

The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain
Forest Service
Association

September, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the First Edition

By Skip Underwood, Chair, Rocky Mountaineers



*Skip Underwood, circa
1990, Interim Chair,
Rocky Mountaineers*

I am happy to invite you to explore and join our newly formed association for Rocky Mountain Region Forest Service retirees.

We are beginning as a

small, enthusiastic group of retirees who had a grand time planning the national Forest Service reunion in Vail last year. We want to continue and expand the great value we experienced in connecting with friends and former co-workers.

Some of us currently participate in local Forest Service retiree activities but many of us don't have a good connection to friends with whom we shared a wonderful career. The Rocky Mountaineers offer a great opportunity to support and encourage on-going local retiree activities

while enlarging the scope of information and potential engagement with other retirees to the entire Region.

In this newsletter and on our website you can read in depth about who we are, what we hope to accomplish and colorful descriptions of people and activities.

My personal message to you is that I am proud of the years I served in the outfit and would take that same path again. The people with whom I served are the very best at what they do. We share a commitment to the resources and to the citizens that are worthy of our best. While we celebrate what we have been a part of, we can continue to be active for the good of the Forest Service and the resources we value.

It is a pleasure to renew and maintain those relationships in this association. I hope that you will join me and others to renew and strengthen those bonds with membership in the Rocky Mountaineers!

What are the Rocky Mountaineers?

This newsletter, which will be published three times a year, and the newly created website are perhaps the first visible signs that the **Rocky Mountaineers** are now established, but there has been much hap-

pening behind the scenes. Chairman, Skip Underwood, has been able to recruit a number of volunteers who will serve as the first Board of Directors for the Association. The Board will work to establish the

Rocky Mountaineer's presence and ensure it meets the expectations and needs of retirees in the Rocky Mountain Region. Board members who have agreed to serve are:

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"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers" Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.

What's a Rocky Mountaineer (from page 1)

Chair:	Chair 2014	Skip Underwood, Ft. Collins, CO
Chair-Elect:	(To be elected in November)	
Past Chair:	Serves for 1 year after term as Chair	Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO*
	*Served as Chair of the Rendezvous in Rockies Committee (2010-2012)	
Secretary:	Will serve for 2-6 years	Dan Nolan, Hot Sulphur Springs, CO
Treasurer:	Will serve for 2-6 years	Ellen Hodges, Ft. Collins, CO
Communications		
Chair:	Will serve for 2-6 years	Jon Skeels, Littleton, CO
Newsletter editor:	Committee Member - TBD	
Website manager:	Committee Member	Bill Disbrow, Rhineland, WI
E-mail manager:	Committee Member	Johnny Hodges, Ft. Collins, CO
Membership Chair:	Will serve for 2-6 years	Johnny Hodges, Ft. Collins, CO
Memorial Grove		
Co-chairs:	Will serve for 2-6 years	Steve Deitemeyer, Wheatridge, CO Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO
Representatives at Large:		
Eastern Colorado and Kansas	Will serve for 2-6 years	Karen Bergethon, Pueblo, CO
Western Colorado	Will serve for 2-6 years	Lee Carr, Cedaredge, CO
Wyoming	Will serve for 2-6 years	Becky Aus, Cody, WY
South Dakota/Neb.	Will serve for 2-6 years	David Thom, Custer, SD
Ad Hoc Representatives:	as needed	(None presently appointed)
NAFSR Representative:	Non-voting	Bob Averill, Golden, CO
NMFSH Representative:	Non-voting	Lyle Laverty, Arvada, CO
Forest Service Liaison:	Non-voting	Dave Steinke, Golden, CO

Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. Box 270462, Ft. Collins, CO 80527

rmountaineers@gmail.com

rockymountaineers.us



Send us a picture of YOUR local meeting

PSICC - Meets on 3rd Tuesday or Thursday of even numbered months.

GMUG - Nothing scheduled at press time.

San Juan - Nothing scheduled at press time.

Bighorn - Nothing scheduled at press time.

Black Hills - Nothing scheduled at press time.

Denver Group - October 10, Jose O'Shea's in Lakewood

November 12, Homestead Golf Course

Rocky Mountaineers Adopt Bylaws

On July 9, 2013 after nearly a year of discussion, listening, and fully considering the challenges and opportunities, an establishment committee of ten retirees and one Forest Service liaison adopted a set of Bylaws that creates the first ever Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association. The Association, that will be known as the **Rocky Mountaineers**, has been created to enrich and add value to the lives of Forest Service retirees who care greatly about the agency and the Rocky Mountain Region by:

- Enhancing** the connectivity of retirees, spouses, and others who take pride in having been a part of the outfit in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- Providing** members timely updates of information about Association members, Regional and local happenings, meeting or special event specifics, special stories of historical significance, and other Association business.
- Encouraging** local groups to either initiate or continue ongoing efforts to connect informally for lunch or other opportunities and gatherings.
- Ensuring** there is opportunity for others who have special interest in the Rocky Mountain Region to also stay actively connected.
- Helping** retirees “give back” to the outfit through education and support to the resources and communities that defined their lives, and to other retirees and F.S. families needing special support.
- Improving** the overall participation, ownership, and support of the Memorial Grove and ensuring that all R-2 folks deserving of remembrance are appropriately honored.
- Keeping** Association administration effective, simple, professional, and designed to ensure a sustainable vibrant organization that represents retirees throughout the entire region and keeps them connected regionally and nationally.

Election and Appointment of Officers and Board Members

“To ensure that the Rocky Mountaineers gets off to a successful start, Skip Underwood has agreed to serve as our first Chair. He will serve in this capacity through all of 2014 and then become past chair in 2015. Kim Vogel, recently retired District Ranger and Staff Officer on the Medicine Bow-Routt NF in Steamboat, CO, has agreed to have her name on the ballot for Chair-elect for 2014 and would become Chair in 2015. Unless an additional candidate steps forward by Nov. 1, 2013, Kim will be declared the Chair-elect for 2015 and be effective Jan. 1, 2015. Kim is very excited about doing all she can to make the Rocky Mountaineers successful and would bring strong leadership experience to the organization.

If you want to or know someone who wants to also be considered for this position, please forward your name or the candidate's name and statement of interest to: Rocky Mountaineers, P.O. Box 270462, Ft. Collins, CO 80527. If another candidate comes forward, an election balloting will be conducted between Nov. 15 and Dec. 1, 2013.”

Pinchot Institute Celebrates 50 years

The Pinchot Institute and Grey Towers 50th anniversary commemoration will take place at Grey Towers on September 20-21. The theme of the celebration is “Commemorating 50 Years of Changing Lives Through Advances in Conservation: 1963-2013. They have produced a film entitled, *Seeking the Greatest Good: The Conservation Legacy of Gifford Pinchot*. To view the film trailer for this new PBS documentary: www.seekinggreatestgood.org

It's Live!

The Rocky Mountaineers website is now online. It is in operation but continues to be under construction and perfection. Find it at

rockymountaineers.us

Check it out and if you have suggestions or information to be shared at our website, contact Bill Disbrow (BDisbrow@aol.com)

Memorial Grove - May 4, 2013

For nearly 95 years the Memorial Grove has been used to honor employees and retirees who served in the Rocky Mountain Region. The first individuals to be honored were Forest Service men who were killed in World War I. The memorial is located at the old Monument Tree Nursery (now the Monument Work Center and home of the Pike Hotshots) near Monument, CO. Each year on the first Saturday of May, the names of honorees, who passed away the previous year, are added to the Memorial. Families and friends who attend have found the honor ceremony to be a truly unique way to recognize those who have given so much to the U.S. Forest Service through their dedication and hard work. A listing of all those who have been honored since 1919 and a list of the current criteria for recognition go to the Rocky Mountaineers website under the Memorial Grove tab.

On May 4, 2013 nearly 150 people gathered at the Memorial Grove on a beautiful day to honor the following twenty-three individuals:



2012 Memorial Grove Honorees

Frank Emil Angele, Jr.	Med Bow/Routt N.Fs/Thunder Basin NG
Frank Corgan	PSICC
David Charles Edwards, Jr.	Regional Office, Job Corps, Civil Rights
Bob Elarton	Regional Office, Admin.
Dwayne "Dewey" Ellerton	Black Hills N.F. , Engineering
Charles F. "Fritz" Foutz	San Juan N.F.
John McEwen "Knox" Frank	GMUG NF
Alvin D. "Al" Gammon	Regional Office, Personnel
Louis Alfred Hepfl, Jr.	Regional Office , Eng.
Dennis Duane Hovel	GMUG N.F.
Glenna A. Huntington	Regional Office, I & E
William Arthur Jeffries	White River NF
Thurlo Jensen	Black Hills NF
William Maxwell, Jr.	PSICC
Dan Edward McIntyre	Routt N.F. , Bears Ears
Daisy E. Moore	Nebraska NF, Pineridge JCCC
Leola J. Moore	Nebraska NF
John Y. Nishimura	Regional Office, Watershed
Barbara Jean Oehler	Regional Office
Robert "Smokey" Robertson	Rio Grande and Black Hills NF
Filberto M. "Fil" Romero II	PSICC
Gordon A. Seneff	San Juan N.F.
Raymond L. Tikka	GMUG N.F.

