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The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 3 Number 2

Disappearing Districts

A hundred Years of Lumping and Leaving

By Tom Thompson

Two years after the creation of the Forest Service in 1905 it was clearly stated in the book "The Use of the National Forests" that most all the work and business the agency actually was to do and also the most of the important connection to the public was the responsibility of the Forest Supervisors and Rangers in the field. The Rangers were described as the field force and Gifford Pinchot wanted them located in central points throughout the Forests to carry out the business on the ground.

In 1910, there were thirty forests in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. By 1920 the number had shrunk to 23 as smaller

forests were joined together. Today there are eleven Forest Supervisors in Region 2.

More striking by comparison though is that today only about one in three of the original number of districts still exist. In 1920 there were 148 individual ranger districts identified in the Service Directory for District 2 (Region 2). The directory today, if there were one, would show only 50 districts for the Region. This number includes eight district units that were the result of adding the grasslands to the system in 1962. So effectively for an adjusted comparison, the number today could be considered forty two rather than fifty.



"Lunch time"

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Much has happened in the last century that has caused this change. Early on, one of the most dramatic changes that occurred was the automobile. When early districts were established, the only way to travel across the reserves and forests was by horse. Indeed, many ranger district boundaries were determined by how much territory a ranger could effectively cover by horseback. When the automobile came along, adjustments needed to be made, but the transitions weren't easy.

In 1923, Forest Supervisor Wallace J. Pearce advised his Rangers that he "did not feel that ownership of an automobile by any member of the ranger force is essential to good administration of any district on the Forest, and to get value received they should be used very carefully." Wallace felt that "Ordinarily trips between two points should be made horseback across the Forest in order that the ranger may be on the scene of his normal work, being in a position to discover things that need attention."

Times they did change and by 1930 the number of Districts in the Region had gone from 148 down to 109 in total. Over the next three decades there were relatively few changes in numbers of districts. By 1960 there were still about a hundred districts. Most that did occur during this time in the thirties, forties, and fifties, were the result of

Forest changes with the elimination of the Cochetopa, Montezuma, Leadville, Holy Cross, Washakie, and Harney forests in the Region.

From 1960 to 1980, another 26 districts were eliminated. Regional Forester Craig Rupp was not pleased with the direction this was going and in January, 1983 he wrote to the Forest Supervisors and stated emphatically that he was "unwilling to agree to any further combinations at this point in time and for the foreseeable future." The essence of his position was laid out in this one paragraph:

"The Ranger District remains the front line of the Forest Service contacts. The District personnel provide the very large majority of visible perception of 'what the Forest Service is' to the public. They have the day-to-day contact with the largest amount of the public and the best opportunity to: manage the resources, manage use of resources, manage activities, prevent destruction, decide local issues on local grounds, act as agents of the public, prevent mistakes rather than being reactive, and represent the Forest Service and its goals and objectives to the public."

He believed the arguments to combine districts that dealt with budget savings were short-sighted and the organizational loss of presence and availability to the public were just not worth it.

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He said he would “rather see you return to one person Ranger districts with zoning of all technical and professional assistance, than combine Ranger Districts and lose Ranger contacts.”

During the rest of his tenure and on into the early nineties, there were very few district combinations. But over the last twenty-five years, a

couple dozen more combinations have happened and the number of district rangers in the Region is now at 50 in total.

The Region has the distinction of probably

having the largest District in the Forest Service outside of Alaska with the Gunnison District on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest. This one District is 1,632,136 acres which is larger than nearly two-thirds of all the Forests in the entire National Forest System. It is what used to be the Gunnison National Forest.

There has been much teeth grinding and hand wringing over the years as these decisions to combine districts have happened. Many communities have felt a loss when the Forest

Service decided to move out of town and at best leave a “work center”. Consolidation and combination decisions have generally never been easy decisions and most were done with considerable thought and analysis. In a few cases, however, decisions no doubt were influenced by convenient vacancies and questionable conclusions that there would be substantive cost savings and there would continue to be a significant presence in the community being vacated.

I imagine most Rocky Mountaineers would hope that the scissors, or perhaps more appropriately today, that the ‘delete’ button would be used very sparingly in the future as we’ve probably combined enough already. Perhaps at some point consideration should be made to revisiting some of these combinations where important communities no longer have access to a Forest Service ranger.

The table on the next page shows all the names of districts in R-2 that no longer exist. The names are shown by the period of time in which the districts disappeared beginning in 1920-30. These might have been the result of combinations, consolidations, or simply a renaming of a district.



Alpine Ranger Station, 1923

For a complete historical overview of the Rocky Mountain Region's forest and district consolidations and combinations see supplemental tables, listings, timelines, and summaries that can be found in the Rocky Mountaineers website <http://rockymountaineers.us/History/> located under the history tab.

A summary of Forest and Ranger District consolidation history for all regions is also found in this supplemental appendix material. It can be seen from this summary that Regions 1-4 all have similar trends over time, and Region 5 and 6 are similar but different than Regions 1-4, and likewise Regions 8, 9, and 10 are also different. The

differences are understandable considering the influence of issues like major program growth in the 50's and 60's because of the timber program, the expansion of National Forest System land in the east and south because of acquisitions under the Weeks Act.

R-2 District names that have disappeared over different time periods

Forest	1920-30	1930-1960	1960-1990	1990-2010 +
Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison	Anthracite, North Fork, Grand River, Big Creek, Buzzard, Horsefly, Cimarron, Lake Fork, Telluride	Black Mesa, Alpine, Crested Butte, Pitkin, Lakes, Delta	Muddy, Sapinero, Tomichi, Mesa, Miguel, North End	Collbran, Grand Jct., Cebolla, Taylor River,
San Juan	LaPlata, Hermosa, Chimney, Navajo	Silverton, Blanco, Rico, Treasure, Engineer, Bonanza, Carnero, South Fork, Pyramid	Columbine, Glade	Mancos, Animas, Pine
Rio Grande			Alder, Alamosa	Creede
Pike- San Isabel Cimarron Comanche	Hardscrabble, Blanca, Greenhorn, Las Animas, Bassam, Cottonwood South Fork	Custer, San Luis, Poncha, Buena Vista, Huerfano, Westcliffe, Jefferson, Devil's Head	Spanish Peak Bailey, Lake George	
White River	Bear River, New Castle, Miller Creek, Shoshone, Sheephorn, Pando, Avon, Cattle Creek Norrie, Capitol Creek Dillon, Blue River	Burro Mtn., Sleepy Cat Williams Fork, Red Cliff	Crystal River, Frying Pan, Glenwood	Holy Cross, Eagle, Aspen, Sopris
Arapaho Roosevelt	Ward, Buckhorn, Cherokee Park	North Fork	Fraser, Kremmling Laramie River	Estes Park, Poudre, Redfeather
Medicine Bow Routt	Snake, Steamboat, Bow, Bear River, Sevenmile	Keystone, LaBonte LaPrele	Bow River, Pole Mtn., Centennial, Snake Rv., Encampment, Foxpark	Brush Creek, Hayden
Shoshone	Wood River, Sunlight, Carter Mtn., Crandall, Canyon Creek, Dubois, North Fork	Sheridan, Absaroka, South Fork		Lander
Bighorn	Shell	Porcupine	Goose	Medicine Wheel, Paintrock, Tensleep
Black Hills	Crook Mtn., Hardy, Merritt, Keystone, Pringle	Black Buttes, Rockerville	Bear Mtn., Fall River, Hill City, Limestone, Rockford	Custer, Elk Mtn., Harney, Nemo, Pactola, Spearfish
Nebraska			Niobrara	
Total Number **	53	37	32	27

**Note: These numbers are of district names that have disappeared which may reflect a combination, consolidation, or in some cases just a renaming of a district. The total numbers therefore are greater than difference between total districts in 1920 versus today.

Memorial Grove 2015

A day of tribute at the Memorial Grove near Monument

By Tom Thompson



Nearly two-hundred people attended the Memorial Grove gathering near Monument on May 2, 2015. Thirty-three former employees of the Rocky Mountain Region were honored at the ceremony and tree planting, including five "Not Forgotten's" who had not previously been recognized in the year they passed away. Nearly eleven hundred names are listed at the Memorial. The trees that were planted in the first planting at the grove site in 1921 still help us to remember the dedication and commitment of those who have given so much to the Forest Service and the country over the years in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Pikes Peak District Ranger Oscar Martinez welcomed everyone to the ceremony and the Honor Guard from the Air Force Academy presented the colors as Pipe Major Ken Giese played the bagpipes. Chaplin Gay Williams gave the invocation before Regional

Forester Dan Jiron gave his welcoming comments.

Jane Leche from the Regional Office sang two songs as part of the ceremony, including "Wayfaring Stranger" and Peggy Mann's "It was you".

The rider-less horse, carrying the brass plaque with the honorees names, made its way around the trail encircling the Grove while the bagpipes played "Amazing Grace". As the names of each honoree were read and their contributions noted, it was apparent that each person made a difference in their own unique and wonderful way to fulfilling the work and mission of the Forest Service.

Family members of the honorees reflected upon their loved ones lives and shared stories about their time with the Forest Service. Stories were rich in appreciation and thanks. Many memories were shared and the tears that came were washed away in the fellowship and understanding of all in attendance.

After the playing of the closing "Taps", the traditional Memorial Tree planting was done with direction and support of Jeff Hovermale from the Pikes Peak Ranger District. A chili lunch was served by employees of the Pikes Peak Ranger District in the meadow next to the Memorial. Everyone had plenty to eat and there was great

fellowship among family, friends, retirees, Forest Service employees, the Pikes Peak Hotshots, and others who were able to attend. We were blessed with good weather. A passing afternoon storm came just as folks were making their way to the parking area and on their way home.

Special thanks go out to all the wonderful folks on the Pikes Peak Ranger District for their outstanding support and dedication to making this annual gathering such a success. We are proud that after ninety-five years this tradition of honoring those who have given so much to the Forest Service continues. For more information about the Memorial Grove history and to see the names of all those previously honored visit the Rocky Mountaineers website at "rockymountaineers.us" and click on the "In Memory" tab. Listed below are the names of those who were honored in this year's ceremony.



