



OldSmokeys Newsletter

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees—Winter 2011

President's Message—Bill Shenk

When I became President in May, I had little idea how involving and rewarding the position is. Six months have passed, and there are many changes and projects to report. This is a dynamic organization.

Membership Chair **Bob Devlin** has accomplished a number of area representative changes mentioned in this *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. And he has added second representatives to provide additional contacts for some of our Forest Service administrative units.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee of **Wendall Jones, Elmer Moyer, and Bob Tokarczyk** we have a President-elect candidate in **Mike Ash** for you to vote on by February 15. Please vote using the ballot on page 5 of this *OldSmokeys Newsletter* or by e-mail. Mike deserves a large response to usher him into this challenging position that leads him in 2012 to the presidency.

I am pleased to announce that **Bill Funk** has volunteered to serve as PNWFSA Treasurer to relieve the overload on our current long-term Treasurer **Vern Clapp** who has labored for us for years and had more than earned the relief he has requested. We still need to find someone to relieve Vern of the Data Base Manager job he's also done for years. Vern plans to retain his third job of E-Mail Coordinator. Thanks, Vern, for so many jobs well done. We appreciate you, all you have done, and all you continue to do.

This fall we assisted the Forest Service personnel at the Enterprise, Oregon, office of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest whose workplace was completely destroyed by fire. At the suggestion of President-elect **John Berry** and NAFSR Representative **John Marker**, the OldSmokeys as an organization and as individuals made a monetary contribution to the Enterprise office folks and set up an emergency fund to aid those who may need help in the future. We are a caring, generous organization, and we can make a difference when OldSmokeys and Forest Service folks run up against tough situations.

Annual dues were due January 1; however, the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* didn't contain a dues payment article and coupon. This issue does, on page 4, and I hope all dues will be paid by February 1.

Two last points. First, we always need volunteers for OldSmokeys activities and projects. Your participation is always welcome no matter how small or brief. Second, we're thinking about publishing "My First U.S. Forest Service Job" stories in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* on a regular basis or even in a book and will be happy to receive them from you and your family members.

Bill Shenk

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

OldSmokeys Membership Directory for 2011 Enclosed!

Forum

Five Years Doing “Job One” From the “Bully Pulpit”

This is the twentieth issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* in which I have pursued what my first editorial called “Job One: To Save the System and the Service” as well as the rest of the job of reporting the news and telling the stories of interest to Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members.

The *OldSmokeys Newsletter* has afforded me—and you—what President Theodore Roosevelt termed “a bully pulpit” or “a terrific platform from which to persuasively advocate an agenda” as well as report that news and tell those stories.

I’ve advocated that “Job One” agenda, persistently if not persuasively, because my fellow PNWFSA members—the readers of this newsletter—have given me sufficient reason to “believe fellow OldSmokeys share this agenda.”

I plan to “use this bully pulpit to articulate ideas I believe forward [that agenda] by stimulating discussion and positive action” as long as I am editor. I plan to encourage my successor to do likewise.

You’ve noticed, I suppose, the job is open. Any takers?

-- Les Joslin

Restoring the U.S. Forest Service: Pursuing Positive Proposals

“It doesn’t do any good to rant and rave about an inept plan unless you have a much more intelligent plan immediately available.”

--Admiral Thomas L. Hayward, U.S. Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, 1978-1982

I’ve always tried to follow those words of wisdom from a leader of the service that accounted for a 24-year hole in my work with the U.S. Forest Service—especially in my pursuit of positive proposals for restoring the Forest Service to the “Agency to Match the Mountains” I perceive it to have been and believe it could be again. I hope a measure of such wisdom has been reflected in the editorials on that topic I have penned in the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* during the past five years.

My use of that quote isn’t intended to infer that the current plan for the Forest Service—if, indeed, there *is* a plan—is “inept” and that I have “a much more intelligent plan immediately available.” I don’t.

I do, however, have an enlightened vision of a restored Forest Service that still could be realized—but only through immediate articulation and implementation of an intelligent plan that would include:

- A revised and realistic legal framework for the National Forest System and for the smaller and smarter and more efficient and effective Forest Service necessitated by the get-real-about-deficit-reduction future faced by the U.S. Government and the American people as the United States careens toward bankruptcy and all its grievous consequences
- A redesigned smaller and more efficient and effective field-oriented National Forest System management component comprising SOs providing comprehensive administrative, planning, and logistics specialists and services to operational rangerable-sized districts focused on doing the job on the ground (I don’t address Research and State & Private Forestry in this process.)
- A necessarily Spartan residential Forest Service Academy that would challenge, condition, and empower future Forest Service officers—resource management professionals and technicians—to serve successfully within a renewed National Forest System management structure and public service culture
- A revised forest planning rule that would prioritize and implement the community relations and resource management field work that needs to be done and would not be driven by political special interests and peripheral political correctness considerations

When I discuss this with retired Forest Service colleagues, some say it’s already too late to restore the Forest Service and save the National Forest System. Some suggest transferring the national forests to another federal agency or even to the states. Some even suggest privatization. I just can’t bring myself to agree—at least, not yet.

Sure, it’s late in the game. It’s very late, for the Forest Service and the rest of government. It’s certainly too late for a business-as-usual, study-it-again-sometime, cover-your-six, ping-around-the-periphery, put-it-off-until-somebody-else is President or Secretary or Chief approach. The national treasure that is the National Forest System is *at risk now*, the Forest Service is *in extremis now*. And the time for real action—action leading to early results pursuant to “a much more intelligent plan” including all aspects listed above to save both the System and the Service for the citizen-owners of the former and the good people of the latter—*is now!*

I hope it’s not too late for an enlightened Forest Service leadership to purposively pursue positive proposals.

Is there such leadership out there?

Is anybody listening?

Chief?

-- Les Joslin

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

—Attributed to Voltaire

OldSmokey News

Oldest OldSmokey

OldSmokey Gail Baker Lived 103 Years

OldSmokey **Gail C. Baker**, who would have been 104 years old on January 3, 2011, died on October 22, 2010, at age 103.

A 1933 forestry graduate of Oregon Agricultural College, Gail served 37 years plus student summers of his 103 years in the U.S. Forest Service on two national forests in California and four national forests in Oregon. He served the last 15 of those years (save six months on a special assignment in Chile) at the Pacific Northwest Region RO in Portland.

Gail was the grand old man of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association and its predecessor, the Thirty-Year Club, which he served as 1983-1984 vice president and 1984-1985 president. He celebrated his 100th birthday with the OldSmokeys at the Beaverton Elks Club on January 3, 2007, and was a regular at the PNWFSA's monthly luncheons into his last year.

Just before that birthday, his life story was featured in the two-page article "Gail Baker, the Oldest OldSmokey, Anticipates Personal Centennial"—he was less than two years younger than the Forest Service in which he served—in the Fall 2006 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

That same issue, destined to be remembered as "the Gail Baker issue," featured "Gail Baker's Gasquet Ranger Station" in the *Uncle Sam's Cabins* section and "Gail Baker's Fire Guard School" in the *Out of the Past* section.

Gail Baker is remembered in the *Memories* and *Letters* sections of this issue.

OldSmokey Mary Wagner is New Associate Chief of U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in a November 4, 2010, letter named OldSmokey **Mary Wagner** to relieve retiring Associate Chief Hank Kashdan as Associate Chief beginning in January 2011.

"Mary has done a great job in the Pacific Northwest as Regional Forester, and I appreciate her willingness to serve in this important position," Chief Tidwell said in the letter.

Mary became Pacific Northwest regional forester in October 2008 when she relieved OldSmokey **Linda Goodman** as she retired from the Forest Service in that position.

Before she arrived at the RO in Portland, Mary was deputy regional forester for the Intermountain Region in which she'd also served as forest supervisor of the Dixie National Forest, deputy forest supervisor and district ranger on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and district ranger on the Ashley National Forest. She began her Forest Service career in 1983 as a forester on the Sawtooth National Forest. Mary earned a forest management degree at Humboldt State University and holds a University of Utah master of public administration degree.

A new Pacific Northwest Region regional forester to replace Mary had not been named by press time.



OldSmokey Bus Carrell admired a "Family of Shapes" sign at Estacada Ranger Station in 2003. -- Photograph by Bud Unruh

OldSmokey Bus Carrell Left His Mark on the National Forests and Forest Service

By Bud Unruh

You can't—or, at least, shouldn't be able to—approach any National Forest System unit or any U.S. Forest Service office or facility anywhere in the country without seeing the mark that a design team led by OldSmokey **Virgil R. "Bus" Carrell** left on the System and the Service beginning in 1962.

Bus left the National Forest System and the Forest Service a legacy when he and his team—which included Reggie Pragnell, Smokey Bear artist Rudy Wendelin, and landscape architect John Dustrude—designed and implemented the Forest Service's "Family of Shapes" sign concept that has identified national forests and Forest Service facilities for the past 48 years.

Bus had quite a Forest Service career even after serving as district ranger on the Clackamas River Ranger District, Mt. Hood National Forest, and forest supervisor, San Juan National Forest. In 1962, at the Division of Engineering in the WO, he led design and implementation of the "Family of Shapes" sign concept. These attractive signs have consistently made all National Forest System units and Forest Service facilities readily recognizable and immediately distinguishable from the public lands administered by and the facilities of other agencies.

There are probably few OldSmokeys still around who would know Bus and how the 1962 sign program came to be. A reminder seems appropriate while Bus is still around and able to appreciate that the creative effort he led provided a lasting and beautiful legacy to the agency he loved.

Both Bus and his wife Edna, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary last February, are 96 years old. They live in Florence, Arizona.

OldSmokeys **Al** and **Betty Gano** recently visited the Carrells and told me that Bus and Edna are getting along quite well.

*Editor's Note: Many thanks to OldSmokey **Bud Unruh** for this fascinating article and to OldSmokey **Dave Scott** for additional information. "I had the privilege of working for Bus summer seasons 1944-1951 on the Clackamas River Ranger District," Bud recalled. "I have kept in touch with him ever since."*

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association

Who Are We? OldSmokey Facts 2011

By Vern Clapp, Database Manager



How Many. At the start of 2011, the membership of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association stands at **887**. Last year at this time we were at **906**. On the plus side, **18** new members signed up. This gain was offset by the deaths of **21** members (some of whom were replaced by their spouses). We also had to let go **19** members for unpaid dues, and **five** requested to be dropped. **Two** members are currently “lost” to inadequate addresses.

Age. Our membership keeps getting a little older. Our average age has crept up to **74** years, an increase of **0.8** years from last year. (It has increased almost **4.0** years in the past 10 years.) This is in spite of the 2010 new members whose average age is **65**. There are **33** in our ranks (members and/or spouses) who are nonagenarians (between 90 and 100). **Six** are over 100; **four** are spouses.

Where. We are all over the United States. Most of us are in the Pacific Northwest: **551** in Oregon and **176** in Washington. There are **24** in Arizona, **21** in Montana, **19** in California, **15** in Idaho, and **14** Virginians. The balance is spread through another **30** states. We keep moving; there were **36** address changes recorded this year. There were so many e-mail address changes we lost count.

Dues Status. Currently, **364** members pay their dues annually, and **\$5,460** has been paid so far in 2010. The balance of **523** has been lifetime memberships, paying in **\$42,883** over the years. (We still have **147** older members who paid out just \$50 for lifetime dues. Quite a deal!) As noted above, we lost **18** members this year because of delinquent dues.

Donations. This year, PNWFSA received **\$531** in donations. This was just a bit more than last year, but somewhat less than average. In addition, we received \$650 in donations to the personnel of the Enterprise, Oregon, office who lost possessions when the building burned.

Finances. Our largest operating expense in 2010 was **\$8,750** for the newsletter and directory. This is down considerably from the past thanks to **190** members electing to go paperless with newsletter and directory. The complete PNWFSA financial statement will be published in the Summer 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Not Your Fault!

OldSmokeys Annual Dues for 2011 Were Due and Payable on January 1

But your *OldSmokeys Newsletter* editor failed to put an announcement and bill for collection in the Winter 2010 edition, so it's not your fault if you haven't yet paid your dues for 2011.

So, if you still owe your Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association dues for 2011, *please* help your editor overcome this embarrassment by using the coupon below to pay those dues right now!

**Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Bill for Collection for 2011 Annual Dues**

Please make your check for \$20 annual dues [or \$250 life-time dues] payable to PNWFSA and mail to
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583.

Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

While you're at it, why not share a few words with other OldSmokeys in the "Letters" section of the next newsletter?
Use the space below, and add additional pages if necessary.

Election 2011

OldSmokeys Are Asked to Approve Mike Ash as PNWFSA President-elect

By Bill Shenk, President

Every year, according to the bylaws of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, the OldSmokeys elect a member to the office of President-elect to serve in that office for one year, to lead the PNWFSA in the office of President during the following year, and then to serve a third year in the office of Past-president.

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated OldSmokey **Mike Ash** to serve as its new President-elect. If approved, Mike will begin service in that office in May and be on tap to relieve current President-elect OldSmokey **John D. Berry** as President in May 2012.

So, to show Mike how much we appreciate his willingness to lead the OldSmokeys in 2011 as President-elect and in 2012 as President, let's send in lots of votes (But control your enthusiasm! One per member, please!) to approve this nomination.

A Few Words About Mike Ash...

OldSmokey **Mike Ash** experienced an extremely rewarding 39-year U.S. Forest Service career. Starting in 1966 in Region 5, he worked as an engineer on the Plumas, Lassen, and Modoc national forests. Mike eventually migrated to Region 6 where he worked on the Willamette, Siskiyou, and Mt. Hood national forests and in the RO in Portland.

Mike answered the call to go to WO where his last assignment was as Deputy Director, Engineering. Mike then had the good fortune of a one-year assignment back in Region 5 to lead a comprehensive management review of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (Sierra Framework). He then returned to Region 6 where he served as Deputy Regional Forester until he retired in 2006.

Mike and his wife Mary live in Gresham, Oregon, where they love to host their two daughters and five grandchildren. Mike keeps busy with volunteer tutoring at a local grade school, hunting, and some serious woodworking. Mary is quite the quilter, gourmet cook, and world-class shopper. Mike and Mary enjoy occasional traveling, especially after two or three months of Pacific Northwest rain! Mike and Mary are OldSmokey life members.

Here's Your Ballot!

Please Cast Your Ballot No Later Than February 15!

Clip or copy the ballot below or just use a plain piece of paper or even e-mail to cast your ballot to approve your Board's nomination of **Mike Ash** to serve as President-elect or to write in the name of your own candidate for the job. Vote not later than February 15, 2011. E-mail ballots may be sent to Secretary Bev Pratt at <prattpratt@aol.com>.

Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Winter 2011 Ballot for Election of PNWFSA President-elect

The PNWFSA Board of Directors has nominated **Mike Ash** to serve as its new President-elect.

Confirm your support of this nomination by casting your ballot for this nominee or writing in another name.

I cast my ballot for **Mike Ash** to serve as PNWFSA President-elect _____ (check here), or

I cast my ballot for _____ (write-in here) to serve as PNWFSA President-elect.

**Mail your ballot to PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228 by February 15, 2011,
or cast your ballot by e-mail addressed to Secretary Bev Pratt at <prattpratt@aol.com>.**

Thanks for voting!

OldSmokeys Set Spring Banquet and Summer Picnic Dates for 2011

The dates for two annual Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association events, the Spring Banquet and the Summer Picnic, have been set.

The Spring Banquet is set for Sunday, May 15, at the Charbonneau Country Club in Wilsonville, Oregon. Complete information and registration form will be in the Spring 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. OldSmokeys **Don** and **Jean Loff** are the banquet co-chairpersons.

The Summer Picnic will be held on Friday, August 12, at the Wildwood Recreation Area on U.S. Highway 26 between Brightwood and Zigzag. OldSmokey **Rick Larson** is picnic chair.

Be sure to reserve both these dates now!

OldSmokeys Need Relief for Vern Clapp as PNWFSA Database Manager

The search for a new PNWFSA database manager to replace OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** *as soon as possible*—he’s had the job for 18 years and *needs relief now*—continues.

The database manager, as Vern explained in the Fall 2008 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, “manages the database, keeps pertinent up-to-date membership information, prepares current mailing lists, and prepares an annual membership directory.” The database manager is *vital* to PNWFSA operations.

OldSmokeys interested in serving in this key position should respond by e-mail to PNWFSA President **Bill Shenk** at <shenkboth@msn.com> or by U.S. Mail to Bill at PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228. *Do it now!*

OldSmokey Bill Funk Accepts PNWFSA Treasurer Position

“I’m actually looking forward to taking my turn to help out,” said OldSmokey **Bill Funk** on December 2, 2010, as he accepted the nomination to relieve OldSmokey **Vern Clapp** as PNWFSA treasurer. “I’m willing to take on the treasurer job with continuing help from Vern during the transition.”

