



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Spring 2014

Memorial Grove 2014

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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.

On May 3rd the weather was beautiful with temperatures approaching 80 degrees. Nearly 200 family members and friends gathered at the Region's Memorial Grove at the base of Mt. Herman a few miles west of Monument, CO. They had come from all around the region and across the country to honor and remember thirty-six people who dedicated a good part of their lives to the U.S. Forest Service in Region 2. Pikes Peak District Ranger Alan Hahn welcomed the families and an honor guard from the United States Air Force Academy raised the colors and then lowered them to half-staff in recognition of the honorees service and dedication.

Regional Forester Dan Jirón expressed his gratitude for all the families in attendance and reflected how important this Memorial is to the Region's spirit and tradition. Former Pikes Peak Ranger Bill Nelson personalized the history of the Grove from its beginnings after World War I in 1920 until today. Music was provided by singer/guitarist Jane Leche and Pipe Major Ken Giese.



Former Pikes Peak Ranger Bill Nelson helps former Deputy Regional Forester Sid Hanks attach the 2014 plaque.

Former Deputy Chief Tom L. Thompson chose to speak about the true meaning of service to country. He wove together the lifelong accomplishments of this year's honorees and their dedication to the Forest Service and to military service. Over half of this year's honorees served in the military, included involvement in World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, and the Middle East.

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Pikes Peak Ranger Al Hahn leads the riderless horse around the Grove.

Stories from Iwo Jima and the Ticonderoga aircraft carrier in the South Pacific to combat in Europe as part of the Greatest Generation were among the history of these honorees. Service to country was not only the theme of Tom's comments it was the theme of most of these folks lives.

The "rider-less horse" portion of the ceremony and the playing of bagpipes in the distance was truly appreciated because it gave all a chance to reflect on the true meaning of why we were gathering in the meadow next to a grove of blue spruce that has been growing since 1921. The brass plaque was mounted on the memorial with the names of this year's thirty-six honorees. Tom Thompson read the honoree's names and family members from over twenty of the honorees were able to share remembrances of their loved ones.



Tom Thompson plays taps.

After "taps" was played in the distance, Ranger Hahn invited all attendees to participate in the Memorial Tree planting led by Jeff Hovermale. Lunch was served by the Pikes Peak Ranger District and there was time to visit with family members and friends who were in attendance. Conceptual drawings of a permanent shelter facility were on display and many folks were excited to see preliminary ideas and realize

that someday this possibility may become a reality.

For a complete listing of all honorees who have been recognized at Memorial Grove since it's beginnings in 1920, go to the Rocky



Michelle daLuz Barry and her daughter Quinn get a horseback ride after the ceremony.

Mountaineers website at "rockymountaineers.us" and open the tab "In Memory," then click "Memorial Grove" and then find the listing under "Memory Grove Honorees."



Jeff Hovermale leads the planting of the memorial tree.



Gourmet chili is served up by members of the Pikes Peak Ranger District.

Below is a listing of all the honorees that were honored at the ceremony on May 3, 2014:

2013

Clyde Lee Boyce
Ernest William Chapman
Michael Andrew (Mike) da Luz
Thomas C. (Tom) Evans
Glen Robert Eyre
Linda Sue Eyre
Morris D. (Ferg) Ferguson
Marsha Lynn Druker (2012)
Charles C. (Charlie) Hathaway
Duane D. Haywood
Raymond Michael (Mike) Hegler
Joseph E. (Joe) Jensen
Malinda R. (Mindy) Jiminez
Randall L. (Randy) Karstaedt
Delores Ann (Dee) Knorr
Andrew J. (Andy) Kordziel
Steven D. Kyle
Edward D. (Ed) Lockhart
Helen M. McGranahan

Gary E. Metcalf
Lee Frank Meydrech
Charles Henry (Charlie) Miller
Hubertus J. (Herb) Mittmann
George J. Nagy
Wilma J. Pence
Melvin (Pete) Peterson
Kenneth C. (Ken) Scholz
Roger A. Shepard
Sigur C. (Sig) Stavran
Kathleen D. (Kay) Thompson
Dan E. Williams
Thomas B. (Tom) Williams

Not Forgotten

Carol Dawn Frahm (2008)
Carlyne M. Orr (2012)
Helen Dowe Burgess (1975)
Walter Herman Schrader (1963)

“We will never forget!”

This year we also recognize the 20th anniversary of the South Canyon fire near Glenwood Springs, CO and remember the fourteen young firefighters who were lost on that fire on July 5, 1994. Families and friends of these individuals will be gathering in July to remember their loved ones.

Kathi Beck
Tammi Bickett
Scott Blecha
Levi Brinkley
Robert Browning
Douglas Dunbar
Terri Hagen



Bonnie Holtby
Robert Johnson
Jon Kelso
Don Mackey
Roger Roth
James Thrash
Richard Tyler

Memorial Grove Proposed Improvements

The U.S. Forest Service, in conjunction with the Rocky Mountaineers and others, are proposing permanent improvements to the facilities and amenities at the Memorial Grove Site on the Pikes Peak Ranger District.

The Memorial Grove dates back to the early 1920s, when Forest Service employees who died in active duty during WWI, were honored with the planting of a tree in their memory. Today, that tradition continues with the annual planting of a tree in memory of all Region 2 employees who passed away in the previous year.

Hundreds visit the Grove to remember and honor their co-workers, friends or family members during a memorial ceremony held the first Saturday of May.

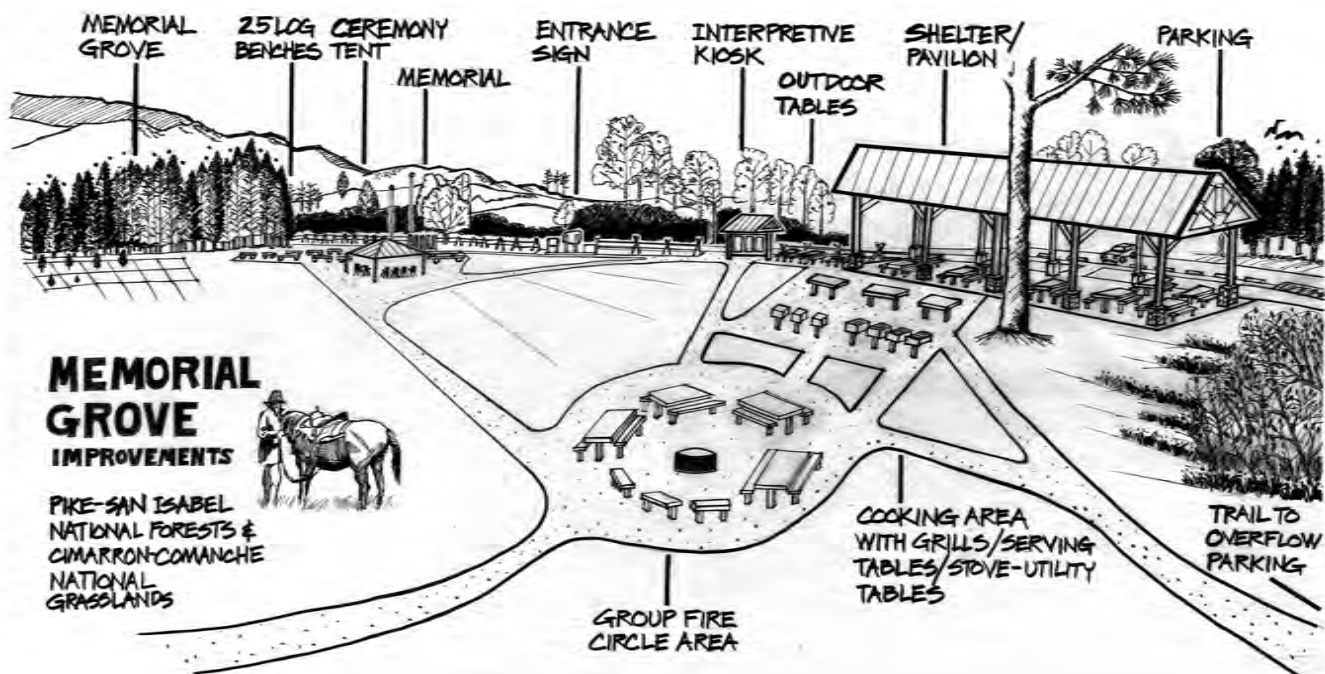
These proposed improvements are compatible with the Civilian Conservation Corp era architecture at the Monument Fire Center, home to Memorial Grove.