2014 Memorial Grove Honorees

Betty Grace Alexander

James Everett Jacobson

Harriette Lucille Allen

Lloyd McNeil

Julie M. Bagan

Norbert V. (Ski) Milanowski

Herman Edward (Herm) Ball

David L. Miller

David L. (Dave) Branham

David W. (Dave) Molinaro

Raymond Roy (Ray) Busby

Jack H. Ott

Jacqueline Helen (Jackie) Cables

Edgar H. (Ed) Palpant

Pete Chidsey

Carolyn J. Peterson

John Charles Englebert

Robert M. (Bob) Rankin

David Lee Girty

Edna L. Robertson

David V. (Dave) Grove

Gary E. Rorvig

JoAnn F. Hagan

Charles D. Swisher

John Patrick (Pat) Halligan

Clara Vaughn

Leslie E. (Jock) Hendry

Stanley F. (Stan) Versaw

Not Forgotten

William C. (Bill) Hurd (2003)

Leon O. Nelson (1995)

Arvo Esaias Kujala (2012)

Aubrey L. (Bud) Roach (2013)

Susan T. Maholland (2012)

Rocky Mountaineers award their first annual academic scholarship!



The Rocky Mountaineers have awarded their first annual memorial scholarship to Ms. Erin Glankler from Cleves, Ohio. Erin is attending Ohio State University and studying Biomedical Science. She graduated from high school with GPA of 4.67. Her career goal

is to be a pediatric oncologist. Her aunt and uncle are Cindy Dean and Jim Thennes, who both retired recently from the Regional Office.

The Scholarship Committee selected Erin from among twelve qualified and outstanding applicants. Just this spring, the Rocky Mountaineers established a permanent Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist deserving students with their college expenses. Applicants need to be endorsed by a Rocky Mountaineer member. The scholarship certificate and \$1500 will be presented to Erin before the fall semester.

The inspiration for the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship was Clint Kyhl's courageous

battle with ALS this past year. He passed away on February 16 at the age of 54. In his honor and subsequently the honor of others, the Scholarship Fund is established to support the educational endeavors of students who are connected to the Forest Service family.

The Scholarship Fund also provides a donation opportunity for members and families, friends, and associates of the Rocky Mountaineers to honor and pay tribute to loved ones. With the help of donations we hope to be able to continue offering this scholarship each year to a most deserving student.



Clint Kyhl

Random Acts of Kindness

The Rocky Mountaineers have established two permanent funds. One fund is for operations and maintenance of the Memorial Grove. We also provide support for the annual ceremony at Memorial Grove held the first Saturday of May each year. We have established a second fund to provide an annual Memorial Scholarship for a deserving college student. Donations for either fund are welcome throughout the year. Mail your check to us.

Rocky Mountaineers
Box 270462
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We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Hey Howdy From Cody, Wyoming

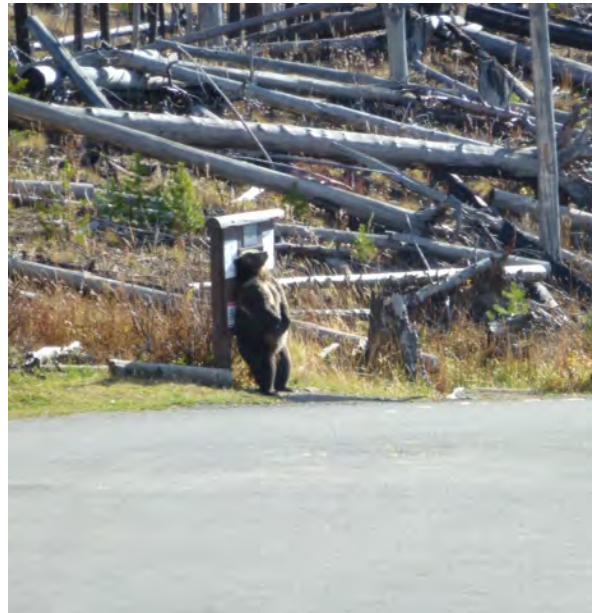
Official Site of the 2015 Rocky Mountaineer's Annual Gathering

By Becky Aus

It's official. The 2015 Annual Gathering of the Rocky Mountaineer's is to be held in Cody, WY. The event is planned to begin on Monday, September 28th with a 'Meet and Greet' event at Olive Glenn Golf and Country Club. You will have the opportunity to get reacquainted with friends while enjoying the cash bar and appetizers plus the lovely view from the Clubhouse. (If you're interested in playing golf prior to the 'Meet and Greet', we would be happy to help arrange that!!).

For Tuesday morning, we are working with the staff of the Shoshone NF to provide a touring opportunity of the Wapiti Ranger Station, the first Forest Service Ranger Station to be constructed with appropriated funds. Wapiti is significant in the history of the Forest Service and well worth seeing.

A luncheon is planned for the actual 'Annual Gathering'. The venue we have selected is 'Geyser's on the Terrace' which is located in west Cody above the Shoshone River. We understand from the powers that be, that the actual business portion of the meeting should be brief, giving us time to enjoy each other's company and also hear some updates from the local forest staff. An easy side adventure for the day would be to visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West



Come up to the Shoshone NF and relax.

and be overwhelmed by their collection of western art, firearms, Native American and Natural History displays!! Special rates and extended passes have been negotiated for you!!

On Wednesday, we are encouraging participants to HOOK UP WITH FRIENDS and enjoy the surrounding landscape. An option we strongly suggest is taking a tour of the Beartooth Scenic Byway. This route was rated by Charles Kuralt as one of the top ten most scenic drives in the country. Our hope is to have a stop over available at Clay Butte Lookout or the Crandall Ranger Station. Donuts anyone?? For those of you who are interested, we can meet in the evening at a local brewery for pizza and beer!!

Late September is the tail-end of tourist season in Cody so you might want to consider making lodging arrangements early. Several convenient RV options include: Absaroka Bay (307.527.7440) which is an in-town park with easy access to Cody amenities. KOA is a small distance out of town (307.587.2369). Other RV options are available. Lodging options are listed on the codychamber.org website; use the 'Places to Stay' link.

Those of us in NW Wyoming are very excited to be hosting this event. We understand that Cody is not an easy place to get to. Our sincere hope is that those of you who join us will plan to stay and enjoy the many features in and around our community.

Finally, in order to plan for this event, we'll need to know numbers of attendee's by early September. We'll have RSVP instructions within the next several months.

Rocky Mountaineers Chairman of the Board



Kim Vogel at Leadership Training in Steamboat Springs - circa 2004

Wow!
Aren't we
LUCKY!

My husband
Don and I
were recently
sitting with
friends where
we were all
reflecting
about our
younger days.
In our case, it
was our
seasonal years,
when our
careers were

young and our assignments and tasks were physical, in the backcountry, and if there was paperwork involved it was on those issued yellow pads, or on forms with carbon paper in between. We reminisced about medical rescues, wildlife surveys, and fighting fires when fire camp was much different than it is now. It was nice. One of our friends said, "You were lucky to have a career where you have stories like that."

I know you all have stories like that. Stories we often share at going away parties, retirements, lunch in the woods, or over a beer in a local watering hole. It is nice to start seeing them here on the pages of The Rendezvous, a newsletter name in itself reminiscent. It is also really cool that projects such as the Memorial Grove, R2 Ski Day, our upcoming

summer picnic gathering, the many luncheons across the region, many remembrances of colleagues who have passed, and Rally on the Rio create places for us to gather, again sharing our common past, and create new memories with friends and colleagues.

We now also have the Memorial Scholarship Fund, inspired and created in the light and memory of those who have passed before us. A Fund created to assist those in the youth of their careers, who will carry on the good work we were fortunate and honored to accomplish. The young folks who will be creating those memories to be shared on those pages in years to come. A big thanks to the Memorial Scholarship Fund committee (Tom, Ellen, Nancy) – they put in some fast and furious work to make the fund available for a Spring scholarship!

The work done by several of our retirees on the Memorial Grove, historical library, and the Memorial Scholarship Fund are most worthy efforts for a non-profit with our mission and by-laws. Thanks to all our folks who have contributed time and effort.

Welcome to those of you who have joined the ranks of the R2 FS retired! We hope you join the group here to stay in touch and involved (even if it is just getting in touch with past colleagues) to keep the stories alive and the good work happening! Don and I just recently budgeted in our lifetime membership fee. We hope you consider that as well, or as Johnny keeps saying, it makes a great gift for an up and coming retiree!

Want to be a Famous Writer?

Many folks have asked us how to submit an article to be published in the Rendezvous. The Rendezvous Staff is looking for articles on events in the History of the Region; Special People, News Events, Recognition, and Travel. To submit an article, send your story ideas to: rmountaineers@gmail.com. When sending us your ideas, provide us with your name, email address, and a summary of what the article(s) is about. Your ideas will be carefully reviewed and approved and a response will be sent congratulating you on your prose. If you want help, we'll help you write the article.

News from Around the Region

Southern Arizona Picnic - March 21, 2015

Madera Canyon, Coronado NF

More than twenty R-2er's met in Madera Canyon on March 21, 2015 for their umpteenth annual spring picnic, which was organized by Bob and Jan Newlin. The weather was great in this beautiful area in the Coronado National Forest.



Front (l-r): Mary Osier, Jane Dunn, Mary Lillie, Bob Lillie, Dottie Carr, Jan Gorman, Jan Newlin, Mikel Shilling
2nd Row: Gary Osier, Wayne Dunn, Bill Stransky, Pess Stransky, Jim Upchurch, C.J. Upchurch, Dale Gorman, Bob Newlin
Back (l-r): Judy Martin, Erik Marin, Bill Wood, Bill Lisowsky (Not shown are Jamie Kingbury and Lee Carr)

Welcome New Retirees

Steve Gregonis
BLM (Regional Office GIS)

Karla Hawley
Region 2 and WO and R-5

Annette Pintado
Law Enforcement

Judy Taylor
Regional Office

Melanie Woolever
Regional Office



Rally on the Rio— Celebrating Forest Service Families

The 2015 Reunion Committee invites you to spend the week of October 11-16, 2015, in beautiful Albuquerque, New Mexico. Come early and enjoy the International Balloon Fiesta or spend time exploring the area. Monday, October 12, is registration day and includes a "Glow After" Balloon Tailgate Party and Jam Session. The program officially starts Tuesday morning with a breakfast, followed by a welcome, Aldo Leopold presentation, and plated lunch. The "Family Feature" following lunch is a lively collection of stories told by the families who lived them as they did their part to achieve the Forest Service mission. A "Gathering of Regions" social ends the day.



Wednesday begins with a breakfast and then the field tours take off. Destinations Southwest has put together four excellent trips: (1) Jemez Pueblo/Valles Caldera/Ponderosa Winery — Jemez Pueblo tour and visit to the Walatowa Visitor's Center; a stop at the Soda Dam (spectacular natural dam

created by mineral deposits on the Jemez River); tour of the Valles Caldera National Preserve with gourmet box lunch; and wine tasting at the Ponderosa Winery. (2) Chimayo/Santa Fe "The City Different" — tour of the historic village of Chimayo and its most famous landmark, the Santuario de Chimayo; lunch at the landmark Rancho de Chimayo restaurant; and a guided walking tour of Santa Fe. (3) Acoma "Sky City" Pueblo — a guided tour of the village by a Pueblo member explaining the culture and history of the tribe, followed by a buffet lunch at the Sky City Casino's Huwak'a Restaurant. (4) Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (which means "Woods of the Apache") is known as one of the most spectacular refuges in North America; tour the visitors center and walk some of the nature trails; enjoy the evening fly-in and a wonderful dinner at the Owl Bar and Cafe, known for its famous green chile cheeseburgers. No evening activities are planned.

Thursday starts with a breakfast, followed by "Remember When;" "Rangers of the Southwest, a Profile of Change" by Char Miller; Chief's comments; a plated lunch; and a variety of concurrent sessions in the afternoon. The evening will consist of a dinner banquet, awards, and entertainment. We will wish everyone a fond farewell at the Friday morning "Vaya Con Dios" breakfast.

Be sure to register for the reunion (www.2015.fvreunions.org) and make your reservations at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North (1-877-622-3056). Remember to register by August 1 as the cost goes up after that. For cancellations, a portion of the paid registration fees will be refunded if requested prior to September 1. The refund amount will be 85% per person of the paid registration fee. The retained funds will be used for reunion expenses, administrative handling, and for the benefit of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Any request to refund the registration fee after September 1, 2015, may be approved based on a request documenting hardship consideration such as illness or injury.

The Bear

by Joe Hartman
U.S. Forest Service, retired



Joe Hartman at Riley Creek Camp, Summer 1959

This tale starts out with my first adventure with the Forest Service. The year was 1959. As a summer employee and beginning forestry student from Oklahoma State University I had applied and been accepted for a job on a blister rust crew at Magee Ranger District, Coeur d'Alene NF, Idaho. This Oklahoma farm boy arrived with excitement and determination to start pulling currant bushes which were the host to the blister rust disease which was killing the mighty White Pine trees. In doing so this budding forester would save the mighty White Pine of the Northwest.

The Coeur d'Alene NF had set up backwoods tent camps to house the 50 person summer crews. The camp I was assigned to had tents to house 4 people in each tent, a shower tent, and a cook tent with a camp cook. After a week or two in the camp this Oklahoma farm boy decided on his day off to get a

picture of a wild bear. On the farm I had dealt with mean bulls, horrible hogs, and fighting chickens so I could deal with wild bear out in the Idaho woods with no problem.

The camp had a garbage pit that we dug in an open park back of the cook tent. The cook had told us to stay away from the garbage pit so we would not disturb his "pets" (the bears). The cook was named Gilbert Head and he claimed to be the brother of Edith Head, the famed Hollywood costume designer.

back from the Korean war and given to me. I knew I would get a nice shot of wild bears with this great camera.

I did not have to wait very long before two small cub bears came out to the edge of the trees on the opposite side of the open park from my hiding place. With my Zeiss Ikon camera at the ready I waited for the mother bear to come out. The two cubs moved into the open and I set the lighting and distance on the camera and looked through the lense. The mother bear had gone back into the trees and disappeared. Several minutes went by and I

was still waiting to get this great picture. The cubs continued to play in the open park. As my heart beat a little faster I felt a hot breath hitting the back of my neck and it had an unpleasant smell to it.



Gilbert Head, Camp Cook at Riley Creek Camp, 1959

On this Sunday morning I walked out past the cook tent to the edge of the trees near the garbage pit and waited. I had my new Zeiss Ikon 35 mm camera my cousin had brought

Back on the farm my Dad taught me to always move slowly around livestock so you did not spook them but if you had a need to get out of the way, do it quickly. Based on that training I slowly turned my head to see what critter had gotten so

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"Doing my Wash" at Riley Creek Camp, Summer 1959

close to me. I was looking directly into the eyes of the mother bear, her nose was twitching and she made a low "woof" sound. She still had that hot and stinky breath. She saw me from the other side of the park and came around through the woods to see what treats I had for her. I found out later that the cook, Gilbert, always gave treats to the bears about this time of day.

Because at the time I did not know that fact about the cook feeding the bears at this time of day I had executed the first part of my Dad's training, moving slowly, and felt it was time to execute the second part of the training, to move quickly when you need to. I heard the click of my new camera. It only took me a split second to cross the open park and as I rounded the cook tent corner old Gilbert, the cook, was standing there with a smile and said, "I told

you boys not to bother my pets but I was watching out to make sure you did not get into trouble."

As I later thought about this incident I concluded that the message learned was not how to outrun a mother bear but that in the Forest Service you should always be able to count on another Forest Service employee to watch out for you and to give you a helping hand when you need it.

This philosophy was practiced in the Forest Service for many years, but I am not sure that message has been passed down clearly and is at this time practiced throughout the Forest Service, given the reports of current morale. What is on the computer is not more important than helping a fellow Forest Service employee in need of some guidance, or help out in the field. There does not seem

to be as many "cooks" at the corner of the tent watching out for others.

P. S. When I developed the film from my camera I had one slide of the toe on my boot. I never did go back to get that picture of the wild bears.



Over the past few years after I retired I have been asked "Joe, why don't you write some of your stories down?" Because I look at myself as a quiet and reserved person I felt that was something I did not care to do and no one would be interested anyway. However, the suggestions to tell a few tales that happened over the 48 years, 3 months, and 22 days of service that I had with the Forest Service have not stopped so here goes.



It is an adventure of a lifetime for 3rd generation Forest Service employee, Katie Lynn Martinez, who previously worked as a seasonal and volunteer employee on the White River National Forest.

Katie is the granddaughter of the late Felix Ortega who worked from the early 60's to 1994 on the Rio Grande National Forest and Regional Office. Katie's father, Don Martinez worked in Region 2 from 1979 to 2011 when he retired as the Region 2 Timber Measurement Specialist.

Katie has always wanted to be a Forest Service employee since her youngest days living on Fort Road in Forest Service housing in Sheridan, Wyoming while Don worked on the Bighorn National Forest.

After graduating from Green Mountain High School in

South Carolina then later volunteered for another stint at Yakatat and Juneau, Alaska, where she said she never saw so much rain in her life coming from Colorado. After her AmeriCorps adventures, Katie decided to attend Metro State University and pursue a degree in Anthropology. While attending Metro State, she worked in the Regional Office in Steve Sherwood's shop as a student intern.

Being the adventurous young lady that she is, Katie took a part time job on the White River N.F. as a recreation planner and worked seasonally for a couple years. Her love of the hiking, biking, kayaking and other outdoor activities was a perfect fit for working out of the offices in Aspen and Carbondale. She was most proud of being able to help with projects such as the Winter X

OUT OF AFRICA

Written by Don Martinez, Retiree

Lakewood, Katie decided to join the AmeriCorps program and served a year with the program out of Charleston,

Games and the pro bike challenge.

Katie decided in order to become more competitive and strengthen her resume she apply for a Peace Corp assignment. In December 2013 she found out that she was accepted and given an assignment to work in the environment section in Malawi, Africa. In March 2014 she left for three months training in her host country to learn the language, culture and jobs she would be doing. She said her host family was very nice to her and treated her as one of their own. Katie will be working mainly with the Kusmala Institute in teaching organic farming and environmentally friendly farming practices, sustained forestry practices and other projects.

Malawi is known as the "warm heart of Africa" as it is one the friendliest and welcoming countries on the continent. Lake Malawi, which pretty much borders the western end of the country, has the most fresh water species of fish than any other in the world.

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Katie plans to apply for full time jobs with the Forest Service upon her return in the summer 2016 and embark on a successful career. Katie would love to hear from her Forest Service friends via postcards as they seem to get there the fastest. Her address is:

Katie Martinez PCV
P.O. Box 208
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AFRICA

Springtime in Ireland

by Johnny Hodges



"Just trying to blend in"

The three Irishmen are from left to right: Tom Berry, Rapid City, SD; Mike Curran, Rico, CO; and Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO. Location is in the village of Dingle on the Dingle Peninsula not far from where the movie "Ryan's Daughter" was filmed.

The Rocky Mountaineers completed their first international trip last month with 38 members, family and friends making the journey across the Atlantic to spend two weeks in Ireland. Part of the group also spent an additional 5 days visiting

Northern Ireland. Several independent travelers also tagged on additional days in London, Scotland and the Aran Islands.

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Of course we had a great time enjoying the varying landscapes, Irish music and the endless pubs. Our tour guide Rory was wonderful. And he never got tired of counting our (mostly gray) heads so no one got left behind. Some of us spent so much time (19 days) with him that we started calling him "dad."

3 highlights

Blarney Castle is mainly known for smooching that icky rock, but it is also surrounded by beautiful gardens and the most unusual garden of all is the "poison garden". This outdoor garden is accessible to all visitors and is loaded with plants that are poison. All are identified and labeled with skull and crossbones. "Honey, why don't you take a bite of that....?"

The town of Cobh (pronounced "cove") is located on the south coast of Ireland and was the last port visited by the Titanic. Local guide/author/

historian Michael Martin took our group on a walking tour of Cobh and gave a mesmerizing talk about the Titanic. As we gazed out into Cork Harbor, Michael pulled out the last photo taken of the Titanic as it cruised out of the harbor on its fateful voyage. We visited Glendalough Valley which is part of Wicklow Mountains National Park where Rory's sister, Ann Marie works.

Although it was her day off, she came over with 2 of her kids and led us on a hike through some of the last native forests remaining in Ireland. The foresters in the group hung on her every word as she described the ecology of the area. Sessile Oak – tell me more!

Stay tuned – we'll be posting our best photos of Ireland on the Rocky Mountaineers website soon.

Been on Vacation?

The Rendezvous Staff is looking for articles about where you've been lately. Forest Service folks go to some of the most interesting places in the world and do some of the most compelling activities. Your friends and Forest Service family would like to hear what you've been up to. So grab a pen and paper and write it down and send it in.

To submit an article, send your story ideas to: rmountaineers@gmail.com. When sending us your ideas, provide us with your name, email address, a little write-up and a couple of pictures. If you want help, we'll help you write the article.

Italian Lakes and European Alps in 2016

The Rocky Mountaineers are headed to Europe in 2016 to tour the "Romantic Villages of Alpine Europe." This is an exclusive trip for members of the Rocky Mountaineers and their families and friends.

We will visit the Lake Country of northern Italy and the Alps of Switzerland and Austria. The trip will begin in Milan, Italy and end in Munich, Germany exploring five countries, including Liechtenstein.

Most of our time is spent in three towns – 4 nights in Stresa, Italy; 4 nights in Interlaken, Switzerland; 5 nights in Seefeld, Austria; and one night in Munich, Germany. We will make numerous day trips, traveling by boat, bus and train. There is plenty of free time for hiking in the Alps and wandering on your own.

The departure date for the main trip is September 13, 2016. The price is \$4,895 including airfare from Denver before any discounts. Paying for your trip one year in advance will give you a 10% discount. The Rocky Mountaineers will provide all travelers an additional 10% rebate at the end of the trip.

The pre-trip includes 4 nights on world famous Lake Como for an additional \$895. This trip will depart the U.S. on September 9, 2016.



To sign up -

- 1) Call **Grand Circle Travel** Reservations
800-597-2452, option #2
- 2) Mention "Service Code" **G6-22528**
- 3) Deposit is **\$350** per person.

Click on this link for all of the details:

www.gct.com/avsi6

If you have questions, call Johnny Hodges at 970-226-6890 or email us at rmountaineers@gmail.com

Membership Update - April 2015

Per our by-laws, 14 members were moved to “inactive status” because they did not pay their 2015 dues. We currently have 355 members. We know there are lots of potential members that may not even be aware of the Rocky Mountaineers. If you know of a potential member, encourage them to join by contacting us or going to our website at <http://rockymountaineers.us> to sign up. We have gained 16 new Lifetime Memberships in 2015 to give us a total of 38. Our new “Lifers” are:

Ken and Kay Anderson, Lakewood, CO	Sharon Kyhl, Wenatchee, WA
Mary and Joe DeAguero, Wheat Ridge, CO	Elaine and Raymond Langstaff, Rifle, CO
Becky Aus and Mack Provart, Cody, WY	Paul and Mary Peck, Greeley, CO
Frank and Sue Cross, Piedmont, SD	Jim Pringle, Westminster, CO
Alan and Mary Jean Flesh, Golden, CO	Sandy and Herbert Smyth, Salida, CO
Mike and Marla Foley, Ft. Collins, CO	Deb and Linz Strickland, Hamilton, MT
Jim and Cheryl Free, Montrose, CO	Kim and Don Vogel, Steamboat Springs, CO
Sharon Friedman, Golden, CO	Fred and Marianne Winkler, Ft. Collins, CO

Business Update

As directed in the by-laws of the Rocky Mountaineers, an internal financial audit was conducted for the start-up year 2013 (July to December) and for the calendar year 2014. The documents reviewed included bank statements, expenditure receipts, income, quarterly financial reports, non-profit application and approval, by-laws and the membership spreadsheet.

All revenues and expenses were balanced and reconciled. Several helpful recommendations were noted including a means to better track donations which are often included with dues payments. Also, a more detailed spreadsheet to document yearly and lifetime membership payments should

be reformatted to display anticipated income. These recommendations are currently in place for 2015.

In the year to come, the donations to specific programs such as the Memorial Grove and Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship Fund will continue to be tracked separately along with the investment and working capital dollar amounts.

The Mountaineers wish to thank Eric and Deb Jensen for their meticulous review of the financial records.

A Smokejumpers Insight to our 75th Anniversary For the Rocky Mountaineers

by Karl Brauneis

Seventy five years ago this July 12th Rufus Robinson and Earl Cooley made the first parachute fire jump at Marten Creek on the Nezperce National Forest (1940). The service had built upon their aviation expertise since first commissioning aerial detection flights with Hap

men by parachute. A few demonstrations by professional jumper J.B. Bruce proved the idea to be too risky (see A Pictorial History of Smokejumping by Stan Cohen). The entire concept fell into the shadow of time until the events of tragedy re-shaped and re-kindled the idea.

in accordance with standard firefighting procedures but struggled with the slow response time by some of the crews. I personally believe that the impact of this tragedy spurred David foreword to find a faster and more effective way of getting firefighters to their respective fires.



The First Smokejumper Squad at Seeley Lake Ranger Station
Back Row: Glenn Smith, Earl Cooley, Merle Lundrigan, Jim Alexander, Chet Derry
Front Row: Rufus Robinson, Jim Waite, Frank Derry, Ranger George Case, Dick Lynch, Bill Bolen

Arnold of the US Army Air Corps in 1917 to accomplish this amazing feat. The Forest Service had pioneered parachute cargo drops to supply firefighters on the ground beginning with trial runs in 1929. By the 1930's Para-Cargo drops had become standard operating procedure. Then, in 1935, Forest Ranger T.V. Pearson of Utah proposed the idea of actually dropping

In 1937, the Blackwater Fire claimed the lives of 15 forest rangers and Civilian Conservation Corps firefighters on the Shoshone National Forest west of Cody, Wyoming. David Godwin, the Assistant Director of Fire Control in Washington conducted the investigation of the fire. He found the actions of the men and leadership to be sound and

Following the Blackwater, in 1939, Godwin initiated the Parachute Project at Winthrop, Washington. From the "Great Experiment" we were blessed with a corps of innovative, tough as nails Founding Fathers. Frank, Virgil and Chet Derry, Glenn Smith, Francis Lufkin, George Honey, Earl Cooley and Rufus Robinson are but a few of the men who defined the Smokejumpers then and now.

The first squad as pictured below was made of jumpers representing each National Forest of the Northern Region. Of course, the North Cascades Smokejumpers had their own select few stationed near Winthrop, Washington. Aerial Smokechaser was the name first given to our Founding Fathers.

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Other “Firsts” for the Smokejumpers include:

- 1) The parachute Static Line developed by Chet Derry in 1941
- 2) The Derry Slotted parachute that improved performance over the older Eagle chute
- 3) It was where the US Army came to see how it was done in order to develop their own

Fire”. I was more of a horse back then and just out of college cross country and track at Colorado State University. My coach, Del Hessel was also a smokejumper at McCall, Idaho earning his jump wings in 1959. Coach Hessel had trained us “Rams” to be physical animals. And so, Norman wanted to time me going up the gulch on the same route that Wag Dodge had led his crew during the blowup of 1949 when 13 Smokejumpers lost their lives in

Norman Maclean had previously worked on a manuscript for the battle of the Little Bighorn. It was never published as a book but can be found as part of the “Norman Maclean Reader” (Edited by O. Alan Weltzen – The University of Chicago Press). His thoughts about the Battle of the Little Bighorn and Mann Gulch give rise to what I believe to be a most poetic statement.

“They were the fastest the nation had in getting to where there was danger, they got there by moving in the magic realm between heaven and earth, and when they got there they almost made a game of it. None were surer they couldn’t loose then the Seventh Cavalry and the Smokejumpers.”

Norman Maclean

“The Magic Realm between Heaven and Earth.” Today, I have given up the parachute, but I suppose, that now, as an older man I count the day not complete unless I am sitting a horse. At night, my dreams are most vivid while parachuting to a fire or chasing mavericks atop a cow pony. Maybe it’s the adrenalin that leads to a focused memory retention and recollection. Maybe it’s the simple brush of that magical realm. Maybe, the subconscious somehow knows when life is lived to the fullest. For this and more, I thank the men who pioneered the Smokejumpers and those who kept the faith through time.



Today's Smokejumper still rides through the Magic Realm between Heaven and Earth
Photograph by the author

Paratrooper program
In the late 1970's I was introduced to Norman Maclean at the Jump Base in Missoula, Montana. Norman asked if I could accompany him and Foreman Laird Robinson to Mann Gulch to gain more insights for his book manuscript "Young Men and

the "Race That Couldn't Be Won". Respectfully I declined. I was high on the jump list and there was weekend overtime just around the corner. Maclean just laughed. I had proved again his many insights were true about smokejumpers. Today, I look back and think how stupid I was in my youth.

What it Looks like to Jump a Fire

The day is bright and clear. I can see a dozen or more parachutes hung up in the trees below me. Three smokejumpers are slowly descending into the solid timber of pine and spruce below. As I look beside me I notice another Douglas C-47 and a newer Twin Otter join us in the jump pattern. The smoke below boils. My final instructions; "Hold into the wind, there's lots of drift". Then the slap on my calf and three of us jump to join our brothers.

Count to four.

Look up and check the canopy.

Chute looks good. Orient the fire and hold into the wind. Check my jump partners. All of their parachutes deployed fine. Ok, look through your legs and work the toggles. It's all depth perception now. Check

my jump partners again. Instinctively I yell "Hey rookie, hold into the wind". I hear the other veteran yell the same but the rookie heads off over the next ridge and away from the fire. Damn, that's going to be a long hike back.

The timber is coming up fast now. Hold your feet together. It'll be ok I repeat it over again. It'll be ok. I think of the old cowboy who says to the bronk rider just before they open the chute gate. "It's alright son - it' will be ok". Then my feet hit the tree tops and branches break as I crash down

through the canopy. I am very conscious of the branches bending and breaking at my face shield as I come to a stop suspended in air.

Below I see one of the foremen and hear him talk on the radio as I begin my letdown. Soon we are all on the ground as our aircraft circle lower to drop the fire packs by cargo chute. But first, the climbing spurs must free fall so all eyes are on the sky. Our jump gear and parachutes are left amongst the trees as we tool up and head to the fire.



A smokejumper exits a plane. (US Forest Service photo)

We cut fire line the rest of the day and through out the night. By midmorning the following day we have a line around the fire and are cooling the hot spots. A district crew has hiked into relieve us for the mop up.

Our mission now, is to grab our gear and pack it out to a

drop point. They want us back in Missoula as soon as possible for the next round of lightning storms.

We are at the peak of rapid deployment in the 1970's using overbearing strength to suppress forest fires. Resource losses are kept to a minimum and timber is saved for commercial harvest. Federal tax dollars are also saved because the fires are kept small. Our outfit is the best in the world at what we do.

Rocky Mountaineers Second Annual Ski Day is a great success!

The Rocky Mountaineers Second Annual Ski Day on January 29 was a great success. We met in the morning at the base on the Mary Jane side of Winter Park and were joined by Doug Laraby, who is a professional forester and Director of Planning for the Winter Park Resort. The weather report wasn't too terrific for the day, but for the second year in a row, it turned out to be just an absolutely fabulous day with lots of sun, no wind, and very comfortable temperatures. The snow was excellent packed powder and the main runs had all been groomed with an inch or two of fresh snow. It was uncommon to have no wind at the top of Panoramic Express, which at 12,000' is one of the highest elevation high-speed six packs in North America. We skied off this lift most of the day and enjoyed great runs together.

After a great morning of skiing, the group met together in the new Lunch Rock Restaurant, which just opened this year. It is a great addition to Winter Park and provides a first class place to take a break and have a bowl of soup on the Mary Jane side. In the afternoon, it was back to the slopes for several hours of great skiing. Most of the group stayed for some refreshments at the lodge and felt lucky to have this day of skiing with Rocky Mountaineer friends. A couple folks from Fort Collins didn't connect up with the group until late in the day but had a good day anyway.

Thanks to Bjorn Dahl for organizing this year's ski day again and to Winter Park for their support of our Rocky Mountaineers group.



Photo outside the Lunch Rock Restaurant with Parry's Peak in the distant background

L-R	Dan Nolan	Ed Ryberg	Ken Karkula	Bernie Weingardt	Jim Thinnes	Tom Thompson	
	Jim Lawrence	Lynne Larsen	Marti Dahl	Bjorn Dahl	Susan Gray	Cindy Dean	Glen Hetzel

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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

Melanie Woolever *Retiree Class of 2015 – 37 Years of Service*



Melanie with son Mitchell in 2013.

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Melanie Woolever: I grew up in Carson City, Nevada. My grandparents ran a small cattle ranch along the Carson River. It was there with my cowboy grandfather that I learned to love animals, wildlife and gained a deep respect for the land.

TR: Tell us about your first job with the Forest Service.

MW: My very first job was as a seasonal on the Curlew National Grasslands in Southern Idaho. I was one of four seasonals supervising thirty-two teenagers; sixteen boys and sixteen girls at a live-in YACC (Young Adult Conservation Crew) Camp. We built fences and trails primarily although we were also responsible to provide a day a week of environmental education for the enrollees.

TR: You were in some of those first classes of professional women in the Agency. Tell us about that.

MW: Yes, that's true. I actually think that I was the second woman wildlife biologist hired in Region 4. It was a challenge, particularly in the conservative culture in Utah where women were expected to fill more traditional roles. Even the women employed in then more traditional roles found it difficult to adjust to a woman wildlife biologist. The wives of those men I worked with were less than excited about having me go to the field with their husbands. Sexual harassment wasn't uncommon and I was not given the same promotion opportunity as my male counterparts. So it was an interesting start to my career to say the least.

TR: Was there pressure on you to move locations to get grade?

MW: Yes, the Forest Service culture was that you had to move to build grade, I did have four different jobs in four different locations in the first five years of my career before moving to Denver. Although only one of those moves resulted in a promotion, there was still pressure to move to gain experience. Life happened after moving to Denver and I no longer had the luxury of mobility. Although I continued to be urged to move, I was very blessed to have supervisors that helped me gain those important experiences through details as well as supported me in assuming different duties.

TR: You dealt with wildlife partnerships most of your career. What's that all about?

MW: O my gosh, I could chat for hours about partnerships. People protect what they love and they love what they know. Our public is less connected with the land as every day goes by.

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We must continue to be viewed as a national treasure to be protected. It is critical to keeping the agency that stewards those resources for generations to come relevant. We somehow need to reach the hearts, minds and votes of all Americans with the national Forest message. Twenty years ago, there were twelve million people associated with some sort of wildlife-related organization. I'm sure it is far more now. Developing partnerships with these groups is a way to reach all those people, helping them know their National Forests, begin to value and indeed love them and consequently vote to protect them. Yes money does come along with those partnerships to do valuable resource work on NFS lands but that is secondary.

TR: What were the best and worst parts of your career?

MW: There are lots of “best” parts. I got paid good money to ride horses and do actual work on the land in breathtakingly beautiful places. As I progressed in my career, I got to be a part of something much bigger than me, helping to frame decisions providing for healthy ecosystems and a wildlife legacy for generations to come. And I guess the best of the best is that I got to do all of that with incredible resources professionals, hundreds of whom that I count as friends. The worst? Well, I don’t think I was a perfect fit to the FS mold. That was expressed in many ways over the years. I wasn’t always effective in the system which was frustrating for all involved. In the end though, I believe the resources we manage for the public benefitted from having the diversity of thought and opinion.

TR: Who were your early mentors who gave you good advice early on in your career?

MW: I was blessed to have many mentors throughout my career. They came from different functions and roles in the agency. John Mumma was a huge influence on my career. He was committed to increasing the number of biologists in the agency while at the same time increasing the representation of women in those jobs. He gave me lots of room to grow, try things on my own and to lead. A wonderful Forest Engineer, Clyde Lay,

comes to mind that taught me so much about FS culture, trying to help me fit in. I worked a whole career trying to master many of the things he shared, like, “even though the answer may be obvious in the first 15 minutes, you have to be patient with the process and learn to kick rocks around while people wrestle with it for however many hours it takes to get to that obvious answer.”

TR: You played a role in the Two Forks issue. What was that like?

MW: The South Platte district biologist (Brenda Fittante) and I were charged with doing the wildlife impact analysis modeling associated with the proposed 2 Forks Dam that would have inundated an expansive area. At that time, I was in the Wildlife Ecologist position and had been working with the National Wildlife Ecology team to develop a new automated model called HABCAP. We used HABCAP to assess the value of the inundated area to wildlife and consequently the loss if flooded. The project and subsequent debate spanned many years with Ellie Towns and Skip Underwood in the lead. However, the wildlife effects delineated were a significant piece of the EIS and the subsequent social, political and biological debate. As you know, that dam was never constructed.

TR: You spent some time in Alaska. How was that??

MW: I worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1977 in SE Alaska mapping major salmon streams. We walked every tributary to where they started. In those days, the FS did not hire women seasonals for work in brown bear country. The FS required a certified shooter who carried a .375 H&H Magnum to protect their crews. The work that I did was contracted by the FS to the FWS who had no such sensibilities. So we worked in 2 person crews walking salmon streams to their headwaters unarmed and without even a radio to contact help. We worked in hip boots negotiating slippery rocks covered with decomposing salmon slime, devil’s club 10’ tall along the banks, never able to see more than 50’ in front of us.

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Melanie on the Spanish Fork Ranger District - circa 1981.

the bear had just left to avoid us. Thankfully, all of them choose that behavior! We'd camp out and eat tuna and ramen as it was the easiest to fix and lightest to carry. We had to smell of fish inside and out! It was an incredible experience and one that confirms God looks out for dumb kids

TR: You were involved in fire during your career like a lot of Forest Service employees. Tell us about that.

MW: I worked for a Forest Supervisor that had a strong interest in fire. As a result, he insisted that his staff was well trained and heavily involved in suppression efforts. Consequently, when I left that Forest for R2 I was one training course short of being Sector Boss qualified in the old system and had stints as the District FMO. I was also tractor boss qualified. I wish I had pictures of me walking in the pitch black in front of an enormous Komatsu tractor guiding him along, praying that I didn't stumble and fall when he wasn't looking and trying to ignore the spider webs that would stick to my face as I walked through them. I had a couple of frightening experiences in steep, gambel's oak covered country that left a clear understanding of the power of nature and the respect that is demanded. I treasure my experience in fire. There was such a great sense of camaraderie, and teamwork with a very clear mission. Being on the line was among the most challenging and physically demanding experiences of my life. Although my boss in R2 didn't support me continuing my

It wasn't uncommon to round a corner, the air heavy with bear smell, to see an abandoned dead fish on a bank with the vegetation popping back up as

involvement in fire, I was able to help with tanker time recording and dispatch for several years at Jeffco, including the day we lost 2 pilots when Tanker 123 crashed near Lyons. It was a very tragic and traumatic event for all involved.

TR: Why were you chainsaw qualified?

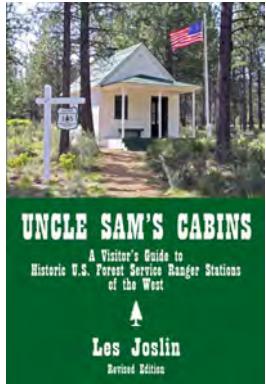
MW: I would be laying out treatment prescriptions that involved cutting for wildlife habitat benefit so it seemed logical to someone that I MUST take chainsaw training. My trainer was that Amazon woman that could run a saw all day, unafraid of anything or anyone. It was August, the beginning of archery season. Two men in camo down to their noses and behaving somewhat suspiciously in my estimation, appeared out of nowhere wondering what we were doing. She explained and included the fact that the two of us were camping out in the middle of nowhere alone! Since it was quite cold, I had my blue sleeping bag cinched up around my head so only my face showed. I was awakened in the middle of the night by the sounds of footsteps and then breathing, heavy breathing, behind me. I lay there looking at my trainer sleeping soundly, scared and wondering what to do. After some minutes of continuing to hear the heavy breathing, I couldn't stand it anymore. I decided I would spring upright turning to sitting position to face the intruder(s). I worked up the courage as the breathing continued and then quickly made my move. As I got upright, the now startled, heavy-breathing intruder running for their lives from the "blue thing" that they had previously been investigating turned out to be 3 yearling steers. Yet another hysterically funny experience in the woods!

TR: Do you know where the best milk shakes in the world are located?

MW: Yes I do. It's in Heber, Utah and it's called Granny's. It's just amazing. My favorite is the Chocolate Banana!

Uncle Sam's Cabins**Historic Lost Man Ranger Station**
White River National Forest

By Les Joslin



The small log cabin once called Lost Man Ranger Station reflects the U.S. Forest Service's early appreciation of high-speed communications in national forest administration. The cabin, at an elevation of 10,500 feet and six miles west of 12,095-foot Independence Pass over the Continental Divide, was

built in October 1913 by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Mountain States Telephone Company primarily as a line cabin for crews who maintained telephone lines over the divide. Records



Historic photo caption: *Lost Man Ranger Station, White River National Forest, Colorado, in 1940.* U.S. Forest Service photograph.

show the Forest Service provided \$85.04 in labor to the project while the telephone company provided \$50.00 worth of materials.

Telephones were in use at ranger stations from the earliest days of the Forest Service, which both built its own telephone lines and contracted with private telephone companies—often trading resources for access. Rangers frequently took on the responsibility of maintaining the lines they used. This not only assured continued use of the line, but

the good will of the telephone company and other users.

By the late 1940s, Lost Man Ranger Station, later called Lost Man Guard Station, was used only irregularly by Forest Service personnel as a temporary stopping place. Today, the unsigned historic Lost Man Ranger Station log cabin, just off Colorado Highway 82 and adjacent to Lost Man Campground, reminds those who know what it is of earlier eras in both communications technology and national forest administration. At the time of this writer's 2010 visit, its potential to tell both stories remained to be realized.

Next time you're in Aspen, stop by and see the historic Lost Man Ranger Station cabin. It's on the south side of Colorado Highway 82, adjacent to Lost Man Campground, 14 miles southeast of Aspen and 6 miles west of Independence Pass. Truckers and other large vehicles are not allowed to



Current photo caption: *Historic Lost Man Ranger Station in 2010.* Photograph by the writer.

use this paved but narrow and winding highway that is always closed in winter.

Adapted by the writer from his 2012 book Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West.

Yes, they saved the Forest Service

2000 arrived with nothing more than the expected hangover

as related to Dave Steinke as a true story

Everybody twenty-five or older probably remembers the big Y2K computer panic. Y2K is slang for “Year 2000.” The “Y” stands for “Year.” The “K” comes from “kilo” as in kilometer and stands for “Thousand.”

During the previous year, 1999, the USDA and other federal agencies had worried themselves into a panic. They worried that the coming new year would make all computers fail or at least go haywire. They feared computers would think the new year was 1900 instead of 2000.

That was because people who programmed computers had used only the last two digits of any year, and the last two digits of 1900 and 2000 are the



The saviors of the service - Jim Pringle, Gary Schmidt and Kendall Jones reflecting back on Y2K.

same.

Forest Service officials also feared we'd have chaos when Y2K arrived.

Early in 1999 Jim Pringle, Regional Network Manager, Kendall Jones, Telecom Specialist, and Gary Schmidt, Regional Telecom Branch Chief were the Region two employees selected to fix the oncoming Y2K problem. Kendall Jones, a Navy veteran was well aware of the Domino Theory and knew that “as Region 2 goes, so goes the world. If we

failed in the Rocky Mountain Region, then the rest of the Regions would tumble right behind us.” Kendall was selected to go to Washington D.C. on a two month detail to assist Doug Hodge, director of telecommunications for the Forest Service in reviewing all the regional plans and distributing the 1.75 million dollars that USDA had earmarked to the Forest Service for fixing the potential problem.

Their report, known as the “Y2K Bug Report” was presented to Jack “King” Arthur, the IT director for the Forest Service, who approved the spending distribution and the plan to go ahead and update the entire computer system for the agency.

The job would entail upgrading every server, increasing or replacing all the router memory and run a test to ensure that every individual system would not fail when the calendar switched to 2000.

Jim Pringle came up with the Region 2 plan based on what the five states needed and the amount of money distributed to us. The first phase was to test it out on the closest office, the South Platte Ranger District. The district's computer system was shut down for a couple of hours, the fix was put in place and then it was restarted as the year 2000. No problems occurred and the rest of the plan was put into action. Some of the closest units were fixed first, then a series of road trips around the region occurred. It took anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours for each and every unit in the region to be upgraded, and it always included a complete shutdown and a test to be sure that every office would make it through the New Year crisis free.

Gary Schmidt was new to the Forest Service and Region 2 at the time, who assisted in logistics, tractor identification and gastronomical selections on many of the road trips. “The team really pulled together and was motivated to help the field units. We are from the Regional Office and we go to the field to help,” noted Schmidt at the time.

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Gary went on to correctly predict that the Nebraska Football team "will win the Big 12 North in 2009, and be victorious in the Holiday Bowl and will shut out Arizona 33-0."

"I was anxious, nervous and more than concerned. I really didn't know if we were going to make it. Those three men were a beacon of digital hope for us," said Bob James, Job Corps Program Manager in Denver at the time.

By September 1st, 1999 they had updated or added memory, installed new operating systems or replaced 105 wide area network routers and 122 local area network data switches. Everything was completed and the wait began. Pringle, Jones and Schmidt were on call New Year's Eve and thankfully not one problem was reported in the entire region. They all received a hearty thanks from the Forest

Service and a special commendation and medal from the President's Commission on Y2K.

Kendall, Jim and Gary did the right thing, and probably lots of other folks did many right things. And on New Year's Day for the Year 2000, the whole, huge, would-be disaster deflated. The Y2K news story quickly disappeared. "Government business continuing as usual" isn't news. And soon the Forest Service had more important things to think about.

For more information about this "hidden" chapter of the Forest Service, we have some of the original documents and supporting correspondence on the Rendezvous website at <http://rockymountaineers.us/History/Y2K/>.

What's Funny?



Only Hugh!

The friars were behind on their belfry payments, so they opened up a small florist shop to raise funds.

Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought this was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not.

He went back and begged the friars to close. They ignored him.

So the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, the roughest and most vicious thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop.

Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that: Hugh, and only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

The James T. Saban Lookout

by Karl Brauneis

On August 21, 2012 the Shoshone National Forest hosted a 75th year Memorial Hike of the Blackwater Fire. A fire, that so long ago claimed the lives of fifteen forest rangers, engineer and Civilian Conservation Corps firefighters in 1937. Just to view the Blackwater is a task not taken lightly. The fire demands a rigorous 10 mile round trip hike on foot or ride by horse through the rugged terrain of king grizzly and his court of elk, mountain sheep, mule deer and wolves. There is much time on the trail to reflect, visit and study. During the Memorial hike several family members still affected by the fire, retired Forest Service officers and present day officials made plans to continue to honor the memory of our fallen firefighters.

Both the Shoshone National Forest and the Bighorn have several sites named after those who fell or served on the Blackwater Fire. Although the fire occurred on the Shoshone, the Bighorn National Forest provided much of the "man power" to fight the blaze. Clayton Peak, Rex Hale Campground, Tyrrell Ranger Station, Post Picnic Area and several Civilian Conservation Corps monuments dot the landscape of both the Shoshone and Bighorn. Unfortunately, years ago, following an

administrative consolidation the old James T. Saban Ranger Station at Ten Sleep, Wyoming was de-commissioned and a new district office commissioned at Worland. With this re-organization, the memory and sacrifice of Jim Saban, who served both as a forest ranger

felt this was something that had to change.

A lot of other folks did too. High in the Bighorn Mountains overlooking the Meadowlark Lake Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial to the Blackwater Fire and the Paul Tyrrell Ranger Station sits the High Park Lookout. Could High Park be re-named the James T. Saban Lookout? Ever vigilant, the Saban Lookout could watch over not only our forest but the monuments, peaks and stations dedicated to his brothers who fell on that hot August day in 1937. And so, a proposal was submitted to the Forest Supervisors of both the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests.

With this re-organization, the memory and sacrifice of Jim Saban, who served both as a forest ranger and Civilian Conservation Corps foreman, began to fade from our collective cultural identity and history. As memorial

hikers and riders, we felt this was something that had to change. A lot of other folks did too.



Forest Ranger James T. Saban perished in the line of Duty August 21, 1937 Blackwater Fire – SHOSHONE National Forest

and Civilian Conservation Corps foreman, began to fade from our collective cultural identity and history. As memorial hikers and riders, we

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View from the proposed James T. Saban Lookout on the Bighorn National Forest

High in the Bighorn Mountains overlooking the Meadowlark Lake Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial to the Blackwater Fire and the Paul Tyrrell Ranger Station sits the High Park Lookout. Could High Park be renamed the James T. Saban Lookout? Ever vigilant, the Saban Lookout could watch over not only our forest but the monuments, peaks and stations dedicated to his brothers who fell on that hot August day in 1937. And so, a proposal was submitted to the Forest Supervisors of both the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests.

We would like to thank all of those individuals and organizations that came to support us in this proposal. They read like a litany of tradition and honor and include but not limited to: The Forest Supervisors and their staffs of both the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests, the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, the Chief Forester and

his staff in Washington, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, The Rocky Mountaineers, The National Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation with a special thanks to Senators Mike Enzi and John Barrasso and Congressman Cynthia Lummis, members of the Wyoming State Legislature, The Wyoming State Forester and his

staff, Always Remember, The Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, The Lessons Learned and Staff Ride Library, The Bastrop County Museum and Visitor Center in Bastrop, Texas and most importantly the family of James T. Saban.

We hope to re-dedicate the Lookout on June 20th 2015. The event is planned to coincide with a visit from the Alcario Serros family of Texas. Alcario was burned in the line of duty on the Blackwater Fire. His name is one of many inscribed on the monument at Meadowlark Lake.

In addition, we plan to ride by horse and or hike by foot up the Blackwater on Friday, May 15, 2015. The target audience for this Lessons Learned hike will be the Wyoming Hot Shots, the West Yellowstone Smokejumpers and forest staff and retirees. However, the public is welcome to attend and can contact me for more information at brauneis@bresnan.net.



Blackwater Fire Staff Ride / Hike – Interpreter and Firefighters discuss Lessons Learned

Remembrances



Harriette Lucille Allen

Harriette Lucille Allen of Greybull, WY, 88, died Dec. 13. She was born June 3, 1926, in Douglas, WY, the daughter of Fletcher and Hazel Newton Kershner. She was raised in the Big Horn Basin and graduated from high school when she was 16 years old. She

attended Denver Business College for two years.

Harriette married Harry H. Allen June 7, 1946, at Red Lodge, Mont. She worked from 1962 through 1986 for the U.S. Forest Service as a District Clerk,

Support Services Specialist, and District Administrative Assistant on the Bighorn N.F.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where she served as a deacon and a treasurer. Harriette was also a member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary and the BPO Does.