Bill’s acceptance of the nomination was quickly approved by the PNWFSA Board of Directors. Vern and Bill will work together during the next few months to effect a smooth transition of the job’s critical responsibilities. The treasurer pays the bills, reconciles the accounts, and manages the finances.

“Vern tells me he’s been doing this—along with all the other stuff he does—for 15 years. For me, doing it for 15 years, I don’t think so!” Bill observed. “Here’s the deal. I’m thinking of no more than four or five years. And during the last year, how about bringing on a treasurer in training?”

Bill served in the RO in Portland as Director of Management Systems for 10 years, then as district ranger on the Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, for eight years, then back at the RO where he wound up leading a regional EIS team for controlling a Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak mostly on eastside forests.

OldSmokey Bob Devlin Announces PNWFSA Area Representative Changes

OldSmokey **Bob Devlin**, Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association membership chairman, has announced the first of the new additional area representatives who are signing on to help the current PNWFSA area representatives do the liaison and membership recruitment jobs for the RO, the Pacific Northwest Research Station, and the national forests.

The need for additional area representatives was recognized in OldSmokey **Bill Shenk**’s “President’s Message” in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

OldSmokey **Deb Warren** has signed on as a second representative for the Pacific Northwest Research Station.

OldSmokeys who’ve stepped up to serve as additional representatives on the national forests include **Chris Anderson** for the Olympic, **Phil Dodd** on the Gifford Pinchot, **Al Garr** on the Colville, **Doug MacDonald** for the Willamette, and **Tom Lupes** in place of **Ron Ketchum** on the Rogue River.

OldSmokeys **Eileen Blakely** and **Joel King** have taken over from **Bob Blakey** as Siskiyou National Forest representatives. OldSmokeys **John Sloan** and **Mary** and **Joe Brennan** have taken over for **Dick Swartzlender** as Umpqua National Forest representatives. New OldSmokeys **Jim Tierney** and **Jacquelyn Oakes** have taken over for **Doug Porter** as Mt. Hood National Forest representatives.

OldSmokeys Aid Enterprise Personnel After July 11, 2010, Fire Destroyed Offices

The PNWFSA as an organization and as individuals has contributed a total of \$1,050 to assist Wallowa-Whitman National Forest personnel whose Enterprise, Oregon, offices were destroyed by fire on July 11, 2010.

In addition to invaluable work, these U.S. Forest Service folks lost many personal possessions.

The Board of Directors approved unanimously at its October 29, 2010, meeting OldSmokey **Mike Ash**’s suggestion that the OldSmokeys provide \$500 in assistance from PNWFSA’s 2010 operating funds, and individual OldSmokeys at that meeting and the luncheon that followed kicked in another \$550.

Since the fire, Forest Service personnel assigned to the Wallowa Mountains Visitor Center, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area office, and the Eagle Cap and Wallowa Valley ranger district offices who were housed in the 20-year-old, leased log building on the outskirts of Enterprise have been spread among five facilities in the area. Loss of not only their offices and much of their work but also personal belongings for which they will not be reimbursed has combined with this dispersal to adversely affect morale.

At the suggestion of Eagle Cap District Ranger **Mary DeAgüero** and Wallowa Valley District Ranger **Ken Gebhardt**, both located with their staffs in temporary facilities in Joseph, Oregon, funds provided by the OldSmokeys will be “used for purchase of a range/stove, a television/DVD/VCR, and artwork to spruce up the temporary office environment and that could be moved into the permanent office when that time comes.”

OldSmokeys Recruit Active Duty Forest Service in Region 6 Newsletter

“Did you know that you don’t have to be retired to be an OldSmokey?” asked the lead sentence of an article entitled “Are You Ready To Be an OldSmokey” that ran in the November 4, 2010, issue of *The Thursday R6 Update*, the weekly newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service.

The purpose of the article was to spread the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association word to the active duty Forest Service in Region 6, and to let active duty members with at least 20 years of service know they don’t have to be retired to become an OldSmokey.

After describing the origins and missions of the PNWFSA, the article informed *R6 Update* readers that membership in the PNWFSA is open to: (1) any retiree of the Forest Service, (2) any current employee of the Forest Service with at least 20 years of government service (including military service) who works or has worked in the Pacific Northwest Region or with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, or (3) any retiree who has worked for the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. The article then tells the readers how to go about joining.

What better way to recruit new blood than through the weekly newsletter those potential recruits read? Well, the answer to that, of course, is OldSmokeys’ personal contact with potential new recruits. Now’s the time to follow up that article with personal invitations to eligible active duty Forest Service personnel you know.

The PNWFSA owes thanks to *R6 Update* editor Katie R. Isacksen, a public affairs specialist on the Siuslaw National Forest, for publishing the article.

By the way, OldSmokey **Don Nearhood**, the PNWFSA Website Manager, posts *The Thursday R6 Update* on the OldSmokeys’ website at <www.oldsmokeys.org>.

OldSmokeys Contemplate Publishing “My First U.S. Forest Service Job”

OldSmokey **Wendall Jones**’ “The Fish Lake Fire Crew: 1950 and 1951” in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and OldSmokey **Gil Gilbert**’s “What do you want me to do next, kid?” on pages 29-31 of this issue have inspired others to propose that the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association publish a collection of such pieces that might be called “My First U.S. Forest Service Job.”

“I think we have the makings of another book!” OldSmokey **Bruce Kaufman** commented. “Reading about first Forest Service jobs from Fitz, Lowell, and Wendall Jones made me think of my own experiences that first summer. If every OldSmokey contributed one experience from that time, I think it would be a heck of a read.”

“I think that is a great idea,” wrote Chief Emeritus and OldSmokey **Max Peterson**. “When I went to work in 1949 everyone was required to keep a daily diary. The diary was also reviewed by your immediate superior. I still have mine and could use them for an accurate story.”

“By all means, first-job stories would be a real hit, but possibly only to the surviving OldSmokeys (i.e., a small audience),” wrote OldSmokey **Bob Romancier**. “Sure fun to read. I’ll think about my first time experience as a lookout-smokechaser on the Willamette National Forest in 1955 as a possible contribution.”

“I like the idea. Like the others, I have one or two as a 16-year-old firefighter on the Shawnee National Forest in the winter,” said OldSmokey **Dave Jay**.

“I think it’s a good idea,” said OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** who honchoed publication in 2005 of the PNWFSA’s centennial anthology *We Had An Objective In Mind: The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest 1905 to 2005*. “The key to making [that] book of R-6 stories work was the formation of a steering committee of four or five folks who provided passion, direction, and support to the effort. My initial thoughts about a ‘first job’ book is it would likely be quite a bit shorter than the [2005] book and have a more limited audience, but it would be a valuable collection of memories. I’m not volunteering to lead the effort, but am happy to continue the discussion.”

“I for one am not ready to take on another book,” said OldSmokey **Phil Hirl**. “But I may write the story of my first job, getting lost in the Suiattle River drainage.”

“As Rolf, Wendall, Dave, and Phil well know, there’s a lot involved in publishing a book,” commented *OldSmokey Newsletter* editor **Les Joslin**, who’s published half a dozen. “Everything from market analysis to picking a production team to organizing and designing and editing to selecting a manufacturer.... A new team briefed on their experience might be the way to go. I know another OldSmokey interested in the project. Whether the PNWFSA Board of Directors decides to publish such a book or not, I’d like to begin collecting the stories now, while they are still available. If nothing else, one could be published in each issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* for years to come.”

So, for starters, OldSmokeys can send their “My First Job in the Forest Service” stories to Les at <lesjoslin@aol.com> or 2356 N.W. Great Place, Bend, Oregon 97701.

OldSmokeys Help at Mt. Hood Museum

OldSmokey **Lloyd Musser**, Curator, Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum in Government Camp, Oregon, extended a “big thank you” to OldSmokeys **John Berry**, **Dick Buscher**, **Del Gant**, **Wendall Jones**, and **John Marker** who reinstalled all the exhibits in the Forest Gallery on November 4, 2010.

“The same crew plus **Ed Elliott** stored it away last winter in preparation for the elevator installation,” Lloyd said. “We missed **Doug Porter**, but had a toast to his health over lunch. Volunteers make non-profits possible, and OldSmokeys are the best volunteers an organization could have.”

“The Museum is also thankful for the financial support from the OldSmokeys both as individuals and from the organization,” Lloyd said.

To learn more about the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum, visit <www.mthoodmuseum.org>.

OldSmokeys News continues on page 21

Forest Service News

*There is so much U.S. Forest Service news of national, regional, and personal interest in this issue that, at least for this issue, this section is divided into **National**, **Regional**, and **People** sub-sections.*

National

U.S. Forest Service Burned at October 12 Congressional Hearing on Station Fire

Critical questions remained unanswered at the end of the October 12, 2010, hearing in Pasadena, California, at which five southern California congressmen grilled U.S. Forest Service officials, firefighters, and wildland fire experts about the response to the August-October 2009 Station Fire. The fire, which blackened over 250 square miles of the Angeles National Forest, destroyed more than 200 homes and other structures, killed two county firefighters, cost \$97 million to suppress, and did an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage to watersheds and property, was the largest wildfire in Los Angeles County history.

Representative Adam Schiff (Democrat-Pasadena) convened the bipartisan congressional hearing to examine firefighting procedures and techniques employed by the Forest Service in fighting the Station Fire and to investigate an apparent communications breakdown that delayed dispatch of aerial retardant drops and other resources at a critical time in the effort to control the blaze.

The congressional panel heard four hours of testimony from 11 wildfire experts and high-ranking officials. “There were numerous missed opportunities to get this fire under control in the early stages,” Bill Derr, a retired Forest Service officer who was on the Angeles National Forest fire staff for 12 years and Region 5 special agent in charge of investigations and law enforcement for 18 years, testified.

The fire probably could have been contained, controlled, and kept small had fire officials capitalized—or been allowed to capitalize—on those early opportunities, the panel was told. Indeed, Will Spyrison, the now-retired Forest Service incident commander who ordered air assets to do so early on the second morning, was thwarted in doing so when aircraft made later-than-ordered runs over the fire. According to the air attack director’s written report, there were air tankers and helicopters working the fire after 9 a.m., but not in the numbers needed to stop the rapidly spreading fire. Air Attack’s repeated requests for a larger fixed wing tanker were not honored. “Between 7 and 9 a.m. was the window of opportunity to make a difference,” Spyrison said. But it wasn’t until after 9 a.m. that there was probably a dozen aircraft assigned to the fire—a mixture of fixed-wing and rotor-wing, but not adequate for the growing intensity of the fire. There was also an apparent lack of ground resources.

Representative Schiff pressed Spyrison on that point, asking if a 7 a.m. arrival of air tankers “could have made a critical difference in whether this fire got out of control.” Spyrison said

yes. But by the time the aircraft finally arrived, it was too late. Just why Spyrison’s repeated request was not filled in a timely manner remains an inadequately answered question. Some claim a dispatching error, others a cost-cutting policy. Still others deny or avoid these explanations.

Mike Rogers, former Angeles National Forest supervisor who attended the hearing, reported that “the Forest Service was well represented” by Regional Forester Randy Moore and other senior officials who made “excellent presentations but did not respond well to questions” and “appeared...limited by what they could say. What made matters worse was the latter Forest Service presenters contradicting what earlier Forest Service speakers had established. [Forest Service Director of Fire and Aviation Management] Tom Harbour did not appear to be in synch with previous Forest Service witnesses.”

“I have a feeling we’re not being told what happened,” Representative Brad Sherman (Democrat-Sherman Oaks) summed up the frustration of the panel and members of the public—a few dozen of whom lost their homes in the fire—who attended the hearing. Attendees left “very disappointed in the lack of response from the Forest Service presenters to the questions asked by the congressional panel,” Mike concluded.

Representative Schiff said the record of the October 12 hearing will be provided to the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, which later began a probe of the fire expected to take six to eight months to complete.

Editor’s note: Watch future issues of your OldSmokeys Newsletter for results of the Government Accountability Office investigation.

Prepared from multiple sources including telephone and e-mail communications with Bill Derr and John Marker; an e-mail from Mike Rogers; “Politicians grill U.S. Forest Service about Station fire” by Megan O’Neil in the October 12, 2010, La Canada Valley Sun; “Experts tell congressional panel Station fire could have been contained early on” by Thomas Himes in the October 12, 2010, Whittier Daily News; and “Station fire’s lost ‘window of opportunity’ recounted” by Paul Pringle in the October 13, 2010, Los Angeles Times. Coordinated with Bill, John, and Mike.

U.S. Forest Service Contractors Hit for Employing Foreigners with ARRA Funds

As early as July 2010 criticism was leveled at U.S. Forest Service contractors for importing foreign workers and employing them on federal stimulus contracts that were designed to boost local economies, according to Keith Chu in the July 25 issue of the Bend, Oregon, daily newspaper *The Bulletin*.

Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) “allows federal agencies to award contracts to companies that use foreign labor on the jobs, even though the measure was largely intended to provide a short-term boost in U.S. employment,” competing firms “argue they’re being undercut by firms that use foreign labor and say the federal government isn’t doing enough to make sure their competitors are following all the rules.” The companies importing and employing the foreign workers respond that “the foreigners work

harder and faster than local applicants and are willing to do jobs the locals don't want."

A few days after that July 25 article, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat-Oregon) told the Forest Service he was "extremely concerned...that about \$13 million in federal stimulus contracts were awarded to Oregon companies that imported foreign workers, mostly on forest restoration projects." Regional Forester and OldSmokey **Mary Wagner** responded that there's not much the Forest Service can do about it. "Any individual, regardless of citizenship, may be employed under federal contracts so long as they are legally authorized to be employed," she wrote.

But Senator Wyden wasn't buying it. "They can throw all of the legal citations at me that they want, but the bottom line is I fought to get forest projects in the Recovery Act to create jobs for Oregonians," he said in a written statement. U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio (Democrat-Oregon) has requested a U.S. Department of Labor investigation into contractors who import foreign workers paid with ARRA funds, *The Bulletin* reported on September 18, 2010. Senator Wyden and Representative DeFazio continued to question the practice and demand resolution into the fall.

The culprit seems to be federal regulations that "allow companies to make little effort to find U.S. workers before importing foreign labor," *The Bulletin* reported on October 10, 2010. The minimum effort companies make often adds up to advertising scores of job openings in small newspapers sometimes distant from job sites. Representative DeFazio told *The Bulletin* in an October 8, 2010, interview that he expects the Department of Labor investigation into the situation will "lead to (the) conclusion that the system needs to be reformed and dramatically tightened."

Representative Greg Walden (Republican-Oregon) has brought up the matter with Regional Forester Wagner and the Department of Labor.

"Stimulus dollars have created or saved far too few jobs for Americans under the most generous accounting," an editorial in the September 12, 2010, edition of *The Bulletin* stated. "The possibility that they're also being used by contractors who hire foreign workers inappropriately is even worse. With DeFazio and other members of the Oregon congressional delegation rightfully demanding change, the practice may now come to a well-deserved end."

Editor's Note: Your OldSmokeys Newsletter will attempt to keep abreast of this complicated issue involving American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2010 funds and report on its outcome.

Prepared from multiple sources including John Sowell's article "DeFazio questions use of foreign workers on forest-thinning projects" in the September 8, 2010, issue of The News-Review published in Roseburg, Oregon; Keith Chu's articles "Foreigners snag forest stimulus jobs" in the July 25, 2010, issue of Bend, Oregon's daily newspaper, The Bulletin, "DeFazio calls for probe into foreign worker visas" in the September 9, 2010, issue of The Bulletin; "USFS: Hands tied on foreign workers" in the September 18, 2010, issue of The Bulletin; an editorial "DeFazio to the rescue" in the September 12, 2010, issue of The Bulletin; and Keith Chu's article "Filings: Little effort to hire locals" in the October 10, 2010, issue of The Bulletin.

U.S. Forest Service to Create More Jobs in Fiscal Year 2011 with ARRA Investments

The U.S. Forest Service announced it "will build on job creation efforts through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act [ARRA] investments during [fiscal year 2011] by continuing to emphasize job creation and new partnerships with the private sector to create sustainable green jobs" in an October 19, 2010, news release.

"The Forest Service has been making investments in communities around the country and creating great new jobs in rural America," the news release quoted Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "By focusing on new jobs and private sector partnerships, the Forest Service will continue to build a forest restoration economy to achieve Secretary Vilsack's and the Forest Service's forest and rangeland restoration goals."

ARRA funds expire at the end of fiscal year 2010, but Chief Tidwell explained that the Forest Service will retain its "Recovery Act focus" as part of its regular program of work in fiscal year 2011. This will be accomplished by carrying over unobligated balances from fiscal year 2010 and using them with fiscal year 2011 appropriations to continue to restore forest resources while meeting the needs of rural economies.

Regional foresters and station directors will prioritize their programs of work and look for opportunities that will result in job creation and retention while still ensuring program objectives, goals, and outcomes are met.