- Picnic Shelter
- Toilets
- Irrigation System
- Interpretive Exhibits
- Short Trail
- Accessible Parking
- Yearly Markers
- Seating
- Group Fire Ring

This long-term vision for the site would be implemented as funding becomes available. The site may also be available for group rental with the revenue helping to fund the maintenance and upkeep of these improvements.

Your comments or suggestions on the plan will help us develop this vision: Please send or email (nweierbach@fs.fed.us) comments to:

Neal Weierbach, Recreation Program Manager
Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
2840 Kachina Drive
Pueblo, CO 81008



Trip to Ireland with the Rocky Mountaineers



For our first international trip, the Rocky Mountaineers are dancing an Irish jig all the way to Ireland next year. We still have room for a few more travelers.

The main trip will depart the U.S. on May 11, 2015. If you would like to include the pre-trip to Northern Ireland, the departure date will be May 6, 2015.

We will spend 12 nights in Ireland with multi-night stays to avoid too much packing/unpacking. We will spend 3 nights in Galway, 3 in Killarney, 2 in Cork, 2 in Kilkenny and 2 in Dublin.

This trip is exclusive to the Rocky Mountaineers and unavailable to the general public. You may invite friends and family to come along.

We are traveling with Grand Circle Travel (GCT). We will tour mostly by bus with a full-time guide. 21 meals are included with 12 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 6 dinners.

This isn't a "tourist death march." Ireland is a small country so there are no long bus rides. You will have plenty of free time to explore on your own (or take a nap).

We have arranged for an incredible value. Cost of the trip (before discounts) including airfare from Denver is \$3595. Air is available from other cities, but may vary slightly in price.

GCT offers an early-bird discount if you pay in full (no credit cards) within 14 days of your reservation. The current discount is 8%.

In addition, at the end of the trip, the Rocky Mountaineers will give you a 10% cash discount. That's 18% off and GCT will give you another 5% credit towards your next trip. How can you stay home?

- 1) To make a reservation, call GCT at 800-597-2452, option 2
- 2) Mention "Service Code" G5-22528
- 3) Deposit is \$350 per person

To view a detailed itinerary, go to www.gct.com/eid15

If you have questions, call Johnny Hodges at 970-226-6890 or send a message to rmountaineers@gmail.com



So many pubs, so little time...come with us!



Tom Thompson and Skip Underwood present an award to Pat Lynch and Mike Lynch of Western Heritage Company on May 5. The award is a plaque which includes a letter recognizing the company's 37 years of outstanding service and partnership in preserving the Forest Service heritage. The letter is signed by Forest Service Chief, Tom Tidwell and Rocky Mountaineers Chair Skip Underwood. The letter is surrounded on the plaque by logos of the national and regional Forest Service retiree organizations as well as the National Museum of Forest Service History and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. Pat, a former Forest Service employee, founded the company in 1976 in Encampment, Wyoming and his son, Mike, is now the president who operates the company in Loveland, Colorado.

As a retiree what can you do to continue to help ensure the Forest Service meets its mission? Your support of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is probably



the best and most important way. NAFSR works to represent the interests of retirees

throughout the year. In the past few months, NAFSR has provided testimony on the proposed Forest Service budget, worked to provide credible information about reforestation needs and reforestation funding, actively sought positive changes

in the Forest Service response to the wildfire issues and resultant budget crisis, and initiated several other projects that reflect our interest in maintaining the traditions and leadership so critical to the Forest Service's future.

NAFSR is a respected and effective organization that stands up and speaks out in support of active forest management. NAFSR works to recognize outstanding examples of sound forest stewardship and proactive leadership in managing the National Forests and Grasslands. The organization has been and continues to have an effective

voice in communicating with Congress and to the political leadership in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your support. If you are not a member please consider joining to help support our efforts to stay involved in helping the agency meet its responsibilities and mission. Your first year of membership is free. If you have concerns or issues that you think NAFSR should be working to address, please let Tom L. Thompson know by email at tommylthompson@comcast.net or call @ 303-552-1711. To join, visit our website at "fsx.org".

Job Corps 50th

by Alicia Bennett



Dear Forest Service Retirees:

Forest Service Job Corps' 50th anniversary is just around the corner! We need your help to showcase the rich history and significant achievements of Job Corp Civilian Conservation Centers (JCCCCs) over the last five decades. You are invited to share stories on the JCCCCs and help capture the program's history by identifying Job Corps students, graduates, and staff members who exemplify why Job Corps is both needed and necessary. All 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers are planning events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps program. If you would like to participate in these celebrations, please contact Centers directly using the contact information posted at:

<http://www.jobcorps.gov/centers.aspx> or contact Alicia D. Bennett at adbennett@fs.fed.us for more information.

Check out the latest You Tube video exploring the mission, history and future of the Forest Service Job Corps program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMoV6EBLot8&feature=youtu.be>

Rendezvous on the Rio - October 2015

The Forest Service Retirees 2015 National Reunion is moving along!

The planning committee is into their 2nd year of planning for the Forest Service Retirees 2015 National Reunion in Albuquerque, NM.

If you are on Facebook, you can find our page by searching for: "National Forest Service Retiree Reunions" or type <https://www.facebook.com/fsreunions.org> into your browser.

As of December 25, 2013 we also have a website: <http://2015.fsreunions.org/>. Here you can get the latest information on the 2015 Reunion to help you in your trip planning. You can also sign up to

receive a newsletter update via email. Let all your Forest Service friends know. Albuquerque is the place to be. Join us for a Rally on the Rio in 2015! As there are no other Regions stepping up to host the 2018 National Reunion, this may be your last chance to attend one.

For further information contact:

info@2015.fsreunions.org



View of Downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico

News from Around the Region

North Zone News

Frank Cross

On March 25th 2014 the North Zone of the Rocky Mountaineers met for their first get together. Approximately 20 people met at the Wrangler Café in Custer, SD for breakfast and conversation. There was a lot of discussion about grandkids, travels and old times. There was also a general consensus that it was a fun get together and everyone wanted to do it again.