In attendance from the Forest Service were Regional Forester Dan Jiron; Acting Deputy RF Craig Bobzein; Forest Supervisor, PSICC, Jerri Marr; and the new Pikes Peak District Ranger Al Hahn. Barb Timock, Public Affairs Staff Officer from the PSICC, oversaw the program. Speakers included the Regional Forester; Bill Nelson, former Pikes Peak District Ranger; Tom Thompson, former Deputy Chief, NFS; and Steve Deitemeyer, former Recreation Director, R-2.

From the opening flag ceremony and bagpipes playing across the grass field in the distance to the closing playing of TAPS, the program was respectful and certainly emotional for family members in attendance. After the Memorial Tree was planted by members of the families, a chili lunch was served by employees of the Pikes Peak Ranger District. The Memorial is always greatly appreciated by the honoree's families who are able to attend.

Annual Meeting Set for Fort Collins in February



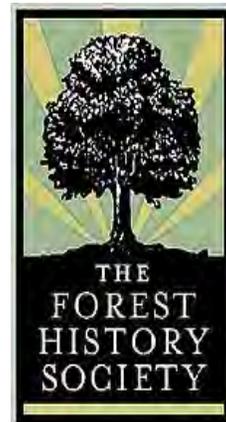
The first ever annual meeting of the Rocky Mountaineers will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2014. The meeting will be in Fort Collins beginning mid-morning and ending mid-afternoon. This will be our first opportunity to gather and we will plan an agenda that will be fun, informative and provide ample time to mingle with friends that you may not have seen for a while. Watch for more details on our website. We are working on a location in central Fort Collins. We may also arrange a local pre-meeting social on Monday evening. Stay tuned.

Forest History Society has R-2 Database Ready to Use

The U.S. Forest Service Organizational Directories Database consists of USFS personnel information such as employee names, positions, and office locations. The information contained in the searchable database was compiled from published USFS directories from the years 1905-2004.

The USFS directories were originally published monthly as "Field Programs" beginning in 1904. Later directories, which were referred to as "Service Directories" or "Organizational Directories" were issued two to three times a year on average.

The current database version is a pilot project for information from only USFS Region 2, the Rocky Mountain Region, and specifically focuses on the following positions: Regional Forester, Forest Supervisor, and District Ranger. It was made possible by support from Region 2.



www.foresthistory.org/

Retirees who graduated from CSU or Colo. A&M hankering to write their Memoirs

Don Bock, who has been writing memoirs for 10 years, including a series about his Forest Service years, is going to compile some writings by other retirees who worked for the Forest Service, National Park Service, and possibly other federal agencies and who are graduates of Colorado State University or Colorado A&M. The writings or memoirs should be accounts or stories about your work experiences that would be of interest to others in a university setting. Don has been authorized to do this by Linda Meyer, an archivist with CSU. Assuming your writings are included, they would be part of series of such writings that would be placed in two libraries (Agriculture/Natural Resources and the College Library) at CSU. This would be part of a recent program by the university to collect such written memories and other memorabilia from its graduates.

Don has already contributed all of his memoirs to the university, and they are now being processed for library inclusion. If any CSU/ColoA&M grads out there are interested in contributing to this project, please let Don know as soon as possible, and he will give you more details. Don's e-mail address is donandbuddy@yahoo.com.

Rocky Mountaineers Membership Invitation

The Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association (Rocky Mountaineers) invites you to become a member. There is no membership fee or dues until January 2015.

The overall mission of this Association is to enrich and add value to the lives of Forest Service retirees, current and former employees, and others who care greatly about the agency and the Rocky Mountain Region. The Association will enhance connectivity between members while providing important information and encouraging participation in local activities. Importantly, the Association will actively provide assistance to Forest Service families in need, champion volunteer efforts and maintain the Memorial Grove tradition.

Among the benefits that members receive are the following:

The Rendezvous Newsletter is sent to all members electronically (or printed version if needed). The Rendezvous provides current information of interest; updates on member activities; stories of both historical and general interest of the Rocky Mountain Region; information on planned meetings and events; updates of Rocky Mountaineer projects and organization updates; ballot measures; updates of addresses and member information; and remembrances of departed members.

The Membership Directory showing names and addresses of all current members who want to be included is provided electronically in the winter newsletter.

The Rocky Mountaineer Website provides organizational background, current board members, current calendar of activities planned, proposed and ongoing projects, Memorial Grove updates, historical information, current and past editions of Rendezvous Newsletters, and important links to information important to retirees, including benefits and services.

Mountaineer Messages are routinely sent by e-mail to keep members updated on items or information of immediate interest (i.e. Obituaries, meeting details, retirement notices, important announcements, etc.)

The Annual Meeting is held the first week of February in a different location each year that allows members throughout the region to be able to attend a business meeting, a special program, and social event.

Schedules of monthly or quarterly meetings that are held locally throughout the region are posted on the website and provided in the newsletter. These meetings are intended to provide members the opportunity to periodically keep in touch with friends and associates who live in the same general locale.

Special events, volunteer projects, or trips are held on occasion and provide members with an opportunity for Rocky Mountaineer fellowship throughout the region.

The Rocky Mountaineers stand ready to help fellow members in need and provide assistance to the broader Forest Service family when crisis and hardship arises.

The Rocky Mountaineers ensure that all eligible Rocky Mountain Region retirees and employees are appropriately honored at the Memorial Grove on an annual basis and that honoree families are timely notified of the ceremony. Your membership helps support this effort by helping to pay for the brass plates and other expenses associated with the ceremony.

Membership is available to any individual who wishes to join the Association, participate in activities, support Rocky Mountaineer programs, and who meets one of the requirements listed below:

Any retired employee of the Forest Service and his/her spouse or significant other, or surviving spouse or significant other.

Any current Forest Service employee, especially those within five years of retirement.

Any other former employee of the Forest Service or other individual who has shown special interest in the Forest Service and seeks membership and is accepted for membership by two-thirds of the Board.

Through 2014, all Rocky Mountain retirees and others who complete a membership application will be considered members without any dues payment (\$20 annual) needed until January 2015. (Donations to support our programs are willingly accepted.) To become a member send your membership application to:

Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 270462
Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Our website can be found at: www.rockymountaineers.us and our email is: rmountaineers@gmail.com

Mountaineers Membership

We hope that all Rocky Mountain Region retirees will want to be members of the Rocky Mountaineers and should receive this newsletter with the invitation to join. To confirm your membership in the Rocky Mountaineers please complete the membership application form below. No membership fee is required for 2013/14 but starting in 2015 to remain a member and be entitled to its benefits, an annual membership fee of \$ 20.00 will be required. Membership funds will be the main source of revenue to support the **Rocky Mountaineer** programs, including the newsletter, the website, outreach and communications, annual support of the Memorial Grove, association sponsored volunteer projects, education initiatives, and emergency help for members of the Forest Service family in need. This \$20.00 annual fee is for each individual member or couple who desire to be members. Payment of annual dues by February ensures membership through that calendar year and a Rocky Mountaineer Identification Card.

Lifetime memberships are available for individuals or couples for \$250.00. A lifetime Rocky Mountain Identification Card will be issued and a complimentary copy of the newly released book, "Prairies to Peaks: A History of the Rocky Mountain Region" by Anthony Godfrey will be provided to each life member.

Membership Application Form

We invite you to become a member of the Rocky Mountaineers retiree organization and look forward to your participation.

Please complete the one that best applies:

- Current FS Employee
 Retired FS Employee (number of Federal service years____)
 Spouse of one of the above
 Retiree of another Federal Agency (number of Federal service years____)
 Other, please specify _____

Date: _____

Applicant's Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ E-mail address _____

_____ RMFSA Membership is free for 2013/2014 (feel free to make a donation) of \$_____.

_____ Annual Membership Renewal beginning 2015 (per household) - \$20.00

_____ Lifetime Membership (per household) - \$250.00

A check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Make checks payable to: **Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association**

P.O. Box 270462

Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Newsletters will be sent to your e-mail address. If you need a hard copy mailed to you, please check here _____.



Just a little over a year ago more than 650 retirees convened for the Rendezvous in the Rockies in Vail, CO on the White River National Forest. The weather was beautiful and the accommodations at the Vail Mountain Marriott were wonderful. From the opening ceremony when original members of the famed 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army presented the colors throughout the week, attendees were



provided with both an interesting and entertaining program. Patty Limerick, Director of the Center of the American West in Boulder, reminded participants of how important their rich and diverse culture and dedicated service is to America in many different ways. There were sessions that presented different views as to both the opportunities and challenges facing the Forest Service

and how retirees should be involved. A panel of young Forest Service leaders gave us a glimpse into the future of the agency.

President Theodore Roosevelt moderated a panel of former Chiefs and was able to keep all of them focused and active throughout. Teddy also gave a rousing speech from the stump on "Top of the Mountain" at a barbeque served by Vail Mountain Ski Area folks. It was a special evening up the gondola with music, entertainment, good company, and a chance to see the Rocky Mountain Specialty Packstring. There were field trips in every direction and every mode of transportation on

"We enjoyed every minute of the time we were there and if there was an overall rating of the organization, program, the fellowship and all other parts of the Rendezvous above outstanding that would be our rating. All of you did a great job and spent a lot of time to make it happen. Our thanks to everyone!"

Wednesday with jeeps, bikes, rafts, buses, trains, and hiking leisurely or climbing to the Storm King Mountain memorial site. The Betty Ford Alpine Garden tour on Tuesday was a fun experience as well.