The "focus will remain on implementing the highest priority projects and acres," the release emphasized. "But, "recognizing that jobs are a priority of the nation right now, the Forest Service will accept reduced numbers of acres treated or resource accomplishments if Regional Foresters and Station directors can show that shifting or reprioritizing work will result in a greater number of jobs created while maintaining significant benefit to forest health and restoration."

The Forest Service will use its Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, and Public Lands Corps programs as training opportunities, and develop partnerships to facilitate placement of graduates from these programs, according to Chief Tidwell. New, non-traditional partners will be included within the agency's programs to better reach underserved communities in urban areas with high unemployment rates, the release said.

Prepared from U.S. Forest Service News Release "USDA Forest Service Builds on Recovery Act Investments to Create More Jobs in FY 2011" of October 19, 2010.

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Calls Timber Industry Key to West's 98,000 Tree-Per-Day Beetle Kill Problem

"We need an integrated wood products industry to support the conservation work that needs to be done," U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell told a November 15, 2010, bark beetle summit hosted by Colorado Governor Bill Ritter at Keystone Lodge near Dillon, Colorado.

Forest Service News continues on page 24

Feature

National Smokejumper Association Supports Projects to Save and Use Historic U.S. Forest Service Sites in Oregon and Montana

The unique heritage of the National Forest System and the U.S. Forest Service is being preserved at the Cradle of Forestry in America near Brevard, North Carolina, at the National Museum of Forest Service History near Missoula, Montana, at historic ranger stations around the country...and, if the National Smokejumper Association has anything to say about it, at an historic smokejumper base near Cave Junction, Oregon, and an historic ranger station in West Yellowstone, Montana.

Former Smokejumper Chuck Sheley writes about how...

Sweat Equity Might Save the Original Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Near Cave Junction, Oregon

The first part of its mission statement reads: “The National Smokejumper Association, through a cadre of volunteers and partnerships, is dedicated to preserving the history and lore of smokejumping...” In June 2009 about 20 former smokejumpers and another 25 local supporters spent a week restoring the oldest smokejumper parachute loft in the U.S. at Cave Junction (CJ), Oregon.

For five years a local group led by Roger Brandt, Wes Brown, and Gary Buck has lobbied to save the original Siskiyou Smokejumper Base that operated from 1943 to 1982. Thanks to their efforts, the loft was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. Even this listing does not protect the building and it could be demolished. Josephine County took over the airport and buildings from the U.S. Forest Service after the base closed in 1982.

A business plan for the project shows its potential. U.S. Highway 199, a major tourist travel highway also called The Redwood Highway that runs between the Coast and Interstate 5, carries an estimated 300,000 travelers a year within feet of the base. A restored Siskiyou Smokejumper Base would be good for this economically depressed area and could pump at least \$1.5 million annually into the local economy. Beyond that, all of us as former Forest Service employees should care about preserving our history. Smokejumping is a unique way of fighting forest fires that has existed only in the U.S., Canada, and Russia. In the 1940 to now history of U.S. smokejumping, about 5,700 men and women have done this job.

In my 11 years as editor of *Smokejumper* magazine, I have had contact with hundreds of jumpers. I have *never* met a person who is not proud to be or have been a smokejumper. “Smokejumping was the best job I ever had” is the most common comment from individuals who are CEOs, doctors, lawyers, pilots, farmers, elected officials, university presidents, career military members, CIA professionals, and the list goes on. It was the job, sure. But the bottom line is: It was the people!

The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (SSJB) was a very small base in a very isolated part of big timber country. Only 400 jumpers rookied at CJ but, as any base, we had our share of

interesting individuals. Consider Willie Unsoeld (CJ-50), the first person to climb Mt. Everest via the difficult West Ridge Route. Stuart Roosa (CJ-53) was command module pilot for the Apollo 14 moon mission, and the SSJB is the home of the “Moon Trees” planted from seeds flown on that mission. And there was Allen D. “Mouse” Owen (CJ-70), the smallest smokejumper and U.S. Marine in history at four feet, 10 inches. After three dangerous tours in Vietnam as a recon marine and “tunnel rat,” he became a smokejumper despite his size and was instrumental in getting the first woman into smokejumping.

The June 2009 workweek restored the SSJB parachute loft to a condition identical to a 1950 photo. Josephine County commissioners were impressed that 35 people drove hundreds of miles, bought their own supplies, and worked for nothing to restore a building they didn’t own or lease. The thinking moved from destroying these buildings to listening and now talking about the “nationally historic smokejumper base.”

Later these county commissioners unanimously approved the June 2010 project. In the spring of 2010 we signed a 10-year lease on the administration building—the old 1936 Redwood Ranger Station office moved to the base in 1962—and the mess hall. The 2010 job had 109 supporters, from all walks of life, show up to restore the administration building, put new roofs on the parachute loft and mess hall, and renovate the inside of the mess hall. Over a hundred people put in sweat equity and \$36,000 in materials with no guarantee the loft wouldn’t be torn down the week after we left was a good faith demonstration to the commissioners that we want to save this historic base and are willing to volunteer our time and skills to make the dream come true.

Roger Brandt has done an excellent job describing the work of the last two years. Go to <www.highway199.org> to see amazing photos of the project.

Our current roadblock is an FAA security fence project that threatens to cut off public access to the SSJB Museum. This is another “bridge to nowhere” project that will cost taxpayers about \$500,000 and stop a project that can bring \$1.5 million in tourist dollars to an economically depressed area. Surely there are targets higher up on the terrorist hit list than the Illinois Valley Airport.

But it looks like Josephine County and the FAA have legal staff ready to take us on at taxpayers’ expense. Step forward David Atkin of Nonprofit Support Services in Eugene, Oregon, one of the better known lawyers in this field and an ex-Cave Junction smokejumper. Now we have a person with rock and

sling for our David and Goliath story. We can only wish our David similar results.

We'll be back at work in June 2011 unless the security fence locks us out. We'll roll out another 100 volunteers, buy our own food and supplies, and continue our work to save this unique and important part of Forest Service history.

Tax-deductible donations payable to SSJB Museum may be sent to: Chuck Sheley, 10 Judy Lane, Chico, CA 95926.

Redwood Ranger Station office building was moved from Cave Junction to Siskiyou Smokejumper Base in 1962 to be used as base administration building.

U.S. Forest Service photo



The administration building as it appeared before June 2010 restoration by National Smokejumper Association volunteers.



...and after that restoration project.

Photographs courtesy of Chuck Sheley

U.S. Forest Service Retiree Rex Mann writes about...

Rescuing Forest Service History and Teaching Our Kids About the Woods at Historic Madison Ranger Station in West Yellowstone, Montana

Have you ever received a blank stare from your grandkids when you tried to explain something about the forest? Or a look of disbelief when you told them you didn't have a cell phone, video game, or maybe even a television when you were their age? Welcome to the reality of our modern world, where most of today's kids are computer savvy by the age of 8 or 10 but don't have a clue where their food, water, or shelter comes from and have little interest in nature.

I regard this problem our kids losing touch with the land as a very serious, perhaps even dangerous problem for our nation's future. For the past three years, my wife Anita and I have been trying to do something about it.

An old friend from my firefighting days, former smokejumper and Forest Service retiree Barry Hicks and his wife Linda, began a program in West Yellowstone, Montana, to expose kids and their parents to a bit of their natural world. Using the historic Madison Ranger Station—now the National Smokejumper Center—as a base and a Junior Smokejumper Program as a hook to get kids in the door, we use a force of retiree volunteers at the West Yellowstone Environmental Education Center to inspire American youth and their parents to reconnect to the outdoors and the role its resources plays in their lives. We know we can't reverse the disconnect between kids and the woods in one short visit, so we hope to strike a spark of interest so the kids will want to learn more on their own.

We are currently involved in an ambitious partnership with the town of West Yellowstone to move the historic Madison Ranger Station to land situated just a few feet from the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park where over three million people enter the park in any given year. The Gallatin National Forest recently decided to sell the property where the historic ranger station is located, and has agreed to move the buildings and donate them to the town of West Yellowstone which plans to let the National Smokejumper Center continue this educational program.

These historic buildings are in excellent condition. We need to raise more than \$100,000 to prepare the foundations for the four historic log structures—office, ranger residence, garage and barn. We hope to build a full basement under the ranger's residence with four bedrooms and two bathrooms to provide volunteer housing needed to keep this vital program for kids going.

Raising this kind of money in the current economy is a daunting task for a non-profit volunteer group. We are pursuing a variety of funding sources and are earnestly asking for help from the retiree community. Any contribution, regardless of amount, would be appreciated. If you can donate, checks can be sent to the National Smokejumper Center, P.O. Box 264, West Yellowstone, MT 59758. You may also donate via credit card

using a secure online process on the National Smokejumper Center website at <www.smokejumpercenter.org>. The organization is an IRS Code 501(c)(3) non-profit, so donations are tax deductible. E-mail us at <smokejumperctr@gmail.com>.



The historic Madison Ranger Station office building was constructed in West Yellowstone, Montana, in the 1920s.

U.S. Forest Service photograph



A graduation class of Junior Smokejumpers lined up for this “class picture” in front of the historic Madison Ranger Station office building that is now part of the National Smokejumper Center in West Yellowstone, Montana.

Photograph courtesy of Barry Hicks and National Smokejumper Center

Editor’s Note: The National Smokejumper Association (NSA) and the National Smokejumper Center (NSC) are two separate, non-profit, IRS Code 501(c)(3) organizations.

The National Smokejumper Association is an organization of current and former smokejumpers dedicated to preserving the smokejumper heritage and America’s wildlands. It publishes the quarterly Smokejumper Magazine.

The National Smokejumper Center is made up of people from all walks of life who are dedicated to teaching kids to appreciate their natural environment and its resources. It is in the midst of an exciting transition. While it moves the historic Madison Ranger Station to a new location, it is growing into the West Yellowstone Environmental Education Center.

Changes *Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt and Database Manager Vern Clapp*

Most, if not all, of these changes to the *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2010* are also reflected in the *OldSmokeys Membership Directory 2011* enclosed in this issue.

- Applebaker, Betty & Dan** - New members: 17657 Hill Rd, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Telephone: 541-798-5005 E-mail: mtnmules@centurytel.com
- Ayers, John & Marjorie** – Change address: 13132 E Maple St, Ste 201, Bellingham, WA 98225
- Baker, Gail M.** – Deceased, October 22, 2010
- Bakke, Kjell & Georgia** – Change e-mail: Joiebakke@charter.net
- Bennett, Richard W. “Dick” & Myra** – New members: 14415 Ivy St, Unit 210, Canby, OR 97013
Telephone: 503-266-1935 E-mail: countyquester@juno.com
- Blackwood, Jeff & Colleen** – New members: 47073 Kirkpatrick Rd, Pendleton, OR 97810
Telephone: 541-276-4240 E-mail: jeff.bwood@gmail.com
- Bowman, Sheryl & Greg** – New members: 2951 Sarah Ln, Eugene, OR 97408
Telephone: 541-484-2261 E-mail: sherylbowman@comcast.net
- Carlson, Joan M.**—New member: 2941 Eldorado Dr, Medford, OR 97504
Telephone: 541-773-2687 E-mail: jcarlson541@charter.net
- Criswell, Harold C. “Chris”** – Deceased, October 19, 2010
- DeRidder, Charles & Lu Ann** – Change e-mail: charlesderidder@comcast.net
- Drahos, Marian** - Deceased, September 7, 2010; Ken survives
- Garr, Allen N. “Al” & Margaret** – New members: 840 S Miner, Colville WA 99114
Telephone: 509-684-9900 E-mail: garrinc@plix.com
- Graham, Chuck & Judy**—New members: PO Box 464, Lakeview, OR 97630
Telephone: 541-947-4406 E-mail: cjgraham@hughes.net
- Grainger, Paul R.** – Deceased, December 4, 2010
- Hansen, Billie & Keith** – New members: 31985 NW Pumpkin Ridge Dr, North Plains, OR 97133
Telephone: 503-647-2289 E-mail: nwturf@q.com
- Heath, Becki L. & Monty** – Change e-mail: beckihome@gmail.com
- Hirst, Val N. & Sherry** – New members: 27329 Flagstone Rd, Hot Springs, SD 57747
Telephone: 605-890-2491 E-mail: VNHIRST@yahoo.com
- Jensen, Kenneth N. & Elaine** – Change e-mail: ken_jensen@yahoo.com
- King, Joel & Judy** – New members: 1220 SW Oak St, Grants Pass, OR 97526
Telephone: 541-479-0708 E-mail: twobeanies@clearwire.net
- Krebs, Charlie** - New member: 4715 NW Columbia Ave Portland, OR 97229
Telephone: 503-545-0211 E-mail: CFKrebs@mac.com

Leonard, Boyd & Diane – New members: 4245 NW Carlton Ct, Portland, OR 97229
Telephone: 503-941-5092 E-mail: BDLEO5@comcast.net

Levering, Barbara – Change e-mail: gramlev6@charter.net

Lunn, Mike & Callie: Change e-mail:mcaLunn@cbbmail.com

Max, Timothy A. & Bererlee – Change e-mail: batmax1@frontier.com

McCormack, Harry E. - Deceased, September 25, 2010;
Charlotte survives
Editor's Note: A complete remembrance of Harry, which he wrote himself in 2002, was received too late to be published in this issue, and will be published in the Spring 2011 issue.

McIlhenny, John -- Deceased

Meurisse, Robert T. & M. Derene – Change e-mail: meurisse@frontier.com

Norris, Robert E. – Change address: PO Box 882, Ridgefield, WA 98642

Paulsen, Helen – Change address: 1501 S MacArthur St, Tacoma, WA 98465

Peterson, Judy A. & Devan – Change e-mail: devanand-judy@frontier.com

Robertson, Robbie R. & Virginia – Change e-mail: oldsmokeyrobbie@gmail.com (for PNWFSA business only; for all other e-mail continue to use <robginpdx@gmail.com>)

Robson, Thomas “Edd”—Change address: 1460 NE 27 St, Apt. 331, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-382-6658

Rosenberger, Nada – Deceased, August 10, 2010; John survives

Schultz, Edward L. & E. Mae – Change e-mail: emschultz@wildblue.net1

Shea, Keith Raymond – Deceased, September 29, 2010;
Dolores survives

Steinfeld, David E. & Jan Janssen - New Members: 107 Fifth St, Ashland, OR 97520
Telephone: 541-292-9077 E-mail: dsteinfeld@fastmail.fm

Stem, Richard C. & Karen – Change address: P.O. Box 227, Alder, MT 59710 (e-mail remains the same)

Stout, Edwin C. & Kitty – change e-mail: edkitty1@gmail.com

Tierney, James & Lyn - New members: PO Box 2106, Estacada, OR 97023
Telephone: 503-630-6716 E-mail: papaJim@cascadeassess.com

Toler, Bert & Shela – Change e-mail: rbtoler@q.com

Townsend, Bea – Deceased, February 11, 2010; Curt survives

Walter, Frank & Janet – Change e-mail: fjwalter7777@gmail.com

Weber, Frederick P. “Phil” & Vernice – Change telephone: 360-982-2657

Wilson, Eleice P. – Deceased, November 8, 2010

Zensen, Fred & Judy Starreveld – New members: 8305 NE 27th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98665
Telephone: 360-606-5104 E-mail: LAXREFZEE@aol.com

Zingmark, Roy & Carolyn – Change e-mail: royzingmark@gmail.com

New Members Compiled by Secretary Bev Pratt

Welcome to these new OldSmokeys who have joined since the Fall 2011 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* went to press.

Betty & Dan Applebaker of Klamath Falls, Oregon, joined September 25, 2010. Betty, who was McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, packer based at historic Fish Lake Remount Depot, retired from the U.S. Forest Service in December 2005 after 21 years of service.

Richard W. “Dick” & Myra Bennett of Canby, Oregon, joined on October 18, 2010. Dick retired from the U.S. Forest Service on November 30, 1990, after 27 years of service, eight of those in Region 6. He was in Fiscal and Accounting Services in the Alaska Region RO in Juneau.

Jeff D. & Colleen Blackwood of Pendleton, Oregon, joined as lifetime members on October 27, 2010. Jeff retired from the U.S. Forest Service as Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest, on April 30, 2005, after 36 years of federal service, 35 of those in the Forest Service and one in the National Park Service. Jeff continues to assist the Forest Service, National Park Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service with various projects, and chairs the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council.

Sheryl J. & Greg Bowman of Eugene, Oregon joined November 1, 2010. Sheryl retired from the U.S. Forest Service after 42 years of service in Region 6.

Joan M. Carlson of Medford, Oregon, widow of Carl G. Carlson who retired from the U.S. Forest Service on June 1, 1999, at the Rogue River National Forest SO after 20 years and 10 months in the Forest Service, 10 of those in Region 6, and died on July 22, 2009, joined on August 26, 2010 as a lifetime member.

Allen N. “Al” & Margaret Garr of Colville, Washington, joined as life members in December 2010. Al retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 6, 2006, on the Colville National Forest after 31 years of federal service that included 26 years in the Forest Service, all in Region 6.

Charles R. “Chuck” & Judy Graham of Lakeview, Oregon, joined on November 29, 2010. Chuck retired from the U.S. Forest Service on January 3, 2003, on the Fremont-Winema National Forest after 40 years of service, 38 of those in Region 6.

Billie J. & Keith Hansen of North Plains, Oregon, joined on October 24, 2010. Billie retired from the U.S. Forest Service on December 31, 2010, in Financial Management at the RO in Portland after 36 years in the Forest Service, 32 of those with Region 6 and the other four with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. Keith and Billie live on five acres and operate a small u-cut Christmas tree farm.

Val N. & Sherry Hirst of Hot Springs, South Dakota, joined on September 6, 2010. Val retired from Administrative Services in the RO in Portland on February 24, 1994, after 28 years of federal service, 25 years in the U.S. Forest Service and 23 of those in Region 6. The other three years were served in the U.S.

Army.

Joel & Judy King of Grants Pass, Oregon, joined on October 21, 2010. Joel retired as district ranger of the Butte Falls and Prospect ranger districts (now the High Cascades Ranger District) of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Boyd & Diane Leonard of Portland, Oregon, joined on October 18, 2010. Boyd retired from the U.S. Forest Service in May 1996 on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest after 32 years of federal service.

David E. Steinfeld & Jan Janssen of Ashland, Oregon, joined on November 22, 2010. David's most recent duty station was the RO in Portland. His 35 years in the U.S. Forest Service include 25 in Region 6.

James V. "Jim" & Lyn Tierney of Estacada, Oregon, joined on November 22, 2010. Jim's most recent duty station was the Mt. Hood National Forest. His 39.5 years of federal service include 37.5 years in the U.S. Forest Service, 33 of those in Region 6.

Fred Zensen & Judy Starreveld of Vancouver, Washington, joined on November 1, 2010. Fred, who served in Natural Resources in the RO in Portland, has served 34 years in the U.S. Forest Service, 28 of those years in Region 6.

CORRECTION

Editor's Note: Thanks to Regional Forester and OldSmokey Kent Connaughton for submitting the following corrected version of the New Members profile that appeared in the Fall 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Kent P. Connaughton & Susan M. Little of Shorewood, Wisconsin, joined August 12, 2010. Kent is Regional Forester, Eastern Region. His 35 years of federal service—32 of those in the U.S. Forest Service—included service with Susan at the Pacific Northwest Research Station, and subsequently in several assignments in Region 5. He served as Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in the WO before moving to Region 9. Kent holds a B.S. degree from Stanford University, a M.F. degree from Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and was elected a Fellow of that professional society in 1991.

POSITION AVAILABLE Database Manager

*The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
seeks a relief for Vern Clapp as Database Manager.*

For additional information, contact the database manager,
Vern Clapp, at <vclapp@ykw.net>.

Apply to Bill Shenk, President, PNWFSA,
at <shenkboth@msn.com> or
P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228

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Memories

Compiled by Ray Steiger, Archivist

Gail C. Baker died October 22, 2010, at age 103. He was a PNWFSA member and the oldest OldSmokey at the time of his death. Gail was born January 3, 1907, in the small Northern California gold mining town of Callahan, where he lived in the hotel run by his grandmother and in which his father worked until the family moved to a small ranch outside town. Gail attended the one-room school in Callahan and attended high school in Etna. Gail trapped mink to earn money to study forestry at Oregon Agricultural College (later Oregon State College and now Oregon State University), worked his way through college trapping and as a U.S. Forest Service fire guard on the Shasta and Plumas national forests, and graduated with a forestry degree in 1933. Later that year, while doing a timber stand improvement job on the Plumas, he married Chico, California, teacher Adeline Gacklin. Gail passed the junior forester examination in 1934 and went to work on the Siskiyou National Forest at Cave Junction, Oregon, supervising a Civilian Conservation Corps recreation improvement crew. His next assignment took him to the Malheur National Forest where he worked out of John Day, Oregon. Gail returned to the Siskiyou in 1939 as district ranger at Gasquet, California (a district that became part of the Six Rivers National Forest established in 1947). In 1941, Gail transferred to the Mt. Hood National Forest at Cascade Locks, Oregon, on the Columbia River. As World War II progressed, Gail was transferred to El Paso, Texas, where he was in charge of acquiring land for production of synthetic rubber from *guayule*, a native shrub. Gail returned to Region 6 in 1943 as fire control and grazing assistant—the primary staff officer for all functions except timber and engineering—to Forest Supervisor Ralph Crawford on the Deschutes National Forest in Bend, Oregon. Among his many contributions to the Deschutes during his 12 years in Bend was his "Historical Write-up of the Deschutes National Forest" that remains a valuable source for historians. In 1955, Gail transferred to fire control at the RO in Portland where he served as regional dispatcher until he retired in 1970 except for six months he spent in Chile with the U.S. Agency for International Development instructing the Chilean National Police in fire fighting techniques. Adeline and Gail raised three adopted children, two boys and a girl. They had been married for 65 years when Adeline died in 2002. Survivors include those three children, Beverly, Jim, and John; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Vera Bond died November 3, 2010, at age 94. Vera was born December 4, 1915, in Wingville, Oregon, and graduated from high school in Haines, Oregon, in 1933. She married Herb Bond in Baker City in 1933 and they had four children. Vera worked on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest for 12 years.

Harold C. "Chris" Criswell died October 19, 2010, at age 99. He was a PNWFSA member. Chris was born in Buffalo, New York. He attended Ashland Normal School (now Southern Oregon University) in Ashland, Oregon, and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that sent him to the University of

Washington where he graduated with a B.S. degree in forestry in 1935. Chris held many U.S. Forest Service positions in the Pacific Northwest Region. While serving in his first Forest Service assignment at the Winthrop Ranger Station he met Iris Rakestraw, his future wife. As forest supervisor of the Mt. Baker National Forest from 1957 to 1971, he transferred much of the forest to the new North Cascades National Park and Ross Lake Recreation Area. He was also instrumental in developing the North Cascades Highway. Chris retired from the Forest Service in 1971, bought a sailboat in which he sailed to Alaska and explored the Pacific Coast for 16 years. Chris was an avid skier, mountain climber, amateur botanist, and photographer. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Bellingham Yacht Club, and the Anacortes TGIF Club. Iris died in 1993. Survivors include his son Larry, daughter Bonnie Johnson, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Betty Louise Gould died November 1, 2010, at age 89. Betty Staten was born November 28, 1920, in Los Angeles, California. Betty worked in the Rogue River National Forest personnel department from 1959 to 1981. Her husband and two children predeceased her. Survivors include her daughter, Betty Lemley; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Paul J. Grainger died December 4, 2010, at age 94. He was a PNWFSA member. Paul was born August 11, 1916, in Rosebud, Montana, and graduated from high school in Miles City, Montana, in 1934. Paul's more than 42 years of federal service began with three years with the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1937-1940; continued with 10 years in the U.S. Navy before and through World War II during which he served in Washington, D.C., and New Delhi, India, and the Korean War in which he served in USS *Rowan*; and concluded with 30 years in the U.S. Forest Service. Paul married his late wife Jimmie in Washington, D.C., in 1941. Paul specialized in Forest Service business management in the Northern Region RO in Missoula, Montana, and the Kaniksu National Forest SO in Sandpoint, Idaho. After naval service during the Korean War, he returned to the Forest Service and a year on the Kaniksu before returning to the RO in Missoula as budget analyst and fiscal accountant. Two years as administrative assistant in the Nezperce National Forest SO in Grangeville, Idaho, were followed by assignments as fiscal control auditor in the Pacific Northwest Region RO in Portland, Oregon; supervisor auditor in the WO; accountant and accounting officer in the Rocky Mountain Region RO in Denver, Colorado; and as regional fiscal agent in the Pacific Southwest Region RO in San Francisco, California. Paul was the last person to hold the position of Director, Division of Budget and Finance, in the WO and became the first Director, Division of Fiscal and Accounting Management Staff, in the WO, the position from which he retired in 1975. His retirement in Arizona included more than 4,000 hours of Tucson VA Hospital volunteer service. Survivors include his son Scott; daughter Tina Green; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert L. "Bob" Kiser died September 30, 2010, at age 70 of a heart attack while on a pack trip in the Frank Church-River of

No Return Wilderness. Bob was born November 19, 1939, in Kelso, Washington, raised on the family dairy farm in Lexington, graduated from Kelso High School in 1957 and from Washington State University in 1962. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea, then joined the U.S. Forest Service in John Day, Oregon. There he met and in 1967 married Gayle Magee. Bob served his entire Forest Service career in Region 6 where he fought fire, managed the wild and scenic section of the Rogue River, and served at Rager Ranger Station as district ranger of the Paulina Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest. He retired on the Umpqua National Forest in 1994 and returned to the family farm where Gayle still resides. In retirement, Bob was active in Washington Farm Forestry, the Cowlitz Conservation District, and other civic affairs. Survivors include Gayle, daughter Stacey Limbo and son Glen, and three grandchildren.

Mary Ann Layfield died September 1, 2010, at age 80. Mary Ann Bothell was born July 25, 1930, in Snohomish, Washington. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service at the Winthrop Ranger Station on the Okanogan National Forest. Survivors include her sons Ken and Tim; daughters Kris Short and Becky Layfield; and several grand children and great-grandchildren.

John Edward Malone died Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at age 75. John served in the U.S. Forest Service in Washington and Oregon for many years—including on the old Spirit Lake Ranger District and Lewis River Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, the Sweet Home Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest, and in the SO on the Wenatchee National Forest—before he retired in 1993 and began his own consulting business called Environmental Forestry. John spent his Forest Service career in timber management and was heavily involved in logging engineering, especially with alpine (Swiss) systems on the Wenatchee. He was also active in farm forestry and received many honors in forestry work. Survivors include his wife Patricia and his sons Michael, Allen, and Scott.

Editor's Note: This information was provided by OldSmokey Fred Walk.

John L. "Jack" McIlhenny died during the latter half of 2010. He was a PNWFSA member.

Editor's Note: No further information, except for OldSmokey Dave Yates' recollection that Jack's U.S. Forest Service career included a stint as Okanogan National Forest timber staff officer, has been developed. If further information becomes available, it will be published in a future OldSmokeys Newsletter.

Robert Ward "Bob" Northman died October 13, 2010, at age 77. Bob was born May 18, 1933, in Garland, Utah, and at age 10 moved with his family to Seattle, Washington, where he graduated from West Seattle High School in 1951. After serving in the U.S. Army in 1953 and 1954, Bob majored in forestry at the University of Washington and then joined the U.S. Forest Service. Bob served in a variety of positions, including district ranger, on national forests throughout Oregon. He married Gaila Fair Owens in Bend, Oregon, in 1963, and they made their first home together in Gilchrist, Oregon. They had three children: Tanya, Todd, and Traci. Bob served as timber sale

planner on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Baker City, Oregon, from 1977 until retirement. After retirement, Bob and Gaila lived in Baker City and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada. Survivors include Gaila; Tanya, Todd, and Traci Northman-Kelly; and eight grandchildren.

Maria Ellen Nelson “Tehowash” died September 5, 2010, one day before her 55th birthday. Maria was born September 6, 1955, in The Dalles, Oregon, and graduated from Lyle High School in Lyle, Washington. Maria joined the U.S. Forest Service and worked on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington and the Ashley National Forest in Utah before, in 1988, she transferred to the Sierra National Forest in California as a district administrative officer. There she met Steve Garza, and they married in 1989. In 1990, she and Steve transferred to the Willamette National Forest where she was a district administrative officer, performed budget analyst details at the RO in Portland, Oregon, and transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland as a budget analyst. In 1998, she earned a B.S. degree in business communications from Concordia University in Portland, and transferred to the Siuslaw National Forest in Corvallis, Oregon, as the forest equal opportunity officer. She subsequently worked as a budget analyst for the State of Oregon and the U.S. Army Corps of engineers. She is survived by Steve.

John M. “Jack” O’Leary died September 9, 2010 at age 73. Jack was born February 22, 1937, in Eugene, Oregon, and graduated from La Grande High School, La Grande, Oregon. He earned a civil engineering degree at Oregon State College in 1960, married Lynn C. Hickok in 1962, and served in the National Guard. His engineering career in the U.S. Forest Service took him to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon and the Klamath and Shasta-Trinity national forests in California before he returned to Oregon as assistant forest engineer on the Rogue River National Forest. Jack retired in 1994 and lived in Grants Pass, Oregon, at the time of his death. Survivors include Lynn and their daughters Cathy Kinser and Madeline Gregg.

Michael F. Rebar died October 21, 2010, at age 79. Mike was born in Universal, Pennsylvania, in 1931. He attended St. Colman’s Elementary School, graduated from Turtle Creek High School, and served in the U.S. Army in Germany. He earned a degree in civil engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and served in the U.S. Forest Service in Region 5 and Region 6 for more than 30 years during which he was forest engineer on the Los Padres and Siuslaw national forests. Mike retired in Corvallis, Oregon, and in retirement volunteered for Benton Habitat for Humanity. Survivors include his wife Audrey; children Michelle, Michael, and Mary; and two grandchildren.

Nada Vivian Rosenberger died August 6, 2010, at age 78. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **John Rosenberger**. Nada was born July 1, 1932, in Burbank, California. Survivors include her husband John; sons Jeffrey Gohn, Michael Gohn, and Karl Rosenberger; daughters Catherine Schatz, Christine Mackey, Carole Michael, and Karen (Rosenberger)

Jennings; 16 grandchildren and almost as many great-grandchildren.

Keith Raymond Shea died September 19, 2010, at age 85. He was a PNWFSA member. Keith was born December 24, 1924, in rural farmhouse near Greenfield, Iowa. During the Great Depression, he and his mother lived with his grandparents. Keith ran a trap line and raised sheep to help pay expenses. Six months after he graduated from Dexter High School in 1942, Keith joined the U.S. Navy and served in USS *Charleston* in China and the Aleutians—including the Battle of Attu—as a pharmacist’s mate. He earned a B.S. degree in forestry at the University of Minnesota, where he married Edith Gassner, and a Ph.D. in forest pathology at the University of Wisconsin in 1954. Keith began his forestry career in Centralia, Washington, with the Weyerhaeuser Company, but moved to Corvallis, Oregon, in 1966 to head the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station Forestry Sciences Laboratory. He married Dolores Kinder Wall in 1968, and the couple moved to Washington, D.C., in 1971 where Keith rose to the position of Associate Deputy Chief for Forest Research. He retired in 1986. Keith’s international research and published papers in the areas of acid rain, the gypsy moth, the pine bark beetle, high yield forests, and reforestation continue to influence forest management. Survivors include Dolores; children David Shea, Robin Hilleary, Julie DePuydt, Paula Shea, Matt Shea, Joe Wall, Peggy Harris, and Penny Schaefer; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Ralph Thompson Stewart died July 26, 2010, at age 73. Ralph was born February 21, 1937, in Spokane, Washington, graduated from Spokane’s West Valley High School in 1955, and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1959 and the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1959 to 1963. He married Marian Howard in Spokane in 1962 and they had two children. He married Gail Aschenbrenner of Enterprise, Oregon, in 1980. Ralph earned a two-year degree at Everett Junior College and B.S. degrees in forestry and range management from Washington State University. He then served in the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains. Most recently, he served as a law enforcement officer and assistant district ranger on the Eagle Cap Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, during the 1980s, then on the Gallatin National Forest at Livingston, Montana, until he retired in 1995. After he retired, Ralph lived in Wallowa County, Oregon, where he worked as a certified nurse’s assistant. He spent the summers as a Forest Service volunteer interpretive caretaker in the Hell’s Canyon National Recreation Area. Survivors include his daughter Suellen Stewart and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Edith Bernice “Bea” Townsend died February 11, 2010 at age 91. She was a PNWFSA member and wife of OldSmokey **Curt Townsend** to whom she had been married for 62 years. Survivors include Curt and their son Gary.

Editor’s Note: This information was provided to the editor in an October 19, 2010, note from Curt.

Clifford Dale “Cliff” Streeter died September 3, 2010, at age

81. Cliff was born February 20, 1929, and is recalled by friends to have grown up in the Dayville-John Day, Oregon, area. He worked in private logging for Hines Lumber Company and joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1963 to work in timber sale administration on the Prairie City Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest. He later left the Forest Service and went back to Hines for a short time until he rejoined the Forest Service in 1966 to work on the Burns Ranger District of the Malheur, the Baker Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and in the SO on the Deschutes National Forest. He was an avid big game, upland game, and waterfowl hunter. Cliff and his first wife Bertina had three daughters and one son before they divorced. His second wife was Dorothy Olson. Survivor information is not available.

*Editor's Note: This information was provided by the September 7, 2010, La Grande Observer, which stated that "a full obituary will be available later" but does not seem to have published one, and by OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson** who worked with Cliff in Burns, but "only saw him a few times after that" and OldSmokey **Joe Stockbridge** who worked with Cliff in both Prairie City and Burns. Additional information will be published if developed.*

John Robert Wagner died October 5 2010 at age 86. John was born May 4, 1924, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and served in the U.S. Forest Service as a regional traffic engineer. Survivors include his wife Beatrice; sons Charles, Michael, Thomas Joseph, and Patrick; and daughter Mary.

Eleice Pinkerton Wilson died November 8, 2010, at age 93. She was a PNWFSA member and widow of the late **Kenneth O. Wilson** who died in 1986. Eleice was born November 10, 1916, in Dolores, Colorado, and moved at age 6 with her family to Long Beach, California. A multi-sport athlete, she played hockey, baseball, and basketball at Long Beach Polytechnic High School which was destroyed by the 1933 Long Beach earthquake that left students attending classes in tents. After graduating from high school, Eleice worked at administrative jobs in Long Beach and spent summers in Oregon babysitting for family friends. During one of those summers, Kenneth O. Wilson, a handsome U.S. Forest Service forester on horseback, dropped by her cabin for coffee. They courted for a couple years and married on March 22, 1939. At the Oakridge Ranger Station, Eleice cooked on wood stoves, hauled water, and lived a pioneer life far removed from the life she'd lived in Long Beach. While Ken served in the U.S. Army during World War II, Eleice worked for the Red Cross in California. After the war, they returned to the Forest Service and were posted in Flagstaff, Arizona, where sons Greg and Bob were born. During Ken's Forest Service, the couple lived in 26 locations ranging from remote ranger stations to Washington, D.C., in 22 years. They settled in Portland, Oregon, in 1961. Ken retired from the Forest Service in 1972 and died in 1989, after which Eleice lived independently for most of the next 21 years. Survivors include her sons Greg and Bob, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

CORRECTION

The remembrance of the late OldSmokey **Harold Thomas "Hal" Ewing** in the Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* (*Memories* section, pages 15-16) did not mention Hal's surviving wife, Reena, who inherits Hal's lifetime membership in the PNWFSA. Reena's new address is 2014 Yale Ct, Grants Pass, OR 97527, and her telephone number is 541-592-2322. The omission is regretted.

Thanks to Chuck Sheley, Managing Editor of the Smokejumper magazine, of Chico, California, and Gary Buck of Cave Junction, Oregon, for tracking down Reena and her new address.

Letters

Caroline Davis comments on "The Dress" article in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

As an added note, I won "Best Dressed Indian" in the Westward Ho Parade during this year's Pendleton Round-Up. I received a beautiful Pendleton blanket and a pouch with 100 presidential dollars as my prize. Kind of like topping on the ice cream!

Dick Spray comments on Wendall Jones' article in the Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*

It's a small world. I read Wendall Jones' article with great interest. We were classmates at Oregon State. He mentions both Bill and Jerry Gabriel. Both were lookouts on Carpenter Mountain [a lookout on the old Cascadia Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, seven miles north of McKenzie Bridge], Bill in 1943 and Jerry in 1944 [when young Dick was with his dad on Jump-Off Joe, another Cascadia District lookout, as recalled in the Summer 2007 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, staffed as extra protection from the history of fires in 7-Mile Canyon from the Santiam Wagon Road and new U.S. Highway 20 along which troops moved between Camp Adair and eastern Oregon for training]. In addition, Keith Gabriel was there in 1945. I had the impression that they were all waiting for their draft notices as so many 17-year old lookouts were in those days.

While Wendall was at Fish Lake on a suppression crew, I was doing the same at Owl Camp in the Tillamook Burn. I was looking for a Forest Service job when I got out of high school and submitted about 20 letters to Forest Service and State forestry offices. I took the first offer which was Owl Camp. Later I got an offer from the Detroit Ranger District—Fritz Morrison, I believe—to be the lookout at Dome Rock. I sure would have preferred that job, but felt obligated to stick with the suppression crew job I had already accepted.

Hank Hays comments on U.S. Forest Service Academy proposal in *OldSmokeys Newsletter* editorials

Your effort to promote a U.S. Forest Service Academy is interesting. You might try to explain how others can help here. Or, how to build support.

The decline of the Forest Service reflects the decline of standards generally due to societal changes that seem abhorrent in many ways—to me, anyway.

Dave Scott comments on Fall 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter* and on Forest Service Academy editorial

The fall newsletter was exceptionally well done.

I like your thoughts on a Forest Service Academy. We tried something similar with recreation short courses some years ago. It was reasonably successful for about a dozen years, then tailed off as budgets were cut. I think the idea has merit and should be open for discussion.

I have but a single comment. You say the academy should be located on a national forest in the West. I would ask that the entire National Forest System be included when looking for a site as important as this. I can't think of a much better location than the Cradle of Forestry in America on the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. I'm just saying, that at this point, don't limit ourselves to just part of the System.

Ted Stubblefield *comments on Fall 2010 OldSmokeys*

Newsletter and Forest Service Academy editorial
The Fall 2010 issue of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* is fantastic. It covers a broad spectrum of topics and is highly informative and well presented.

On the topic of a "U.S. Forest Service Academy." This has been tossed around "verbally" by many for a long time now, so it's good to see something being put in print so we can start to chew on it in a productive manner.

Specialized training such as timber cruising, wildlife surveys, and the like can be obtained already from a number of existing offerings, so duplicating this kind of course work is suspect in my mind given the likely limited resources of an Academy.

What is drastically missing and desperately needed and once existed is a top notch program in "Leadership Development." Most of the natural resources institutions fail to adequately provide quality course work in "leadership." My personal opinion is that the reason for this absence is due to the fact that few professors have actually had extensive experience themselves in leadership positions and/or the institutions simply failed to recognize that their graduates just might aspire to become leaders at some point in their careers.

A *Natural Resource Leadership Academy* could serve the needs of many agencies and not be limited to just the Forest Service. All attendees could learn together up to a specific point and then, if deemed necessary, could be split off for further course work designed around a specific agency's legal authorizations.

Mike Kerrick *agrees with Ted Stubblefield on the Forest Service Academy concept*

I agree with Stub.

What I found is that functional training was well done. The various functional divisions took care of supporting great technical training in the various fields, but we didn't have a support group for management and leadership training. I felt that this is where the regional leadership team should be. Even if we have a leadership academy the leadership group would need to take the graduates under their wing for further development and support.

Bob Blakey *comments on U.S. Forest Service Leadership Training*

Back in the days when we first started discussions about the centralization of HR, my input was in order for it to be successful we needed to initiate some form of internal leadership training and recommended working with the U.S. Department of the Interior with their institutes or at least their models. I had worked with the National Park Service's and felt it was very successful.

That recommendation was made after discussions with many on-the-ground managers and several forest supervisors as well as my observations as an administrative investigator. I am sorry that input was not accepted.

Although now retired, I work with a good cross section of managers on incidents and feel the original recommendation is still valid and well worth the investment by the Forest Service.

Lee Boeckstiegel *comments on Chelan Ranger Station article in the Fall 2010 OldSmokeys Newsletter*

The picture of Chelan Ranger Station in the *Uncle Sam's Cabins* section brought back many fond memories for my wife and me. As one looked at the Chelan Ranger Station toward Lake Chelan, there was a small house to the right of the office and to the right of the house a warehouse. This is what it was like when we lived in the small house back in 1957-1959. The house is a one bedroom with kitchen, small living room, and bathroom. The house has since been connected to the office and I don't know what else. The whole facility is a good expression of the work the CCC did.

At the time I was the lead for the inventory crew. The house was occupied by some sort of communication setup. Supervisor J.K. Blair suggested strongly to Ranger Leonard Rampton that whatever it was in the house must go. After some discussion between the ranger and supervisor, agreement was made to vacate the house in short order. My wife and I had spent a short time at Ordervoir, Washington, where the Entiat Ranger Station was at the time. This was before the Rocky Reach Dam was built and the old town of Entiat, Washington, was flooded. We were living in a 28-foot trailer in the summer with a daughter less than a year old. We lived there for about four months before we moved into the house at the Chelan Ranger Station. That was a long four months.

At Chelan, we could run out our back door and dive into the lake. Everyone was so friendly and nice it made moving hard. The motel owner next the ranger station taught us to water ski and pulled us with his boat on numerous occasions. We could watch the hydro boat races held on the lake out our back door along with the rest of the viewers sleeping and camping on the ranger station lawn. The first year there we had lots of snow and build a snow fort our daughter loved. We put large rubber boots on her and laughed as she tried to navigate through the snow. She loved the water and the snow.

At that time we were taking inventory on most of the land base that had timber on it. This required many trips up the lake and mostly trail and cross-country travel once off the boat. Sometimes we used the Forest Service boat, a surplus World War II PT (it went fast but used much fuel) or the barge (a work horse), and other times the *Lady of the Lake*, a commercial boat. We were mostly on 10 days and off four. We carried all

our equipment and personal gear with us. This was always interesting when several two-man crews boarded the *Lady* at various points along the lake after 10 days in the woods and continue toward Chelan. We had good stories to share with the passengers on the boat.

In the fall of 1957 we were asked by the supervisor to cruise the portion of the national forest being considered for inclusion in the North Cascades National Park. The weather was lousy.

We had a wonderful time at Chelan Ranger Station and wanted to share the experience.

Max Peterson comments on Rex Mann's article on the historic West Yellowstone ranger station on pages 11-12 of this issue

Rex Mann's article about the historic ranger station at West Yellowstone was of great interest to me. My wife and I arrived in Missoula just before the great 1959 earthquake and, although we felt it in Missoula, the early reports were that it was off the coast of California.

The next morning smokejumpers jumped into the area to rescue people because they were trapped by the large slide and closed roads. I went over there as part of a large group of Forest Service people the next morning with Harv Robe in charge. I think I was the first person to walk entirely from the toe of the large slide to the river side where the water was rising. I also flew via helicopter to Hebgen Dam and to the crest of the slide to measure the elevation via the helicopter's altimeter because of concern the rising water behind the slide would back up to the dam and cause it to fail.

George Duvendack was the forest supervisor and his background in geology qualified him well to know what was going on. I remember being at the West Yellowstone ranger station office when the congressional delegation came out and as we were meeting an aftershock caused some additional plaster to fall off the ceiling. That stopped all conversation for a moment!

I would be glad to help support the [West Yellowstone Environmental Education Center] effort.

Phil Hirl comments on Bud Unruh's article on Bus Carrell and Forest Service signs on page 4 of this issue

I did not know Bus, but agree he needs a big thank-you. When I was in Region 6 RO signs were in my area. Once in a while we would get a proposal for a unique office or campground sign. I can't imagine how many different things would have been done if that had been okay.

There were a couple unique area signs developed, like those for the [Columbia river] Gorge, yet still had that basic shape.

Max Peterson comments on Bud Unruh's article on Bus Carrell and Forest Service signs on page 4 of this issue

I completely agree with Bud Unruh's comments about Bus Carrell. The adoption of the family of shapes signs did much to provide instant recognition of Forest Service signs nationwide just like the standard signs for stores like Safeway or the drink Coca Cola provide instant recognition.

Mike Rogers comments on Station Fire article on page 8 of this issue of the OldSmokeys Newsletter

I appreciate [the OldSmokeys Newsletter's] due diligence in

making sure you have not taken anything out of context [when quoting me on the October 12, 2010, Station Fire hearings]. Good work. If only our current press corps would do the same thing.

Editor's Note: Mike Rogers, retired from the U.S. Forest Service, is former supervisor of the Angeles National Forest.

John Hargrove recalls Chris Criswell's perspective

I worked on the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1966-1969 in a then-new position called "Transportation Planner." I remember a staff meeting where Chris stood up and said, among other pithy but courteous remarks: "If we don't get a handle on all these landslides we seem to be triggering with our logging roads, we'll be out of business!" or very similar words.

Even then, Chris was very aware of how much criticism the Forest Service was taking from the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, and even day visitors, for how the Forest Service seemed to be ignoring the land itself in its pushing large clearcuts back into the steeper and more unstable watersheds.

Sadly, he was right, and now the Forest Service can't even seem to buy permission to log in a proven and more sustainable manner—smaller clearcuts in the right places, selective cutting, and exotic (helicopter, skyline, balloon, minimizing old growth cutting) in others. From where I sit, among the people in my circle, those long years of "getting out the cut," almost willy-nilly, seems to have destroyed public trust in Forest Service management and that may be impossible to fix.

Chris knew the storm clouds were on the horizon, and he tried to respond. I will miss him.

Jon & Donna Skovlin remember Vic Kreimeyer

Vic was an early mentor for Jon who was a smokechaser at Billy Meadows Guard Station when Vic came to the Chesnimus Ranger District [of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest]. While there, Vic, a junior forester from Iowa State College, served under "Walkin-Talkin" L.D. Bailey. Vic was the Bear Sleds district ranger [also on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest] by the time we were posted on Standley Lookout where we spent a second honeymoon the summer of 1954. Our last contact with Vic was the summer of 2009 when he and Roxa were touring old haunts in the Blue and Wallowa mountains. That covers fifty years of cherished friendship and exemplary mentoring.

Vic's direct engaging manner and genuine interest in you and what you were doing was endearing. His rich baritone voice was reflective of his firm, easy going manner. Donna and I were honored when he sang at our wedding.

Vic was an outstanding and totally believable spokesman for the Forest Service at a level and in a time when it really made a difference. If he couldn't convince a stakeholder of a particular project, which was very infrequent, he would laugh it off with his engaging grin and say, "By gosh, we'll win the next one." There will never be another of the likes of Vic Kreimeyer. The mold was broken after he was cast.

Elton Thomas remembers John Malone

I worked with John for several years in the Wenatchee National Forest SO. He was a hard working, consummate, professional

forester.

John was always looking at ways to bring new technology in logging systems to meet timber management challenges. He was flexible and did what was needed to assist ranger district programs and forest priorities.

He was an outdoor enthusiast and did the Iron Man competition in the Ridge to River which involved cross-country and downhill skiing along with bicycling, running, and canoeing from Mission Ridge down to Wenatchee.

The Forest Service and those of us who knew and worked with John are far better for his having passed this way.

Ken White *remembers John Malone*

John was a “true” forester. John, District Ranger John Riber-nick, John Nunan, and I were the last four folks on the Spirit Lake Ranger District before its closure and consolidation of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Mike Lunn *remembers Bud Moore whose life in the Forest Service is recalled in article on page 26*

I am truly sorry to hear of the passing of Bud Moore. He was one of the many “larger than life” figures in the Forest Service, and helped provide the compass settings for many of us young foresters. In 1976 he honored the Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest, by being the dedication speaker at the opening of the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station that I played a small role in bringing on line. While I didn’t know him well, he was eager to do the job when I asked him to dedicate this historical site, and his love of forests and the Forest Service was infectious for all who heard him speak. He made me proud to be with such an agency that could be championed by such a person like him.

Ron Ketchum *remembers Jack O’Leary*

Jack always had a smile and was a dedicated and valuable Forest Service employee.

Dick Deleissegues *remembers Mike Rebar*

I was saddened that Mike Rebar passed away. Mike and I worked on the Angeles National Forest early in our careers. We were the first GS-12 assistant forest engineers, Mike had construction and I had survey, design and programs. We worked well together. Mike was great to work with, smart and always full of mischief, fun to be around but serious when it came to getting the job done.

Mike later became forest engineer on the Los Padres National Forest and he and I shared resources when I was forest engineer on the San Bernardino National Forest...mostly Larry Hornberger who supposedly worked for me but spent most of his time on the Los Padres working on fire restoration. Larry later became forest engineer on the Los Padres...might as well have seeing as how he spent most of his time there working with Mike.

Mike was a real treasure and a very professional engineer. The Forest Service was fortunate to have Mike as a member of the team.

Phil Hirl *remembers Mike Rebar*

Mike was a good friend, one of those people you vow to stay in contact with but don’t. We were forest engineers in Region 5

together. I spent two weeks on the Los Padres National Forest with Don Turner on program review when Mike was there. In 1975 I returned to Region 6.

Mike soon came to Region 6 as forest engineer on the Siuslaw National Forest. What a great addition. Mike always looked at things from a different view. He always added to Region 6 forest engineer meetings. He had a knack of keeping group on focus.

Sure will miss not knowing he is there.

Doug Porter *remembers Mike Rebar*

I was very sad to hear about Mike Rebar’s death. I was the district engineer on the Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest, when Mike was the forest engineer. Mike was easy to work with, gave us good direction and advice, was always there if you needed some help. He had a great sense of humor and was a good engineer. I worked with him on a number of training assignments as well as forest projects. I don’t think I ever saw him without a smile on his face.

I also worked with Mike on a number of large fires. Mike was (at the time) a service chief (now it’s a logistics chief) and, as you might expect, made things happen when you needed it. He loved the Forest Service and I was lucky to have known and worked with him.

Bob Naish *remembers Merv Schouten*

Merv was a great guy, I had the privilege of working with him for several years in the fifties and sixties when I was on the Malheur National Forest.

Rolf Anderson *remembers Cliff Streeter*

I worked with Cliff Streeter on the Burns Ranger District in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I was the TMA and Cliff supervised sale administration. Cliff was a great fellow employee—self-starter, dependable, and strict but fair with timber operators, including Edward Hines, our main timber purchaser. He was a leader in district activities.

He was also a good friend away from work. We spent many hours together hunting chukars around Steens Mountain and in the Malheur River breaks and waterfowl hunting in the heyday of duck hunting at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Early mornings on stormy weather days during waterfowl season, we would call into the ranger district office and blow our duck call to the answering machine, giving a clear message that Cliff and I had a higher mission to hunt canvasback and would not be into the office until late morning or early afternoon.

Joe Stockbridge *remembers Cliff Streeter*

Cliff was one of the best and I was proud to have him on our team.

Hank Hays *remembers Les Sullivan*

Les Sullivan came to Alaska (R-10) around 1962 maybe, and was in the RO in the timber division. He came down to Ketchikan to inspect my effort to introduce the Spiegel Relaskop to the Tongass National Forest. Last I met him was at our Alaska reunion in Oregon some years back, hosted by [OldSmokey] **Ted Schlapfer**.

Les was a man I immediately liked, one of those that I wished to have known better. Memories stick.

Editor's Note: Hank inspired me to research the Spiegel Relaskop which I determined to be "a tree measuring instrument used to measure stand basal area and tree height and diameter." Most OldSmokeys probably knew that; I didn't.

Robbie Robertson *comments on the OldSmokeys picnic*

I missed [the 2010 picnic] because we were in Scotland. For most of the years I have been [an OldSmokey] the only thing I participated in was the picnic. This was the only connection I had to old friends from the Forest Service days. I looked forward to being there each year.

Regarding cost: Please don't go off half-cocked on this issue. The food has been good, in my opinion, and comparing this service to Buster's BBQ is not realistic—remember, this is not in a regular business location, all the food and equipment plus service workers have to be transported to Wildwood and then home. This is more expense for the contractor. Twenty-five dollars seems very realistic to me when you look at current restaurant prices.

If attendance at the picnic and renewing old acquaintances is important, I think most people will continue to come. It isn't important, they won't come just because it is a cheaper event.

I support keeping the present contractor. I am willing to pay extra for beer and wine if that would make enough people happier, but I would prefer not to do this and have the extra hassle of differential pricing or beer and wine tickets.

Denny Caird *comments on the Forest Service low rating in 2010 Best Places to Work listing*

Can you remember when the U.S. Forest Service was highlighted in a book written about management styles [and] we were termed "the Marine Corps of the Bureaucracy" and the Outfit was touted as the best of the Government agencies? Our hierarchical model was held up as the best of the best in government at any level.

However, once you have nothing to do things go to hell in a hurry. Apparently there are still enough production-oriented people around to be ticked off. Or maybe they are all getting tired of reading the paper for eight to ten hours per day.

This just breaks my heart. It was fun to go to work. It was fun to get out the cut and do it with money to spare. Aaargh!

Jerry Womack *comments on the Forest Service low rating in 2010 Best Places to Work listing*

Most of us OldSmokeys know there are a lot of reasons for [the U. S. Forest Service's low rating of 203 out of 224 surveyed as a place to work]. But my No. 1 reason is there is no future seen by the current employees for the Forest Service.

Jack Inman *comments on "People, Places, and Things..."*

It's hard to read the Chief's Notes and find real good info anymore.

The note about the "Whitman Ranger District" and the old Granite mining district caught my eye real fast. Having lived some of my young life in Sumpter and worked later on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in the 60s and 70s, I

recognized the area described as the west end of the Baker Ranger District. I was in the area a couple weeks ago, and on the ground it still appears to be the Baker Ranger District. It is sad to see Unity and Pine offices closed and all being administered out of Baker. That's a lot of country to travel. Maybe I missed something now and all the south end is being called the Whitman Ranger District.

Also noticed in passing through Hines that what used to be the Burns and Snow Mountain ranger districts' [ranger station] had a sign [for] "Emigrant Creek Ranger District" in front of it. Hope they don't change too many names on the ground. Some of us old-timers might get lost.

It was a great Outfit to be a part of when we were out on the ground.

OldSmokeys News

continued from page 7

Why is OldSmokey Don Nearhood smiling?

Because he's the first kid on his block to get one of Bob Williams' swell new OldSmokeys baseball caps, that's why!

Read on and find out how you can get one of these keen OldSmokeys baseball caps and smile along with Don!



OldSmokey Bob Williams Produces, Sells OldSmokeys Caps

The PNWFSA Board of Directors at its October 29, 2010, meeting, approved OldSmokey **Bob Williams'** proposal to produce and sell baseball caps bearing the OldSmokeys logo. Bob produced the caps and introduced them to great acclaim at the November 26 meeting.

The caps are priced at \$10.00 each plus the cost of mailing. Mailing one cap costs just over \$3.00. Caps may be ordered from Bob at <rrwms35@comcast.net> directly. "I will mail the cap(s) and advise by return e-mail the total cost," Bob explains how easy it is to get a cap. "The purchaser can then send a check for the amount due. Trusting guy, aren't I?" Group orders for several caps save postage per cap.

Bob will also sell the caps at PNWFSA monthly meetings in Beaverton, the Spring Banquet, the Summer Picnic, and other OldSmokeys events.

Bob financed the project and, as soon as he recovers his investment, will donate the rest of the cap sales receipts to the PNWFSA.

OldSmokeys Applaud Awards of Oregon Forest Highway Enhancement Program Grants for Fish Lake and Cascadia/Santiam Wagon Road

Two heritage resource projects on the Willamette National Forest in which OldSmokeys have a high stake have been awarded substantial Oregon Forest Highway Enhancement Program project grants.

“We did quite well [with] the Oregon Forest Highway Enhancement projects we submitted,” said Forest Supervisor Meg Mitchell in an October 15, 2010, announcement of the grants.

“The Oregon Forest Highway Enhancement Program was established when the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Federal Highways Administration’s Western Federal lands Highway Division, the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service, and the Association of Oregon Counties decided to set aside up to 10 percent of the authorized Oregon Forest Highway Funds to plan, develop, design, and implement forest highway enhancement projects,” explained Sandy Ratliff, recreation staff officer on the McKenzie River Ranger District. “These include the improved signing, interpretive sites, trailheads, and roadside facilities to accommodate the increasing volume of recreational highway users.”

The \$210,000 in grant funding for what Sandy termed the “Fish Lake Historic Site Interpretive and Accessibility enhancements” project will cover an ADA-accessible trail from the site gateway to the bunkhouse-kiosk area, an accessible restroom and associated trail, interpretive panels for the kiosk and for inside the interpretive center, and associated landscaping, according to OldSmokey **Mike Kerrick**, president of Friends of Fish Lake.

The \$310,000 in grant funding for the Cascadia/Santiam Wagon Road project will cover a parking area, an ADA-accessible restroom, interpretive signs, restoration of an historic rock wall and perhaps an ADA-accessible trail, and native landscaping and invasive weed reduction throughout, according to Jon Meier, a natural resource specialist on the Sweet Home Ranger District that submitted the grant request for this project.

OldSmokey **Dick Spray**, long an advocate for and champion of historic Santiam Wagon Road preservation (*see following story*) was particularly pleased.

These federal grant funds are scheduled for fiscal year 2015.

Separate from the Oregon Forest Highway Enhancement Program grant, a \$21,000 grant from the Oregon Historic Trails Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation will be used to produce two Santiam Wagon Road interpretive kiosks and a brochure, according to Cara Kelly, zone archaeologist for the Detroit and McKenzie River ranger districts. “One kiosk will be located at the McKenzie River Trailhead on the McKenzie River Ranger District and the other will be located at the Cache Creek Toll Station on the Deschutes National Forest. The other piece of the grant is to complete a brochure for the entire wagon road within the Willamette and Deschutes national forests.” These kiosks will be installed in the spring of 2011.

Prepared from multiple e-mails.

OldSmokey Dick Spray Lobbied for Santiam Wagon Road Listing on the National Register of Historic Places

OldSmokey **Dick Spray** of Bend, Oregon, received accolades from around the region after the early October 2010 announcement that the historic Santiam Wagon Road (SWR), that passes through the Deschutes and Willamette national forests, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dick, as readers of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* know well, along with the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council of which he was a member until July 2010, campaigned long and hard for the late 2009 recommendation by the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation that the historic road be listed. He wrote eloquently on the *Forum* page about the troubled effort to preserve the route in the Winter 2007 and Spring 2009 issues. In the Spring 2009 issue, he expressed “hope the pending National Register of Historic Places nomination and designation of the old road will cause [the Deschutes and Willamette national forests and their Sweet Home, McKenzie River, and Sisters ranger districts] to come together in a management mode that will allow the abused segments of the SWR to heal.”

That “management mode” would constructively address “the ATVs and dirt bikes that have severely damaged the historic SWR” as have other damaging agents in the past. “If the damaging agent is removed the road will heal in time as it has in the past,” Dick wrote. Listing on the National Register will focus additional attention on the need for the healing management that would preserve the historic route.

A sharing of credit

“As for my influence on the placing of the SWR on the National Register, I was a lobbyist,” Dick points out. “Most of the credit belongs to Paul Claeysens and his Heritage Stewardship Group, a U.S. Forest Service enterprise team run out of the Washington Office with an office on the Deschutes National Forest. They were the ones who found the money to do the nomination and then carried it through to approval by the State Historic Preservation Office and submission to the Keeper of the Register.”

“They have not received the credit they deserve. They are now on the lookout for funding to do the nomination job to put the Fish Lake Remount Station on the Register.”

A key to Oregon’s development

The historic Santiam Wagon Road was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the key role it played in helping connect Oregon’s two disparate regions, the Willamette Valley in the west and the Deschutes River Basin in the east. From the mid-nineteenth into the early twentieth centuries, this road contributed to the economic development of both regions by providing a more reliable route for trade, commerce, and communication. Completion of the Oregon Trunk Railroad to Bend in 1911 and the modern McKenzie Highway—Oregon Highway 242—in 1925 made the SWR obsolete.

But not before it left its mark on Oregon’s history—a mark

that included several good stories Dick shared with Bend's daily newspaper, *The Bulletin*, for its October 6, 2010, front-page story on the listing.

A source of good stories

One of these stories, based in the fact that the road was a privately-operated toll road for most of its existence, involves a 1905 cross-country automobile race "from New York City to Portland to promote the Lewis and Clark Exposition that year in Portland and to generate public support to build a system of national highways," *The Bulletin* reported.

As the cars—two 1904 Oldsmobile curved dash runabouts called "Old Steady" and "Old Scout"—"reached the Santiam Wagon Road toll gate, the toll operator was perplexed. 'They came rattling up to the toll gate, and his toll register didn't have anything for a car, because he'd never seen on before,' Spray said. 'So he charged him the toll for a pig, because he was a road hog. I don't know how true that is, but it's told over and over again.'"

True or not, this story—and other more verifiable stories included in the National Register application—helped prove the historic merit of the SWR that led to its listing on the National Register maintained by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Prepared from multiple sources including Hillary Borrud's article "The Santiam Wagon Road makes the National Register" in the October 6, 2010, issue of The Bulletin, and KTVZ-TV News and 104.1 Radio News reports.

OldSmokey John Marker Joined National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors in October

OldSmokey **John Marker** accepted an invitation to join the board of directors of the National Smokejumpers Association at the organization's October 2010 annual meeting in Spokane, Washington. John has been an associate member of the NSA since he retired from the U.S. Forest Service.

John had close personal and professional ties with smokejumpers. Early in his Forest Service career on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, he worked to develop protocols for Redding, California-based smokejumpers to be used on human-caused fires as well as back-country lightning fires. He maintained contact with many of the jumpers after leaving the forest. Later, as fire operations officer for Region 4, he worked closely with the McCall, Idaho-based smokejumpers.

"I really enjoyed working with smokejumpers," John said of these experiences, "and was even more convinced that the jumper program was one of the Forest Service's better ideas. I was always pleased to be associated with them. They're just darn good people to be around."

John signed on with the National Smokejumpers Association as an associate member after he retired "to be able to keep track of friends." Recently, the National Smokejumper Association decided it would be a good idea to add a couple associate members to its governing board. Charlotte Larson, a retired smokejumper aircraft pilot, and John were asked to join. Both did.

OldSmokey Jim Caplan Seeks EDR Case Studies for *The EDR Practitioner's Guide*

OldSmokey **Jim Caplan**, whose two recent books on environmental dispute resolution (EDR) are reviewed in the *Books* section on page 27 of this issue, is completing a third book called *The EDR Practitioner's Guide* for which he is seeking case studies of EDR efforts nationwide.

"While I was working for the Forest Service those many years, I tried to get people to write up their EDR case examples, both successes and failures," Jim told the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*. He seeks case studies that provide "some stories besides my own" for analysis in the book.

"I'm willing to do most of the work in terms of writing them up," Jim assures potential case study contributors.

Odds are that several, if not many, readers of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* have been involved in successful environmental dispute resolutions during their careers. If you are one of those, Jim would certainly appreciate hearing from you and receiving accounts of such cases. Jim lives in Roseburg, Oregon, and his mailing address is in the current *OldSmokeys Membership Directory* as is his e-mail address <Jim_Caplan1@msn.com> and his telephone number 541-680-4413.

OldSmokeys Now May Access Thirty-Year Club *Timber-Lines* Online

Timber-Lines, the periodical published by the Thirty-Year Club from which the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association evolved in 2001, and thus the forerunner of the *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, has been digitized by Oregon State University Libraries and volumes 1 and 6-29 are now available online.

"Digitizing the *Timber-Lines* is a super accomplishment," commented OldSmokey **Rolf Anderson**. "Preserving these newsletters electronically is one of the most important actions the OldSmokeys could have taken, making our culture, work, and social activities available for researchers and casual readers."

OldSmokeys may access these history-packed volumes at <<https://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/handle/1957/12130>>. "Let me know if you have any questions about this, said Mr. Larry Landis at OSU Libraries who may be reached at <Larry.Landis@oregonstate.edu>."

Prepared from information provided by PNWFSA Archivist Ray Steiger.

OldSmokey Donations in 2010

Nineteen OldSmokeys donated \$531 to the PNWFSA (a little more than the \$480 donated last year and a little less than the five-year average of \$571) as well as another \$650 to the Enterprise Office Fire Fund. The names of the 2010 donors will be published in the Spring 2011 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*.

Members donations to the PNWFSA, a non-profit IRS Code 501(c)(3) corporation, are tax deductible.

Forest Service News continued from page 9

A strong wood products industry is the key to removing the 98,000 trees the Forest Service estimates fall each day on the 21.5 million acres of interior West forests affected by the current beetle epidemic that Governor Ritter calls “a true crisis.” These beetle-killed trees threaten to fall onto roads, power lines, and campsites, as well as harm watersheds around the West as fuel for wildfires and in other ways.

The nation’s forests have had beetle epidemics before, but never one this large that has spread so fast and to high elevation trees with no natural resistance, Chief Tidwell reportedly said. He attributed the epidemic in part to warmer winters that aren’t killing as many beetles and past fire suppression policies that allowed thick stands of lodgepole pine to grow.

Even the \$40 million the Forest Service approved in 2010 to address the beetle epidemic in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota—\$30 million focused on projects in three Colorado national forests—is only a beginning, according to Acting Regional Forester Tony Dixon of the Rocky Mountain Region. It went toward treating about 20,000 acres in the wildland-urban interface and clearing potentially dangerous trees along 415 miles of trails and 500 miles of roads. But mechanical logging and thinning are not enough to fully address the scope of the problem. “We’re in need of a significant increase in getting fire back on the land...we need more fire in the next five to 10 years.” Funding for 2011 and subsequent years is questionable.

And so government must get the private sector involved. But the timber industry—facing the fundamental economic issue associated with treating vast areas of beetle-killed forests—isn’t up to the task. Existing market conditions make it a challenge to find value for the timber.

Governor Ritter, reported to see that “the silver lining to the beetle epidemic is looking for economic opportunity that can come from dealing with infested trees,” called the summit “to set the foundation for how governments, the private sector, and non-government groups can tackle” the job “with limited funds.”

Prepared from multiple sources including “Timber Industry Key To Removing Trees From 21.5 Million Acres Of Forest” posted by Wayne Harrison, Web Editor, TheDenverChannel.com, on November 15, 2010; “Bark beetle summit: Future Forest Service funding unclear” posted by Bob Berwyn, Summit County Citizens Voice, on November 16, 2010; and November 15 Press Release “Gov. Ritter Urges Coordinated Focus on Bark Beetle Impact and Opportunities” from the Office of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.

Regional

Malheur National Forest Renovates Allison Guard Station with ARRA Funds

Extensive renovation of the 1935 Allison Ranger Station compound—the Allison Guard Station since 1952 and transferred from the Ochoco National Forest to the Malheur National Forest in 2003—continued in 2010 with American Restoration and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding.

The service life of the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed compound is being extended to retain it as a base for



ARRA funding restored the 1930s Allison Ranger Station office, (above), warehouse, residences, and other structures for use.

Photographs by Les Joslin

summer fire crews and other project work on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District based in Hines, Oregon, some 50 miles to the south.

Approved in 2005, renovation of six historic structures—a ranger’s residence and a smaller residence, a combination office and cookhouse, a fire warehouse, a garage, and a gas house—began with replacing deteriorating foundations, improving the water system, and converting the warehouse into a fire crew bunkhouse, all while carefully preserving the historic character of the buildings.

The additional ARRA-funded upgrades of these buildings, built in the Pacific Northwest Region’s distinctive Depression-era Cascadian Rustic style, included new roofs and new brown paint that help ensure the preservation and usefulness of this beautiful compound well into its second century.

Allison Ranger Station began in 1911 when Ranger E.E. “Cy” Donnelly built the one-room log cabin from which he administered about 200,000 acres of national forest lands.

Deschutes National Forest is Building SO and Ranger District Office in Bend

The Deschutes National Forest broke ground in July 2010 for a new \$8.3 million supervisor's office and ranger district office structure on that portion of the former U.S. Forest Service Bend Pine Nursery not conveyed to the Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District a few years ago.

The 200-plus personnel of both the Deschutes National Forest Headquarters and the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District are scheduled to complete the move to the new 46,300-square-foot office building by December 2011. The new building will save the Forest Service \$1 million a year in lease costs paid for the current SO and ranger district offices.

Construction is funded by a combination of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funds and funds from sale of the Bend Pine Nursery authorized by the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act of 2000 pursuant to which most of the nursery acreage was sold to be a public park.

"We are going to be able to put more of our people back to work. It is going to be a great boost to our local construction trades people, subcontractors, and suppliers," the general manager of Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company of Bend said of the project funded partly by stimulus dollars.

Prepared from multiple sources including KTVZ.com "Nagelhout to Build New Deschutes Forest HQ" of June 25, 2010.

Siuslaw National Forest SO to Move to Oregon State University Campus

Construction to combine the Siuslaw National Forest supervisor's office with the Pacific Northwest Research Station's Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory in a shared office and laboratory building on the Oregon State University campus began early in September 2010 and is expected to be completed in late 2011, the *Thursday R6* update reported on September 16.

In addition to these two U.S. Forest Service units, the facility resulting from this \$3.7 million reconstruction and remodeling project will house the Corvallis offices of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) and the interagency Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Plan (AREMP) group.

"This co-location is a great opportunity for our agency," said Forest Supervisor Jerry Ingersol. "It's an opportunity for those of us who manage the National Forest System lands to come and learn from—and learn with—the researchers who are studying how these forest systems function." The facility is located next to the OSU College of Forestry. "Nowhere else in the country is research and forest management located on a major university campus," he noted.

The move is also seen as an opportunity to save money. "We pay a half-million a year in rent," Forest Supervisor Ingersol told the Corvallis *Gazette-Times* of the Sunset Research Park offices from which the Siuslaw's staff has worked since 1985. "This is an opportunity to move a government operation that's currently in a rented facility to a government-owned facility."

"Additional savings will come from lower energy costs," the Pacific Northwest Research Station lab administrative officer

Betty Ricklefs told the *Gazette-Times*. The project includes replacing the facility's 50-year old east wing and replacing it with a new, energy-efficient structure. "The project, although it totals several million dollars, will be paid back in five years."

The move also reflects the Siuslaw's smaller staff resulting from the fact that, as the *Gazette-Times* put it, "the forest has downsized drastically...as it has made the transition from high-volume timber production to conservation-focused management practices." About 100 employees are expected to complete the move from the current SO building to the on-campus facility by March 2012 to bring the number of people working in the building to between 350 and 400.

Prepared from "Siuslaw plans to move headquarters" by Bennett Hall in the September 15, 2010, Corvallis Gazette-Times and "Construction for the new Siuslaw SO site begins" in the September 16 edition of The Thursday R6 Update.

U.S. Forest Service in Hot Water Over Proposal to Outsource Management of Mt. Hood National Forest Hot Springs

A report entitled "What to Do About Bagby" by Rob Manning, posted on the Oregon Public Broadcasting website on November 12, states that the Mt. Hood National Forest—after getting the run-down but popular although problem-ridden spot back in shape—is planning to turn its management over to a private concessioner.

While "the Forest Service believes private management is the best way to protect its investment in Bagby—and protect the Bagby experience," Manning wrote, the public doesn't seem to agree. In addition to the five-dollar parking fee, users would have to pay an additional fee to the concessioner. Just how much that would be depends on the concessioner chosen and the deal cut with Uncle Sam.

But concerns run deeper than cost. The Forest Service's plan to award the concession to one concessioner to run about 60 recreation sites on the Mt. Hood National Forest, including Bagby Hot Springs—which costs more to maintain than campgrounds—worryes some users. They're "concerned the company with the right qualifications for the Forest Service won't have the right qualities for the public."

As in the case with other recreation facility management, the public seems to favor Forest Service over concessioner management of Bagby Hot Springs. For a variety of reasons, management by non-profits and volunteers doesn't seem to have worked out.

"What contractors will do isn't clear," Manning wrote. "The Forest Service says three companies have looked at the sites [a large package of campgrounds and other recreation facilities including Bagby Hot Springs] going up for bid, but formal bids were slow to come in. A decision about what company will run Bagby could come before the end of the year."

By the time you read this, a concessioner may have been awarded the contract.

Prepared from "What To Do About Bagby? USFS Faces A Hot Springs Dilemma" by Rob Manning posted November 12, 2010, on OPB website at <<http://news.opb.org>>.

People

U.S. Forest Service Loses a Legend: Bud Moore Begins “The Big Trip” at 93

The U.S. Forest Service lost a legend on November 26, 2010, when William R. “Bud” Moore died—began “The Big Trip” as his son Bill put it—at age 93.

Bud Moore was born in the railroad section foreman’s house in Florence, Montana, on October 19, 1917. The quintessential “mountain man,” he ran winter traplines on his way to and from Woodman School, and cached his pack and rifle away from the school yard while in class. As a teenager, he ran a long-line trapline on the Lochsa River.

In 1934, at age 16, Bud went to work for the Forest Service on a fire crew. He worked seasonally until World War II as a lookout, trail crew foreman, fire dispatcher, and alternate ranger on the Powell Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest.

Bud served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II as a machine gunner, scout sniper, and rose in rank to gunnery sergeant as he fought through the Pelelieu, Cape Gloucester, New Britain, and Okinawa campaigns in the Pacific.

Bud returned to the Powell Ranger District where he was appointed district ranger in 1949. His career subsequently took him to the Lolo National Forest SO in Missoula and to Utah and the WO before he retired in 1974 as chief of the Division of Fire Control and Air Operations at the RO in Missoula.

Always a man of the Lochsa country, Bud wrote a Forest Service classic called *The Lochsa Story: Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains* published in 1996 by Mountain Press Publishing Company of Missoula. This book turned out to be the “valuable contribution to land ethics and history” he hoped it would. He acknowledged his friend the late Norman Mclean—author of *A River Runs Through It* and, as finished by his son John, *Young Men and Fire*—for his encouragement and for taking “care of my inclination to put outdoor pursuits first, desk work last. Every time I dropped my pencil and looked at my fly rod, he would show up in some form or another. He even threatened to write the story himself, which he was capable of doing because, by the time I was two years old he was already at work for the Forest Service in the Lochsa country.”

“It is a privilege of old age, my father used to say, to speak for the land,” John Norman Mclean—author of several books on disastrous forest fires—wrote of his famous father and Bud. “Nobody speaks for the Bitterroot Mountains and the Lochsa like his old friend Bud Moore.”

Bud Moore was a forester who saw both sides of every issue. He saw room in the National Forest System for timber management and wilderness preservation. “He was always standing in support of good, sound forest management,” said Bill Worf, director of wilderness and recreation at the Northern Region RO when Bud headed up fire and aviation operations there. “He wasn’t a non-use kind of person. He believed the national forests were here to serve man, but he supported wilderness. He recognized that we had to have some places to look

back on as a benchmark....”

“Together with Orville Daniels,” Rob Chaney wrote in the *Missoulian*, Bud Moore and Bill Worf “pioneered the first ‘natural fire plan’ for wilderness areas in the 1970s [and] helped transform Forest Service firefighting policies for decades.”

Bud Moore, who the University of Montana recognized in 1974 with an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his contributions to natural resource management, was an original.

“This guy was a fabulous human being and he was not supposed to die, ever. I am really sad. The Forest Service assigned me to Bud at the Powell Ranger Station in 1954. He put me on Wag Dodge’s crew for fire stuff and he put me on Jerry Johnson Lookout. In deepest respect.”

--Tom Kovalicky, U.S. Forest Service, Retired

Prepared from several sources including “Bud Moore Condition-A-Gram” e-mailed November 27, 2010; “Friends, family share memories of forester Bud Moore” by Rob Chaney in the November 29, 2010, Missoulian; “William R. ‘Bud’ Moore in the November 30, 2010, Missoulian; and Bud Moore, The Lochsa Story: Land Ethics in the Bitterroot Mountains: Missoula, Mountain Press, 1996.

U.S. Forest Service Fire Scientist and “Father of Helitack” Jim Murphy Dies

Retired U.S. Forest Service fire scientist James Lester “Jim” Murphy died on November 21, 2010, at age 83. Known as the pioneer of helicopter use in forest fire control, he was often referred to as the “Father of Helitack.”

Jim was born May 21, 1927, and grew up in Burbank, California. He graduated from Burbank High School where he was student body president and star football player. Jim joined the U.S. Army and became a drill sergeant at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and played football for the Camp Lee, Virginia, team. After serving in the Army, Jim worked as a ski patrol member and a beach lifeguard in southern California.

Jim joined the U.S. Forest Service and became a hotshot crew supervisor. After returning to school, he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in forestry at Utah State University and a Ph.D. in forest economics at the University of Michigan.

Jim spent over 50 years working in the field of forest fire sciences for the Forest Service in Idaho, California, Washington, and Washington, D.C., and at universities. He began the nation’s first university graduate program in forest fire science at the University of Washington. He trained firefighters around the world including Peace Corps members in Chile and fire management specialists in Spain and Australia. In Washington, D.C., Jim served as Deputy Assistant Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. He later served as a fire science researcher associated with the University of California Berkeley Fire Research Station. After retirement, Jim started his own fire management consulting firm, Fire Science Systems.

Jim married Elizabeth Wilson on August 18, 1955, in Glendale, California. Jim and Elizabeth were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and had four children.

Prepared from an obituary forwarded by Chuck Lundeen.

Books reviewed by Les Joslin

OldSmokey Jon Stewart Publishes *Pilgrimage to the Edge: The Pacific Crest Trail and the U.S. Forest Service*

Having spent the past seven years walking three of North America's most scenic long-distance trails—the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide national scenic trails in the United States and the Great Divide Trail in Canada—about which he wrote in the Summer 2010 *OldSmokeys Newsletter*, OldSmokey **Jon Stewart** hit the writing trail in earnest in 2010 with just-published results.

Jon shares both his experiences on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail—the 2,650 trail from Mexico to Canada which he “sectioned” during the years 2003 through 2006—and reflections on his U.S. Forest Service career inspired by those miles in the *Pilgrimage to the Edge: The Pacific Crest Trail and the U.S. Forest Service* published last month by Xlibris.

The reader soon learns this is not just another Pacific Crest Trail guidebook. Jon's account of his on-again off-again journey along this trail is as much about himself and the Outfit in which he served as it is about the fabled “jewel in the crown” of America's scenic trails. He reflects on his Forest Service career—mostly of fire management and people programs—as he traverses deserts and the Transverse, Sierra Nevada, and Cascade ranges, seemingly in simultaneous awe of life and land and the challenges and rewards each offers those who dare.

Jon's 491-page book is organized in the order in which he sectioned the trail. Chapters 1 through 8 cover his trek through Washington state, 9 through 12 the Oregon stretch, 13 through 17 the desert mountains of California, 18 through 20 the mountains of northern California, and 21 through 23 John Muir's “Range of Light” also called the High Sierra.

Jon's is a book you experience instead of read as, with him, you meet fascinating trail travelers and cope with the rigors of trail travel itself through the national parks and forests and the wildernesses they harbor, other federal public lands and Indian reservations, state parks and even private lands through which the trail threads.

Jon's book is much more a guide to the self than to the trail. The reader finds himself not only planning the trek for himself or herself, but wondering what he or she might do in any of the many situations Jon and others of whom he writes encounter.

And what he or she might think about along the trail.

Ultimately, the reader finds himself or herself encouraged by the sustaining lesson for life Jon relearned on the trail. “I again learned that anyone, no matter what his or her age or physical condition, can succeed at tackling life's greatest challenges with a little flexibility and persistence.”

Journey with Jon, and you journey with the best.

Pilgrimage to the Edge is available in hardcover (ISBN 978-1-4535-9999-0) for \$34.99; soft cover (ISBN 978-1-4535-9998-3) \$23.99; or E-book (ISBN 978-4568-0000-00) \$9.99; from Xlibris Corporation toll-free at 1-888-795-4274 or online at <www.Xlibris.com> or by e-mail at <Orders@Xlibris.com>.

OldSmokey Jim Caplan Breaks New Ground in Two Books on Environmental Dispute Resolution

Based on the premise that “the single greatest ecological threat is the intractability of our environmental disputes and our collective lack of *will* and *skill* to resolve them,” OldSmokey **Jim Caplan** set out to pass on what he has learned about environmental dispute resolution (EDR) “and a bunch of related ‘stuff’” for effective use by “present and future generations of conservation leaders and others with a vested interest in environmental quality and successful development.”

That is the goal of two companion books, *The Theory and Principles of Environmental Dispute Resolution* and *The Practice of Environmental Dispute Resolution* published in 2007 and revised in 2010. In the first, Jim “presents an historical, social, cultural, and psychological explanation for why environmental disputes exist in America and why our current ways of dealing with them do not work.” In the second, he provides an approach structured “so that EDR practitioners and leaders might diagnose their EDR dispute and select appropriate means to address their EDR needs at any ecological scale.”

“As far as I know, these are the only books on the subject,” Jim commented. “And although the titles sound pretty scholarly, the books are actually aimed at the lay person, forester, other natural resource professional, or community leader who's likely to resolve environmental disputes. I plan to complete a third and final book in the series, *The EDR Practitioner's Guide*, sometime in the late fall or early winter.”

Jim joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1979 as a recent graduate of the University of Wyoming where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in community and regional planning. Working in the Eastern Region and the Alaska Region, on the Bridger-Teton National Forest, in the WO on the New Perspectives Team and as national Public Affairs Director, again in Alaska as Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources and acting Regional Forester, as forest supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest, and again in the WO as Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief for National Forest System where he retired in 2007, he spent 27 years successfully dealing with contentious environmental issues and conflicts.

Within a year or so of joining the Forest Service, Jim in 1980 completed *Conflict Management and Crisis Control: A Manager's Guide*, which he rewrote toward the end of his career to incorporate more than 25 years of front-line experience in environmental conflict resolution. The two 2007 EDR books that were revised in 2010 evolved from that effort.

Jim teaches an Umpqua Community College community education EDR course. His next stop? Perhaps a university course? Or the proposed U.S. Forest Service Academy?

The two books now in print can be purchased on Amazon.com. Just call up Jim's name or the titles. Because they're full color and print-on-demand, they are quite expensive. As an alternative to hard-copy, Jim offers to send the books to any OldSmokey who would like the books electronically for free in response to an e-mail to <jim_caplan1@msn.com>.

Uncle Sam's Cabins



The historic 1934 Rand Ranger Station office is now the William B. Smullin Visitor Center operated by BLM.

Rand Ranger Station

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon

Adapted by Les Joslin from BLM sources

Photograph by Les Joslin

In 1909, four years after President Theodore Roosevelt established the Siskiyou Forest Reserve in 1905 and two years after the reserve became the Siskiyou National Forest in 1907, Jesse P. Dewitt became the first ranger of the Galice Ranger District. As ranger of one of the six districts into which the forest was divided, Ranger Dewitt's managed the national forest lands in the Rogue River Canyon area—a gold mining district centered on Rand at the time. His work focused on fire suppression, timber sale management, and trail construction.

All the land in that stretch of the Rogue River Canyon on which one could build was claimed by the Almeda Consolidated Mines Company, and permission to build a ranger station was not forthcoming. Ranger Dewitt lived in a tent for eight years.

Finally, in October 1916 and only after Ranger Dewitt brought the adverse conditions under which he and his family lived and he worked forcefully to the attention of Forest Supervisor Nelson MacDuff, was the mining company convinced to rent the U.S. Forest Service a small parcel of land for 10 years for one dollar per year. In 1917, construction began on frame buildings for the Rand Ranger Station. These included a house, barn, and office.