The North Zone is planning a bike ride on the Michelson trail May 21st. Starting with breakfast in Hot Springs, SD at the All Star Grille at 8:30 followed by a ride from the Minnehata Trailhead at 10:00, 16 miles to Edgemont, SD where a shuttle will bring the riders back to the trailhead.

Our apologies for not taking pictures we'll do better next time.

Arizona Picnic

Lee Carr

It took a FS retiree's picnic to bring on the rain. The March 1st picnic in Madera Canyon on the Coronado NF in Southern Arizona brought the area's first measurable rainfall of the calendar year 2014. An annual event, organized by Bob Newlin and John Mumma, goes on whether rain or shine and even when the temperatures drop into the mid-40s. Despite the weather, a gathering of 15 or so retirees still enjoyed the food and fellowship with brief issue updates by Coronado Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch and Jim Paxon representing Arizona Game and Fish. Former Rizers in attendance were Dennis Bschor, Lee and Dottie Carr, Roger and Debora Corner (and their grandkids), Bob and Mary Lillie, Erik and Judy Martin, John Mumma, Bob and Jan Newlin, Jim Paxon, Michel and Mel Shilling, and Jim and CJ Upchurch.



1Front: CJ Upchurch, Mary Lillie, Jan Newlin, Judy Martin, Mikel Shilling, Dottie Carr; Back: Dennis Bschor John Mumma, Jim Upchurch, Bob Lillie, Jim Paxon, Roger Corner (hidden), Erik Martin (hidden), Mel Shilling (hidden)

Western Slope Picnic & Rocky Mountaineers Annual Meeting



Picnic Party on the Cache La Poudre River. Colorado National Forest. May 30, 1917.

for all participants. Those who attend are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. There are plenty of food stores with deli's nearby if you choose to purchase your dish after arriving in Delta. Later in the summer we will send more details about this event and ask for a reply if you plan to attend so that we will have plenty of food and drink. Help us spread the word to people around the region so we can have a great turnout for this fun gathering. Also keep in mind that West Slope fruit & vegetables will be coming into their prime – think peaches and sweet corn!

Rocky Mountaineers Western Slope Members are inviting all FS retirees to a picnic to be held at the Lion's Club Pavilion in **Delta's Confluence Park** on **Wednesday, August 20th, 2014 at 10:30 AM**. The Park, on Gunnison River Drive, is west of US Highway 50 (McDonalds and KFC/A&W are on the corner). The Lions Club Pavilion (shelter house) is near the Delta Recreation Center. Expect a good time visiting with former colleagues and their families and hearing a few words from the Rocky Mountaineers Board members. We will also invite current local Forest Service leaders to visit with us and share what's going on locally.

The Rocky Mountaineers will host a lunch of delicious grilled meat and provide beer and soda

This is the first time in a number of years that folks on the West Slope have planned a get-together and we hope that this will be the resumption of a fun tradition.

This will be the second time this year that the Rocky Mountaineers are calling this an annual gathering because we have changed our annual gatherings to late summer/early fall on a regular basis. Each year we will plan to meet in a different locale in the Rocky Mountain Region to encourage participation of folks nearby as well as from around the Region. This will also be a good way to remind us of all the great places in our Region!

Southern Colorado News

by Karen Bergethon

The Pueblo area retirees met for lunch on April 8 at Cactus Flower Restaurant. Much news was shared about travels, family, money, health, and politics, plus several tall tales were told and a couple short tales! We look forward to welcoming the PSICC's new Forest Supervisor Erin Connelly at our next luncheon on June 19 at AJ's at Walking Stick Golf Course. If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Karen Bergethon at smokeyo813@hotmail.com

Historic Stations in the Rocky Mountain Region

Devil's Head Lookout

by Priscilla M. Riefkohl Guzmán

Pike National Forest Zone Archaeologist



Devil's Head Lookout, Pike National Forest

In the easternmost part of the Rocky Mountains, between the Denver and Colorado Springs areas, nestled on a granite outcrop over the tallest peak of the Rampart Range, you will find the historic Devil's Head Lookout Tower and Cabin. Devil's Head Lookout is located within the South Platte Ranger District of the Pike National Forest in Douglas County, Colorado. It is one of the best-known and only remaining Forest Service fire lookouts in continuous operation in the state. The view from the tower is perhaps one of the most

expansive and spectacular found anywhere in Colorado. On a clear day, mountain peaks as far as 80 miles away are visible from the observatory.

Devil's Head Lookout is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site's historic significance is due to its long association with the conservation efforts of the Forest Service, its importance as a local recreation destination, and its association with Helen Dowe, Colorado's first female lookout. The station is currently staffed by Billy Ellis.

At 81 years of age, Billy goes into the history books as the oldest working lookout in Colorado.

The site's popularity as a recreation destination has been ever increasing since Helen Dowe's day. A 1937 "Colorado Springs Gazette" article described Devil's Head as "the most visited mountain in the state of Colorado because of the famous Lookout Station". Today, the historic trail to the tower is a National Recreation Trail and visitation can reach up to 20,000 people in a single year.

Last year marked the site's 100 years of continuous use. To commemorate the occasion, in July of 2012, the South Platte Ranger District organized a series of celebratory events.

They included a symposium, guided interpretive hikes, an interpretive exhibit, a children's coloring book, a commemorative squirrel card, a pictorial postmark, and an on-site celebration.

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For the on-site celebration interpretive stations were set up all along the trail to the tower, the Regional Pack String carried up supplies, Smokey Bear entertained the youngsters, and live music was provided by the Magpies Duo. Close to 300 attendees listened to members of the Ellis family, the Partridge family, and Forest Fire Lookout Association Chairman Keith Argow share stories about their personal relationship to the site. Partners included Douglas County, the Sedalia Museum, and the Smoky Hill Trail NSDAR.

Although the lookout site has been in use for a century, the observatory and residence cabin found there today are not the original structures. The structures found at the site were built in 1951, with only slight structural modifications. However, exposure to the

elements has deteriorated them and compromised the lookout tower's structural integrity. To protect the site's integrity for 100 more years to come, this year the Pike-San Isabel National Forest partnered with Colorado Preservation Inc. and HistoriCorps to rehabilitate the lookout tower.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Colorado State Historic Fund and the Pike-San Isabel National Forest, volunteers packed up their camping gear and headed up the Devils Head trail to the tower. The project was scheduled for August, around two 5-day volunteer sessions. One of the sessions was reserved for HistoriCorps and Colorado/Utah Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association volunteers, while the other was reserved for Forest Service Passport In Time volunteers.

Due to the isolated nature of the project, gear and materials were transported in and out of the site by helicopter, on the



Denver Post, circa 1922.

backs of the Regional pack string mules or the backs of the crew. Under the management and supervision of HistoriCorps instructors, volunteers enjoyed the spectacular views while they worked diligently on replacing deteriorated structural wood features such as deck planking and railings, restoring doors and windows, re-roofing the building with cedar shingles, and refinishing all interior woodwork. The rehabilitation project was a success, but work at the site shall continue. We are proud to announce that in 2014 HistoriCorps and the South Platte Ranger District shall work together on the development of a site interpretive plan for the facilities.



Miss Helen Doves, lookout on Devil's Head.

Two Months on Devil's Head Lookout

Frank Swancara, Jr.

