



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 4 - Number 1

Neither Left or Right

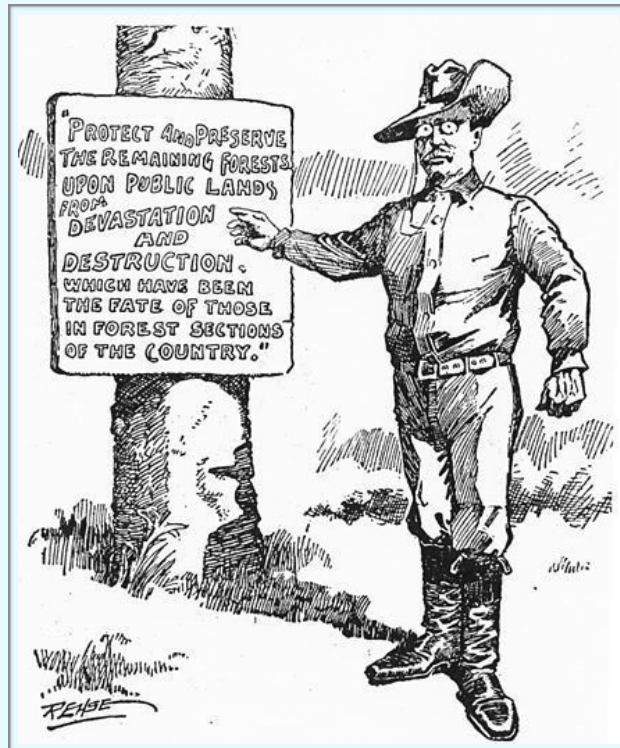
Politics, Perspective and Patience

by Tom Thompson

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It is 2016 and indeed another major election year is upon us. The seemingly endless debates, political ads, daily updates of polls, quotes and misquotes, and unrelenting projections will most certainly dominate the news for months to come. As we listen to the phone messages, promises, debating, pledges, and self-praises that are ongoing and forthcoming, I am inclined to reflect a bit on where we find ourselves as a

nation. Usually one might say "I think I've been to this movie before", but I am not sure that I remember an election as strange as this one seems to be shaping up. It almost reminds me of an episode of "The Apprentice".

We all have observed a lot over our years. One thing our country has generally never lacked in our nation's two hundred and forty year history is

leadership from quality leaders who have stepped forward especially in challenging times. For the most part, leaders have always done what they thought was best for the country and the people—all the people! Today, without question, there are huge issues and huge differences that need to be addressed.

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Even though those of us who have spent our lives working with and managing our natural resources see critical issues in our discipline and area of specific interest, we know these issues would not likely to be anywhere near the top of the nation's most pressing issues and concerns.

Having said that, it is abundantly clear that elections and presidents do have significant influence over what the Forest Service does or doesn't do. This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the Forest Reserve System's establishment in 1891. So it is indeed fitting to remember that it was politics that created our public lands system. Politics and administrations have continued to shape the protection, use, and condition of those lands and resources in large part. Without question it was one particular president named Theodore Roosevelt whose conservation legacy will always be most dominant because without him and a young forester named Gifford Pinchot, the system of National Forests and Grasslands that we have today would not exist.

It was their vision, their energy, and their political will that still allows us to continue to search for the "greatest good for the greatest number in the long run" on a vast system of public lands

scattered across all but eight states nationwide.

In the attached summary table, one can see how over the 110 year history of the Forest Service the political pendulum has swung back and forth repeatedly. From the period 1901-1953, there were 24 years of Republican administrations and 28 years of Democrat administrations.

From 1953 through this present administration's tenure there will have been 36 years Republican and 28 years Democrat. So for the total 116 years, there have been 60 Republican years and 56 Democrat years.

Looking at the history of the Forest Service and the statutes, designations, policies, programs, appointments, regulations, rules, and budgets that have shaped the agency, it is not difficult to see that nearly all that is done or has been done can be tracked back to something political or legislative.

We each probably have our own opinion of how politics and parties have fared during our "outfits" history based on performance and our individual values and interests. That is something that I would not ever venture to deal with in this forum. Suffice it to say that there have been changing emphasis and shifting priorities

in a democratic society and these ought to reflect society's desire.

The political environment today has changed and that also has changed and influenced the Forest Service. As I reflect on that reality I have come to recognize five significant changes that most influence how elections and politics have changed today's reality.

1. In the world today, and perhaps for the last quarter century or so, there has been a much greater political influence on the pulse of the outfit. The era of electronic communications, immediate access, social media, layers of processes and procedures, and very focused special interests have forever changed how business is done.

2. Over the history of the Forest Service there have always been members of Congress, from both major parties, who have been leaders, almost to the statesmen level, who were willing to work in the general public's interest on legislation, both authorization and appropriation, in the natural resource area. Today, there are few.

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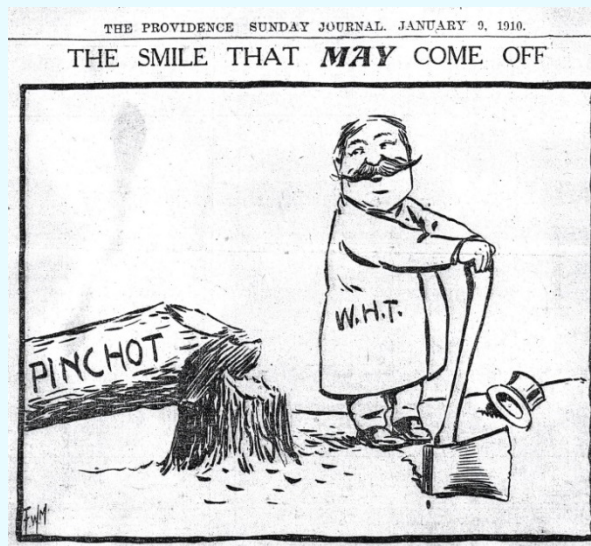
3. Partisan politics in the extreme has become the norm. Forces seem to be pulling us apart and little attention or effort is being made by leaders to bring politicians or a divided public closer together. Ideology seems to be the driving factor in most debates, votes, and rhetoric. Willingness or ability to compromise seems to be lacking in today's political world.

4. Natural resource issues don't rise to the level of importance in Congress or with an Administration nearly to the degree that social, economic, security, or defense issues do. Most substantive legislation affecting the Forest Service has come when there was bipartisan spirit and an administration and congress that understood the importance of compromise and the public good served by professional management and protection of our public lands.

5. The Congress has been almost at a complete impasse when it comes to getting a timely and thoughtful budget passed. Inability or lack of interest in actually following the budget process results in never ending continuing resolutions. This perpetual budget uncertainty impacts program

On the positive side, in spite of the difficulties, important work

is still being done by dedicated people. Many partners and communities still care greatly about how the National Forests and Grasslands are managed, and they want to work together



to ensure their views are recognized even though limited agency capacity makes this increasingly difficult. Most importantly, we are still a democracy and each of us has an opportunity to express our own wishes and desires with our vote and through our Congressional representatives. Even though we are a diverse and complex society, we have a strong underpinning with our constitutional framework as a nation. We have a heritage of fairness and justice that guides our lives, interactions, and business.

All of us who spent our years working for the agency understand the importance of being responsive and connected

to the political processes, but we also have learned that it is wise to be careful not to let politics drive or overly influence our quest to "Care for the Land and Serve the People". Many of our Chiefs have had to walk a narrow line to ensure that politics did not do harm to our mission and purpose. Overall, I believe our agency has a good reputation for not being swayed by the leaning toward one side or the other. However, many of us have in our memories times when this was stretched nearly to the point of breaking. Retiree's voices are important in the conversations that occur when politicians are attempting to sort out their positions on issues.

We are fortunate that NAFSR (National Association of Forest Service Retirees) is engaged and has the patience and desire to represent all of us in trying to be the voice of reason and experience in support of what the agency does. Thank goodness, politics is not the most important thing in our lives. As retirees, family, friends, fishing, fixing things, and fun with the grandkids almost always rate out higher than worrying about politics, but we certainly do care greatly about where our nation is headed.

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Hopefully, when this year comes to a close we will have elected national leadership that will be able to guide our nation in the right direction and represent us all no matter what our leanings. We can only hope that whoever is elected as President this year will be a leader who has the character, credibility, and courage to take on the challenges we face as a nation.

Summary of a swinging political pendulum over the history of the Forest Service

1901-2016

President	Years	Party	Secretary of Agriculture	Forester/Chief
Roosevelt, T	1901-09	R	Wilson	Pinchot
Taft	1909-13	R	Wilson	Pinchot-Graves
Wilson	1913-21	D	Houston-Meredith	Graves-Greeley
Harding	1921-23	R	Wallace	Greeley
Coolidge	1923-29	R	Wallace-Fore-Jardine	Greeley-Stuart
Hoover	1929-33	R	Hyde	Stuart
Roosevelt, F	1933-45	D	Wallace-Wickard	Stuart-Silcox
Truman	1945-53	D	Wickard-Anderson-Brannan	Clapp-Watts-McArdle
Eisenhower	1953-61	R	Benson	McArdle
Kennedy	1961-63	D	Freeman	Cliff
Johnson	1963-69	D	Freeman	Cliff
Nixon	1969-73	R	Hardin-Butz	Cliff-McGuire
Ford	1973-77	R	Butz-Knebel	McGuire
Carter	1977-81	D	Bergland	McGuire-Peterson
Reagan	1981-89	R	Block-Lyng	Peterson-Robertson
Bush, G	1989-93	R	Yuetter-Madigan	Robertson
Clinton	1993-01	D	Espy-Glickman	Thomas-Dombeck
Bush, GW	2001-09	R	Veneman-Johanns-Schafer	Bosworth-Kimbell
Obama	2009-17	D	Vilsack	Kimbell-Tidwell

Total 116 years

56 years Democrat and 60 years Republican



During the Region 8 Retirees December luncheon and business meeting, it was announced that Dave Jolly and Liz Agpoa will serve as the co-chairs of the Eighth National Forest Service Retirees Reunion. Plans are being made for the event to be held September, 2018 in Asheville, North Carolina. More than 700 retirees are expected to meet, renew old friendships, and develop historical stories about the times when they served the agency protecting the nation's 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands.

The last reunion was held this past October in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The dates of the reunion in Asheville will be set once the hotel / resort site is determined.

Dave and Liz, along with Sid Haggard will travel to Asheville in January to visit potential hotel / resort sites and discuss the plans with the Southern Forest Service Research Station, the Cradle of Forestry, and others. A list of those that wish to volunteer in the planning and execution of the event is being prepared. Several signed up at the December luncheon in Atlanta and others have called. If you would like to be included and have not placed your name on the list, please contact Sid Haggard, sidhaggard@att.net or 678-644-7240. Your help would be welcome.

How To Contact "Rocky Mountaineers"

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World Wood Day March 21, 2015

by Steve Ambrose



Last March my wife Julia and I attended World Wood Day (WWD) in Odunpazari, Eskisehir, Turkey. WWD is a cultural event sponsored by the International Wood Culture Society and is celebrated annually on March 21 to highlight wood as an eco-friendly and renewable biomaterial and to raise awareness of how wood plays a role in a sustainable world through biodiversity and forest conservation. It was an exciting trip where over 400 participants attended including 127 woodcarvers/woodturners, and 60 musicians representing 93 different countries. The main event lasted for 7 days and was well attended by local people including the Mayor of Eskisehir.

One of the highlights of the event was the inclusion of so many people around the world who have music and carving in common. Strong relationships developed during the

course of the week. One of the carvers from the US made friends with a carver from Africa and is going to make and send the African a set of carving tools after seeing his minimal carving tools.

The theme was "Wood & Humanity" to rediscover and recognize the contribution and beauty of wood as well as highlighting its significance in contemporary society. An assortment of weeklong campaigns was specially designed to explore a strong correlation between wood and humans. Highlights included a symposium, woodcraft activities, children's events, tree planting (black pine) exhibitions, performances of various wooden musical instruments and others." Eduardo Cordova from El Salvador (right) making masks, drums and figurines.

I have been volunteering for IWCS for the last 4 years, taking videographers around the country (New Mexico, Minnesota, Arizona, Alaska, Oregon and Washington) where IWCS staff videoed groups and individuals who use wood in their culture. Examples include Native woodcarvers, furniture makers, wood reclamation companies, drum makers and dogsled makers in Alaska. You can see some of the videos on the IWCS Website. <http://www.woodculture.org/?p=home>

AZ and NM specific videos:

<http://www.woodculturetour.org/DestinationContent.cfm?spots=179#.VTa59ZVFDmQ>

<http://www.woodculturetour.org/DestinationContent.cfm?spots=180#.VTa6OZVFDmQ>

Link to join IWCS (free): http://www.woodculture.org/?p=member&sp=reg_m

National Museum of Forest Service History



The National Museum of Forest Service History held its annual meeting at the Forest Service Reunion in Albuquerque in October. Over a hundred members attended this meeting. Museum membership has now increased to over 700 members. If you are not a member, we invite you to join our efforts to protect the rich history of the Forest Service. We greatly appreciate all those who support the Museum with membership or donation.

There are a number of significant changes in the leadership of the organization in 2016. The Museum will be recruiting a full time Executive Director. Dave Stack has filled this Executive Director position as a full time volunteer for over twelve years and we have been honored to have him lead our organization. Tom Thompson is the new President of the NMFSH and replaces Gray Reynolds who has filled this position since 2003. We have added three new Board Members: former Chief Dale Bosworth; recently retired Tahoe Basin Forest Supervisor, Nancy Gibson; and retired Director of the USDA National Agroforestry Center, Andy Mason.

We have significant committee work being done on our capital campaign for building of the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula, MT. One of our traveling exhibits highlighting the “Minerals We Use Every Day” will be located in the lobby of the Regional Office for the next couple months.

You can join, make a donation, or check out more news and information about the Museum on our website: www.ForestServiceMuseum.org

Rocky Mountaineers Board Chair



Dan Nolan

As I write this I just learned that Berthoud Pass was closed due to heavy snowfall, and, looking out my window, I see the snow filled Arapaho National Forest that surrounds my town. I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to have been able to play a part in sustaining this precious legacy of national forests.

While, for many of us, our official career with the Forest Service may have ended with retirement, thanks to The Rocky Mountaineers we can still stay connected with our former coworkers and be updated on current agency happenings. This past year's annual Rocky Mountaineers Gathering (please – not a meeting) in Cody was a wonderful opportunity to do just that. Thanks are due to Becky Aus and her planning team for organizing such an enjoyable few days. I'm looking forward to the next Gathering this August in the Black Hills.

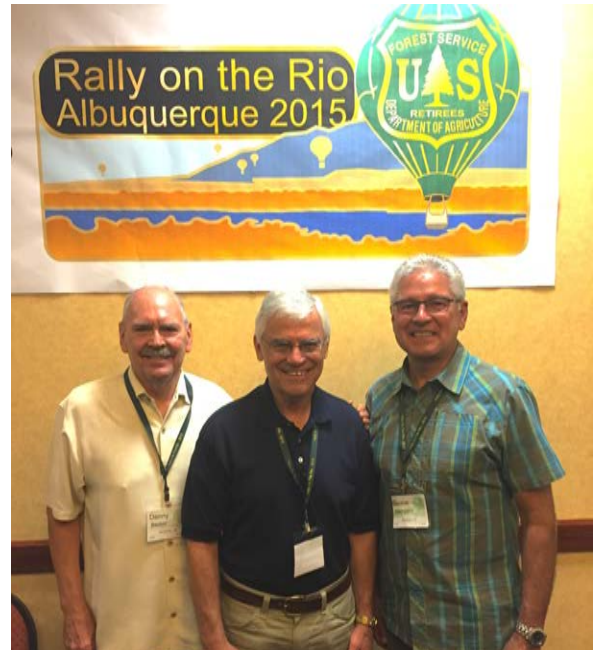
With 370 members, including 49 lifetime members, we are one of the largest of the twelve regional Forest Service associations. As we learned at a meeting of the regional representatives at the Rally on the Rio national reunion in Albuquerque, many of these associations are suffering from declining membership. We, however, continue to grow, and what an accomplishment this has been in just three years of existence. We still want to spread the word to other potential members including current Forest Service employees and encourage them to join us.

Finally, I want to thank Kim Vogel for serving as Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers through 2015. It was a good year for us with numerous activities and accomplishments. I look forward to this coming year and encourage you to let me or any of our board members know of ideas you may have for how the Rocky Mountaineers can better serve you.

Snow's still coming down — Powder Day.

Dan Nolan
2016 Chair, Rocky Mountaineers

Rally on the Rio



Denny Bschor, Jack Troyer and Bernie Weingardt posed for an historic picture down in Albuquerque. All three were District Rangers on the White River at the same time, AND all went on to become Regional Foresters. (Denny in R-10, Jack in R-4 and Bernie in R-5) A copy of this photo was sent to Woody Woodrow, who was the Forest Supervisor on the White River at the time.



Richard Stem, former Deputy Regional Forester, Rick Cables, former Regional Forester and Greg Griffith, former Deputy Regional Forester shared some stories.

Newly Retired

Direct from the official U.S. Forest Service retirements lists. ALL USE OF THIS DATA IN WHOLE, PART, OR AS TEXT, MUST CREDIT THIS NFC FOCUS REPORT. FROM 7/01/15 to 12/18/15

REPORT: FS.HRTRE05. RUN DATE 12/30/15

Terri Liestman
Regional Office

Brian Lloyd
Regional Office

Sandra Marquis
Bighorn NF

John Olson
Black Hills NF

Lorraine Crispin
GMUG NFs

Kelley Liston
GMUG NFs

Ed Mauch
GMUG NFs

Brenda Fiddament
Med Bow-
Routt NFs

Vance Lebeda
Med Bow-
Routt NFs

Robert Novotny
Nebraska NF

Guy Keene
Rio Grande NF

Susanne Stevens
Rio Grande NF

Paula Carter
Arapaho
& Roosevelt NFs

Richard Edwards
Arapaho
& Roosevelt NFs

Denise Bohon
Pike
& San Isabel NFs

Laurie Ball
San Juan NF

Mark Krabath
San Juan NF

Lynn Wodell
San Juan NF

2016 Scholarship - We need Applicants

Do you know a high school senior that is graduating this year? Now is the time to encourage them to apply for the \$1,500 scholarship the Rocky Mountaineers will be awarding this spring.

Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2016. The scholarship will be awarded by April 15, 2016.

Applicants must be sponsored by a member of the Rocky Mountaineers.

Full instructions for applying can be found on our website – www.rockymountaineers.us

If you have any questions, contact Ellen Hodges at 970-226-6890 or email us at rmountaineers@gmail.com

Rocky Mountaineers 3rd Annual Ski Day

February 2, 2016



Rocky Mountaineers taking a short break on the top!

The Rocky Mountaineers will host their Third Annual Ski Day at Winter Park on February 2, 2016. You are invited to join us on this day of skiing with your fellow Rocky Mountaineers and friends. We will meet at the base lodge on the Mary Jane side at 9:00 a.m. and be on the slopes by 9:30 a.m. All levels of skiers can find their niche on the mountain. After the morning ski, we will share lunch together at Lunch Rock. At about 3 p.m. we will reconnect back at the base lodge to award a few prizes and continue to enjoy the opportunity to be at Winter Park together. More information will be forthcoming in a separate email notification, but mark the day, February 2, on your calendar.

Discount lift tickets will be available.

Let Bjorn Dahl know if you plan to join in the fun: bdahl@dahlservices.com

A popular run for some of us is Cranmer on the Winter Park side. George E. Cranmer is considered to be the father of the Winter Park Ski Area. In 1935, Cranmer became manager of Parks and Improvements for the City of Denver. An active and ardent outdoorsman, Cranmer dreamed of a mountain city park that would become a winter sports center comparable to European resorts. Cranmer possessed the energy and purpose to push his dream to fulfillment. By 1940, the first ski tow at West Portal was dedicated and Denver's Winter Park was a reality. In 1977, in recognition of his contribution to Colorado skiing, George Cranmer was inducted into the Ski Hall of Fame.

CEFF is Coming

The Colorado Environmental Film Festival is right around the corner. On February 18-21 come to the American Mountaineering Center up in Golden to see the very best of environmental films from around the world. Included this year is the Colorado premiere of "America's First Forest: Carl Schenck and the Asheville Experiment," which will premiere on PBS later this year. Go to their website for more information. www.ceff.net



NAFSR REPORT

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSA representative

NAFSR held a Board meeting and an open meeting at the Reunion in Albuquerque on October 12. This was the first meeting for our new Secretary/Treasurer Johnny Hodges. We welcome him and his backup, Ellen, into their new roles in NAFSR. At this meeting, the Board adopted a revised and updated statement of NAFSR's core principles and values shown below:

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR)

"Dedicated to sustaining the Forest Service mission and adapting to today's and tomorrow's challenges"

We represent Forest Service retirees who are dedicated to: sustaining the heritage of caring for the National Forests and Grasslands, partnering with the Forest Service, and helping understand and adapt to today's and tomorrow's challenges.

The Association's principal beliefs and values are:

- Protecting and managing diverse lands and valued resources while providing a wide array of uses and services to the public.
- Actively managing landscapes, where needed to improve both health and resilience.
- Protecting Special Areas and Landscapes, like designated wilderness, monuments and other special landscapes to maintain their unique character.
- Balancing social, environmental, and economic considerations with the best science available.
- Communicating effectively to increase awareness of the National Forests and Grasslands importance to an increasingly urban populace.
- Responding professionally and responsibly in support of the agency's efforts to protect the public interest and ensure public safety.

- Addressing emerging (national) issues professionally and deliberately with facts and science.
- Partnering with the agency, communities and cooperators in a dependable and credible way.
- Respecting the Forest Service's rich traditions and history.
- Maintaining a diverse and productive field organization that is accessible to the public.
- The John R. McGuire Award for 2015 was presented to Dr. Richard T. Reynolds of the Rocky Mountain Research Station for his outstanding research work on habitat needs of the Northern Goshawk.

NAFSR has continued to work to find a collaborative solution to the fire funding issue and sent numerous letters encouraging support and passage of legislation recently. Even though a long term solution for this fire funding problem has not yet been found, additional dollars for fire suppression were included in the appropriations bill that was just passed. This bill also provides a 3-year extension of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and a 1-year extension of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

"NAFSR just last week sent a letter to Attorney General Loretta Lynch imploring her to take more action appropriate against those who make a mockery of U.S. law."

If you have issues or concerns connect with your NAFSR representative, Tom L. Thompson. Information about membership or general information about NAFSR at our website at: www.fsx.org

Membership and Finance Report

The Rocky Mountaineers finished 2015 with 369 members. We gained 3 new lifetime memberships for a total of 50 “lifers”. Our newest lifetime members are –

Larry and Phyllis Schmidt – Minden, NV

Jackie and Mike Parks – Ft. Collins, CO

Judy and Rusty Dersch – Lakewood, CO

You can become a lifetime member at any time for \$250 per household.

We have established two permanent funds in 2015 – the Scholarship Fund and the Memorial Grove Fund.

The Scholarship Fund is used to award a \$1,500 scholarship for a graduating high school senior. We awarded our first scholarship last spring and will award our next scholarship in the spring, 2016. Our donors in 2015 included –

Scholarship Fund Donors	In Memory of
Lyle and Pam Laverty	Clint Kyhl
Joe and Louise Squires	Clint Kyhl
Bob and Gail Sprentall	
Johnny and Ellen Hodges	Clint Kyhl
Tom and Kitty Thompson	Clint Kyhl
Sharon, Keith and Craig Kyhl	Clint Kyhl
Laura and Skip Stransky	Emery and Val Thomsen
Al and Sue Abrahamson	Clint Kyhl
Jerry and Jeanetta Schmidt	Gary Cargill

To encourage donations to the Scholarship Fund and possibly award a second scholarship, the Rocky Mountaineers General Fund will match donations dollar for dollar up to a \$1500 limit. Donate now and double your generosity!

The Memorial Grove Fund is used to support the annual ceremony at Monument, CO each May, as well as to help fund maintenance and upgrades to the site. Our donors in 2015 included –

Memorial Grove Fund Donors	In Memory of
Catherine Grove	David Vernon Grove
Mary Ann Ott	Jack H. Ott and William R. Rawlings
Bill and Barb Ott	Jack H. Ott
Judy Dexter	
Lidia Swope	
Vicki Dixon	
Jennifer Halligan Mulhall	John (Pat) Halligan
Chuck Hendricks	
Terry and Joy Armbruster	
Lee and Dottie Carr	
Craig and Merilee Bobzien	
Mike and Marjorie Clinton	
Nona Dale and Marv Gerlick	
Don Fritch	
George Geiger	
Bob and Karen Miller	
Rob Rankin	Bob Rankin
Nina Molinaro	David W. Molinaro
Molly Rorvig	Gary Rorvig
Pikes Peak Ranger District	
Denver Area Retirees	
Various individuals at Memorial Grove Ceremony	

We have started collecting dues for 2016. Dues remain \$20 per household per year or \$250 per household for a lifetime membership. You can also make a donation of any amount to the Scholarship Fund or Memorial Grove Fund. The Rocky Mountaineers are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Let us know if you would like a receipt for your contribution.

Thank you for your support!

Retirees on the Move

Retirement - Between the Lines

*Some fun and insightful thoughts on the art of retirement
from our vagabond webmaster and his wife.*

by Bill and Laura Disbrow

It's been over 10 years now since Laura and I retired from the Forest Service. We didn't make many plans but we knew we were not going to be sitting on a porch, rocking for a number of years. We have always been travelers and have been fortunate to have been to many far away and exotic places. What does one do now that your time is totally yours to use any way you please? We knew it had to be travel oriented in some manner but just what and where?

We had thought about RV'ing but never seriously. One day we decided to head down to Lakewood and go to a dealer. One thing led to another and before I knew it I was on I-70 heading up the hill in a 45 foot monster. I was tense as the sales guy talked me down. How do I not simply run over people; how can I possibly stay in my lane much less pass anyone. The answer; simply use your mirrors and keep it between the lines! We finally got back to the dealer and as we drove back to Evergreen decided this may not be our calling.



Bill - driving across Wisconsin.

Not being one to admit failure, a month had passed, we went to another dealer. Again on I-70 with a huge Peter Built looking custom unit with 15 gears.

Admittedly I was a bit more comfortable BUT on the drive back to Evergreen we decided this was NOT the life for us. Months went by and, as with many great plans, a beautiful lake and cocktails influenced a snap decision. Sitting and sipping with friends that had just closed their business after 30 years one said "Let's go to Alaska!" Sure...why not! We're retired and have all the time in the world. They decided to drive their pickup and haul a camper while we said we knew how to get to Alaska...been there

a number of times for work. You get on a plane in Denver and get off in Anchorage. The plan was in motion.

Rule number one: Always try before you buy!

We found a place near the airport in Anchorage that rented RV's and away we went. We rented a little 21 foot, Class C unit. The Class C's are the little ones with the bed over the cab (like a pickup camper with a motor) and 21 feet...well that is another story.

The bathroom is good for storing pots, pans and luggage in...that's it. Laura lasted one night in that bed smashed up against the cold window. She claimed the couch the rest of the trip.

Rule number two: Always fill your fuel and water tanks before leaving a camping spot.

We decided, over these 3 weeks driving around Alaska, that this was more fun than the law allowed. Every night was in a beautiful place, night after night, often times with just our friends.

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Picture this: 20 miles South of the Arctic Circle, parked in a large gravel pit area, cooking brats and sipping good wine, coyotes singing and a gentle breeze blowing. Think self-sufficiency and flexibility. The BLM campground at the Arctic Circle was a huge mud puddle, over populated by mosquitos, so we just went somewhere else and boondoggled it!

OH...about rule number 2. Heading far into the wilderness toward the Arctic Circle we stopped at the last place on the road. About to leave, our seasoned travel partners asked me if I had a full water tank... HUH, I said and we spent an hour filling my water tank up from a little hose in a spring.

Rule number three: Think “starter unit”.

We were SOLD!

Within two weeks of returning to Denver we bought Gypsy. Not thoroughly convinced this was to be for us we went looking for a used motorhome to try for a bit. Gypsy was 35

feet, used but in very good condition and a “gasser”. We bought all the stuff we thought we might need for motorized camping and plotted our first trip.

My thought “If I don’t kill us in the first 100 miles we should do OK.” We headed to the Colorado mountains, through Ouray, over the Million Dollar Highway, back and forth across the Western landscape. Laura turned pale on numerous occasions as I white knuckled the steering wheel but we made it safely. Perhaps this was a bit aggressive for the first trip out but baptism by fire is my motto. I practiced keeping it between the lines over and over again.

I am not very mechanically oriented but quickly learned that if you hold a tool in your hand and stand in front of your coach, looking stupid and confused, a talented RV’er will stop and ask if they can help... YES! There are people with a wealth of mechanical knowledge and the tools to implement it all

over the countryside. We quickly found that the RV community will do anything for anyone in need.

Most RV’ers, us as well,

have spare this and that because if it broke once it probably will break again so might as well have a spare.

Rule number 4: Laugh, smile, be nice and don’t panic.

Things are going to go wrong, usually at the most inopportune time. I cannot remember when we had a major issue that was not on a weekend and/or holiday.

One time, coming across Kansas, the cross wind ripped out my awning. We were on the side of I-70 with a 40 mile per hour wind and semi after semi blowing by us. This happened pretty early in our RV experience and I had not yet learned a valuable lesson. We spent over an hour getting the awning rolled back up and duct taped together so we could get back to Colorado. Everyone we talked to after the fact said that you simply cut the damn thing off and leave it on the side of the road. It cannot be fixed!

While driving Ruby (our first 40-foot diesel pusher) near Des Moines we heard a pop. I stopped but did not see anything wrong. By the time we were West of Des Moines Ruby was handling very sloppily. We pulled into a rest area and called our road service.



Ohhh - Poor Coco just below the Continental Divide

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A guy shows up and can't find anything wrong when he looks deeper. One of our inside tires was missing, hence the pop. OH..and by the way it took out part of our air leveling system. And by the way it is Friday afternoon. See where I am going with this. Always keep track of how old your tires are.

They may look great because we don't put all that many miles on in a year but 7 years is about the maximum you should have them. \$3,700 later for 6 new tires we were trying to find someone to fix the air system. A guy got us on the road about 9 p.m. but it was not until we got to Omaha Saturday that we found someone willing to stay late to really fix things. Moral of the story is that it feels so good when things finally get fixed.

I have always felt like we have had so very few issues as we travel about the country but writing this I am not so sure. Let's see...lost a transmission in Iowa, a main hydraulic hose outside of Challis, Idaho, a turbo charger gasket just below the continental divide in Colorado, an oil unit gasket in Texas, my front window covering falling down in front of me on I-40 in Arizona at 75 mph. and numerous other small, time-consuming, items across the US and Canada.

I'll not even start discussing the self-inflicted wounds due to my on and off driving skill lapses. The good news is the number of wonderful people we have met

during most of these mishaps. If you smile, they smile and it all works out. It costs but when your house breaks you have to fix it. When things are repaired it is merely a faint memory as you round the next beautiful curve in the road. We rarely have to be anywhere for anyone other than ourselves which brings me to:

Rule number 5: To plan or not to plan.

Personal preference! We know people that plan every turn, every stop, every reservation for at least a year out. We, on the other hand, usually start looking for a place to stay after lunch heading some direction we may, or may not, have decided on in the morning. Two extremes! We are comfortable with this approach but it does have its drawbacks. When traveling in the summer months we run into obstacles that may decide which direction we go, families on vacations.

Not being really good at advance notice we can get frustrated when wanting to go to a popular location on short notice. But here goes that flexibility I mentioned earlier. Just go somewhere else.

We were heading to Bar Harbor, Maine a while back and quickly found that all the campgrounds were completely full. After a quick discussion we asked ourselves where haven't we been. We went to North Dakota and had an awesome time in the pot hole region then slipped down to Medora, to the Teddy Roosevelt National Park. The pitchfork steak fondue was a highlight. Always something out there to enjoy.

Plans can really change with mechanical problems so this goes back to rule number 4. Fall 2015 was the first trip we actually made reservations for almost an entire month, deposits and all. Heading to Albuquerque for the reunion we ended up stuck in Denver for 5 days for a problem, Fort Worth, Texas for 5 days for a problem and Calvert, Texas for 5 days. That'll teach us to make reservations! BUT...keeping calm, laughing a lot and just knowing there isn't a thing one we can do about it keeps you loving this life on the road.



Laura's seat mate Molly and Lizzy is below her

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Coco and Cher in Grand Teton National Park

Rule Number 6: Pets are travelers too.

Almost everyone on the road has one or more pets. There are more dogs than cats but the cats are usually quite sequestered while the dogs are always out walking their owners so they can pick up their poop. Of course we cat people have to deal with where to put the litter box in our confined space. The bedroom is the best place and that works out well until one decides to poop early in the morning while we're still trying to sleep. FAN ON!!!

We have 2 indoor kitties, Molly and Lizzy, sisters from the same litter and now 13 years old. People ask "do they travel well?". I say how the hell do I know? We throw them in and drive off. What's their alternative? Actually, they travel great, mostly. I have accidentally left the door open at a stop to

find Lizzy wandering in the middle of a highway...panic!

When I fire up the engine they both go to their "corners". Just recently they have begun to wander more while rolling along the open road. Mostly they have decided that Laura's lap is a good place to be. At any rate most RV'ers follow a strict set of road rules based on picking up after their pet, always having them leashed and controlling barking at all times. It works well in most places and parks are serious about pet disturbances not hesitating to ask people to leave if they are violating the rules.

And FINALLY:

Laura and I spend about 7 to 8 months a year in Coco, our latest 40-foot diesel pusher. Early on you learn to move in little circles to get around each other in parts of her. It's a dance

that becomes the norm even when we are not in Coco. Laura can drive Coco but I like driving and do almost all of it. Both partners need to know how to drive the beast in case of emergency.

We are about 13 feet wide in the front and rear sections with the slide outs extended so it is not cramped. Coco has a 400 HP Cummins diesel with a 130-gallon fuel tank and we'll get about 7 mpg at 70 mph in the flatlands.

The windshield is 8 feet wide by 4 feet high so it is like driving through a panoramic movie screen. Try it in the Northern hardwood forests in the Fall! We tow a Jeep Grand Cherokee (it's called a toad) and can quickly hook and unhook for alternate travel. I have my HD satellite TV with every channel available and Sirius radio for the rest of the time.

One LAST thought:

This life certainly isn't for everyone. Both partners have to be committed to the lifestyle. It simply does not work if one is not. We do not know how many years we will do it but for now it really is a wonderful chapter in our retirement book. We love keeping it between the lines.

What's on my Mind

Some thoughts from current Regional Forester Dan Jirón



Happy New Year all! As you gear up for the Rocky Mountaineers Third Annual Ski Day at Winter Park, please join me in being grateful for the bountiful recreation opportunities our national forests provide.

Ski areas cover

approximately 180,000 acres of lands managed by the Forest Service and average an astonishing 23 million visits annually. Those visits contribute \$3 billion yearly to local economies and support close to 64,000 full- and part-time jobs in rural communities.

Congress has directed the Forest Service to manage national forests to provide for specified multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, in perpetuity, and water is critical to the agency's ability to meet that mandate.

On December 21, the agency issued a final directive regarding ski area water. Without water for snowmaking and other uses, ski areas on national forests could not operate. The final directive accomplishes our objective of long-term availability of water to sustain ski area uses by focusing on sufficiency of water for operation of ski areas prior to permit issuance, during the permit term, and upon permit termination or revocation, when ski area assets are sold. By focusing on the long-term availability of water for ski areas on national forests, the final directive supports the public's desire for the long-term recreational opportunities that ski areas provide as well as the contributions they make to local economies and rural communities.

January is also Learn to Ski and Snowboard month... so get out on the slopes, and bring a friend!



Regional Forester Dan Jirón and Deputy Regional Forester Maribeth Gustafson.

Regional Office Holiday Gala

A good number of Rocky Mountaineers attended the Regional Office Holiday Gala that was scheduled for Tuesday December 15. Even though a significant snowstorm had set in overnight and many offices and nearly all the schools in the Denver area were closed, a decision was made to proceed on with this luncheon. It was a good choice. It turned out to be a great event, good food, and a fun time. Susan Alden Weingardt was the Master of Ceremonies and Regional Forester Dan Jirón gave a good summary of regional accomplishments in 2015. Dan offered his thanks to all the retirees who were able to attend and also was appreciative of the Rocky Mountaineer work done in staining the two benches at the front entrance. There were a number of door prizes and Nancy Warren and Tom Thompson were both given time to talk to the attendees about the Rocky Mountaineers and the National Museum of Forest Service History.

For a collection of photos from this gala event use the following link:

<https://flipagram.com/f/h9SesZL2Zl>

Animas Overlook

Animas Overlook Trail Cleanup Project

Thanks to retiree Bob Sieger who organized this retirees volunteer day on September 22, 2015. Animas Overlook is located west of Durango and is on the Columbine Ranger District on the San Juan National Forest.



We had nine volunteers today for the Animas Overlook Trail Cleanup. (Laura Stransky, Brenda Rice, Dave Crawford, Brad Morrison, Wayne Dunn, Mark Stiles, Bob and Mary Sieger and Bob Newlin. We completed the project before the rain came! We had a great time. Hopefully we can schedule another project in the spring. If you have any ideas, please let me know.



Thank you to all of the volunteers.



Old Guys on the Annapurna Circuit

by Johnny Hodges



Dan Nolan, Jim Thinnes, Pat Kallal, Johnny Hodges, guide Bigraj, on Thorung La Pass, elevation 17,768 ft.

Our guide, Bigraj, knocked on our door. It was 3:30 a.m. and time to get up. Our group of four trekkers, all in our 60's, had anticipated this day with a sense of excitement and dread. Today we were going to cross Nepal's Thorung La Pass at an elevation of 17,768 feet.

Until the day before I had never been higher than the top of Colorado's Mt. Elbert at 14,433 ft. We had just spent the night sleeping in Thorung Phedi at 14,600 feet and I had slept ok. Maybe climbing over the pass wouldn't be too tough. I was wrong.

Nepal's Annapurna Circuit is one of the world's classic treks.

In 13 days we hiked 117 miles circling around the Annapurna Himal which features several peaks over 24,000 feet including Annapurna II, III, IV and Gangapurna. With two guides and two porters, we only had to carry our daypacks. This is a world of Tibetan Buddhists with plenty of prayer flags, prayer wheels, mani walls and spectacular scenery.

Our group of 4 trekkers included 3 members of the Rocky Mountaineers – Dan Nolan, Jim Thinnes and myself, plus Jim's cousin, Pat Kallal. There are fourteen mountains in the world higher than 8,000 meters (26,240 feet). Annapurna was the first to be

climbed back in 1950 by French climbers Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenal.

I read Herzog's classic book, Annapurna, about that expedition 15 years ago, never thinking that someday I would be wandering through some of the same country.

Unfortunately for Herzog, on his way down from the top, probably in an oxygen-starved delirium, he lost his gloves. By the time he made it back to France, he had lost all of his fingers and toes. I hoped that didn't happen to us.

The starting point for our trek was Besi Sahar, a village at the end of the paved road, a 6-hour drive from Kathmandu. At an elevation of 2,500 feet, it is the home of banana trees and terraced rice fields.

We arrived in mid-November with the rice harvest in full swing. Women with scythes were cutting and threshing the rice, all by hand. We saw fields being plowed by men with two cows and a wooden plow. Although there was electricity in all of the villages we passed through, Nepal is still very much a third world country.

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Annapurna III, elevation 24,780 ft.

Travel is measured in time, not in meters or miles. We hiked 6 to 8 hours per day, staying in tea houses in the small villages along the way.

Accommodations were very basic, a small room with two twin beds and foam mattresses.

There was no heat and we slept in our sleeping bags, but the price was right. Rooms rented for \$3.50 to \$5.00 per night, about the same price as a bottle of Everest beer (our favorite). On our third day, the really big mountains started to come into view. Manaslu, the eighth highest peak in the world at 26,781 feet appeared to the north only 6 miles away as the crow flies. The border with China was 4 miles further. As we continued west along the Marsyangdi River the Annapurna range began to appear to our left.

We knew that the world's 10th highest peak, Annapurna, was in there somewhere, but the view was blocked by its sister peaks. Ironically, although we were hiking the Annapurna Circuit, we

never got a clear view of Annapurna on our trip.

By the time we reach Thorung Phedi at the base of the pass, we had been hiking for 9 days and gained 12,000 feet in elevation. We were ready to tackle Thorung La Pass. We started walking at 4:30 a.m. under starry skies following the small circle of light from our

headlamps. We knew the trail was going to be a killer first thing in the morning – it gained 1,200 feet in only 1/2 mile, a brutal way to start the day. The temperature was 20 degrees, but not too windy.

After the first steep pitch the grade got a little easier, but then we hit shaded sections of trail covered in snow and ice. The footing was treacherous and even though I couldn't see below us in the dark, I could sense a huge void and I didn't want to fall.

As the trail climbed and climbed, my feet felt heavier and heavier, like they weighed hundreds of pounds. The thin air was really kicking in now. Bigraj's mantra was "slowly, slowly", but I'm not sure he knew how slow I could go. The other guys didn't seem to have any trouble keeping up with me.



Morning in the village of Manang with Annapurna II at right, elevation 26,033 ft.

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When we stopped to rest, or if the grade flattened, I had no trouble walking and breathing, but as soon as the trail turned uphill, I felt I could barely move. At 9:15 a.m. we reached the pass.

The last sentence in Herzog's book is "There are other Annapurnas in the lives of men." We were never going to climb Annapurna or any other of the world's highest peaks. Standing on Thorung La Pass at 17,768 feet I thought maybe this was our "Annapurna." We would never stand any higher on the planet. It was the hardest thing I had ever done.



Pat Kallal, Dan Nolan, Johnny Hodges descending Thorung La Pass.

And then we started down, a knee buckling descent of over 5,000 feet to Muktinath where we spent the night. A couple of days later as we hiked along the Kali Gandaki River we had up close-up views across the river of Dhaulagiri, the 7th highest peak in the world at 26,795 feet.

This was the first peak Herzog had planned to climb.

After seeing the incredibly steep slopes, I could understand why he decided to try Annapurna instead.

The village of Tatopani is well known for its hot springs and we ended our hike there with sore feet and tired legs. We immediately headed to the hot springs to soak our exhausted bodies, down a few cold beers and think about our unforgettable trek in the Himalayas. Namaste!

Trip to Europe with the Rocky Mountaineers is **SOLD OUT**

Our trip to the lake country of northern Italy and the Alps of Switzerland and Austria in September, 2016 is sold out.

If you were thinking about going with us, but never got around to signing up, we have started a standby list in case we have any cancellations. Just send us an email and we'll add you to the list.

Want to go with us on a future trip? We are still thinking about our next destination in 2017 or beyond. Send us an email and let us know where you would like to go.

Annual Gathering in Black Hills

Save the Date - August 29-31, 2016

The 2016 Annual Gathering of the Rocky Mountaineers is to be held in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota August 29-31, 2016. The theme for the gathering is:

Have We Learned Anything From our History?

Monday evening the 29th, will be a meet and greet event to be held at one of the fantastic venues located near Custer, SD.

Tuesday, Paul Horsted, a well known historical photographer and lecturer, will give a talk on the history of the Black Hills. Following Paul's presentation there may be a surprise visit by a historical celebrity. Craig Bobzien, BHNH supervisor, will be on hand to answer questions and give an update regarding Black Hills National Forest Management.

Tuesday afternoon there will be opportunities to enjoy some fun stuff in and around Custer, SD.

Tuesday night we will have a group meal at another great Venue near Custer. Brad Exton and his wife Bonnie may entertain us with dinner music.

There are so many things to see and do in the Black Hills that Wednesday will be a day when you can pick and choose an option that suits your taste. Perhaps you would like to be involved in a volunteer project at the Harney Peak (Harney Peak is on the register of National Historic Sites) or a bike ride along the fabulous Mickelsen Trail or if you prefer a low impact hike around Sylvan Lake or a scenic drive around the wildlife loop in Custer State Park. For those that have never seen the lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore you should put that on your list. Hill City, a short jaunt from Custer, is becoming very popular for wine tasting opportunities. The Crazy Horse Monument is close by as well, along with many tourism minded venues towards Rapid City.

Southern Colorado Retirees



FS Retirees Luncheon, December 8, 2015, Pueblo, Colorado

Front Row from left: Gary Roper, Janie Roper, Wyoma Hansen, Neola Lewis, Rod Lewis, Al Wasser

Middle Row: Gail Tameler, Dick Roth, Karen Bergethon, Brent Botts, Bill Nelson

Back Row: Karl Tameler, Carolyn Geiger, George Geiger, Cheryl Klock, Larry Klock, Kaye Holthoff, Herb Holthoff

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Jim Maxwell

Regional Hydrologist

Retiree Class of 2010 – 39 Years of Service

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Jim Maxwell: I was born in Los Angeles in 1949. I grew up around Long Beach. I was happy there, but after I left the L.A. basin at age 17, I was glad to have left that swarming anthill of people and cars behind!

TR: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

JM: Utah State University in Logan (1967-71). I studied forest management and specialized in forest watershed management for my last two years.

TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service?

JM: My step-dad, Bob Durham, was my hero and got me to love nature. We spent some sweet times in the national forests of southern California. By age 16, my heart was set on the U.S. Forest Service – the only employer I ever had after age 17.

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

JM: I was a seasonal timber crew member on the Sequoia NF in 1968. We mostly thinned pine-fir stands, but also did post-fire watershed restoration, trail repair, and meadow enlargement. One day, I

felled a large fir whose crown got hung up, so the tree fell across the slope and landed on our lunch cooler. The styrofoam just exploded. I got a big toothy grin and a one-finger salute from Mel Mehl!

TR: Did you work any other seasonal jobs while in school?

JM: In 1970, I was on a two-man crew mapping land types in spectacular alpine-glaciated mountains of the Sawtooth NF. That may have been the sweetest job I ever had, paid to hike ridge lines every day and soak it all in. Lightning nearly got me one day as it struck a limber pine on a knob not 20 feet away. We also found an Engelmann spruce on a glacial moraine that measured 180 feet tall and five feet dbh – bigger than the largest one then on record.

TR: You worked on the Monongahela NF. Were you involved with the landmark 1973 NEPA decision there?

JM: I was there (1971-74) when it all went down. My first career job was on the Gauley RD, with Mac McManigle as ranger. Also, Jack Weissling was my boss for a bit when I worked in the SO. I was not into the court case – but the judge who ruled against us was named Maxwell (ugh!).

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TR: Which other Forests/Regions did you work in during your career?

JM: The Siuslaw NF on the Oregon coast (1974-80), the Southwestern R.O. in Albuquerque (1980-83), the Chattahoochee-Oconee NFs in Georgia (1983-86), the Southern R.O. in Atlanta (1986-89), the Rocky Mountain R.O. (1989-99), the Cherokee NF in eastern Tennessee (1999-2001), and finally back to R2 (2001-10). All those habitats and cultures so enriched my life! Each forest seems to have its own unique feel and smell.

TR: Tell us about your career as a hydrologist and how it changed over your career?

JM: For the first 18 years, my role was field adviser – to blend protection of soils and streams into project & forest plans. For the last 10 years (R2 water program leader), my role was more technical guidance and policy. My field time was over 80% in the early days, but under 20% later.

TR: Who were some mentors that gave you good advice in your career?

JM: I learned about giving practical resource input from George Bush (Siuslaw NF) and Larry Schmidt (R3); about leading with common sense and quiet strength from Ellie Towns, Tom Thompson, and Lyle Lavery; and about how to share the heart of the USFS from Lynn Young.

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

JM: The best part by far was working with others to better manage and protect resources – directly in the field or by building tools people could use. I often wondered how the poor folks (those not being paid to work in the woods) got by. The worst part was Mark Rey hacking on me (he was a political hack, after all) for telling the truth about, instead of spinning, his awful idea to sell off tracts of NFS land.

TR: How did you get involved in Public Affairs?

JM: As a district ranger, I enjoyed explaining what we were doing and why to others. In the Fiddlin' Foresters, it was fun to educate people about

natural resources and public lands. Lynn Young, my great friend and role model, inspired me and encouraged me to get involved.

TR: Do you have a funny story you can share with us?

JM: Here are two: (1) In 1976 on the Siuslaw NF, we held a project meeting on the Oregon coast, on a fine day with lots of sail boats out on the ocean. Ranger Phil Wickham walked up to me and said, "Look at all those sail boats out there," to which I replied, "Can you believe there are 73 of them?" He said, "Isn't that just like a damned scientist? Can't you just enjoy the scene?" (2) In 2004, Lynn Young sent out an email to many people thanking them for their support of the Fiddlin' Foresters. He said the BLM had now formed its own band. In typing their name, Lynn consulted Spell Check to get the 3rd word right – thus calling them, for posterity, the Multiple Use Menstruals.

TR: You've done a lot of traveling since you've retired. What has been your favorite trip?

JM: It is a blast to explore new places with Janet! Italy in 2012 was the trip of a lifetime. But my own pick may be our Mississippi River steamboat cruise in 2014 – I got to play banjo and sing with minstrel Dan Knowles on stage.



Janet Maxwell, farm Guide Aslan and Jim Maxwell at the O'o Farm on Maui posing with produce which was about to become dinner. November, 2015.

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Lynn Young and Jim Maxwell at the Appalachian String Band Music Festival in Clifftop, WV in August 2015

TR: Tell us about your involvement with the Fiddlin' Foresters and how that was.

JM: It was like living a dream within a dream – getting to savor so many magic lands and fine people in so many states. It all made the outfit feel like a family for those 18 years. There would have been no Fiddlin' Foresters if not for Lynn Young (he made us and even looks like Pinchot!), and we would not have gone national without the massive support of Tom Thompson. It was a mini-career all in itself.

TR: Are you still playing music?

JM: Absolutely! I jam with a bluegrass bunch at least once a week. Each summer, I head back to Clifftop, WV, where I revel in a week of the best old-time string band music to be found with Lynn Young and other friends. I'm also in a five-piece band (The Clawhammer Band) that plays from time to time in our area – check us out on Facebook!

TR: How do you think the current Forest Service is doing? Any thoughts?

JM: It feels like the soul of the outfit is eroding away. We were once the can-do civilian agency with the best morale. We have let others define us and dictate our agenda. Spin trumps substance. Analysis

paralysis prevails. We are too top-heavy. We are drifting, not leading with conviction that active use of national forests and grasslands to improve long-term resource health is the right thing to do.

TR: What would you like to see change?

JM: It would take a miracle to break out of the vortex. We need leaders with vision and guts to risk their careers for a new birth of active management. I think we need a leaner WO staff, fewer regions, and the real action put back in the field. I would like to see us streamline our crippling NEPA process and craft a mission statement that boldly asserts the active use of resources to improve their health in the long run. We should build specific goals, objectives, and prescriptions for the ecological units we mapped 20 years ago. And let's break away from the USDA!

TR: What advice would you have for a young person looking to start a career with the U.S. Forest Service?

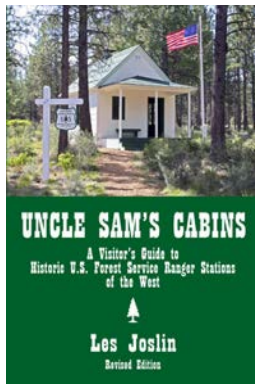
JM: Be sure you want to take part in protecting and using natural resources. Get a vision for leaving the resources in better shape than you found them. Spend as much time in the field as possible. Stay close to the land as long as you can, and keep the land in your heart and mind always. Be teachable, keep growing, and keep learning from others.

TR: What do you fill your free time with in retirement?

JM: I like life in the slow lane! Our six grandchildren in the area occupy a lot of our time. Our travels include a 3-4 day "local" trip each month in warm seasons, plus 1-2 longer trips each year. Besides the music I mentioned before, I give some time to senior homes and the Denver Rescue Mission. How do I have time for yard work, anyway?

TR: Any final words of wisdom?

JM: Wisdom – from a banjo player? Retired or not, I say we all need to slow down, breathe deep, and savor each moment. Eat healthy, get exercise, and take naps. Laugh at adversity. Give God control. Keep learning and growing.



Uncle Sam's Cabins

by Les Joslin

Grizzly Creek Ranger Station *Routt National Forest, Colorado*

Ranger George McClanahan completed the historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station cabin—

now called Grizzly Creek Guard Station—in 1922 as part of a proposed tree nursery and research center. He designed and used his woodworking skills to construct this log cabin to U.S. Forest Service specifications and added his own style to the structure by using full dovetail joints at the corners. Instead of serving the original purpose, the cabin along with a ranger's house and barn became a ranger station at which Ranger McClanahan and his family lived during the summer months he spent on his Routt National Forest district.

Ranger McClanahan used the station until 1929 when his office was moved to Walden. The house was torn down in 1932 and the cabin became a guard station for one or two Forest Service men working in the area. By 1961 the foundation was rotting and the roof was in bad shape, but the cabin was otherwise sound and in good shape. Since the Routt National Forest lacked repair funds and the cabin had been declared an excess facility, it was almost moved to a museum in Wyoming. But the people of Jackson County objected, and the Parks Ranger District decided to restore it as a recreation and heritage resource.

Restoration work began in 1999. The cabin, last used in 1987, was overrun by critters. Foxes and skunks lived beneath it. Rodent nests filled the spaces under cabinets, appliances were unusable, and the rusted sink was plumbed with duct tape. Daylight could be seen through the roof. Light fixtures were broken. Because of its historic status, repairs had to be faithful to its original appearance. A new fence was built to resemble the one in 1930s photographs, and new propane



Ranger George McClanahan and his family in front of Grizzly Creek Ranger Station in the early 1920s.

U.S. Forest Service photograph

tanks were hidden from view. By 2002, 80 years after it was built, the historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station cabin was restored to historic and safety standards.

Ranger McClanahan's restored two-room cabin stands as an excellent example of the pioneer construction techniques Forest Service rangers employed before formal engineering standards and designs were introduced. He located it along an access road into the national forest at a site close to water. It is now available for rent by the public under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Rental revenues pay for its maintenance.

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*Historic Grizzly Creek Ranger Station, Routt National Forest, Colorado, after restoration.
U.S. Forest Service photograph*

Access: Historic grizzly Creek Ranger Station is 25 miles southwest of Walden. From Walden, take Colorado Highway 14 about 15 miles southwesterly to Hebron Junction. Turn west (right) onto Jackson County Road 24 and drive about 12 miles to the Routt National Forest Boundary. The station is located right next to the forest boundary on the south (left) side of the road. From Steamboat Springs, take U.S. Highway 40 east toward Kremmling for 15 miles, turn north on Colorado Highway 14 toward Walden, drive 20 miles north to Hebron Junction, turn west (left) onto Jackson County Road 24 and drive 12 miles to the cabin on the national forest boundary.

*Les Joslin is author of **Uncle Sam's Cabins: A Visitor's Guide to Historic U.S. Forest Service Ranger Stations of the West**, the revised edition of which was published in 2012, and is editor of the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association's quarterly **OldSmokeys Newsletter**. Les appreciates the assistance of Kolleen Kralick, Ph.D., Heritage Program Manager, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland, for assistance in preparing this article.*

Memorial Grove 2016 - May 7, 2016

This year's Memorial Grove ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The list below is of potential honoree names and the final list may not include all of the individuals listed. If you are aware of others who might qualify and deserve to be nominated for 2015 consideration, please let one of the committee representatives identified below know. Families of honorees will be notified by the end of January about the ceremony. