Humboldt State College in December 1971 and joined the U.S. Forest Service. After working in timber management of the Chemult Ranger District, Winema National Forest, he transferred to a lands position on the Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, where he did field and staff work to support acquisition of private lands for inclusion in the Cascade Head National Scenic Research Area. Next, on the Cle Elum Ranger District, Wenatchee National Forest, he supervised contracts with private landowners—primarily Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.—for construction of roads that served both national forest and private lands. Jim transferred to the Olympic National Forest in 1986 where he served as NEPA coordinator for many years. He retired from the Forest Service in January 1998. Survivors include his wife, Lynn; daughter Terry Hohman; son Grant; and four grandchildren.

Charles Kelley Sigler died March 21, 2010, at age 77. He was a PNWFSA member. Kelley was born April 21, 1932, in Providence, Kentucky. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was stationed in Hawaii as an aircraft mechanic and hard-hat diver. Kelley earned bachelors and masters degrees in forestry at Oregon State University and served in the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon on the Waldport Ranger District in the late 1950s and Angel Job Corps Center on the Siuslaw National Forest in the early 1960s as well as in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Texas. After 22 years in the Forest Service, Kelley retired as district ranger on the Raven Ranger District, Sam Houston National Forest, then worked for 20 years for Walker Brothers Lumber Company in Texas. Kelly married Anne Ward in 1955, and they had four daughters. When their family was young, they traveled around the country in a Volkswagen bus, exploring national parks and historic sites; later, Kelley and Anne lived a year in Australia and traveled the world. He was active in the Unitarian Church and politics. Survivors include Anne; their daughters Jennie Curran, Katie Tauxe, Leah Narro, and Anita Faillace; and eight grandchildren.

William Richard “Bill” Taylor died May 28, 2010, at age 94. He was a PNWFSA member. Bill was born January 13, 1916, in Waterbury, Connecticut, raised in Holbrook, Massachusetts, and graduated from Sumner High School in 1933. After a year at Northeastern University in Boston, Bill completed the year-long course at the New York State Ranger School in Wanakena, New York, in 1937, and worked with the Appalachian Mountain Club until going to work for the U.S. Forest Service in 1939. Bill served in the U.S. Army from 1940 to 1945, rising to the rank of staff sergeant in anti-aircraft artillery units in the United States, Iceland, and Europe. He married Janet Miner in 1941. Discharged after the war, Bill earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the New York State University School of Forestry in Syracuse and a master’s degree from the University of Idaho. After several temporary appointments, Bill was permanently appointed in the Forest Service in 1952 and worked on the Mt. Baker and Siuslaw national forests before he served as district ranger on both the Chetco Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest and the Diamond Lake Ranger District of the Umpqua National Forest. He then took on the land exchange program on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest that involved “smoothing up the boundaries between the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser.” Bill retired from the Forest Service in 1979. Janet died in 1991, and Bill married Betty Smyth in 1992. Survivors include Betty, children Barbara and Jim, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Robert R. “Bob” Tyrrel died May 5, 2010, at age 76. He was a PNWFSA member. Bob was born November 28, 1933, in Albia, Iowa, and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, married Janet McBride in 1957, and graduated from Iowa State University in 1959 with a degree in forestry. As a student, Bob worked on the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan during summer 1958. After finishing college, he joined the U.S. Forest Service on the Shawnee National Forest in Missouri and marked timber on four ranger districts. A year later he was a

forester on the Cut Foot Sioux Ranger District, Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, then assistant district ranger on that forest's Black Duck Ranger District. In 1961, Bob became district ranger at Aurora, Minnesota, on the Superior National Forest, and in 1964 district ranger at Isabella, Minnesota, which encompassed part of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. From 1965 to 1967, Bob was center director for the first Job Corps center in Minnesota near Isabella. After a year in the Superior's SO in Duluth, Bob was promoted to forest supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest in Laconia, New Hampshire. Bob moved west in 1973 as Region 6 director of programming, planning, and budget. In 1977, he was detailed to the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., as the Forest Service representative to the Heritage Conservation Service to prepare a National Recreation Plan. Bob returned to the West in 1979 as supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest, and in 1984 became supervisor of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest where he retired in 1992.

In retirement, Bob was active in Forest Service affairs and retiree organizations as well as in his church and civic affairs. His love of the outdoors was shared with his family through fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, and skiing. Survivors include Janet; their children Kari Ayers, Lori Windsor, Steven, and Rodney; and 10 grandchildren.

Margaret E. Williams died March 8, 2010, at age 91. She was a PNWFSA member, widow of the late OldSmokey **Ross Williams**, mother of OldSmokeys **Roger Williams** and **Woody Williams**, and grandmother of another Forest Service member. Margaret was born May 3, 1918, in La Grande, Oregon, and raised on the family farm near Island City, Oregon. She attended Island City grade schools and graduated from La Grande High School in 1935. She met Ross while attending Oregon State College, and they married in February 1939 after he graduated with a degree in forestry. Ross joined the U.S. Forest Service and went to work on the Olympic National Forest. Early in their marriage, they lived in various guard stations and at other remote locations. They spent the winter of 1942-1943 with their infant son in a logging camp accessible only by railroad. Ross's more than 35-year career on several Pacific Northwest Region national forests took them to Detroit, Dufur, Parkdale, Enterprise, and Baker City—all in Oregon—and to the RO in Portland. They lived for several years in Vancouver, Washington, while Ross was forest supervisor of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest from 1961 until his retirement in 1973. After raising her children, Margaret worked for a dentist and later a roofing company in the Portland-Vancouver area. The Forest Service was a big part of Margaret's life. She and Ross were long-time members of the 30-Year Club that became the PNWFSA. Ross died in 1996. Their sons Roger and Woody are OldSmokeys, and their oldest grandson, Roger Williams, is deputy fire staff officer on the Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Hood national forests. She is survived by her sons; daughters Joyce, Peggy, and Carol; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Memories continue on page 12

Letters

Joe Stockbridge comments on *Jerry Williams' book*

I just finished reading *The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest: A History* by Gerald W. Williams. All of us who spent part or most of our careers in Region 6 salted away a lot of memories. This book brings them all back and some were buried quite deep. It was a great read and will go on my keep list for future browsing. Thanks for letting others know, and for forwarding all the latest from our fellow retirees.

Editor's Note: Joe sent this e-mail to Vern Clapp on April 1, 2010.

Ray Bunster remembers *Ray Cooley*

I worked with Ray on the Bend Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, in 1961 and part of 1962, mostly in presale. I think he was crew leader when we marked part of the Round Mountain timber sale. He was a great guy to know and work with, and he had a great sense of humor.

One of my favorite Forest Service stories featuring Ray comes from that timber marking project. We had worked a line from east to west and reached the main road around noon. We were sitting on a cut bank eating lunch when a cloud of dust moved toward us from the south and out of it appeared a car that pulled up as it got even with us. A woman in the passenger seat rolled down the window and shouted to us, "Yoo-hoo, yoo-hoo!" Ray ambled down the bank and the woman asked him, "Young man, why is this Forest Service road so rough?" Ray instantly replied, "We're sorry about that, ma'am, but our engineers designed this road too long and we had to wrinkle it to make it fit." She replied, "Well, tell them to be more careful," and the car drove off in a cloud of pumice dust.

I transferred from the Deschutes National Forest to the Willamette National Forest in the fall of 1962 and never heard of Ray again. I'm surprised to read that in the fall of 1963 he married Elizabeth Overbay who I assume is Chuck Overbay's daughter. Chuck was TSO on the Deschutes when I was there.

I sure hope that the Forest Service still has lots of good people like Ray Cooley.

Wendall Jones remembers *Gerald Garrison*

Gerald Garrison was a timber sale administrator on the Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest, when I was R&L guy on the Metolius Ranger District from 1960 to 1963. Gerald and his wife were great personal friends during that tour. We played a lot of pinochle, square-danced, and lots of good parties. We had kept in touch over the years, but as we aged those meetings became infrequent. But those great memories will stick with us. Gerry was a great person and a great employee for Old Smokey. He will go to a great place.

Denny Caird remembers *Ken Perreard*

Learning of Ken Perreard's passing saddens me. He and I went to Jacksonville High School together—he was a year behind me—and he was a member of the last class to graduate from J'ville before they shut it down. He lived a block and a half down the street from me. I ran into him several times while doing training sessions down on the Rogue River National For-

est, and from all accounts he was a solid worker. He was a lot of fun in high school, and all my memories are positive. Could jump like a rabbit! I bet he was good in the brush, which was the highest compliment we had back when we did field work.

Kent Mays remembers Ken Perreard

I, too, was saddened to learn about Ken Perreard's death. Ken was on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, when I was there. He was a top hand. Denny's comment about Ken being good in the brush was right on. He was excellent, and we depended upon his woods skills in some really rough country. He was a real stalwart.

George Berscheid remembers Ken Perreard

I was the TMA on the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest, at the time Ken Perreard was working there. I have never seen anyone who could go up the side of a mountain like Ken could! We also had a basketball team on the district, and he could indeed jump better than anyone else on the team.

Ken also had a great appetite. I remember a story of Ken going into an all you could eat place in Medford—North's Chuck Wagon, I think—and just filling the tray, not even bothering to use a plate. They asked that he not return!

John Poppino remembers Bob Tyrrel

Bob Tyrrel's obituary left out the portion of his life that I knew. Bob was R-6 Planning Team Leader (later PPB Director) when I moved into the R-6 Planning Team. He was a great boss who gently guided us and got nervous many times, but still guided the planning effort. We always knew that the goal was to provide "sustainability." I must admit, I don't think that word was in our vocabulary. We used "Multiple Use-Sustained Yield" and it meant more than just getting out the cut.

He was also an elk hunter. He and Tony Skufka would go to the east side (Malheur National Forest) and do their hunting. After I moved into the RO, Bob asked me where they should go on the Malheur. I told him. It was the same area that we (Chet Bennett, Jr., and I) hunted. On opening morning I heard a shot from the direction that I thought he was in. He got a beautiful bull. I'm not sure that either Chet or I scored that year!

Dave Jay remembers Steve Zitkovitch

I knew Steve well while we were each on the Baker River Ranger District [of the Mt. Baker National Forest] in the early 1960s. Steve was the reforestation forester. There were about six of us on the district, all at the GS-7 level. I accompanied Steve on many reforestation survival surveys. They occurred regardless of weather—rain, snow, wind, etc. Steve could be dogmatic about how to do something, and yet brilliant on reforestation matters. He influenced me in ways to always look closely at what is happening on the ground with trees and soil.

John Poppino remembers Steve Zitkovitch

I ran across Steve when he worked on the Mt. Hood National Forest and then on a fire on the Mt. Baker National Forest. He was a very memorable character and I sue that term in a very positive way.

Dave Kolb remarks on *The Big Burn*

The Big Burn by Timothy Egan...is an interesting account of

the creation of the Forest Service by Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot and the efforts for it to survive as an under-financed and under-staffed government organization during the Taft Administration and the 1910 Fires. It should be of interest to any fire manager or any Forest Service employee or retiree during this centennial [of the 1910 fires] year.

Dave Graham remarks on *The Big Burn*

I also read Egan's book back in December. It is indeed a good read that covers the historical facts quite accurately as most of us who spent a lot of our careers in the country burned learned over the years. And without too many embellishments. Would be much better if he could have avoided his not too subtle disdain for the Forest Service's multiple use mandate and references to employees as "little GPs."

Pam Wilson remarks on *The Big Burn*

I just [March 15, 2010] finished this book. Egan is an amazing writer and pulls you along as he writes. A great history in non-historical writing. Highly recommend it. He also has a great book titled *The Worst Hard Times* about the Dust Bowl—an amazing book that, as a resource manager, was hard to read! He has a new book on the western states that follows up on *The Hard Rain*. Great reading about a part of the country we tend to know!

Editor's Note: Timothy Egan's The Big Burn was reviewed on the Spring 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Hank Hays remarks on "new terminology"

I never liked this new terminology like "incident commander" etc. The U.S. Forest Service lingo was far better English and more clear. How did all this happen?

Richard Reeves remarks on "new terminology"

I'm with Hank. Fire Boss meant what it said. Incident Commander? Sounds like a mom who has to clean up after their two-year-old daughter's/son's little "incident"! I know, I know. The whole crew was sometimes called upon to do other chores. But Fire Boss has a certain ring to it. Times have changed, but the task hasn't.