The Siskiyou National Forest's lease for the Rand Ranger Station site expired in 1926, by which time the mining company had disappeared. Forest Service efforts to locate company representatives or heirs failed. In 1932, the mining claim on which the ranger station was located lapsed, and the Forest Service legally occupied the land.

The Great Depression brought the Civilian Conservation

Corps (CCC) to the Rogue River Canyon in 1933, and CCC enrollees assisted the Galice Ranger District with fire suppression, road construction, communication development, and administrative and recreation site construction. In addition to building Camp Rand barracks and supporting structures for 200 enrollees, the CCC remodeled the Rand Ranger Station's ranger residence, protective assistant's residence, and office already on-site, and built a new garage, woodshed, fire warehouse, barn, blacksmith shop, gas and oil house, and constructed extensive masonry walls.

By August 1941, with World War II looming in the near future, military service and war industries absorbed many CCC enrollees. Camp Rand was closed and its remaining enrollees transferred. Work on the Galice Ranger District and throughout the National Forest System slowed as America turned its attention toward winning the war.

After World War II, tourism in the Rogue River Canyon increased, and Galice Ranger District operations based at Rand Ranger Station picked up speed. In 1958, the Forest Service built a new residence and a bunkhouse for seasonal personnel. In 1963, the Siskiyou National Forest moved the Galice Ranger District headquarters to Grants Pass, and the Rand Ranger District complex went unused for six years except for temporary leases of individual buildings to state and federal agencies.

In 1970, after passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and designation of part of the Rogue River as a wild and scenic river, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired the Rand Ranger Station site. Forest Service and BLM personnel there issued permits for the wild section of the river and provided visitor information until 1996 when BLM assumed all responsibilities at Rand.

In 1999, the historic Rand Ranger Station complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Except for the three 1917 buildings and the 1933 CCC camp structures, the eight historic ranger station buildings constructed between 1931 and 1936 remain and look essentially as when first built. In 1996, the visitor center in the ranger station office building was renamed the Smullin Visitor Center after William B. Smullin, a broadcasting pioneer who introduced commercial radio, television, and cable television to southern Oregon and northern California.

Historic Rand Ranger Station is within the Rand National Historic District managed by BLM's Medford District Office.

Editor's Note: Historic Rand Ranger Station is located near the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest about three miles north of the small community of Galice, Oregon. To get to the Rand Ranger Station from Interstate 5, take the Merlin exit north of Grants Pass and follow the Merlin-Galice Road for 19 miles west through the towns of Merlin and Galice. The ranger station is on the east side of the road. Parking is available at the Smullin Visitor Center. The visitor center is open daily during normal business hours from mid-May to mid-October. Office hours vary the rest of the year. Visitors are welcome to take self-guided walking tours around the historic ranger station compound; however, the visitor center is the only building open to the public.

The Way We Were



Gil Gilbert (right) lived with his dad, Clarence Gilbert, mom and younger brother at Clackamas Lake Ranger Station on the Mt. Hood National Forest during the summers of 1937 to 1939.

—Photograph courtesy of Gil Gilbert

“What do you want me to do next, kid?”

By Lowell “Gil” Gilbert

OldSmokey Gil Gilbert shares the amazing story of his first U.S. Forest Service job—as a teenage crew foreman!

I lived at the Clackamas Lake Ranger Station in the summers of 1937, 1938, and 1939. My dad, Clarence Gilbert, was the station fireman, and my mother cooked for the road crew and all the men who worked out of the ranger station and lived in the bunk house. We lived in the old log cabin in the meadow that was the original ranger station headquarters during Joe Graham’s 1906 to 1930 reign as district ranger.

I had a great time during those high school summers. This was quite a change from where I was brought up in Milwaukie, Oregon. When I wasn’t helping my mother as a cook’s helper, I was fishing, riding horses, and visiting the lookouts. Dad was a great one for teaching me about my new environment in the mountains. I learned to read maps and always carried a compass. Dad taught me to climb with tree spurs, and I climbed the trees around the old log cabin it’s a wonder they survived. I learned to tie insulators and make a Western Union splice with number nine wire. I considered that my biggest accomplishment. If you’ve done it, you know what I mean.

Late in the summer of 1939 there was a major fire on the Estacada Ranger District. I believe they called it the Ladee Flat Fire. The fire boss was looking for some experienced men to help out on the fire and called Clackamas Lake Ranger Station to see if any were available there. When I heard they were going to send two men to the Oak Grove Ranger Station to work on the fire, I ran over to the office and asked them to call and see if they needed any other help. They said they needed all the help they

could get and to send them down. I ran home and got the okay from my folks. I put on my boots and work clothes and got in the truck with the other two men and headed for Oak Grove.

When we arrived at Oak Grove, we were supposed to wait for our ride to camp at the fire headquarters. While we were waiting, someone asked if any of us had any experience with telephone line maintenance. I said I had. He asked me if I could use tree spurs. I told him yes. He then told me to stay at Oak Grove Ranger Station and the other two men to go to the fire camp.

He explained that they wanted to open the trail and telephone line to Grouse Point which was an emergency lookout that had a good view of the main fire and surrounding country. They wanted to station a man at Grouse Point to watch for spot fires that may be caused by the main fire and high winds. To get to Grouse Point you had to go up over the Mount Mitchell trail which started right at Oak Grove Ranger Station. My assignment would be to work one day out of Oak Grove and then if everything looked alright I was to take a small crew and a couple pack mules and finish the trail and telephone line to Grouse Point, set up camp, and watch for spot fires.

He asked if I thought I could handle that as all the district personnel were working on the fire. I said sure and we spent the rest of that day getting the equipment together for the next days’ work on the first leg of the Mount Mitchell trail and telephone line. I did not sleep very well that night wondering how the next day would go. I had never worked on trail or telephone maintenance much less packed a mule, although I had watched the packer load up a pack string several times and I had saddled a lot of horses. This was my first chance at a job and I really needed the money. I was not about to admit that I could not handle it.

The next morning one of the Forest Service men from the ranger station went with me and we brought the telephone line from the trailhead across the road and into the ranger station. We had to add some new line to cross the road and get to the station. I got to use the Western Union splice several times and remember this guy asking me “Where did you learn to do that?” We had to take the line high to cross the road and I did all the climbing. I guess he was satisfied with my work because he told me that tomorrow I would have two men to help me finish the line to Grouse Point and to set up camp.

We finished the day getting the tent and camp equipment together. This included sleeping bags, enough grub for two weeks, and tools to work the trail and telephone line. We got one of those heavy cast iron field telephones and batteries to be set up at Grouse Point and a gas lantern and some cooking gear. We had quite a pile of stuff ready to go, and I worried about getting it on the mules.

I did not have to worry because the packer brought two mules around the next morning and in no time at all he had all the equipment on and ready to go. The only instructions I got from him was that after we unpacked I was to take the lead ropes off and make sure nothing was loose or dragging and to head the mules back to the barn and let them go.

The two men from the fire camp had come in the night be-

fore and they were there to watch the mules being packed. They were both in their forties or so and seemed awful big to me. They had volunteered for this assignment and were told they were to work with me to clear the trail and to set up a camp. They called me “kid” and asked what to do. At first I was reluctant to tell them anything. Being the boss was new to me and these guys were big and old and it did not seem right to tell them anything. I did ask if either of them had worked with horses. One of them had worked on a ranch, so he got the job of leading the mules. The other guy carried the bucking saw. I led the way to the trailhead and we were on our way.

The telephone line was in bad shape as it had not been maintained for years. We had trouble at first getting started. When we came to a down line we had to tie up the mules, lay down the saw, then start work on the line. The men were pulling line that was mostly on the ground and under brush and I was climbing trees, repairing insulators, and hanging wire. The guy carrying the saw kept saying “What do you want me to do now, kid?” and I had to tell him everything.

After hanging insulators in the first few trees, everyone got the hang of it and things went fairly smooth. Even the mules got into the routine. They would stand and wait when we came to down wire and watch the whole process of re-hanging the line. We tied the lead mule at every stop. I had experience with my horses running back to the barn if they were left untied and I was not about to lose these mules and all our gear.

We had only on large tree across the trail and a couple of small ones that needed to be sawed. I was surprised and relieved that these guys were good with the bucking saw. I watched and rested while they did most of the work. I began to realize that being the boss was not so bad. I even began to give them orders. “Get me an insulator” or “I need a staple up here” and “Give me more slack on the line” and it worked every time. I was also careful not to push my luck and I would always thank them. The work went so well that the guy with the saw finally quit asking “What do you want me to do now, kid?”

We got to Grouse Point that evening and the men started unpacking and setting up the tent. I took out the field telephone and nailed it to a high stump that looked like it had been used for that purpose before. I connected the phone and put in the batteries and connected a ground wire. I looked the whole thing over again and was reluctant to try calling the ranger station. I didn’t know what I would do if it didn’t work. I finally gave it a crank and a woman answered. I told her this was Grouse Point and she said they had told her that I would be calling in but this was kind of late.

Kind of late! Here I had just witnessed a miracle and she was treating it like everyday stuff and giving me a bad time for being late. I really did not care. We had put the line in and connected the phone and everything *worked*. It came in loud and clear, too. I told the guys the phone worked and they had about the same attitude as that woman at the ranger station. All they wanted to know was when we were going to eat.

I checked the mules, made sure the cinches were tight and the packs were empty and buckled. I took off the halter ropes and just barely had time to get them in the pack bags as they

were ready to head for home. I gave them a pat on the rear and off they went.

I had to light the gas lantern. Neither of the men had ever used a gas light before.

There was a pit and concrete blocks that made up the old cooking area. We cleaned out the pit and put the iron plate we had brought along over the blocks and started the fire. These guys did not need any help in getting something to eat. They had already surveyed all the grub while unpacking and had figured out what they wanted to eat. We had dinner in no time. They were enjoying their meal and I was worrying about the mules and wondering why the phone did not ring or if it could ring and thinking I should have had that woman call me back.

I was pretty pleased about the days’ events and wondering why I did not ask to talk to one of the men at the ranger station. It seemed like I should have told someone about the days’ work. We stacked all the supplies under a tarp and got out the sleeping bags and went to bed. I remember thinking, if that phone did ring, “Would I put on my boots to answer it or go over in my bare feet?” Being the boss had all sorts of problems.

I was up early the next morning. I walked out to the point to look at the fire and could not find it at first. There was low hanging smoke most everywhere. The smoke came right up Roaring River Canyon including the South Fork which was just to the north and east of me. I finally could see the main fire which was just about due west and a long way out.

I went back to camp and started the fire for breakfast. I did not know if I should call in to the ranger station this early of if they would call me. I sure wished that phone would ring. The men were up and I told them to start breakfast. We all helped and I remember the bacon and eggs being about the best breakfast I ever had.

We just about finished eating when the phone rang. It sounded so good I even let it ring again before I answered it. It was one of the men at the ranger station and he wanted to know all about the trip, the camp setup, and the main fire. I told him about the low hanging smoke in the canyons and he said I would probably get a better look later in the day. I was to finish setting up the camp and then to send the men back to Oak Grove.

It was only about seven miles or so back to the station so I kept the men there most of the day and had them take all the supplies into the tent. They also helped buck up a log that had been used for camp wood in the past and split it into cook stove size. I made occasional walks to the ridge to look for spot fires.

That afternoon I called Oak Grove and told them we had finished with the camp and the men were heading back. Both men came and shook my hand and said they had enjoyed working with me and wished me luck. I watched them go down the trail until they were out of sight, and I realized I would be all alone from here on. Being alone did not bother me, but I missed the big guy asking me “What do you want me to do now, kid?” The next week was uneventful. The weather was overcast much of the time and there was very little wind. According to the information I got from the ranger station, they were making good progress on the fire. From my view point the main fire

had changed to a wide area of smoke and no movement at all. The smoke was not going very high and still filling in the canyons and draws and making the visibility difficult. On my sixth day at Grouse Point I woke up to rain on the tent roof. I called in and told them of the rain and they said to sit tight.

By noon the rain had changed to a steady downpour. I called the ranger station and they said I could either close the camp now and come on in or come in tomorrow morning. I said I would prefer to come in now and they said to leave everything in the tent and they would send the packer up for it later and to come in to Oak Grove. It took me about half an hour to tie things up at the camp and I was on my way to the ranger station. I think I ran about half the way back and got to the station in less than two hours.

When I got to Oak Grove they had a ride for me back to Clackamas lake the next morning. They thanked me for a good job and said that my time would be charged to the fire. I asked about the pay and they said I would be paid at my regular pay scale. I told them that I did not have a pay scale and they said “Don’t you work for the Lakes District?” I told them that I just came down to work on the fire. “Did we sign you up?” I said “No.”

Now the whole office got involved. They wanted to know how I got there and who hired me. I went over my whole story and they had assumed that I was one of three men that had been sent down from the Lakes District to work as crew foreman. When they asked if any one of us had any experience with telephone maintenance and could climb they thought I had obtained that experience as a Forest Service employee.

Now they had to decide what to do with me. We went into the back room and they asked all kinds of questions. How old I was and could not believe that I was still in high school. They wanted to know where I learned to do all that stuff. They could not believe they had sent me out with a pack string and two men and I was not even signed up. I finally sat down with one of the women and we filled out a bunch of papers. She said that we would skip the physical exam as I was apparently able to do the work. She asked the men what position I should be signed up as. They said I had done just about everything except fire fighting. They ended up giving me a crew foreman’s job which was ten cents an hour higher than the regular pay. We had to back date my time of hire and my days of work. They called someone on the phone and went over the whole thing again including the papers we had just filled out. Apparently all was OK as they said I could go home that day and I did not have to wait till the next day. I got the feeling they were trying to get rid of me.

While I was on Grouse Point they had connected me to Clackamas Lake and I had a chance to talk to my mother. She knew that I was working as an emergency lookout instead of on the fire. I never did tell my folks my entire experience on my first job until I got home. Dad was quite amused by the whole event. He was the only one who wanted all the details of the telephone and trail maintenance work. I told him about the mules and setting up camp and how I got along with the two guys from the fire camp. I also mentioned the mix-up when I got back to Oak

Grove and the trouble caused by the fact that I did all that work with them thinking I was a Forest Service employee. Dad said it would be best if neither one of us talked about it again and we never did. I started my senior year in high school at Maupin, Oregon, the very next day.

I never did talk to anyone else about the details of my first job nor did I ever list it on my work experiences. I was kind of proud of the fact that I took on the job of a crew foreman, a telephone and trail maintenance man, a packer and a lookout and I got through it all without a hitch and was even thanked for a job well done.

Editor’s Note: The U.S. Forest Service got Gil back in 1948 after World War II and college. After district assistant and district engineer positions, Gil served his last 19 years on the Mt. Hood National Forest as assistant forest engineer.

Many thanks to Gill for sending in this story and to his sister, OldSmokey Ollie Peters, for encouraging him to do so.

My First Job with the U.S. Forest Service

By Richard O. “Fitz” Fitzgerald

OldSmokey Fitz Fitzgerald wrote that he “enjoyed the story by Lowell Gilbert on how he started with the Forest Service. It reminded me of my first job and my first boss with the Forest Service.”

I was a lookout on Mt. Lowe on the Collowash Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest back in 1954. My boss was a fellow who claimed to be “29” for all the years I spent on the Mount Hood. He wrote in his diary “Happy Birthday Gil, 29 again.” Yep, you guessed it. The same Lowell Gilbert.

Course, he had changed by the time I arrived on the scene in that he had no hesitation in giving orders!

And I learned several lessons from him. The first being one morning he decided we should go out toward Bagby Hot Springs and work the phone line to Alder Flat. I asked if we needed a lunch and he said no. We would be back by morning coffee break. Fortunately, the cook was kind enough to hold supper for us. I never left the station after that without a lunch!

There were other things I learned because he and others were willing to help. But one thing that always impressed me as the example of what a good employee should be was when he took me to the lookout and the radio would not work. The next day he and the Ranger, Leroy “Roy” Bond, packed one of those big old radios on their backs about five miles to the lookout. I always figured that these two guys, the District Assistant and Ranger, were not afraid of hard work and were there to help us. Oh, yeah! When they reached the lookout, Roy was packing the radio! Gil said that he had packed it the first part of the way!?

I could go on, but the main point is that both Gil and Roy stood for what I thought was the best part of the Forest Service—the people who made it up.

This is a special, longer-than-usual “The Way We Were” section that features this story and another it inspired—both of which are inspiring!



In December, we found Susan accompanying "Joy Singers" at historic Old Church in downtown Portland.



Wendall, John, Bill, Susan, Bruce, Debra, Don
First purchasers of PNWFSA caps

Photos by Bob Williams



Bob Williams brought new PNWFSA caps to the November 26 Board meeting and immediately sold caps to the members pictured. I do not know how many caps he sold during the luncheon but Bob did promise to have caps available for sale at the next monthly luncheon, January 28, 2011. See page 21 for details on ordering caps.

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

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

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