Students from the Collbran Job Corps Center were there all week to help and



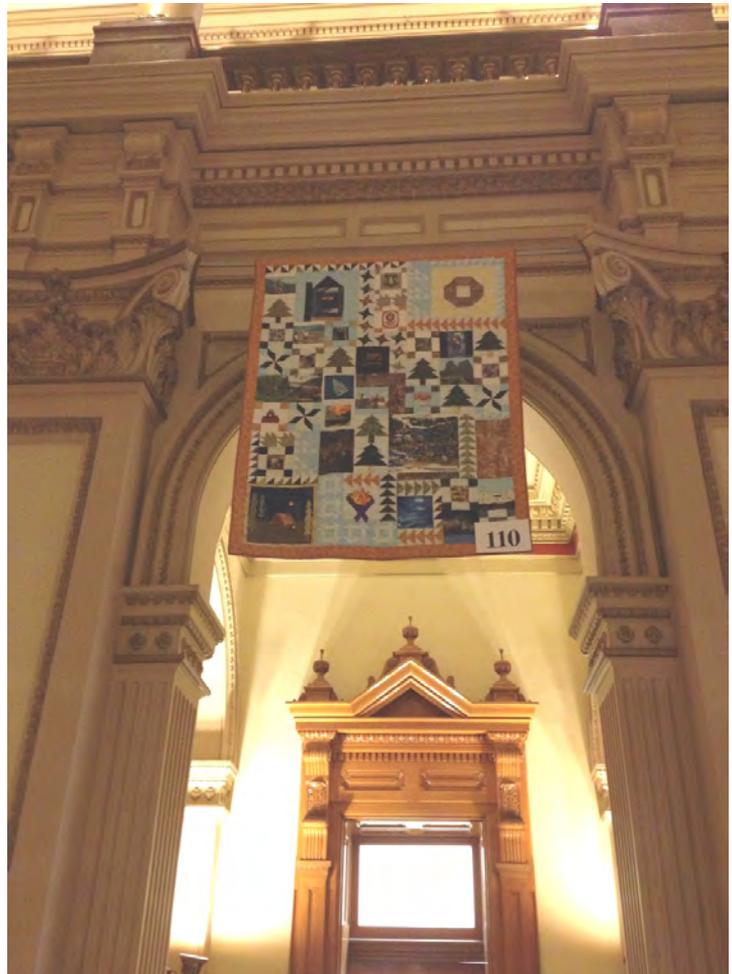
support the event in many special ways. There were exhibits and exhibitions. The silent auction and oral auction brought in nearly \$12,000 that was part of an overall transfer of \$37,000 that was raised for the National Museum of Forest Service History as a result of the Rendezvous. The banquet on Thursday night featured the last and final performance by the Fiddlin' Foresters as a group and what a performance it was. They came back for a short encore at the Closing Friday morning breakfast as the Amigos from Region 3 stepped forward to accept hosting the next Forest Service Reunion to be held in Albuquerque, NM the second week of October, 2015. Photos tell the story of how much folks enjoyed and appreciated being a part of the Rendezvous in the Rockies. You can view photos of the reunion under the photos section on the Rocky Mountaineers website:

rockymountaineers.us.

Retiree's Quilt Graces Colorado Capitol

Every other year since 1989 the Colorado Quilting Council has displayed quilts in the Colorado Capitol. It is a non-judged, non-juried show; however, it does have viewer's choice awards. This year there are 250 quilts in the show.

Retiree Pam Skeels made a quilt for her husband Jon as a retirement gift presented to him in January 2013. The quilt honors his 35-year career with the Forest Service. Included on the quilt are blocks commemorating his years working in California (an ocean block); his work on the Resource Ordering Status System (a t-shirt block; the t-shirt donated by one of his co-workers); a wedding ring block (the material used was cut out of Pam's wedding dress); Mt. St. Helen's erupting (working just over the Cascades for the Wenatchee at the time); and photo blocks of Jon early in his career including Jon as Smokey Bear holding his baby son. Jon's career in fire is proudly evident in many of the blocks as is the Forest Service motto.



Quilt #110 can be seen in the Colorado Capitol until October 10th.

Reunion Facts

There have been six Forest Service Reunions since 1991 when the first one was held in Glenwood Springs, CO in recognition of the Forest Reserve Centennial. They have been hosted by R-1 in 2000 and 2009, R-2 in 1991 and 2012, R-4 in 1996, and R-6 in 2005 which was the Forest Service Centennial.

The Amigo's will host the 2015 Reunion and they are moving along with their planning of that event which will be held the week of October 12-15, 2015 which is right after the Albuquerque Balloon Festival that ends on October 11. More details will be forthcoming as they develop.

The YouTube logo is displayed in a red 3D-style font with the word "You" in black and "Tube" in white on a red background.

Check out the 1950 classic Forest Service Film **Grass and Cattle**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18khY214i80>

Fiddlin' Foresters' Finale Fabulous

By Lynn Young, US Forest Service, retired
Buffalo, Wyoming - August, 2013

"So what's the name of your band?" asked the MC. Paintrock district ranger Denny Bschor, his wife Cheryl and range conservationist Tom McClure were about ready to go on stage at a 1978 summer picnic in tiny Hyattville, Wyoming in the Bighorn National Forest. They often informally played music together, but they never really considered themselves a band. At least they didn't have a name. Since Denny and Tom were both fiddlers, and both foresters, they hastily came up with the name, "Fiddlin' Foresters."

In 1994, while working in public affairs in The Rocky Mountain Regional Office, I got a call from the Washington Office asking if I could gather some musicians to play for the Smokey Bear's



Jim Maxwell

50th birthday celebration, which would take place on the Ellipse in Washington, DC in August. Jane Leche, who also worked in public affairs, played guitar and sang beautifully, and Jim Maxwell in the physical resources shop



Lynn Young

played banjo. The three of us went to DC.

"So what's the name of your band?" asked the MC. Why not Fiddlin' Foresters? We wore our Forest Service uniforms, and for the first time, represented our agency as an "official" program. We sang about fire prevention and public lands. We were a hit with the public. Our agency got to see firsthand the value of music to convey conservation messages.

For the next eighteen years we continued to use songs and music to educate and inform people about public lands and conservation. Soon after the Smokey performance, we recruited volunteer Tom McFarland, a Denver area attorney and guitar-playing friend of ours. For several years we were lucky to have bass

player Doug Wagner, who worked in the Rocky Mountain Region Fire shop.

In 1996, Deputy Regional Forester Tom Thompson convinced Chief Jack Ward Thomas that Fiddlin' Foresters could provide a meaningful

breakfast program at the annual Society of American Foresters meeting in Albuquerque. Jack asked, "Is it legal?" I told him that "entertainment" would not be appropriate, but an educational program would be "legal." He gave us our marching orders that we lived by for the duration... "Make damn sure it's educational."

We were the "official old time string band" of the US Forest Service. We presented several hundred programs to many thousands of people in thirty states. We played for all kinds of meetings, new employee orientations,



Dale Bosworth, Tom Thompson and Tom McFarland



Jane Leche

conservation groups, schools, forest celebrations, forest visitors, state fairs and more. Our favorite performances were those that helped individual forests present public land messages to their public and employees.

The Fiddlin' Foresters had three primary objectives:

- (1) Provide entertaining and educational conservation messages,
- (2) Put a face on the "Faceless Bureaucrat," and
- (3) Instill and enhance pride in Forest Service employees.

We focused on education about the value of public lands, clean water, invasive species, fire and fire prevention, loss of open space, and climate change. We had a message and song for each. We also used rear screen projection, brochures, turn of the century costumes, a musical CD with educational messages and a web site to strengthen our program.

Eventually it came time to end the Fiddlin' Forester program. Reduced budgets, increased travel costs and other factors took their toll. We chose

the September 2012 National Forest Service Retirees reunion, ***Rendezvous in the Rockies***, in Vail, Colorado as our last performance. It was a great choice!

Jane, Jim, Tom and I each chose three songs and three

memories of our eighteen years of Fiddlin' Foresters. It was a tough job...we had so many. By far my most memorable moment as a Fiddlin' Forester happened when Tom Thompson came to the stage and interrupted our performance saying he had a presentation to make. Every living Forest Service Chief came up on stage to pay us tribute! With us on stage were seven Chiefs...Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, Jack Ward Thomas, Mike Dombeck, Dale Bosworth, Gail

Kimbell and Tom Tidwell. We were overwhelmed! For once in my life I was speechless.

A note from Chief Tom Tidwell in the booklet presented to each of us points out what was so important about those eighteen years as the Fiddlin' Foresters. "Thank you for dedicating your time and talent to use your inspiring music to share the importance of conservation and the role of the Forest Service in caring for the land and serving people."

We did make damn sure it was educational.



The Fiddlin' Forester's Fond Farewell

Shield survives threat of being plowed under!

Tom Thompson



Earlier this year the Department of Agriculture in an effort to improve communications and identity of the U.S.D.A. issued Department Regulations that effectively would have taken away the unique identity of the Forest Service by phasing out the historic Forest

Service shield as the outfits logo and official symbol. The plan was to have all USDA agencies use the standard USDA logo.

For several months this transition proceeded along unnoticed and undetected; however, once it was discovered what the USDA intentions were, retirees across the country responded with a barrage of phone calls, emails, and letters. After several weeks of sharing their concern, disappointment, and downright outrage, retirees were successful in getting the Department to realize that plowing the Forest Service shield under was perhaps not such a good idea. U.S.D.A. granted an exception by issuing the following statement on April 8: *"The US Forest Service shield is exempted from the One USDA branding directive."*

Thanks to all who voiced their opinions to the Secretary and others about the folly of the USDA logo proposal with regard to the shield that has represented the Forest Service for over a century. Links to a couple interesting related stories can be found below:

<https://www.hcn.org/wotr/dont-mess-with-the-forest-service/view>



National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR)

Bob Averill, Board Member

The 2013 Annual Board of Directors and Membership Meeting will be held in Salt Lake City on October 8th through October 10th. For any NAFSR members planning to attend, the meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown located at 215 W. South Temple. Telephone: (801) 531-7500. The meeting agenda will be forthcoming.



National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFSH)

Lyle Laverty, Board Member

The annual membership meeting will be held on September 26, 2013 in Missoula, MT. The NMFSH continues to work to increase membership and support for their efforts to preserve the history of the Forest Service and conservation. For information about how to become a member and support this effort to build the museum contact Lyle Laverty.

Rocky Mountaineers make donation to the Wildland Firefighters Foundation

The Rocky Mountaineers sent a \$1900 check to the Wildland Firefighters Foundation in July to support that Foundation's efforts to assist families of those lost in line of duty during the 2013 season and other families still in need of support from previous incidents. This was done following the news of the tragedy of losing nineteen Granite Mountain Hotshots on the Yarnell Fire in Arizona and the death of a Forest Service smokejumper earlier in the year. We asked that this donation be received in memory of the fourteen firefighters lost on the South Canyon Fire nineteen years ago in 1994.

From the Regional Forester's Office



Regional Forester Dan Jirón

Congratulations on your efforts and welcome to the proud ranks of the Rocky Mountaineers! It is heartening to see such a dedicated group of retirees and other supporters come together to continue sharing their expertise with the Rocky Mountain Region. I enjoyed meeting many of you up at the Rendezvous in the Rockies in Vail last fall, and look forward to more opportunities like that.

The Rocky Mountain Region is a place I am proud to call home and a team I am proud to lead as Regional Forester. It is where I began

my Forest Service career, and I am so glad to have this new resource to offer our employees. As we see more retirements in the agency and lots of other changes and challenges, we will be reaching out to you to help us bridge the age and culture gap between what you worked so hard to build and what the next generation is creating for the U.S. Forest Service.

Thank you again for your hard work, dedication, and openness. I am excited about the future and look forward to many more years of caring for the land and serving people together.

Congrats New Retirees

Cindy Dean	RO	Juanita Ridgeway	RO
Sharon Friedman	RO	Robert Thompson	RO
Susan Ford	RO	Donald Lancaster	Bighorn
Denise Tomlin	RO	Laurie Clark Walters	Bighorn
Doug Wagner	RO	Kathleen Hayden	Black Hills
Jon Skeels	RO	Richard Hudson	Black Hills
Michelle O'Connell	RO	Lynn Kolund	Black hills
Kim Vogel	Routt	Catherine Rosane	Black Hills
Monica Cordova	RO	David Slepnikoff	Black Hills
David Armlovich	GMUG	Cara Miller	GMUG
Gary Gray	Med Bow Routt	Dean Lebeda	Med Bow Routt
Robert Hodorff	Nebraska	Rafaelita Medina	PSICC
Jeffrey Vanis	PSICC	Gordon Kisting	San Juan
Linda Knipp	San Juan	James Oneil	San Juan
Terry Root	Shoshone	James Stark	White River

Letters and notes from Rocky Mountaineers

- I think it is great that you all are trying to organize a R2 retiree organization. I am not sure that I can help in any way here in Montana, however, if you need something; don't hesitate to call on me.
- It is an exciting opportunity to strengthen ties across the Region for all of us retirees!
- Thanks for finally stepping forward and bringing retirees in the R-2 together with this new association
- This is something that is long past overdue. We need to be better connected and informed. Focusing on the Memorial Grove is a great idea. Hopefully this idea can come to fruition soon and folks from all across the Region will feel more tuned in and respected as retirees. We also might find that we have opportunity to communicate better with the leaders of the FS in the region as well. Thanks for the hard work on this idea.
- I think this is a great idea! I'm available to help in any capacity.
- I was in R-2 for 14 years but did not retire there. Nonetheless, I support the idea and wish each Region had one. Connectivity is a good thing. I wish this initiative the greatest success.
- It should be open to any FS retiree. I have been a member of the Southwestern Amigos (R3) since retiring in 1995, mostly since my early years were in R-3 and R-2 had nothing. Research has less (make that nothing).
- We have needed a group of this kind for many years. Glad to see you take the lead.

2013 Insect and Disease Update in the Rocky Mountain Region

(Bob Cain, Regional Entomologist, State and Private Forestry and Tribal Relations)

Ground observations and early aerial survey reports show **mountain pine**

epidemics across the Region and cause lingering mortality in five needle pines. Little has been written about this engraver beetle and USFS Entomologist, Jeff Witcosky is taking

Forest and on Grand Mesa.

Spruce beetle killed trees are slow to fade and often difficult to detect from the air for several years, so expect number of affected acres to grow. Foresters and entomologists have reported large numbers of flying beetles and newly infested trees as far north as Monarch and Cottonwood pass in central Colorado. Windthrown trees are known to be one of the primary triggers for spruce beetles in the Rockies. New areas of windthrow occurred in November 2011 in additional areas of the Sangre de Cristos, as well as near Monarch, Cottonwood and Guanella Passes in central Colorado (figures 1 and 2).



Figure 2. Windthrown trees on Monarch Pass.

beetle activity declining in northern Colorado and most of Wyoming as suitable hosts are depleted in affected areas. Epidemic mountain pine beetle activity continues in the Black Hills in northeast Wyoming and western South Dakota. Mature green lodgepole pine forests remain largely unaffected south of a line drawn roughly from Aspen to Leadville to Fairplay. Lodgepole and ponderosa south of Rocky Mountain National Park also remain largely unaffected on the Front Range. In Wyoming, lodgepole pines in the Bighorn National Forest remain green although there is extensive limber pine mortality from mountain pine beetle on the south and west sides of the Big Horn Mountains.

Limber pine engraver beetle, *Ips woodi*, populations have expanded in the shadow of mountain pine beetle

advantage of elevated populations to study and document additional biological information about these native beetles.

As mountain pine beetle numbers decline, **spruce beetles** continue to expand rapidly in southern Colorado (figure 1) and have declined greatly in northern Colorado and parts of Wyoming only due to host depletion. Over one and a half million acres have been affected in the Region by spruce beetle since 2000 leaving extensive areas dominated by large dead spruce in the overstory. The largest spruce beetle epidemic area continues on the Rio Grande, San Juan and Gunnison National Forests and spruce beetle activity is growing on the Sangre de Cristos and the Wet Mountains on the San Isabel National

Douglas-fir beetle, fir engraver beetle, pinyon ips and pinyon twig beetles are also very active in drought-stressed southern Colorado Douglas-fir, white fir and pinyon pine. Aerial survey this year detected increased tree mortality from these agents in lower elevations of the San Isabel, Rio Grande and San Juan National Forests and adjacent private lands.

Notable defoliation of aspen this year in southern Colorado has been caused by the **large aspen tortrix** which folds or rolls leaves with silk as it feeds. This insect is closely related to and resembles **western spruce budworm** which is also abundant this year in southern Colorado.

A couple new insects for the Region worth noting are the rusty tussock moth and the lodgepole terminal weevil. **Rusty tussock moth** damage was

detected by aerial survey for the first time in the Region in 2011. The caterpillars caused significant defoliation of lodgepole pine in several locations on the Bighorn National Forest. This insect is known from Canada and Alaska as well as northern Europe where it feeds on primarily broadleaved trees and shrubs. Entomologists Kurt Allen and Angie Ambourn from the Rapid City Service Center are trapping the insect and learning more about its behavior on the Bighorn National Forest.

Lodgepole terminal weevils are not really new to the Region but with an abundance of regenerating lodgepole pine stands we are beginning to notice the flagging leaders in young trees. Not a tree-killer, but this weevils' penchant for mining the top leader of sapling to pole sized trees can result in multi-stemmed trees in the next forest.

As the non-native **white pine blister rust** infections continue to spread in the Region, Lakewood Service Center pathologist, Kelly Burns and RMRS Research Plant Ecophysiologicalist, Anna Schoettle have teamed up with the Medicine Bow Laramie District's timber staff to identify rust resistant five needle pines. With funding from the Region's Vegetation Management, Wildlife and Forest Health Groups, the Laramie District has been able to update the old Pole Mountain Nursery site for outplanting potentially white pine blister rust resistant five needle pines. Sibling trees have already been screened for rust resistance at the USFS Dorena Genetic Resource Center in Oregon. Seed from trees with potentially rust resistant offspring were

planted at the Colorado State Forest Service Nursery in Fort Collins and seedlings are ready to be planted later this summer/fall at the Pole Mountain nursery site. Seedlings will be exposed to natural levels white pine blister rust occurring in native limber pines and the alternate host, *Ribes* spp. in the surrounding forest.

New data is coming in weekly from our team of state and federal aerial surveyors.

For the most current aerial survey maps check this link to forest and grassland health section of the Region 2 website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r2/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=stelprdb5427643&width=full>).

You can also find write ups for most of the tree feeding insects and forest diseases in the Rocky Mountain Region on the Forest and Grassland Health section of the R2 website at this location <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r2/forest-grasslandhealth/?cid=stelprdb5299225>

Bob Cain is the regional entomologist and can be reached at (303)-275-5463 for more information.

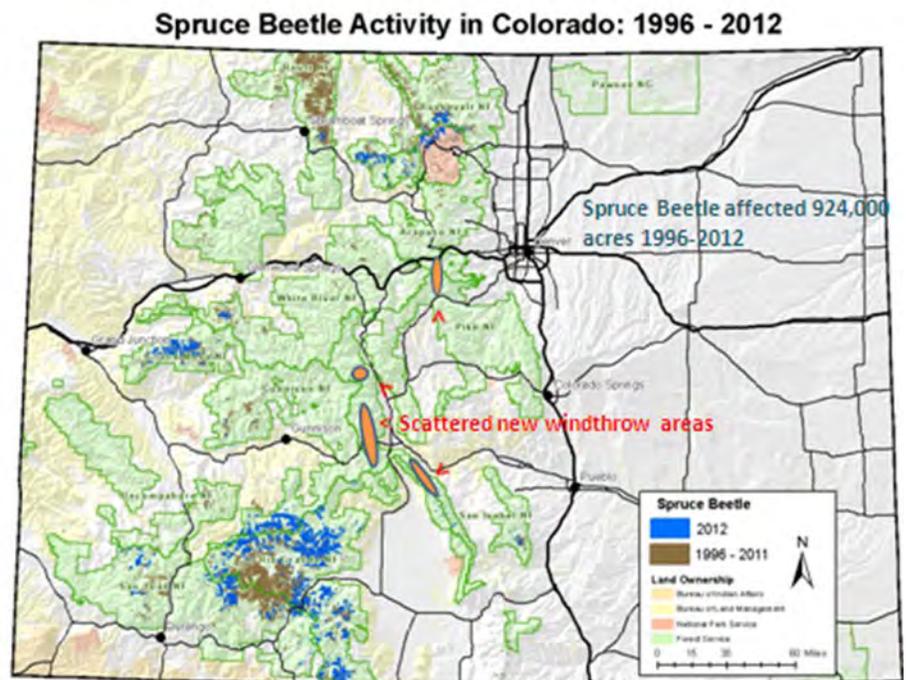


Figure 1. Expanding Spruce Beetle epidemics in Colorado.

2013 Fire Season Update

Lawrence Lujan, Santa Fe NF on detail to R-2



Photo by the Pike Hot Shots on the West Fork Fire

Last year, over 109,000 acres burned on the Little North Fork, Waldo Canyon, and High Park fires, killing six people, and destroying more than 628 homes.

To date, there have been a total of 481 fires in the five state Region—Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming—for a total of 180,430 acres.

This year's wildfire activity started on June 11 when the Black Forest fire started northeast of Colorado Springs. The fire burned 14,280 acres, destroyed 488 homes, damaged 37 homes and killed two people before it was contained on June 20. No National Forest System land was involved.

The East Peak fire burned 13,572 acres on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests in June and July, which resulted in several homes being destroyed. No serious injuries or fatalities were reported on this fire.

The West Fork Complex fire consists of three lightning-caused wildfires: West Fork, Windy Pass, and Papoose. The fire has been burning on the San Juan and Rio Grande National Forests and private lands in southern Colorado since June. The fire has burned over 109,000 acres and is 80 percent contained. The fire is being monitored by local resources and is minimally active. No structure loss or serious injuries have occurred on this fire.

This has been a tragic year for firefighters.

To date, there have been 79 on-duty firefighter fatalities, 28 of those were wildland firefighters.

As we reflect and honor these heroes, we also pay tribute to the 14 firefighters that were lost on the South Canyon Fire, 19 years ago near Glenwood Springs, CO.

Recovery

Post-fire wildfire rehabilitation continues on burned areas across the Region. Treatments to stabilize soils and minimize flooding, mudslides, and debris flows are being implemented across boundaries in partnership with multiple local, state and federal agencies. Flooding and debris flows will continue to occur, although treatments will lessen the impacts.

The widespread flooding that recently occurred across Colorado was truly unprecedented, a 500-year storm by most accounts. Initial assessments indicate that recent wildfires contributed minimally to the impacts that occurred given the magnitude and intensity of rainfall received. Burned Area Emergency Response work is typically designed to address 1/2 to 1 inch rain events. Some areas received over 10 inches of rain within a 72 hour period during the recent storms.

INCIWEB

www.inciweb.org

InciWeb is an interagency all-risk incident web information management system provided by the United States Forest Service released in 2004.

It was originally developed for wildland fire emergencies, but can be also used for other emergency incidents (natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.).

When you need to know about a fire or incident near you, head on over to Inciweb for up to date and accurate information.

Rocky Mountaineer Profiles

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about retirees from R-2.

Lloyd Newland *Engineering Staff Unit*

I was born in Bayfield, Colorado and attended a variety of schools throughout the state. My dad was a materials engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation and he was moved around quite a bit. I graduated from Colorado A & M with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1955 and took a job with Phillips Petroleum in Borger, Texas. From there I accepted a job with the Quickway Truck Shovel company in Denver helping to develop the first ever truck mounted crane. After that I ranched a little bit up in Steamboat Springs, hired on with the Bureau of Reclamation building some hydroelectric power plants and then moved over to the Corps of Engineers.

My career with the Forest Service started on April 9, 1961 when I transferred from the Corps of Engineers. I had just completed construction of the first combat ready Atlas missile launch facilities in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I served as an assistant to the Regional Equipment Manager, Orlo "Brakie" Chandler. I was to provide mechanical engineering service to the Region and was the first ever mechanical engineer in the Region.

Within a year I was promoted to Branch Chief of Equipment Management & Mechanical Engineering, directly under the Regional Engineer. The priority job was to bring the Region's transportation and construction equipment from military surplus-type equipment to current models utilizing the newly implemented Working Capital Fund (WCF) system. I had good help doing this, having full time automotive and heavy equipment specialists and a full time clerk/secretary, Irma Faas. We were doing such a good job, the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station had us also take over their equipment function. I received a Presidential Citation for work in this area.

In the mid 1960's Jim Sykes, Regional Safety Officer and I took on the task of developing a 3-point anchored lap/shoulder belt. We also had to get lap/shoulder belts in our fleet vehicles and get our folks to use them. We came up with the slogan of "Buckle Up or Walk" to raise awareness of the effort and to get people to pay attention. Several meetings were held in the early stages with people such as Col. Stapp, who was working on military aircraft seat ejection systems with the Air Force; Ralph Nader who was working with automotive manufacturers to build safer vehicles and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The first Colorado State Patrol vehicle to have a lap/shoulder seat belt was furnished by us. The SAE, Department of Transportation, GSA and various manufacturers' safety

engineers were all impressed with our work on the new seat belts, with GSA "dumping" 50,000 of their 4-point belts and adapting our lap/shoulder belt design.

From an overheard conversation between the Regional Engineer and the Kansas State Forester, Don Schultz, a mechanical engineer in my branch and I got involved in designing, supervising construction and testing the region's first seedling greenhouse. With the help of several greenhouse growers, control system suppliers and Dr. Richard W. Tinus from the Research Station in Bottineau, ND we were able to translate his research to practical use in tree seedling greenhouses. We designed a greenhouse for



(left to right) Bill Kinney, Lloyd Newland, Irma Faas (seated) and Ed Ratcliff, part of "Newland's Shop" in the Engineering Staff

the Kansas and Wyoming State Foresters and the Mt. Sopris Nursery. We did get a Certificate of Merit for this work.

My branch fully supported the Regional Fire Teams as Equipment Officers and all of us at one time or another served fire duty both in and outside of the region.

I'm proud to say that I travelled and helped folks in every region in the country, on every Forest in the region, every district, almost every work center in the region and nearly all of the research work units of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Ranch Experiment Station.

I had one of the best jobs in the Forest Service and am proud that my unit was known as "Newland's Shop". I retired in July 1982. Donna and I believe our best friends were, and still are, part of the Forest Service family.

Remembrances



Glen and Linda Eyre

August 24, 1947 – January 5, 2013

May 10, 1949 – January 5, 2013

Glen Eyre, age 65, and Linda Eyre, age 63 of Grand Junction, Colorado died in a tragic accident Saturday, January 5, 2013. Glen and Linda began their lives in Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

After their kids started school, Linda went to work for the Pagosa Hardware, and also worked at Pagosa Floors and Lights. While in Pagosa their love for the outdoors flourished, spending as much time outside in the woods as physically possible. They both retired, for the first time in May 1999. After a few years of backpacking and playing, they returned to work for the United State Forest Service, as Wilderness Rangers and working in the Range Division. They retired the second and final time in October 2009.

Around this time, they permanently relocated to Grand Junction, Colorado and began the prime of their lives. When they weren't busy enjoying their three grandchildren, they were hiking, bowling, skiing, or spending time with Linda's parents.

C. (Tom) Evans

Tom Thomas Evans passed away Sunday, Feb. 3, 2013. He was born in Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 29, 1922 to Thomas and Lulu and married Twila Benedick in 1952. Tom was a U.S. Navy "Seabee" Officer in WWII and served in the Pacific theater. After the war he graduated from the University of Idaho. He was a forester on the Yampa District and the Black Hills, District Ranger at Stub Creek (before electricity) on the Roosevelt, District Ranger at Eagle, Timber Staff on the San Isabel, Watershed Staff in the Regional Office, Forest Supervisor on the Pike National Forest, and Forest Supervisor on the White River National Forest where he retired in 1980. He is survived by his wife Twila, daughter Kathy, son Tom and daughter Patty plus spouses and grand kids.