Her husband, Harry Allen; her parents, Fletcher and Hazel Kershner; sister Danella Morris and son Rick Allen preceded her in death.

She is survived by her daughter Kathy Bullinger of Cody; two grandsons, Scott Carpenter and Bruce Allen, and two granddaughters, Kacy Heiser and Rikilyn Allen and their families, and a great-grandson, Aiden Heiser.



Frederick E. (Fred) Buhr

Frederick E. Buhr, 63, of Lakewood, passed away on January 10, 2015.

Fred was born on October 30, 1951, in Raton, New Mexico.

Following high school, his parents advised he would be responsible for college tuition and expenses, so after one semester of school, he decided to take a different path and join the United States Navy; he served for 12 years.

From 1970 to 1982, Fred was a sonar technician and made the rank of Chief at the age of 26 years old; certainly quite an accomplishment for his youthful age. After about a year's search, Fred was offered a job with the USDA Forest Service, which launched

a satisfying career that took him across multiple states and challenged him. After 30 years, he retired as the National Frequency Manager in 2012.

Among many hobbies and interests Fred participated in over the years, he enjoyed volunteering at The Action Center in Lakewood, twice a week; he loved driving around town visiting yard sales and thrift stores looking for suitcases for The Action Center. He also enjoyed his volunteer work at the Jefferson County Whale Book Sale at the county fairgrounds twice a year.

Fred is survived by his wife Susan; son Jeff (LeAnn), son Wade; and daughter Ellen Shelley.

Remembrances



Clyde Duren Jr.

Clyde Duren, Jr. of Homer, Alaska passed away in Anchorage, Alaska on January 7, 2015. Clyde was born in Trinidad, Colorado on November 19, 1922. At the age of 17, he enlisted the Army Air Corps and was a prisoner of war from

1942-1945, surviving both the Bataan Death March and prison camp in Japan. While convalescing from the ravages of war, he attended college and receive an AAS in Cadastral Surveying.

Clyde was the Region 2 Cadastral Surveyor from 1961 to the late 70's, when he left and became the Chief and Director of Cadastral Survey for the State of Alaska.. His sons remember many years living in field camps as children. Clyde was

instrumental in the work done by the state of Alaska to develop Alaska Native land allotments.

Clyde lived in Anchorage for many years then retired to Homer with his wife Marlene, (deceased). Clyde loved living in Homer and being the Captain of his boat the "Anna Marlene". One of his favorite accomplishments in life was catching a 455 lb. halibut in Kachemak Bay a few years ago and likened himself to "The Old Man and the Sea". He also enjoyed many years of being a snow bird with his traveling companion Nadine Dely.

Clyde is survived by his sister Shirley Dickenson of Aurora, Colorado and brother Don Duren of Boise, Idaho; his two sons Gregory (wife Molly) of Anchorage, Alaska and Gary (wife Judy), of Denver Colorado.



John Patrick (Pat) Halligan

John Patrick (Pat) Halligan died on May 31, 2014 in Denver. He was born in 1939 in Topeka, Kansas to Harold John and Cecelia

Ellen Halligan. Pat graduated from Washburn University with a Bachelor of Arts in 1963. From there he went on to Kansas University and earned a Master's in Public Administration in 1968. After several years of working for governmental entities in Kansas and Colorado, he began working for the Forest Service in 1978 as a Planning Forester for the White River National Forest. After receiving a law degree from the University of Denver and being admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1986, Pat went on to work in the Regional Office in Appeals and Litigation, and as Assistant Director of Human Resources for Employee and Labor Relations until

retirement in 2004. After retirement he and his wife Sandra spent time raising alpacas.

Pat enjoyed wood-working, focusing on an unusual pastime that involved researching and building small-scale-model half-hulls of northeastern U.S. fishing vessels. He and Sandra traveled to Maine each fall where John attended classes on this uncommon wood-working craft. Pat's grandchildren treasure his half-hulls. Pat was a voracious reader, interested in history, particularly the American Civil War, and Catholic theology, particularly the writings of St Augustine. He was a wonderful father and grandfather, supportive in both word and deed. Always willing to listen and contribute thoughtfully, Pat enjoyed a wide circle of close friends.

He is survived by his wife Sandra and three children, John in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jennifer, in Glenwood Springs, and Tom in Denver. Pat's son Timothy preceded him in death in 1972.

Remembrances



Clinton Daniel (Clint) Kyhl

Clinton Daniel Kyhl, 54, passed away peacefully at home on February 16, 2015 of ALS after facing the disease, like everything else in his life, with courage and grace.

He was born on November 29, 1960 in Ft. Rucker, Alabama to Curtis Kyhl and Nancy (Squires) Kyhl and was raised in Iowa. Clint graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Forestry in 1983. Upon moving to Colorado, he met the love of his life, Sharon Abrahamson. They married on December 27, 1986.

Clint served over 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Washington. He worked on the South Park Ranger District of the Pike San Isabel National Forest. Clint was Ranger at Hot Springs, South Dakota on the Nebraska National Forest and the Laramie Ranger District on the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest. From 2007 to 2009 as leader of the Bark Beetle Incident Management Team in southeastern Wyoming and northern Colorado. From 2009-2013,

he was the Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Most recently, he was the Forest Supervisor for the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson, WY. He approached his work with a quiet strength and brought wisdom and creativity to the work he did and the people he served.

While Clint loved his work, he was just as passionate about his faith, family and friends. He pursued his true values with a full and open heart. He was happiest outside enjoying the beauty of nature with those he loved. Clint would often say on a beautiful Sunday morning, "Today, I'd rather have the boys out fishing and thinking about God, than sitting in church thinking about fishing." He was an avid hunter, fisherman, hiker, skier, wood turner, and wine maker. He recruited family and friends to help with the harvest and treasured time spent drinking the fruits of their labor together. Throughout his life and even in his last days, Clint considered himself to be the luckiest man in the world and felt abundantly blessed. He viewed every day as a gift and leaves us with the charge to live each day to the fullest.

Clint is survived by his loving family – his wife, Sharon of Wenatchee; his son, Keith of Steamboat Springs, CO; and his son, Craig of Anchorage, AK.

George Norman Mandeville

George Norman Mandeville, age 90, of Dunning passed away on February 1, 2015. Born in Mullen, Nebraska to Robert G. and Ruth A. (Ferguson) Mandeville on March 12, 1924. Married Zelda Josephine Little on February 15, 1947. George was a veteran (Marine), rancher and retired U.S. Forest Service Range Manager. A member of the VFW, American Legion and the Custer Masonic Lodge 148 Broken Bow. He was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather

and great grandfather and will be greatly missed. George was preceded in death by his parents; brother, John Mandeville and wife Zelda (Little) Mandeville. Survived by his children Linda (Leonard) Cowdin of Lincoln, George (Billie) Mandeville Jr., Gillette Wyoming, Sheri (Wayne) Rodocker, Halsey.

Remembrances

Dale Douglas Matlack



Dale Matlack, 80, of Meridian, died on March 21, 2014. Dale was born on January 17, 1934 on a farm near Burrton, Kansas.. He attended a 2 room school house about one mile from their farm. In 1944, the family move from the farm to Virginia

where his school had 600 students. He joined the Boy Scouts and decided forestry was for him. He attended Colorado A&M College where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and where ROTC was mandatory for young college men. He graduated with a degree in Forestry. Dale was married to Sheila Riley in 1955 and to this union three sons were born. They later divorced. In 1986, he married Louise Bailer.

Following college, Dale became a pilot in the USAF. This introduction to aviation influenced everything he did for the rest of his life. In 1959, Dale started his career with the U. S. Forest Service on the Pike National Forest. He became the Forest Air Officer/pilot on the Black Hills N.F. and later Assistant

Ranger at Sundance, Wyoming. In 1964, he returned to active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard. Following his military obligation, he accepted an assignment with the U.S. Forest Service in Boise as Infrared Pilot-coordinator. Besides Infrared duties, he performed leadplane and smokejumper co-pilot duties. In the early 1970's he became active in aviation safety which resulted in his moving to Ogden and later was promoted to the Regional Aviation Officer with the BLM.

In 1981, Dale was reassigned to Aerial Attack Systems Specialist for the Forest Service National Office in Boise. He was promoted to Washington D.C as National Aviation Safety and Training Officer in 1987 and retired in 1989, returning to Boise to live.

During retirement years, Dale and Louise traveled the US and to Europe. Dale was an active member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Dale is survived by his wife of 27 years, Louise; his children: Brad Matlack (Ogden), Todd (Lori) Matlack (Ogden), Dean (Jennifer) Matlack (Thailand), and Hal (Heidi) Bailer (Germany).



Edra L. Robertson

Edra Lou Robertson died May 20, 2014, at Crossroads Senior Living in Delta. She was 80. Edra was born on March 22, 1934, to Orion and

Vermel (Crawley) Beck in Delta, Colorado where she spent her childhood and graduated from Delta High School. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Jim Robertson; her parents, and a brother. Edra enjoyed gardening, quilting, Bunco, the Broncos, and her family and friends.

She worked as a supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service and a caregiver for family and friends for many years. She is survived by four daughters and their husbands, Lori and Jay Alsdorf; Jime and Randy Charlesworth; Terri and Gary Knob, and Toni and Rick Allen; son and his wife, Jim and Susan Robertson.

Remembrances



Charles D. Swisher

Charles D. Swisher, age 85, a lifetime Halsey, NE resident, died Wednesday November 19, 2014 in Kearney.