Any Forest Service retiree has memories galore, and I am no exception. My career began in 1970 on the Bailey Ranger District of the Pike National Forest. I submitted my SF-171 to District Ranger John Burke, and was hired a few days later as a seasonal forestry technician. At the time I lived 8 miles from Bailey, Colorado and was a teacher in the Denver Public Schools.

John Burke soon retired, and Kaye Luebchow became the Bailey Ranger. My reporting date was June 1970.

This was when the transition was occurring that combined the Pike with the San Isabel National Forest. The Bailey Ranger District was suddenly not a district anymore, and was divided between the South Park and the South Platte Ranger Districts. My first summer saw me in a split assignment between the Bailey and South Platte Districts. I divided my time between campground maintenance and "compliance checking." At Bailey I worked closely with Gene Barden, the GDA. At Buffalo Creek I worked with Al Flynn. Tom Dix was my 2nd District Ranger.

The South Platte office was in Lakewood, Colorado.

I certainly learned a lot during my seasonal years, 1970-1974. It didn't take me very long to know that the Forest Service would be my career. I was on the South Platte Ranger District mostly as a GS-9, and nearly all of my work was in the field. Then in 1990 I accepted a position as site manager at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pennsylvania, the home and estate of Gifford Pinchot.

I also have to acknowledge my long time co-worker and friend

Steve Vest. Steve was a very skilled person. We fought a lot of fires together.

Not long ago, I read a book that triggered some special memories, [Fire Season](#) by Philip Connors, a fire lookout for many years on the Gila National Forest. I think that anyone who has ever been a fire lookout will attest to the fact that is is a very special and unique experience.

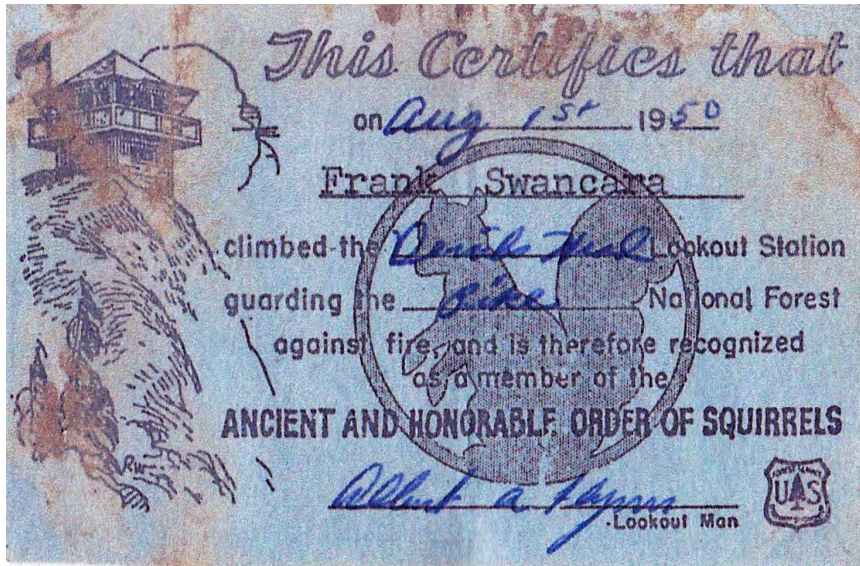
Devil's Head Lookout dates back to 1912. It was rebuilt in the 1950s.

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The small cabin at the base of Devil's Head Lookout.

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Franks's bike up to Devil's Head lookout on August 1, 1950 was recognized with a Squirrel Card issued by lookout Al Flynn.

We lived in the small cabin at the base of the lookout. The wood stove provided welcome warmth in the evenings. We were there until the first major snow ended the fire season on Halloween. After securing the lookout against the elements we hiked the mile and a third back to our vehicle and headed back home to Bailey, Colorado.

Those two months on Devil's Head may very well have been my closest encounter with heaven on earth. It remains very special and memorable to this very day.

The summer of 1973 saw me in my various assignments, and also saw me resign from being a teacher in Denver. At that time there were no job guarantees, but I had hopes. It turned out that the lookout on Devil's Head terminated early, before the fire season had ended, and I was offered that position.

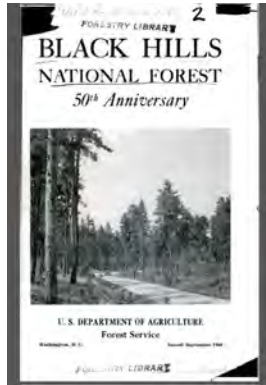
So for two months, September and October 1973, I was the lookout on Devil's Head on the Rampart Range at an elevation of 9,748 feet above sea level.

The fall of 1973, was one of the most beautiful fall seasons ever! The aspen were brilliantly golden and the vistas were magnificent along with the typical warm days and cool nights. Here we were; my family in our seemingly own

world; heaven on earth as it were. My wife Barbara was the alternate lookout. Our two young children were there along with our three dogs and three cats.



My father, Frank Swancara, Sr. on Devil's Head, June 24, 1931. Little did he know that he would have a son who one day would work there.



A copy of this 1948 gem is on the Mountaineers web site. Click [HERE](#) to see it and download or share a copy.

Welcome New Retirees

Brent Larson

Patricia Thornberry
Regional Office

Leslie Stewart-Phelps
Nebraska National Forest

Carita Ginn
Rio Grande

Kerry O'Brien
Arapaho & Roosevelt

Frank Vallejos
Pike and San Isabel

R-2 Ranger's Meeting held April 7,8, 9 in Denver



The 57 District Rangers of the Rocky Mountain Region (37 men and 20 women) came together in April for a meeting. They had discussions about safety, leadership, regional priorities and forest health and fire issues. Former Chief Dale Bosworth was a key note speaker and Regional Forester Dan Jirón held a listening session. Eleven rangers were not available for this picture.

We would love to feature some of your old group pictures. We'll show as many as we can in the Rendezvous and with the rest of them we'll make copies and get them into the official photos archives. Submit them to: Editor - The Rendezvous: 5294 South Hoyt Street, Littleton, Colorado 80123 or dsteinke1@msn.com.

Lifetime Members

Thanks to your generosity, the Rocky Mountaineers have raised almost \$9,000 in the 9 months we have been in existence. Considering we haven't started collecting dues, that is amazing!

Over half of that amount has come from 23 Lifetime Memberships.

When we asked a few members why they became Lifetime Members, we received the following responses:

"I'm only 81 years old. I plan to live a lot longer, and so will the Rocky Mountaineers."

Tony Dorrell
Woodstock, Virginia

"Because I wanted to keep in touch with the last generation of the true Forest Service family. When I joined the Forest Service every new duty station you got a new family to add to last one. That is what made the FS great!!"

Gary Osier
Rifle, Colorado

You can become a Lifetime Member for just \$250 per family. If you are already a member, just mail a check to Rocky Mountaineers, Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 805227.

If you are not yet a member, fill out a membership application and mail it to us with your check.

Below is a list of our current Lifetime Members. Thank you so much!

Bjorn and Marty Dahl

Golden, CO

Bill and Laura Disbrow

Rhineland, WI

Tony Dorrell and Joan Comanor

Woodstock, VA

Jim and Barb Ficke

Steamboat Springs, CO

Glenn and Tedra Hetzel

Littleton, CO

Ellen and Johnny Hodges

Ft. Collins, CO

Dave and Nancy Hoefer

Grand Junction, CO

Eric and Debra Jensen

Ft. Collins, CO

Lynn and Lyn Kolund

Custer, SD

Lyle and Pam Laverty

Arvada, CO

Jim and Arlene Lawrence

Littleton, CO

Gary and Mary Osier

Rifle, CO

Sig and Judy Palm

Sheridan, WY

Jim Reid and Betty Toczek

Missoula, MT

Byron and Marlene Shark

Lakewood, CO

Jon and Pam Skeels

Littleton, CO

Ed and Mae Schultz

Colfax, WA

Tom and Kitty Thompson

Littleton, CO

Skip and Karen Underwood

Ft. Collins, CO

Jim and Karen Webb

Monte Vista, CO

Bernie Weingardt and Susan Alden Weingardt

Evergreen, CO

Bruce and Glenda Wilson

Cody, WY

Penny and Bill Walters

Encampment, WY



Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

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 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 _____.

Visit us at <http://RockyMountaineers.us> for benefits of membership and other information or e-mail us at rmountaineers@gmail.com or write to us at the above address.

* If you wish your donation to go to a specific function please write your choice(s) and amount(s) below:

National Museum of Forest Service History Update



The National Museum of Forest Service History still wants and needs your support.

Simply put, your membership in NMFSH helps to fund the important work of protecting the history of the Forest Service.

We were established over twenty-five years ago and continue through volunteer efforts, general membership support, and contributions from those who believe the Forest Service story and history are important. We have challenging work to do but we have accomplished much:

We currently manage two major collections of over 50,000 objects of historic significance and are working to protect and catalogue these items.

Our capital campaign continues to seek donations to help fund the completion of our building... we've raised \$4.2 million, toward our overall goal of over \$14 million.

We have made significant investments in site infrastructure of sewer, water, road, design, stream restoration, and interpretive planning.

The Forest Service is working on plans to build and manage a separate Forest Service owned repository building in association with the Museum, which is also essential to protect historic collections.

The NMFSH Advisory Panel of Historians and Social Scientists has developed our "interpretive themes" which will be used as a framework for our exhibit, education, and interpretation work.

We are not waiting for the building completion to tell the story of the history of the Forest Service, we are using traveling exhibits, newsletters, and other communications and education opportunities to accomplish our mission.

Membership in the NMFSH is hugely important to our success and ability to continue on with our plans and work in ensuring that the history of the Forest Service is not lost. Please consider joining with this effort if you aren't already a member. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Call (406) 541-6374 or send a message to nationalmuseum@montana.com to join your friends in support of the NMFSH's effort to protect and interpret the history of the Forest Service!

Aldo Leopold Archives Now Digitized



Large portions of the *Aldo Leopold Archives* located at the University of Wisconsin have now been digitized.

The Leopold Collection houses the raw materials that document not only Leopold's rise to prominence but the history of conservation and the emergence of the field of ecology from the early 1900s until his death in 1948. Detailed diaries and journals of his Forest Service activity, his travels, hunting and field experience, and observations at his Sand County farm are included. A searchable photo collection includes the

featured photo (left) of Aldo Leopold on the Apache National Forest in 1910.

For a link to this outstanding collection, go to: <http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/AldoLeopold>

Retirees Traveling the World

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

A Bahama Story

by Dan Nolan

I got a phone call one day in late March from Joel Holtrop, former Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, now retired and on the board of directors of Global Parks. Joel asked if I would be willing to spend the month of April in The Bahamas working on a Global Parks project. The next thing I knew it was April 8 and I was on a 6 am flight to Houston with connection to Nassau, New Providence, capital of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

As I rode into town from the airport my taxi driver pointed out the resort development, road construction and other infrastructure projects provided by a \$1.2 billion Chinese investment in the country. Later, after checking into the Towne Hotel, I met my new teammates Phil Whitfield and Bill Henwood along with Bill's wife Karyn..

Bill is a park planner retired from the Parks Canada Agency. Our assignment is to work with the Bahamas National Trust to develop plans for the expansion of two national parks and the creation of a new national park on Grand Bahama Island. Phil is a retired park planner from



(L-R) Lakeisha Anderson (BNT), Dan Nolan, Bill Henwood, Phil Whitfield, David Knowles (BNT)

British Columbia's BC Parks Agency and is also Director of the Canadian Cave Conservancy. Phil will lend his cave expertise for one of the parks that Bill and I will work on. The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) is a non-governmental organization charged by an act of Parliament to build and manage the national park system of The Bahamas.

On our first morning, Bill, Phil and I were picked up by a BNT staffer and driven to The Retreat, the BNT headquarters. We spent the morning meeting with BNT leaders to talk about our assignment to develop proposals for expanding the Lucayan and Peterson Cay National Parks and for creating

a new national park on the north shore of Grand Bahama Island.

Then we flew to Freeport on Grand Bahama Island and settled in to our house at the BNT's Rand Nature Center National Park where we will spend the next four weeks.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas consists of more than 700 islands extending across 600 miles from off the southeast coast of Florida to just north of Cuba. It was a British colony beginning in 1718 and achieved independence in 1973. It has a population of 347,000, mostly concentrated in Nassau. Its economy is largely based on tourism.

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Grand Bahama, in the north of the island chain, is one of the Bahamas largest islands: 93 miles long by 12 miles wide. Its highest point is 40 feet. The Little Bahama Bank extending along the north side of the island is a broad area of shallow water averaging less than 23 feet in depth. These banks and coastal mangrove forests hold a rich biodiversity of fish and crustacean species. Fly fishing for bonefish is very popular. The south shore of the island is bordered by a narrow coastal shelf of fringing reef. The pine forests were extensively logged in the 1950's.

Over the course of the next month Bill and I spent our time reviewing relevant literature; visiting the proposed park areas on foot, by truck and by boat; and meeting with a variety of stakeholders who had interest in park plans. We snorkeled with a BNT science team inventorying coral reef conditions and the aquatic biota of mangrove estuaries. One day was spent on a Boston Whaler cruising the north shore shallow bank waters to conduct a bird survey with a local ornithologist. We saw lots of turtles, bonefish, rays, and an occasional small shark.

The purpose of our project was to assist the Government of the Bahamas in meeting their goal

of setting aside at least 20 percent of its coastal marine waters as marine protected areas and 10 percent of its terrestrial area in national parks by 2020. We produced proposals for three national parks.

Lucayan National Park, currently 40 acres in size, sits on the entrance to a vast underwater cave system. Its expansion includes protection for the entire mapped cave network, the full length of the tidal creek ecosystem, additional shoreline, and large area of ocean.

Peterson Cay National Park, at 1.5 acres, is a windswept, sparsely vegetated, limestone islet that lies less than a mile from the south shore of Grand Bahama Island. We proposed expanding the park to encompass nearly two square miles of marine ecosystems and fringing reef that surround the island.

Our proposal for the new **North Shore National Park** encompasses a total of 445 square miles which includes 342 square miles of Little Bahama Bank, mangrove wetlands, and tidal creeks, that provide critical spawning and nursery habitat for numerous ecologically and economically

important marine species.

Information on these proposed parks can be found on the Bahamas National Trust website at : http://www.bnt.bs/_m1893/Proposed-parks/Grand-Bahama-Proposed-Parks

Of course we found time for sightseeing and enjoying the beautiful beaches and local culture. Our very gracious and enthusiastic BNT host, Ellsworth, introduced us to the Rake and Scrape music scene at the Cool Breeze open air, locals hangout. On a Wednesday night he brought us to the famous Smith's Point fish fry where we had snapper, pigeon pea rice, mac and cheese and the traditional Guava Duff, along with a crowd enjoying wonderful music and dancing.

Until recently, Global Parks volunteers were recruited mostly from the ranks of retired National Park Service professionals. Joel Holtrop is the first person from the Forest Service to serve on their board of directors, and I was one of the first volunteers from the Forest Service to participate in a Global Parks project. More information on Global Parks programs and opportunities can be found at the following location: <http://globalparks.org/site/>

Rocky Mountaineer Profiles

by Skip Underwood and Steve Ambrose

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

"I never worked a day that I didn't enjoy."
— Chuck Troendle, PhD

BACKGROUND: When we interviewed Chuck for the Rendezvous and asked him what was his worst day working for the Forest Service he said, "I spent 35 years with the Forest Service working at a job where I woke up every day and enjoyed going to work." That was pretty much the tone of the rest of the interview.

When Chuck was a teenager, the local Rod and Gun sponsored two individuals to attend a Conservation Camp in New York. Chuck was one of the two and while attending the camp he met Harold Wilm, then the Director of the New York State Conservation Department, and became hooked on conservation, and watershed in particular. From that time he knew he wanted to pursue a career in natural resources.

CAREER WITH THE FOREST SERVICE: He went to Syracuse University and in 1964 received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management/Silviculture from the New York State College of Forestry. Not yet done with school he went on to get his masters at the same university in 1966. Chuck said that in a matter of three months he received his master's degree, got married to Vineta, and headed to West Virginia to pursue a career with the Forest Service at the Fernow Experimental Forest as part of the Northern Research Station (now Northeast Research Station, since the Northern Research Station and the North Central Research Station combined.) While there Chuck worked on hydrology related research and also the EPA funded national handbook on the effects of silvicultural activities on water resources (WRENSS). He said he got to visit every experimental forest in the country while working on the WRENSS project. In 1972 Chuck started work on his PhD at the University of Georgia. He



Chuck Troendle, April 2014

benefited from the Government Employee Training Act and the federal government helped finance his schooling. His dissertation was on Forest Hydrology. Before he completed his PhD he went back to West Virginia for a while and then headed west to Fort Collins after landing a job with the Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS). In 1979 he completed his PhD and worked at RMRS until he retired in 1999. In 1988 he was promoted to Project Leader and was Administrator of the Fraser Experimental Forest. Much of his research there and other places focused on the relationship between forest vegetation and water yield in river systems.

One of the highlights of his career was working with NFS people in the field and explaining how his research could be incorporated into the management of the national forests. "There was a lot of interaction between NFS and Research during my career at RMRS. I really enjoyed watching my research being applied on the ground."

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When asked what one of his favorite assignments was, Chuck said that working on a series of studies on the effects of NFS management activities on stream flow in the North Platte River Basin project was right up there on top. "I was able to do much of the research and apply that research to evaluate the effects of forest disturbance in the North and South Platte River Basin." Today, with funding reduced for both NFS and Research, there seems to be less opportunity to work together. There were times when NFS could help Chuck out and vice versa with funding. Now everyone is dealing with tight budgets.

When asked if he would have chosen a different career path Chuck said "No, maybe change a few decisions that would get to where we are faster." He said there are pros and cons about being a scientist. He dedicated his career to hydrology and was able to do some needed research, but looking over the fence at NFS he observed that NFS managers deal with a variety of issues that he didn't have to deal with, or didn't have the opportunity to deal with.

RETIREMENT? NOT EXACTLY: Before he left the FS in 1999, Chuck had agreed to accept a position with an environmental consulting company that worked on issues outside the country. Chuck went to Albania where he

evaluated their then current environmental practices as related to hydrology, watershed assessments, and coastal plains flooding. Chuck noted that sometimes it seemed pretty unsettling while traveling in the country, but he never felt threatened. "The Albanian people really like Americans and I always found them to be friendly towards me and my colleagues." As a result of his work the Albanian legislature passed stricter laws that prevented environmental degradation, such as not allowing gravel extraction in sensitive stream beds. When the gravel is removed and the fine sediment is left, poor water quality and downstream deposition is a result.

It seemed in Albania that since the government was not financially secure, agencies with the government wouldn't work together, with everyone doing their own thing. Chuck was able to help bring these agencies together to address environmental concerns. He has since wound down his work and is focusing on other interests although he continues to interact with the Forest Service.

TODAY: Chuck has traded his habit of reading Forest and Hydrology Reports to Agriculture Reports, anything having to do with corn and alfalfa. He and Vineta purchased a 100 acre farm in Nebraska, just northwest of

Scott's Bluff. There are no permanent structures on the farm, just a 40 foot travel trailer they stay in while working the farm. Chuck's main spread is north of Fort Collins near Wellington where he continues to raise and show Appaloosa horses. His daughter, Karin, lives at home and helps out; she has a world champion Appaloosa herself. His other daughter, Kathryn, is married. When Chuck finds time he also hunts big game, whitetail deer, for example.

ADVICE: What advice would he give students today that want to pursue a career in natural resources? "Don't be afraid to stretch and challenge your comfort zone. Look for opportunities that are somewhat undefined but can be a real opportunity." Chuck has served on many graduate student panels while they work on their graduate degrees.

Remembrances



Herman Edward (Herm) Ball passed away Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at his home in Lafayette, CO. He was born September 12, 1927 in Robertsdale, Alabama to William and Bertha Ball. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Bill and two sisters,

Dolores and Betty. Herm graduated from Robertsdale High School and then joined the Merchant Marines for two years. After several mercenary trips across the ocean, he attended Auburn University where he studied Forestry and worked summers as a smoke jumper in Missoula, Montana. He worked for the CIA out of college and met his wife, Debbie Leonard, of Longmont, while both were working in Washington, DC.

They married in June 1956 and started their married life in Florida but later moved to Bailey, Colorado where Herm began his career with the US Forest Service, a job which would later take him to Colorado Springs; Sundance, Wyoming; Custer, South Dakota; Laurel, Maryland; and back

to Durango and Lakewood in Colorado. They had five children; two young daughters, Cathy and Nancy, died from Muscular Dystrophy complications and a son, Billy, who died in 1984 from a carbon monoxide poisoning.

After retirement Herm and Debbie continued with their love for travel and visited their daughter, Tricia, in Jerusalem, Africa, Philippines, England and Thailand. Herm donated countless hours working at the St. Francis Center in Denver, Habitat for Humanity, Senior Services, and RSVP in Boulder. He also started a business putting together forestry management plans for landowners, including Rich and Cyndi's mountain property where he spent most of his spare time hiking the hills and thinning the forest. He loved spending weekends with his family in the mountains.

He is survived by Debbie Ball, his loving wife of 57 years and two daughters, Cyndi and husband Rich Hause of Littleton and daughter Tricia Morgan of Bangkok, Thailand. He is also the very proud 'Papa' of six grandchildren, Alexandra, Garrett, Rhian, Evan, Bailey and Hannah.

Aubrey Lee (Bud) Roach

Died on March 20, 2013. He was born in Texas on September 24, 1929 to William and Farrel Roach. He was married to Francis Roach and lived in Mancos, Colorado. He completed one year of college and studied engineering. Aubrey worked for the Soil Conservation Service until about 1977, when he started working for the Forest Service on the Delores Ranger District of San Juan National Forest. He was encouraged to take the Project Engineering test and even though he only had one year of college he passed the test with a very high score.

He retired from the Forest Service in 1983 and worked for the Montezuma County Road Department as an Engineer for a number of years and then started his own consulting business and did that until 2009.

Remembrances



Pete Chidsey of Powell, WY died on Thursday, March 6, 2014. Pete was born in New York City, New York on September 30, 1937, and lived in Arizona, New Hampshire, Washington D.C.,

Virginia, Illinois, Texas, and Vermont in his youth. He graduated high school from the Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, VT. Growing up, Pete loved the outdoors and capitalized on those interests by obtaining bachelor's degrees in forestry and range management from Utah State University and later Colorado State University. While attending college in Logan, Utah, Pete met Deborah "Deb" Taylor and they were married on December 24, 1960, in Yakima, WA. Upon graduating from college, Pete was hired by the US

Forest Service and stationed his family in many beautiful places, including Alaska, Texas, Arizona, Big Creek and North Fork, CA; Ft. Collins, CO; Stub Creek Ranger Station during the summers in Colorado; Custer, SD; and Douglas, WY. He retired as District Ranger of the Medicine Wheel Ranger District of the Big Horn National Forest in Lovell, WY in September 1990.

Pete is survived by his wife Deb of fifty-three years; his daughter Ginny (Cliff Smith) Chidsey of Cheyenne, WY; Allison (Woody) Evans of Cody, WY; Catherine (Paul) Willard of Manson, WA and four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A memorial service will take place this summer at St. John's Episcopal Church with burial at Crown Hill Cemetery in Powell, WY with a view of the Big Horn Mountains – one of his favorite places.



Julie M. Bagan, 66, passed away at the Joni Fair Hospice House in Pueblo on Sunday, Apr. 27, 2014. She was born June 11, 1947, in Danville, Ill. to the union of James and Alta Chenoweth.

Following the death of her father in 1958, Julie, her mother, and brother, James, moved to Colorado Springs. Julie graduated from Palmer High School in 1965 and went on to marry Michael Bagan, in 1967. In 1978, she began working for Pike National Forest,

a career she would follow for 30 years. In 1990, she moved to Pueblo and began working for San Isabel National Forest, until her retirement in 2007. She is survived by three children, Heidi Heffron of Pueblo, Brian Bagan and Cindy Bagan; several grandchildren; numerous extended family members and many friends. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Michael, in 1990, second husband, Danny Rivera, in 2002, parents, and brother, James Chenoweth. Julie was a wonderful mom and a great person. She loved music, dancing, and playing Scrabble. She was dearly loved by all her family and friends and will be sadly missed.

Remembrances



Norbert Vincent (Ski) Milanowski

passed away February 14, 2014. He was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 16, 1932 to Alexander and Josephine Milanowski and graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in

forestry. He was a veteran, having served in the United States Army.

He married Marlene Putzel on September 17, 1960 in Hibbing, MN. Ski started his career with the Forest Service in the early 60's on the Piedra District, San Juan NF. His first District Ranger position was on the Buffalo District on the Bighorn N.F. He then went to the Routt N.F. as the North Park District Ranger and later to Steamboat in the Supervisor's Office as timber staff. From 1977-79 he was the Recreation, Lands,

and Minerals staff on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison N.F. in Delta.

Ski then transferred to State and Private Forestry, Area Planning and Development in the Regional Office and was there from 1980-82. In 1983 he became the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Santa N.F. in R-3 and was there until he retired in 1990. After retirement, he and Marlene returned to Delta, CO and lived there until around 2003 when they moved to Las Vegas, NV.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene (Putzel) Milanowski; children, Joseph (Cynthia) Milanowski and Mary Milanowski, both of Las Vegas, and Charlene Milanowski of St. Paul, MN; his brother, Thomas (Mary) Milanowski of Grand Rapids; two grandchildren, Alexandra and Sophia Milanowski.

Marlene's address is: Mrs. Marlene Milanowski; 12265 Montura Rosa Pl.; Las Vegas, NV 89138-6048



Carlyne M. Orr

died in August, 2012. She was born in Illinois on March 27, 1925. She was originally hired in the senior program and later converted to a permanent position and worked in fiscal and accounting in the Regional Office.

Carlyne was always ready to take on all issues in a positive manner because she always believed that all things come together for good. Before coming to Colorado, Carlyne was a successful entrepreneur and owned her own greeting card company in Illinois. The company was in a continual growth mode until she suffered a devastating head injury. The injury left Carlyne unable to continue with the business and she went on disability. Moving to Colorado from Illinois was necessary due to her asthma. The high desert of Colorado made it much easier to

breathe and she suffered fewer asthma attacks. Joining the Forest Service as a Senior Community Service Employment Program participant in 1990, Carlyne was 65. She was hired as a permanent employee in 1993 and was later promoted to a communications assistant with the Fiscal and Accounting Department. In 1999 Carlyne was named Colorado's Outstanding Older Worker and was honored in Washington, DC. Carlyne continued to work until she retired at 82.

Carlyne is survived by 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. It is only fitting to end with the people she touched the most, family. Her life touched many people and left them with a lasting image of her positive attitude. She once said, "I have been at the top and I have been at the bottom. I know which one I like better." Maybe she understood that inherently we all have problems and once in a while it is nice to have someone cheering on your side.

Remembrances



David Lee (Dave)

Branham passed away on March 10, 2014 in Port Angeles, Washington. Dave retired from the Regional Office in 1983 as a land surveyor and worked in the Geometronic Section of Engineering unit for a number of years. He

worked there in the late fifties in what was then called "Surveys and Maps" and then worked on the White River N.F. In the mid-late 70's he returned to the R.O. and worked there in Cadastral Surveying until his retirement.

David was born September 7, 1933, in Hubbard Township, Minnesota, on the farm where he was raised. He had the strength and will to live fully for more than 80 years. As a young boy, he grew up on a farm in central Minnesota, where he learned to work hard, treat people kindly and grew to love the outdoors. He hunted, fished and ran trap lines in the winter. At 16, he joined the Marine Corps and became a sharpshooter, holding the base sharpshooting record for a period of time. He was also was a drill instructor, training other men how to shoot. In the Korean War, he was sent in to help fight as a sniper and at 18 was seriously wounded by a mortar explosion, for which he was hospital-bound for 18 months. He was honorably discharged and began working for the U.S. Forest Service. This began his 30-year career as a land surveyor in Colorado. He helped build the Flaming Gorge Dam on the Green River in Utah. He was one of the only few registered mineral land surveyors in the U.S. Many land disputes were resolved and roads built through Dave's guidance and help.

He retired and moved to the Olympic Peninsula, where he and his wife of 53 years, Joanne, continued to raise and enjoy their four children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He retired and moved to the Olympic Peninsula, where he and his wife of 53 years, Joanne, continued to raise and enjoy their four children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He is survived by his wife Joanne who still resides in Washington on the coast at Sequim.



David V. (Dave) Grove

passed away on March 28, 2014. He was born on August 16, 1960 to Florence and Vernon Grove.

David was a man of many talents and skills. He was self-taught and could learn

anything! He was a humorous prankster who spent twenty-six years with the Forest Service working on the South Platte and South Park Ranger Districts on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. He was an emergency medical technician, a professional builder and contractor, and a forest technician for the Forest Service. He was instrumental in re-building the lookout tower at Devil's Head among other things. He was a unique man who was a people person but was just as comfortable all by himself up in the wilderness. He was respected and loved by many and will be missed by all who knew him. He missed his favorite hunting dog Smokey greatly.

He is survived by his wife Catherine J. Grove, his father, and four brothers and sisters.

Remembrances

David L. Miller

David L. Miller, 69, of Duluth, Minnesota, died on Thursday, May 15, 2014.

David was born Sept. 15, 1944 in Ashland, Wis., to Hilma Elaine Maki Miller and LeRoy Miller.

He grew up in Minneapolis, and graduated from Washburn High School in 1962. He graduated from the U of M with a BS in Forestry and began his career in the Forest Service in June of 1966.

Dave was Assistant Ranger on the Mark Twain N.F. and was Ranger on the Superior N. F. for about ten years starting in 1979. He then worked in Information Systems in the Washington Office and later as Staff Assistant to the Deputy Chief in Administration. He was Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest from 1994 until his retirement in 1997 after 30 years of service.

He returned to Duluth, in 1997 and accepted a job with the MN DNR as the coordinator for the Landscape Program of the Minnesota Forest Resource Council. He retired from this position in 2005. Dave enjoyed golfing, bowling, woodworking and spending time with family and friends, plus his work as a Township Supervisor with Duluth Township.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Anne Miller; two daughters, Ellen Miller-Lindgren of Duluth and Sarah Miller of Jordan, Minn.; three grandchildren, Mitchell Martin, Katrina Lindgren, and Ahnnali Lindgren; two sons-in-law, Brian Martin and John Lindgren.

Kickers

Pat Lee, a former smokejumper just wrote an historical novel about the Smokejumper/CIA/Air America connection from the 50's-60's in Laos, Vietnam, Cuba, Tibet and other far off countries. It is well written, and does a great job of hooking together the geography, politics and drama of supplying the Meo tribesman from the air, kicking cargo and why we did not win the wars in Laos and Vietnam. It is very well composed and helps close a chapter about these gritty Forest Service people; some died and some are still missing. See the details at this link [Kickers](#) or check Amazon Books for more information. Pat Lee is retired and lives in Idaho's Sawtooth Valley.

(this note was sent in by Tom Kovalicky, retired, Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce NF, Idaho)

The Last Word

Service to Country

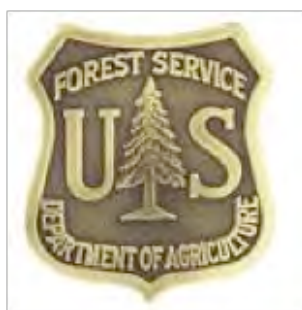
by Tom Thompson

Providing service to our country has been a core value for the men and women of the Forest Service since our very beginning. Service to country is one of the most noble and precious gifts that citizens can give in a democratic society. This is a time of the year when we pause, remember, and show our respect for those who gave so much in service to our country in defending our nation and protecting our freedom.

The upcoming Memorial Day on May 26 has for many years been a recognized day of remembrance of those who gave their lives in service to their country. After the Civil War there were organized efforts to commemorate the places of rest of the many soldiers who did not come home after the war ended. However, it was not until 1967 that legislation was signed into law that set the last Monday in May as the official “Memorial Day”. Remembering those who gave so much for our freedom and country gives us the opportunity to especially recognize and appreciate that ultimate level of service.

In a sense, in this Region of the U. S. Forest Service we have our

own “Memorial Day” the first Saturday of each May as we remember and honor those who have served the public over their careers through their work and contributions to the mission of the Forest Service. The impetus for the Memorial Grove was originally to recognize those young Forest Service men who left their jobs as rangers in 1917 and 1918, signed up in the Army and ultimately gave their lives to the cause of World War I.



Each year as the list of Memorial Grove honorees is compiled of employees or retirees, who have passed away in the previous year, I am amazed to learn how many amongst us served in the military. Over half of this year's thirty-six honorees served their country in the Army, Navy, Marines, or Air Force. Some were part of the “Greatest Generation” and fought in

World War II in Europe and in the Pacific. Their memoirs include stories of Iwo Jima, duty onboard the Ticonderoga, Seabee construction on scattered islands, many logged hours in the Army Air Corps, beach landings and battles across Europe and the Pacific.

Within this group of honorees, there were others who served in Korea, Viet Nam, and the Iraq. They earned Bronze Stars, Presidential Citations, and most of all the respect and admiration of their families, friends, and their country. Not all who served went to “war” but their service was still hugely important to maintaining our country's freedom and might. No matter when or where they served in war and in peace, those men and women who served viewed this part of their lives and their service as simply their “duty”.

In a conversation with Wilmer F. (Beetle) Bailey, a number of years ago at a luncheon, I was struck by how matter of fact Beetle viewed his service. Beetle, who retired from the Regional Office as an entomologist in 1979, passed away in 2010 at age 89.

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Wilmer F. (Beetle) Bailey

Beetle was with the U. S. Army Air Force during World War II. He survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and flew 23 combat bombing missions as a navigator in Europe. He was forced to parachute to safety on one mission after their plane was shot down. Beetle didn't think what he did was exceptional and I recall him saying that he thought it was just his "**duty**" and nothing more.

After serving their country through military service dedicated individuals, like Beetle, and so many others continued on serving their country through their service with the Forest Service.

We in the Forest Service have the name "service" woven not only into our agency name and our shield but also into each of our early orientations and career expectations from the

first days we came on board for the "outfit".

The work, our employment, the extra effort, the lifelong dedication, and the simple act of accomplishing what we set out to do in the public interest, continually defined what service was for each of us. We all have a long list of memorable events throughout our careers when we gave more than was expected and did so willingly and usually cheerfully because we knew it was the right thing to do and public would expect nothing less of us as federal employees.

Think for a minute about all the times that you were asked over your career to give that weekend, cancel your planned leave, or work that late evening to finish an important project or to meet an important deadline or crisis. Think of all the days at the District or Forest level when it was critical to have pretty much everyone on board to respond to a situation that was not anticipated or expected. That was the expectation and that was the reality.

Service is not only associated with one's employment or work. Volunteering to community, church, school, or special organization also helps

define our life's dedication to service. The helping hand, the kindness, the good turn, or the donation of our time and talent is all part what we do to serve others in our own unique and chosen way. Forest Service people have a reputation of being leaders when it comes to service to community.

Most of us, when looking back at our many years, could say without question that providing and giving our "service" is what we did throughout most of lives. Rocky Mountaineers are especially proud of our members who have served their country through their military service. As we honor and remember all those who gave their lives in service to their country, we are also given a chance to be thankful that we had our opportunity to serve our country as we did our part to accomplish the mission of the Forest Service in "Caring for the Land and Serving the People".