Joe Jensen

Joseph E. Jensen died in late April 2013. He was born in 1923 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Rueben L. and Della Jensen. He attended the University of Utah and served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. Joe worked in Aviation Management in the Regional Office from the early 60's until his retirement in 1980.

Marsha Druker

Marsha Druker passed away on 11/30/12. She worked 33 years in government service and retired in July 2011 as a contract administrator for the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Region headquarters. Marsha was loved dearly by her family and friends and her beautiful singing voice is missed greatly.

Mrs. Druker was born July 20, 1951, in Denver. She attended Colfax Elementary, Lake Junior High, North High, the University of Phoenix and CU. In August, 1981, she married Paul Scott Druker. Mr. Druker passed away in April, 2007. Mrs. Druker is survived by her half-brother Richard Stein of Centennial.

Remembrances

Kenneth C. Scholz

Kenneth Carl Scholz, 92, passed away Sunday, Aug. 3, 2013, at his home. He was born April 23, 1921, in Appleton City, MO. He graduated from Colorado State University in forestry and began working for the U.S. Forest Service in Pingree Park outside of Fort Collins, CO. His career took him to many locations in the western part of the United States. He had a ranger district 48 miles outside of Cody, WY, then to Buffalo, WY, Idaho Springs, CO, Custer, SD, where he was the Fire

Control Officer for the Deadwood fire in 1959, then on to the Denver office. He was also the Supervisor of the White River National Forest in Glenwood Springs, CO. He returned to Custer as the Supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest. He went to Washington, DC, for several years before going to Billings, MT. He was happily married to Phyllis (McFarland) Scholz for 66 years. He was preceded in death by his wife Phyllis; his brother, and sister. Grateful to have share his remarkable life are his three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Morris Ferguson

Morris Dee "Ferg" Ferguson, 94, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013, at Custer Regional Senior Care.

Ferg was born July 17, 1918, in Alvord, TX, to John and Jewel (Howard) Ferguson. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943 until 1946 and fought with the combat infantry in Europe during World War II, receiving a Bronze Star for valor.

Ferg began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1947, and

worked many years on the Black Hills National Forest, retiring in 1976.

He married Virginia Harris in 1951, and together they raised three children. Ferg is survived by his wife, Virginia I. Ferguson of Custer; son, Gary (Anne Marie) of Oakland, CA; daughters, Sharon (Dean) Kurtz and Wanda (Rick) Wheeler, all of Custer; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sister, Betty Huebner of Palestine,

Duane Haywood

Duane Haywood who retired from the Dillon Ranger District on the Arapaho NF in 1982 passed away on Feb. 21, 2013. Mr. Haywood lived and worked in business management in Steamboat Springs, Glenwood Springs and Eagle, Colorado, Superior, Montana and Dillon, Colorado with the U.S. Forest Service. He retired in 1982 after 30 years of service. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Elks Lodge in Rifle, Colorado.

Remembrances

Andrew Kordziel

Andrew J. (Andy) Kordziel died on May 18, 2013 in Golden, CO. He was preceded in death by his wife Gertrude of 58 years. He was born on Nov. 12, 1925. Andy joined the Navy in 1944 and served aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga in the South Pacific during WW II. He graduated from University of Denver in the early 1950's. Andy spent many years as a supervisor in the Regional Office Geomtronics Section. He was in charge of compilation and editing information from the ground and aerial photos for making Forest Service maps. Andy transferred to the USGS in the later years of his employment.

He is survived by 5 children, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren Andy will always be remembered for his smiles, humor and days on the football field.

Charles Henry (Charlie) Miller

Charles Henry Miller died June 29, 2013 in Glenwood Springs, CO. He was born Dec. 19, 1931 in Grand Rapids, MI to Harold and Ethel Miller. Charles worked for many years in engineering on the White River National Forest. He served in the Air Force and was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Glenwood.

Daniel Gustafson

Daniel Gene Gustafson, 63, of Lakewood, Colorado, passed away Monday, July 15, 2013, after a five year illness of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Maribeth Gustafson, who is the Deputy Regional Forester for Operations in the R-2. He was born to Alvin Gustafson and Violet Marie McGregor in Sault Ste. Marie. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University. He served six years in the Michigan National Guard. Dan began his Forest Service career on the Hiawatha National Forest and in 1977 relocated to San Diego, California. There he met Maribeth Kottman whom he married on May 10, 1988.

Dan enjoyed buying and renovating homes as he and Maribeth relocated numerous times throughout California and Nevada, finally residing in Lake Tahoe before moving to Colorado in 2005. A Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer, Fire Arms Instructor, and Special Agent for 20 years, Dan retired in 2001.

Dan was a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman.

Dan is survived by his loving wife of 25 years, Maribeth; his 99 year old mother Violet; three brothers, a sister and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Alvin; brother Gary; and nephew Mark.

Frank Meydrech

Lee Frank Meydrech died May 12, 2013 in Williamsburg, Co. He was born July 6, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois to William F. and Marie (Janik) Meydrech. Lee was a Veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during WWII. He was united in marriage to Beth May DeGraaf; she preceded him in death in 2005. Lee was a draftsman for several National Forest services in Colorado for over 35 years and is perhaps best known for his cartoonist talents and coming up with the saying "Pack it in, pack it out." He lived in Parachute, CO.

Lee worked on the Pike NF for several years in the 60's and 70's.. He worked various odd jobs including doing the art work for the "pack it in - pack it out" posters. He also painted a large depiction of Zebulon Pike looking out over to Pikes Peak which hung in the summit house for many years. Lee created a display for the Salida District that showed the 4 ranger districts combining to make the Salida Ranger district of the 80's. He worked one season on the Regional Pike hotshot fire crew. He left the Pike and transferred to the BLM in Glenwood Springs where he retired. He is survived by four children, 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Remembrances

Melvin Keith "Pete" Peterson

Melvin Keith "Pete" Peterson of Eckert, CO passed away April 27, 2013. He was the Road Maintenance Crew Foremen for many years on the GMUG NF. Pete started on the GMUG NF in 1965 and retired May 1994. Pete was born in Cedaredge, CO in 1938 and parents were Frank and Anita Peterson and married Carol in 1962. He served in the U.S. Army and returned to the Cedaredge area where he lived his entire life. Melvin is survived by his wife, Carol of Eckert; son, Keith Peterson and wife Theresa of Eckert; daughter, Angie Wilson and husband John of Grand Junction; a sister, Betty Kendrick of Eckert; and four grandchildren: Marty Peterson, Josiah Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson and Thomas Wilson.

Thomas B. "Tom" Williams

Tom Williams died on June 30, 2013 in Glenwood Springs, CO. He went to work for the Forest Service in Kalispell, MT and then moved to Ft. Collins. He then worked for many years on the White River N.F. in Glenwood before moving to Alaska and finally Ogden, UT where he retired. He moved back to Glenwood Springs after retirement in 1982. He was very instrumental in obtaining right-of-ways and access to the Maroon Bells Recreation Area. He was also very involved in the Ruedi Reservoir project as well as the Vail Pass and Glenwood Canyon highway projects. Much of his time on the White River was designing and laying out roads and campgrounds. He had 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Len Ruggiero

Dr. Len Ruggiero, former project leader for the Rocky Mountain Research Station's Wildlife Ecology Unit in Missoula MT, passed away May 2nd. His family indicated that he was found on the floor of his home where he appeared to have fallen and struck his head. He was believed to have died immediately and was found soon after by a family member. Len had been diagnosed with a degenerative neurological disorder near the time that he retired from RMRS, a few years ago. As a result of his condition, he had been experiencing increasing difficulties with his balance and was prone to falling.

Len greeted the world with a broad smile, a powerful handshake, and a sincere love of the camaraderie of humanity. He was a catalyst to the success of many up-and-coming scientists within the station and beyond. Len was a man of great vision who saw obstacles merely as stepping stones to achieving those visions. During his tenure at RMRS, he built a program of wildlife research of national and international notoriety that set new standards for excellence across Forest Service Research. Len was a passionate man who was deeply dedicated to wildlife conservation. His personal contribution to wildlife conservation was immense, and his legacy will continue to benefit wildlife for generations to come. Many of us in the Rocky Mountains remember Len and his passion for the work he did.

Sigur C. "Sig" Stavran

Sigur "Sig" Stavran of Grand Junction, CO died on 23rd of January, 2013. Sig was born in Rock Springs in 1936 and lived in a lot of places. He was an engineer with the Forest Service for 36 years and during that time and lived in Denver, Steamboat Springs, Gunnison, Cody, WY, Custer, SD and Missoula MT.

He retired after living in Cedar City, Utah for six years. He also lived in Anchorage, AL for a short time. After his retirement, he worked for several places and finally started working in the engineering department for the City of Fruita. He worked there for ten years retiring on the 31st of December, 2012.

Remembrances

Dan E. Williams

Dan E. Williams passed away June 5, 2013 after a hard fought battle with cancer. He was born in Pueblo, CO to Jim and Florabelle Williams on February 1, 1935. In September 1956, he married his sweetheart, Karen Stout. They were inseparable until his passing. Dan was retired Director of Recreation from R-2. He also was Forest Supervisor on Malheur in R-6 and worked in R-8 as recreation staff officer on Florida N.F.s. He also worked in Recreation in R.O. in R-3 and was ranger on the Coronado N.F. After retirement for the Forest Service, he taught Natural Resource courses in the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at CSU in Ft Collins. Dan is survived by his wife Karen Williams of Lakewood, Co; along with 3 daughters, Bobbi Muhovich (Jon) Grand Junction Co; Patti Thompson Lakewood, Co; Sandi Swayne (Jesse) Lakewood, Co. He also has two older surviving siblings, sister Lila Houghton Pueblo, Co and brother Jim Williams, Walsenberg, Co. Dan had six wonderful grandchildren who adored him: Nichole Torres (Henry), Rachelle Stubby (Tory), Jerrick Swayne, Tony Muhovich, Tim Muhovich, and Joshua Swayne, and two great grandsons Hayden and Jade Torres.

Richard (Dick) Wengert

Richard Wengert passed away in January after a nearly three-year battle with cancer. Dick served as timber and fire staff on the Pike & San Isabel and Black Hills National Forests, before he was appointed as Forest Supervisor in Kentucky, where he retired.

Dick was born in Fort Wayne Ind. to Hugo and Magdalena Wengert on Nov. 12, 1930. He attended Purdue University where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Forest Management and upon graduation was drafted into the Army and sent to Korea for two years. Upon arriving home he married the love of his life, Patricia Kerr Wengert, and together they raised four children as they traveled the United States with Dick's job as a forester with the US Forest Service.

Dick started his Forest Service career as a smokejumper in 1950 and ended his career as forest supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest. Upon his retirement it was said that "every aspect of the Daniel Boone NF improved under his administration, including the overall health of the forest, fish and wildlife resources, recreation opportunities and the education and training of young people."

Kenneth Eugene Peterson

Kenneth Eugene Peterson, 68, of Entiat, WA, husband of Mary Peterson, former Forest Supervisor on Medicine Bow-Routt and Nebraska NF's passed away at home on June 17, 2013. Ken was born in Yakima, WA to Herman and Helen (Nollette) Peterson on November 6, 1944. After high school graduation in 1962, Ken joined the Army and served three years at Fort Ord, CA. Ken met his future wife Mary in 1977, when they both worked on the Wenatchee National Forest.

They were married on July 2, 1984 in Reno, NV.

Before his retirement in 2006, Ken worked at several jobs, including high school English teacher, forestry technician for the US Forest Service in Washington and Oregon, and as a recreation technician for both Nebraska and Wyoming State Parks. Ken is survived by his wife Mary, five sisters, and three brothers and numerous nieces and nephews.

Remembrances

Gary Metcalf

Gary was born on the family farm in Decatur County, Kansas on Aug. 25, 1931 to Elmer and Vida May (Berry) Metcalf. He and his two siblings attended country school northeast of Oberlin, Kansas, and Gary graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1949. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Oct. 1950 and spent the next four years as a Machinist's Mate on the U.S.S. Gunston Hall, making several trips across the Pacific to Korea and Japan.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Gary married Elinor Nielsen and the couple had one daughter, Joyceane (Peterson). They moved to Georgia, where Gary graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in Forestry in 1960. Gary's career as a forester began in Illinois, but he soon began work on a Master's Degree at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He was employed by the U.S. Forest Service from 1963-1989, working on the Black Hills National Forest for the first ten years. During that time he lived at Deadwood SD., Sundance WY, and Custer, SD. In 1973 he was transferred to the Medicine Bow National Forest, Laramie, WY, where he spent four years. The last twelve years of his career were in Timber Management in the U.S.F.S. Regional Office in Lakewood, CO.

Gary met his current wife, Mary, in 1973, and the two made their lives together beginning in 1974 and marrying in 1994.

Survivors include his wife, his daughter, four grandchildren: , and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, a great-great-nephew and great-great-niece, and other relatives and friends.

Helen McGranahan

Helen Marie Kelly McGranahan, a botanist and lifelong plant enthusiast on the Black Hills NF, passed away August 3, 2013. She was born in 1960. Her formative years and many of her adult years were spent on her family's Century Farm in north Central Oregon. She came to South Dakota in 2002. She was very active in the community as leader of the garden club and wrote extensive articles and worked tirelessly on efforts to inform the

public about bark beetles, plants, and nature in general. Her husband, Greg, works as the timber contracting officer for the Forest.

Survivors include her husband, Gregory McGranahan, Custer; father, Veryl Kelly, The Dalles, Ore.; and sisters Laura Mitchell, Auburn, Wash., and Irene Jerome, John Day, Ore. A memorial has been established to Custer County Master Gardner's or the Juniper Flat Rural Fire District.

Delores Ann (Dee) Knorr

Delores Ann Knorr, 73, of Evans, Colo., died Saturday, July 20, 2013, at her residence. She was born on April 28, 1940, to George and Irene (Jones) Barber in Sterling, Colo., where she grew up and graduated from Sterling High School. After high school, Delores continued her education graduating from Barnes Business School in Denver where she met Ed Knorr. They were married on Dec. 7, 1958, and moved to Summit County Colorado where she began a career with the Forest Service. Over the years she worked in Kremmling and Dillon, Colo., Chadron, Neb., Laramie, Wyo., and Denver where she

retired as an Administrative Officer. Delores enjoyed gardening, dancing, and especially enjoyed tole painting. She will be remembered by her family as a loving mother, grandmother, sister aunt and friend. Delores is survived by two sons and their wives, Robert and Gayle Knorr of Dillon, Colo., Greg and Tami Knorr of Ulm, Mont.; grandchildren, Jeremy Ritchey and his wife, Jamie, Chris Knorr and Jessie Knorr; sister, Linda French of Evans; numerous nieces and nephews; and a loving extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brother, George Barber.

Remembrances



Wilma J. Pence

Wilma J. Pence of Arvada died on March 8, 2013. She worked in the Regional Office for many years. Wilma Jean Thornton was born on December 28, 1923 in Bentonville, Arkansas to Earl and Neoma Thornton. She came to Colorado before 1940 and was first married in Colorado in 1943. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Pence. She is the mother of Rodney (Joan) Card, Lynnette (Benny) Millwood, Mark (Lisa) Radovich, and Marilyn Radovich. She had 8 grandchildren (Kevin, Kari, Dave, Andrea, Mandy, Michelle, Brett, and Zach) and 13 great grandchildren- (Ty, Hayden, Halle, Ceanne, Delaney, Allie, Mae, Shelby, Jaycee, Jake, Faith, Makayla and Cody)

Edward Daniel (Ed) Lockhart

Edward Daniel Lockhart, of Delta, CO passed away on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at his residence. He was 95 years of age. Edward was born to Ray and Bess Lockhart in Delta, Colorado where he spent his childhood. Ed was the youngest of 7 children and graduated from Delta High School and attended Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado.

He cowboied for several years, and married the love of his life Lela (Jo) Maher; whom he met at the Egyptian Theater where she was a ticket taker. They just celebrated 72 years of marriage on June 24, 2013.

Ed and Jo lived in Delta County where he ranched and cowboied until he went to work for the Forest Service in 1961. He retired after 22 years in the Forest Service to his home in Delta, Colorado. He went back to the cowboy life for another 20 plus years. Ed was a member of the B.P.O.E. Elks Club and was recognized for being the oldest living member of the Elks in 2011. Ed was known for his great love of man, animals and his family.

Ed is survived by his wife, Lela (Jo) Lockhart; three children: Dale Lockhart of Grand Junction, Mary Lockhart-Moschette of Edmond, Oklahoma and Margaret Ann Mauzy of Delta, Colorado; several nephews and nieces; four grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The Forest Photo Files

Do you know more about these photos? Let us know. Send us one of your photos and we'll publish it and share information about it.



First Motorcycle Fire Patrol about 1923 or 24
F. Shepard, Patrol Man



R-2 Regional Leadership Team in 1991 at the Sheraton Hotel on Union Street in Lakewood. (Photo by Pete Wingle)

Historic Ranger Stations in the Rocky Mountain Region

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about historic ranger stations in R-2.

The Horseshoe Ranger Station and the Grand County Forest Service History Project



The Williams Fork Ranger District, located in the headwaters of the Williams Fork River in Grand County Colorado, was originally part of the Leadville National Forest. It came under the jurisdiction of the Arapaho National Forest when that Forest was proclaimed in 1908 from parts of the Leadville, Medicine Bow and Pikes Peak National Forests. In 1907, Forest Supervisor Stroup wrote a letter (excerpt above) to The Forester in Washington, DC requesting certain land be set aside to establish a new ranger station. The land was eventually made available,



Ranger Lewis Davis (in chaps) with his work crew.

and in 1916 a work crew led by Ranger Lewis Davis constructed the buildings for the Horseshoe Ranger Station.

"This is the best location for permanent headquarters that we have been able to find on this District. Central, good pasture, and ample hay land to furnish winter feed for the Rangers stock, for the present and also when the number of men on the district is increased."

Typical of the first Forest Service ranger stations, the Horseshoe Ranger Station was built by the ranger himself as a place to live and headquarters for his district operations. After district consolidations in 1929, the Horseshoe Ranger Station was used as a work center and bunkhouse for seasonal employees until the late 1970s.

The ranger's office building and ranger's house are the only structures still in existence from the original Horseshoe Ranger Station. They are the oldest Forest Service buildings remaining in Grand County. Recognizing the historic significance of these early Forest Service buildings which were scheduled for destruction, the Grand County Historical Association arranged to move the old office building to its Pioneer Village Museum site in Hot Sulphur Springs. In 2006 the ranger's house was moved to the Heritage Park Museum site in Kremmling where it is being restored to reflect its original purpose on a Forest Service ranger station compound.

The structural restoration is nearly complete. An interpretive plan has been developed to guide the preparation of exhibits to present the rich and colorful story of the Forest Service in Grand County which is inseparable from the County's history of settlement and growth. The GCHA has collected early ranger letters, photos, oral history recordings, and other material to use in the exhibits. The staffs of the Supervisor's Office of the Arapaho-Roosevelt/Pawnee National Grasslands, the R2 Regional Office, and the Sulphur Ranger District have been exceedingly helpful in providing access to files, photos and other items for this project. Additional material and stories from Forest Service employees or families of employees who worked on the several ranger districts in Grand County are welcome. For more information about this project you may contact Dan Nolan (dnolan829@gmail.com or 720.937.8058).

Vodka and Volcanoes: Welcome to Russia

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about retirees' whereabouts and travel

As our cruise ship slowly approached Avacha Bay, it was obvious, although it was May 13, spring had not yet arrived in this part of Russia.

A solid cover of snow reached all the way down to the waterline, and with



In May, spring had not arrived, and much of the land and buildings were still covered in snow.

the temperature hovering around freezing, nothing was melting anytime soon.

My wife Ellen and I were about to take our first steps into Russia.

Petropavlovsk is located on the southeast coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula, with a population of 180,000. While it's larger than California, Kamchatka has only 200 miles of paved roads. Strangely enough, Petropavlovsk is prone to terrific traffic jams. It also is rattled by earthquakes almost every day.

The Kamchatka Peninsula is formed by 150 volcanoes, 25 of which are active. It is surrounded by the Okhotsk Sea to the west, the Pacific Ocean to

the south and the Bering Sea to the east. It is home to the world's largest population of brown bears, estimated at more than 10,000.

We had signed up for a shore excursion, Kamchatka Volcanoes by ATV, which promised to be scenic and interesting. Our cruise began in Tokyo and would end two weeks later in Anchorage. We made two other Japanese stops in Hakodate and Kushiro on the northern island of Hokkaido and then cruised for three nights and two days northeast along the Kuril Islands to reach Petropavlovsk.

Avacha Bay is actually a flooded caldera and is host to the largest Russian nuclear submarine base in the country. The Russian authorities gave us and our passports a thorough inspection before they let us leave the ship.



Ellen Hodges points to what in Russia is considered an ATV.

The Cold War might have ended a few decades ago, but Russian paranoia endures. Maybe it was the fear of potential spies among the geezers onboard. They refused to let any of the crew even get off of the ship.

We arrived onshore and got our first look at the "ATVs". The Russian definition of an ATV is much different than the American. These were actually army surplus trucks that we would call a 6x6, or a deuce and a half.

There were three of them, and they all had an enclosed compartment built onto the back to haul passengers. The interior was lined with orange shag carpeting that covered the walls and the ceiling. We had that same carpet in our house back in the 1970s.

We crammed 17 people into each vehicle and took off. I sat next to our interpreter/guide Anna and she pointed out the sights of Petropavlovsk as we bumped through the city streets full of huge potholes.

We passed a giant statue of Lenin overlooking the harbor. Anna said "Lenin is the father of communism and our hero." I asked if Putin was also a hero and she gave me a cold stare and said "No!" I guess Putin isn't a favorite in this part of the country.

Anna was in her 20s, a college student studying German and English. She had

a 1-year-old son. Her husband was in the navy and had been gone for eight months, somewhere around North Korea. We were soon out of town and turned off of the paved road. Anna announced we would now be traveling up a “dry riverbed.” The only problem was the “dry river-bed” had about 2 feet of soft snow on it. As we started slowly climbing, I looked behind us, and we were leaving ruts about 3 feet deep in the snow and

situation. Alex, who was apparently the man in charge, was talking on his cellphone. Eventually a couple of snowcats roared down from above to rescue us. The only problem was they could only haul 30 people, and we had 50 in our group. After quickly doing the math, Ellen and I scrambled into a snowcat. One of the people left behind included our interpreter, Anna. Our destination was a cabin where we were to have lunch and view the

volcanoes. We continued to climb through forests of birch and alder for several miles, but they soon disappeared, and we seemed to be above timberline. Then it started snowing and blowing, reducing visibility to about a half-mile.

After 3 1/2 hours, a building came into view. The cabin was two stories high, and the snow was so deep we parked at a spot level with the roof. The entrance to the cabin was on the first floor about 15 feet below us.

Everyone’s first destination was the little A-frame building sitting

was covered in snow and ice. The accommodations were primitive, only a hole in the ground. This made for some tricky maneuvers, especially for the women inside the tiny building. We crowded into the cabin for lunch. There was no electricity or running water, but there was plenty of vodka and Champagne. The main course for lunch was a borscht with vegetables and a couple of types of meat that we didn’t recognize. Ellen called it vertebrae soup. After lunch, we were in a much better mood and wandered outside into a total whiteout.

We were sure there were spectacular volcanoes to see from our location, but we weren’t going to see them on this day.

Alex, our guide, said the weather forecast for today was clear and sunny until 4 p.m. Apparently Russian weather forecasters have something in common with their American counterparts. Some days just don’t turn out as planned.

For a great book about this part of the world, locate a copy of “Tent Life in Siberia” by George Kennan.

It is the true story of an effort in the 1860s to build a telegraph line from America to Europe via Kamchatka and Siberia. First published in 1870, Kennan’s encounters with the native people are entertaining and often hilarious.

Ellen and Johnny Hodges are crazy about traveling when they are not at home in Fort Collins.



A statue of Lenin, the father of communism, stands in downtown Petropavlovsk, Russia.

mud. Twenty minutes later, all three vehicles spun to a halt; we were stuck. The Russian drivers huddled outside smoking cigarettes and discussing our

all alone — the outhouse. There had been no rest stop since we left the ship and a line quickly formed. The outhouse had a wooden floor, but it

By Tom Thompson, retiree



In this photo at Devil's Head Lookout on the Pike National Forest, Helen Dowe, who was one of the first woman lookouts, scans the forest through the Osborne Fire Finder nearly a hundred years ago.

From Devil's Head, Helen could see a good bit of Colorado. Many things have changed for the Forest Service and the State of Colorado in the years since she looked out across the forested landscape of the Pike National Forest. The population of Colorado in 1920 was about 350,000 people with nearly $\frac{3}{4}$

of those in the City of Denver. When she died in 1975, the population had grown to about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ million. Today there are more than 5 million living in the State and another million are expected in the next seven years or so.

Just down the mountain to the west she could have seen the newly completed Cheesman Dam which was to be the cornerstone back then of private and public efforts to supply water to Denver. Her husband John Burgess was a civil engineer and worked for the Denver Municipal Water Works. During her lifetime she would witness development of most of the major water developments for the Denver Water Department, including the Moffat Tunnel, Williams Fork, Dillon Reservoir and Roberts Tunnel, and Gross Dam that were intended to be able to provide all the water Denver would need for many, many years.

Looking to the southeast toward Colorado Springs she might have known Walt Shaefer who managed the Monument Tree Nursery which had started operations in 1907. Seedlings were being grown there to replant areas that had been charred by wildfires. With all the improvements in our knowledge, technology and equipment, she would be saddened to see the impacts of the Buffalo Creek, High Meadows, Hayman, Four Mile, High Park, Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires. Most of these would have been within her view from Devils Head. That nearly 1500 homes would be lost in these and several other fires along the front range within a few years would be and is difficult to imagine. Much of the landscape now looks much like it did back then when many acres had been charred and eroding.

Likewise, the impact of the mountain pine beetle in the past 10 years would be a shocking reality to Helen. She would likely ask the question of "How could these forests be so

Helen was born in Denver, Colorado on November 19, 1889. Her parents, Sheldon and Jessie Cochran Dowe, had both died by 1898. She was raised in Denver by her Uncle Fergus Cochran and his wife Lydia. She was a librarian, an artist, and a school teacher. For several years (1919-1921) she worked for the U.S. Forest Service and was the lookout at Devil's Head Fire Lookout. She married John Burgess on December 1, 1921 and in 1924 had a daughter, Mary Helen, who died in 1941. Helen Dowe Burgess died at age 85 in December, 1975. She is buried along with her husband John and daughter Mary in the Fairmont Cemetery in Denver.

devastated under management and conservation leadership of what should be the world's premiere forestry organization?"

In 1919, Helen lived in the 1300 block on Clayton. Among her neighbors were Arthur Carhart (and his wife Vee) who had arrived in Colorado in 1919 to become the "Recreation Engineer" at the regional headquarters and were in lodging at 1308 Elizabeth just a block west of where she lived. The Forest Service headquarters office was downtown a couple of miles west in the Denver Post building on Champa. The recreation potential of the public lands managed by the Forest Service was just beginning to be recognized. During Helen's lifetime she would see growth that could never have been imagined in 1920. Roads, trails, campgrounds, ski areas and even towns were built to serve visitors from all across the country and even the world. Places like Vail, CO only exist because of the ski area on National Forest System land and a commitment to provide recreation to a public that has ever changing values, wants and needs.

Helen, like many of us, saw many changes in her time. Some of this change could probably be seen as good and some not so good. Being able to observe change and understand the dynamics and resiliency of our forests and grasslands gives most of us who worked with natural resources a perspective of and appreciation for change not necessarily shared by most people today.