Charles D. Swisher was born on May 19, 1929 at Halsey, NE to

Lewis and Mary (Ott) Swisher. Charles attended school at Rose Hill Country School and later Halsey School. In 1960, he was married to Brenda Oxford. Three children were born to this union; Jim, Bonnie and Charles Jr. They were divorced in 1981. Charles later married Marilyn Saner on April 21, 1984. They made their home in Halsey. Through the years Charles worked as a ranch hand and later

at the Bessey Nursery and Bessey National Forest. Charles is survived by his wife Marilyn, a son Jim (Karen) Swisher of Halsey, a daughter Bonnie McCaslin of Kearney, a son Charles Swisher Jr. of Overton, stepchildren; Dave Bendig of Halsey, Lori (Craig) Cranwell of Broken Bow, Teresa (Dickey) Stadler of Axtell, Karen (Jim) Swisher of Halsey, 7 grandchildren, 12 step grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, 18 step great grandchildren, and two brothers; Leonard (Crystal) Swisher and Francis Swisher both of Halsey.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters; Mary Alice, Ida Mae, and Caroline, four brothers; Lewis, Cecil, Clarence, and Bernard, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Clara Vaughn

Clara Vaughn of Durango passed away December 27th, 2014 at her home. She was 77. Mrs. Vaughn was born February 14th, 1937, in Wann, OK to Levi and Grace Dean. She grew up in Wann and graduated from Antioch High School. She

was married on Feb 18, 1956 to Johnny Vaughn in Carrizozo, N.M.

In 1961, the family relocated permanently to Colorado. Mrs. Vaughn worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 33 years and served her entire career in Region 2 in SW Colorado on the San Juan NF. Her career included times when the San Juan consisted of separate Forests that were later combined. She retired in 1994. She enjoyed camping and fishing, but most of all, caring for and spending time with family.

Remembrances



Frederic B. Stillman

Frederic B. (Fred) Stillman of Lakewood, CO died on January 5, 2015. He was born in 1932 in East Rochester, NY to Neil and Mildred Stillman. He graduated from high school in East Rochester, NY in 1950 and then on to Colorado

A&M in the College of Forestry. After graduation he got his first job with the Forest Service at Hot Springs, SD on the Black Hills. He worked on the San Juan NF on both the Glade Ranger District and Columbine RDs in the early 60's. He then was the Pole Mountain District Ranger on the Medicine Bow N.F. in the late 60's. Fred went to the Gunnison NF as the Staff Officer in Recreation Lands and Watershed in the early 70's and then on

to the Del Norte District Ranger on Rio Grande from 1973 until probably 1977. He left the Forest Service and went to work for the BLM at their Colorado State Office and then his last assignment was with the Office of Emergency Management in Denver and he retired in the mid-80s.

Flying model airplanes was a favorite hobby of Fred's and he also was a HAM radio operator with call letters KBOZRY.

He is survived by his wife Donna of Lakewood and son Vance and daughter Valerie and three grandchildren. His older brother, Richard M. Stillman, retired from the Forest Service and died in 1988.



Karl F. Zeller

Karl F. Zeller of Ignacio, CO died Feb. 13, 2015. He was born Feb. 19, 1931 to Samuel C. and Helene Zeller in Nazareth, PA, where he grew up and went to school, until enlisted in

the [U.S. Navy](#) in 1950. He prided himself in his naval service with aircraft carrier fighter squadrons, retaining his interest in naval aviation. With great pride, he graduated Cum Laude in 1957 from the University of New Hampshire with a Wildlife Management Degree.

Upon graduation, he was hired by the US Forest Service, spending 26 years as a Forest Ranger in Wyoming and Colorado. He started on the Clarks Fork District on the Shoshone and then

went to the Meeker District on the White River. He was then Ranger on the Arapahoe and then the San Juan National Forests. As an amateur historian, he loved discovering anecdotes of his own family history including his German roots, PA German dialect, and Forest Service history.

Karl was an English sports car enthusiast. He was a lover of classical and folkloric music, and in his spare time, considered himself, an amateurish pianist and accordionist. Karl was a member of St. Ignatius Parish, of Ignacio, CO.

He is survived by his wife Marie ""Della"" Zeller, son Skip Zeller (Kim), son Chris Zeller, daughter Heidi Holley (Ed), son Eric Zeller (Zena), son Shane Vigil (Jessie), step daughter Linda Parrott (Ron).

Remembrances



Rosye "Maxine" Hartman Humrich

Rosye "Maxine" Hartman Humrich, 91, of Lebanon, Indiana passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Maxine was born Jan. 3, 1924, in Sedalia, Mo. She was the daughter of the now late Tolbert David and Nina Laura (Ulmer) Hartman of Golden, Colo.

She married Dale Raymond Humrich on Sept. 21, 1943, in Estes Park, Colo. He preceded her in death on Aug. 13, 1959.

Maxine served in World War II as a medical technician. She then worked for the United States Forest Service as an auditor in the Regional Office in Golden, Colo. After retiring, she worked in

public schools as a secretary and also worked on the United State Census.

Maxine loved to play the piano, sew, cook and write letters to friends and family. Her greatest joy was her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include daughter, J. Dalene Lietz of Lebanon, and son, David Wayne Humrich of Lakewood, Colo.; grandchildren, Christopher James (Ro) Lietz, of Antioch, Calif., Cindy Lynn (Bill) Jones of Lebanon, and Ronald Wayne (Lisa) Lietz, of Whitestown; nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.



Patricia L. Smith

Patricia L. Smith died March 28 in Tucson, AZ on her 88th birthday in Gunnison, CO. She was born March 28, 1927 to Lovie and Terrell Coxe in Denver. Mz Pat,

Patricia, Gramma Pat,

and Pitter Pat were all names for an incredible lady who could light up any room with her smile! Pat was an incredible mom, friend and coach who encouraged, listened and made it her duty to nurture, love and cherish life.

She enjoyed a professional career with the U.S. Forest Service and spent a good part of her career in R-2 working in State and Private Forestry doing budget and state grants from the mid to late 70's and then she transferred to Arapaho-Roosevelt as the Administrative Officer and then transferred to

the Washington Office Program Budget staff retiring in 1988. Patricia earned a respectful reputation for being a tough, smart, independent woman who, at the closing stages of her career, used her sharp skills and talents to secure funding for the U.S. Forest Service, even if that meant bumping heads with members of both senate and house funding committees.

Pat will be missed by family and friends from every place and every person she touched, most recently Gunnison. Pat fell in love with Gunnison and Gunnison fell in love with her! She is survived by daughters Debbie (Steve) Iobst of Mammoth, Wyo.; and Gayle (Jerry) Burgess of Gunnison; as well as nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren: Memorial gatherings are being planned for Gunnison and Denver later this month. Preparations are underway and will be shared in a later announcement.

Remembrances



Jack Gregory

Jack Gregory, known affectionately as Jumpin' Jack, age 63 of Marietta, Georgia passed away Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Ginnie Springs

doing what he loved, scuba diving. He was born December 13, 1951 in Los Angeles, California to John Louis and Marion J. Starr Gregory.

Jack was a retired Special Agent in law enforcement in the US Forest Service and worked early in his career on the Arapaho-Roosevelt in Fort Collins and Boulder. He also served in Region 6 and Region 8 in

He was a National Association Cave Divers life member, a board member of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, member of the FOP, NRA, National Association of Forest Service Retirees, associate member of Georgia Association of Law Enforcement and an ordained online minister. He was a member of the Rocky Mountaineers.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie Gregory and daughter, Erin Elizabeth Gregory both of Marietta, Georgia; brothers, Willie Toth of Sedro-Woolley, WA, Robert Toth; sisters, Fran Ringhoffer, Elizabeth Bradford both of Snoqualmie, WA and Linda Starr Manies of Muskogee, OK.

If you know someone who should appear in "Remembrances", drop a note to the Mountaineers and tell us the name or mail an obituary or a link to one. Send your information and pictures to the Mountaineers or Tom Thompson at:
tommylthompson@comcast.net

The Last Word

“Quiet Leadership” by Tom Thompson

In looking at the particular group of folks who we honored just a few weeks ago at the Memorial Grove, I was struck

position, but they have a lot of passion, consistency, dedication, and presence in the organization. This kind of quiet leader doesn't usually move around the country quite as much.

This kind of leadership is found at the front desk, with the forest and recreation technician, in the support services group, in the trenches so to speak, at the wheel of the road grader, as the District

clerk, at the accountant's desk, in the warehouse and shop, on the trail, working extra time as the appeals coordinator, on the fire line, and at the tree nursery.

The work that needs to get done to keep things headed in the right direction on a daily basis comes from the quiet leaders on every work unit. The records, the notes, the computers, the equipment, the facilities, the finances, the paperwork, much of the

fieldwork, and many agreements and contracts wouldn't get done if it weren't for these leaders.

There are many names that I remember who, over the course of my career, fit into this category of “quiet leader” and who I was honored to work with. One of these was Mabel who was at the front desk on the Zigzag District on the Mount Hood National Forest. Even though her job was receptionist, Mabel knew everything that was happening on the district. She knew where everyone was, at least where they were supposed to be. She knew how to direct people to every campground and every trail head. She knew all the timber sale operators and knew where they were working. I can remember that when you left the office, it was expected that you would stop by and tell Mabel that you were leaving and where you were going. Mabel probably could have done a pretty good job of running the district at least as a special assistant to the ranger. She never made a big deal of it, but she was a leader on the district...a “quiet leader”.



First Woman FS Uniform, Grand Mesa NF, 1962

by what a strong group of leaders they were in their years with the Forest Service. When I say that, I do not mean as forest supervisors, rangers, directors, or staff officers necessarily. What I am referring to is their strong but quiet leadership, the kind of leadership that gets things done in the outfit day in and day out and year in and year out. This kind of leader doesn't necessarily have a lot of “GS pay scale” associated with their

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In the late 90's, Region 2 decided to invest in leadership development and committed to developing a one week long training to do all we could to encourage and enhance leadership within the region. These sessions were called SEAL training (Supervisory Excellence and Leadership).

In several of these sessions I was asked to offer my thoughts about leadership. One point that I always tried to emphasize was an individual should always do all they can to "lead from where you're at". We had a very broad cross-section of folks who were included in these sessions, from different levels of the technical, administrative,

and professional ranks. It was great having such a group together and to see how inspired folks were to think of themselves as leaders of importance in the organization. Not everyone has the chance to be in a position of leadership, but most anyone has the opportunity to position themselves as a leader. That is part of the Forest Service brand that I knew and loved.

In reflecting upon my career I am sure we never do enough to appreciate and recognize the "quiet leaders" in the outfit, but I also know that if it weren't for these folks, the business and work of the U.S. Forest Service would not get done.

So even though it is much belated, the Rocky Mountaineers applauds and thanks the "quiet leaders" of the organization past whose names are engraved at Memorial Grove and all the others who have quietly lead the outfit over the years, as well as those who continue to do so. Thanks much for doing what you did or what you are doing. It is worthy of the last word!