Dick Chase responds on "new terminology"

In response to Hank regarding the "new" fire terminology, it was born out of the Firescope RD&A Program at the Pacific Southwest Research Station's Riverside Fire Laboratory in the mid-1970s. Created by congressional direction after the disastrous 1970 fires in Southern California, the program objective was to provide an effective and efficient solution to operational coordination requirements and problems of the major fire protection agencies serving the Southern California urban-wildland complex. Major participants in the program, which was led by a research team of which I was a part, were the Forest Service's Region 5, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Office of Emergency Services, Los Angeles City Fire Department, and the Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara county fire departments.

One of the early coordination issues to surface was the need for common terminology that would be acceptable to all fire

Books

Douglas Brinkley's *The Wilderness Warrior* Focuses on President Theodore Roosevelt as a Naturalist and Conservationist

By Les Joslin

Award-winning author Douglas Brinkley, professor of history at Rice University and prolific author of six books selected as *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year, has trained his talents on President Theodore Roosevelt's passion for nature and pursuit of conservation in the 900-plus pages of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade For America* published by HarperCollins in 2009.

Every historian has his or her own perspective on the era and subject about which he or she writes. And every reader assesses historians' books for himself or herself. Brinkley's perspective on Roosevelt's inspiring role in what many call the American Conservation Movement—during which the U.S. Forest Service was born—is nothing if not far-ranging. This helps put the Forest Service in perspective with many other results of that movement.

Perhaps of most interest to those who would understand that Forest Service perspective is Brinkley's take on founding Forester Gifford Pinchot and some of his early rangers.

Brinkley has admirably clarified Pinchot's reputation as a "utilitarian" forester. "In conservation terms," Brinkley explains on page 341, "this meant a belief in *wise use* of natural resources. But the label also unfairly minimized (and at times maligned) Pinchot's lifetime effort to *preserve* and *expand* many of America's most magnificent forestlands. He was a tireless crusader for both utilitarian forest preserves ["reserves" would have been a better choice for the lands that in 1907 were designated "national forests"] and wildlife protection. 'The eyes do not look as if they read books,' Owen Wister wrote of Pinchot, 'but as if they gaze upon a cause.'"

That Pinchot's cause protected—inadvertently or otherwise—amenity values as well as commodity values on the national forests he and Roosevelt are rightfully credited with saving from timber baron avarice is a truth Brinkley recognizes and preservation zealots who vilify Pinchot as a "utilitarian" would do well to appreciate.

Of equal moment to those who would understand Forest Service history are Brinkley's depictions of Roosevelt's and Pinchot's early rangers—men like former Rough Rider David E. Warford of Arizona and south Dakota cowpuncher, soldier, lawman, and ranger Seth Bullock. These were men who filled Roosevelt's requirement that forest rangers "are to be rangers in fact and not in name [only]," and able "to perform the vigorous bodily work of the position" as well as communicate the conservation message to the American West. Bullock, Brinkley informs the reader on page 403, "entered the pop culture kingdom in 2004 as the leading character in the HBO television series *Deadwood*."

But the story is bigger than Roosevelt and Pinchot and their rangers. It's bigger than the West where it happened. What Roosevelt and Pinchot and others precipitated there influenced conservation efforts around the world. "No president has been a greater champion of our natural world—especially its wildlife, than Theodore Roosevelt," wrote documentary filmmaker Ken Burns in his review of this book. "Now that extraordinary force of nature has his own champion in Douglas Brinkley. This is a stirring account of the man who turned our attention to conservation and the many glories of our American landscape."

"Exactly a century after his presidency," presidential historian Michael Beschloss concluded, "there could not be a better time to revisit and celebrate T.R.'s unfinished environmental legacy."

Douglas Brinkley's *The Wilderness Warrior*, published in 2009 by HarperCollins, lists at \$34.99 and is available at book stores nationwide.

Two New Books on Wildland Fire

Living with Fire: Fire Ecology and Policy for the Twenty-First Century, by Sara E. Jensen and Guy R. McPherson, "condenses the literature on fire into a rather small volume with 135 pages of text," according to OldSmokey **Jerry Williams'** review in the January 2010 issue of *Environmental History*. Jerry sees *Living with Fire*, published by the University of California Press in 2008, as written for the lay person or someone with limited knowledge of federal fire policy and recent laws."

"The basic idea" of the book, as Jerry summarizes it, "is that President Bush's Healthy Forests Initiative of 2002 and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 emphasize the wrong approach to wildland fire. The federal agencies...are spending millions and millions of dollars on fuel reduction projects and fire fighting that actually makes the fire problem worse in the decades to come. Once the agencies start down this slippery slope of fighting fire and trying to prevent fire at the same time, the process will never bottom-out. The federal agencies, especially the Forest Service, will, by default, become the U.S. Fire Service."

Jerry's review, which voices other concerns, concludes that the book "would make a fair introduction to fire policy in the United States" useful "as a starting point of discussion rather than the final word on fire."

Order *Living with Fire* (hardcover, 192 pages, ISBN 9780520255890) on line from the University of California Press at <<http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10918.php>> for \$29.95 or Google the title for less-expensive ordering alternatives such as Amazon.com.

America's Fires: A Historical Context for Policy and Practice, by Stephen J. Pyne, just published this year by the Forest History Society and distributed on March 25 to Society members, is the most recent in the Society's "Issues Series" in which, as President Steven Anderson explains, "authors of demonstrated knowledge...examine an issue, synthesize its substantive literature, and bring the historical dimensions to bear on current questions."

Continued on page 12

Uncle Sam's Cabins



Suiattle Guard Station

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Washington

By Les Joslin

The beautiful Suiattle River and surrounding forest and mountains provide a scenic and serene backdrop for historic Suiattle Guard Station built in 1913 by legendary Ranger Tommy Thompson to house a forest guard working in the Suiattle drainage. This charming and well-built log cabin, steeped in U.S. Forest Service history, still sits on a gently sloping lawn at the edge of the forest. Long used for its original purpose, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and is now a recreation rental cabin.

Thomas George “Tommy” Thompson, born in England in 1884 and brought to the United States by his parents in 1885, went to work for the General Land Office as a fire guard on the Washington Forest Reserve in June 1904. The next year, he was “among the small group that established the United States Forest Service in 1905” according to a plaque presented to him in 1955 by then-Chief Richard E. McArdle. Tommy served in the Forest Service as the part of the reserve on which he worked became the Washington National Forest in 1907 and was renamed the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1924 until he retired as district ranger of the Skagit Ranger District in May 1943.

Ranger Thompson’s most enduring accomplishment—construction of the Suiattle Guard Station—owes to the carpentry skills learned from his father. He was assistant district ranger of the Suiattle-Finney Ranger District and lived with his wife Ella at the Texas Pond Ranger Station when, in 1913, he applied those skills to construction of

the guard station that—thanks to restoration work a few years ago and continuing maintenance—remains a monument to those skills.

At the time, Forest Service construction budgets were limited to \$800 per project, and rangers often built their own stations with available materials to prevent cost overruns. Ranger Thompson used hand-split shakes and log construction to supplement purchased materials. Construction details on the Suiattle Guard Station cabin, such as the half-dovetail notching, pay tribute to his craftsmanship. As a testament, the cabin survives to this day as one of the two oldest administrative buildings on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Continuing maintenance and recent restoration work should ensure the longevity and utility of this one-bedroom cabin.

In 1913, when Ranger Thompson built the guard station, the site was reached by horseback and, until the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Suiattle River Road in the late 1930s, patrols were conducted on foot or horseback with pack string.

Editor’s Notes: Historic Suiattle Guard Station is located about 26 miles northeast of Darrington, Washington. To get there, travel northeast on Washington Highway 530 and, about seven miles from Darrington, turn right (east) onto Forest Road 26, a gravel road also called Suiattle River Road. The historic guard station is about 19 miles up that road. But, before attempting this trip, contact the Darrington Ranger District at 360-436-1155 to make certain that Forest Road 26, made impassable by recent flooding, has been repaired and that historic Suiattle Guard Station is accessible.

When accessible, historic Suiattle Guard Station is available for rent for about \$50 per night for a maximum of four people. There is also room on the site for two to four tents and/or one to two RVs (self contained; there is no electricity). For complete information, check the Region 6 Recreation Rentals section of the Pacific Northwest Region web site at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/recreation/rental/mbs-suiattle-gs.shtml>> or call the Darrington Ranger District at 360-436-1155. Reservations are made by calling 1-877-444-6777 or on the web site at <www.RECREATION.gov>.

Prepared from multiple sources including articles in the Skagit River Journal web site, the Region 6 Recreation Rentals of the Pacific Northwest web site, and the Recreation.gov web site.

Do you have a favorite historic Region 6 ranger station or guard station—perhaps one in which you served during your career—that you would like to share with other OldSmokeys in the “Uncle Sam’s Cabins” feature? If so, just send your story and photographs in to the editor!

Out of the Past

In this issue, stories of a 1970 fire boss and a 1980 incident commander come out of the past!



Don Peters, then a Deschutes National Forest staff officer, in action as fire boss on the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests' 118,000-acre wildfire in August 1970.

Late OldSmokey Don Peters “starred” in 1971 MGM television documentary...

“WILDFIRE!”

By Les Joslin

Forty years ago, in August 1970, one of the worst forest fires yet in the history of the Pacific Northwest burned 118,000 acres on the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests and adjacent central Washington state and private lands.

Fire Boss and future OldSmokey **Don Peters**, who four years later wrapped up his 37-year U.S. Forest Service career as a Deschutes National Forest land and minerals staff officer, led the ten-day battle to control this blaze. As he did, nine MGM camera crews under the direction of producer-writer Jeff Myrow filmed the action. The result was an hour-long documentary entitled “Wildfire!” first broadcast on NBC Television on February 5, 1971.

Don Peters, a Washington State College forester who ranged three Fremont National Forest districts before joining the Deschutes National Forest staff in 1956, was the “star” of the documentary. Much of Don’s career involved coordinating firefighting operations. He was fire boss—a job now called incident commander—on several major fires. By watching him direct the 8,550-man force that battled the blaze, the American public—perhaps for the first time—saw how a real fire boss earned his pay, and learned why.

At the end of the film, as Fire Boss Peters surveyed the smoldering remains of the burned forest—and, on the voice-

over expressed how he “hurt inside” at the loss, he found the body of an incinerated squirrel and buried it. From then on, when it was time to call a fire “out,” the crew would say “It’s time to bury the squirrel.”

Fan mail

Measures of the documentary’s success and the viewers’ appreciations of Don were found in reviews published in many newspapers and in a stack of letters OldSmokey **Ollie Peters**, Don’s wife for 66 years before he died in 2004, shared with this writer. A few excerpts from the letters tell the story.

“This is an outstanding film. It tells a gripping story, and tells it well.”

-- Art Greeley, Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service

“You were great! A very fitting acclaim for all the hard years you’ve given to fire control.”

-- Bob Bjornsen, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Office

“Congratulations, Don, on your role in MGM’s documentary on the Washington forest fires. You handled the situation very capably. Really quite a fantastic production.”

-- J.E. Schroeder, State Forester, Salem, Oregon

“We’ve had more compliments on “Wildfire.” Every one true and deserved, too.”

-- Larry Mays, U.S. Forest Service, Retired, Roswell, Georgia

“I find words are just not adequate to commend you and your crew highly enough for your heroic performance....”

-- Joanne Muller, Long Beach, California

“May we join your fan club? That was a great picture last night.”

-- Marvin and Doris Smith, Portland, Oregon

Burying the squirrel

Don’s burying the squirrel captured the public’s heart.

“I couldn’t keep from crying when you picked up that dead squirrel and tenderly buried it.”

-- Gladys M. Cozens, Port Norris, New Jersey

And, from Miami, Florida, a Pat Kent Hall wrote:

“...I was fortunate to catch a TV show...called “Wildfire” and it was most graphic, touching, sad, and alarming. But more than that there was a HUMAN BEING who impressed me as one of the very nicest people in the world...Mr. Don Peters.

“When he said he ‘hurt inside’ I empathized. I worried and suffered with him when the extent of the damage was anticipated and finally realized. I laughed and cheered with him when they halted the runaway fire. I grieved and cried with him over the little, charred body of a hapless squirrel.

“But...of all the emotions experienced, the very nicest was love...and I don’t hesitate to say I wept when he dug a grave in that burned-out, ashen forest ground and buried the little creature.

“What a beautiful man! It is to be hoped that someday the world will be populated with only such folks. Don Peters, we love you!”



Don Peters awarded “Wildfire!” producer-writer Jeff Myrow An honorary “Fire Boss” hard hat.

Editor’s Note: Thanks to OldSmokey Ollie Peters for the information used to prepare and the photographs used to illustrate this article.

OldSmokeys President Bill Shenk shared his May 19, 1980, Mount St. Helens incident commander story about the time a large part of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest turned...

From Forest to Moonscape

By Bill Shenk

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington)

April 27, 2010

Having been employed by the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years in many Oregon locales, I had fought many large project forest fires throughout the Western U.S. In 1980, I had been working in the Portland Regional office of the Forest Service and enjoyed being one of the incident commanders with a team of overhead that numbered 34 experts in their fields that included fire operations, planning, service, finance, public information, camp management, security, fleet management, air operations, and many others.

Sunday, May 18, 1980, was a warm, quiet, peaceful spring morning. I was alerted by my Aloha, Oregon, neighbors to cast an eye to the northeast from my back yard. This was a start to an interesting couple of days. My incident command team was on standby for the week starting that day, and we were probably going to receive a call concerning the eruption. Later that morning, I did answer the call and request for my team to mobilize for action on Mount St. Helens. At that time, there were multitudes of static electricity lightning strikes coming out of the cloud of ash and there were about thirty thousand acres with many fires near the mountain.

We were instructed to set up a temporary camp in a motel in Gresham, Oregon, until sufficient information concerning fires

could be gathered, and planning for a large fire operation could start. Since the team had to gather from around the Pacific Northwest, we were not all in place until that evening. Meanwhile, many reports of heavy lightning continued, but skepticism abounded since a huge ash cloud was flowing to high altitudes in a northeast direction.

At daylight on Monday, May 19, I was informed that an Oregon National Guard Huey helicopter and pilots were coming to pick me up to reconnoiter the eruption area and determine the extent of fire activity. In a short time we were airborne and headed for “The Mountain.” One major caution was to not fly under the ash plume because of the abrasiveness of the ash if ingested into the turbine engines. We were able to fly around the north, west, and south sides of the fire with no problem. The northeast-to-east quadrant was the danger area. As we flew, I was thinking of the words of Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin when they described their moon landings. Other than complete devastation with millions of trees down and pointing away from the blast, I felt I was observing a moonscape. No color other than various shades of gray could be seen. I really was an eerie experience. It was obvious that tremendous force and change had occurred. I managed to spot about a dozen small wisps of smoke coming out of a sea of volcanic ash that smothered the large volume of fire and the immediate terrain. It was obvious that my fire team would not be needed this day. We returned to the airfield at Troutdale and wrapped up the reconnaissance.

My team and I headed home with mixed emotions, but relieved that we didn’t have to breathe volcanic ash for a long time. One rather significant detail of my flight was that one of my colleagues asked me to take pictures of the eruption and ground area with his camera. Being a real camera novice, I had a setting wrong and got nothing usable for pictures. Most annoying! I have only my memories.

Please send in your “The Way We Were” or “Out of the Past” stories to share with other OldSmokeys. Submit your stories by e-mail to <lesjoslin@aol.com> or by snail mail to editor Les Joslin, 2356 NW Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

Skeeter Werner *continued from page 6*

“Ed and I cooperated for over 30 years in Alaska,” Skeeter said. “We are both quite humbled by this award as there are many forest entomologists who are also deserving of the award.”

Skeeter served at the Pacific Northwest Research Station’s Institute of Northern Forestry in Fairbanks and Ed at the Station’s Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Anchorage. Skeeter retired in 1996 and moved to Corvallis where, as a Pacific Northwest Research Station volunteer for 15 years, he’s been able to continue his research on bark beetles in Alaska. Ed retired in 2005 and lives in Cooper Landing, Alaska, where he is an EMT. He is married to Sandra Key, a one-time forest supervisor and former superintendent of several national parks.

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Summer 2010

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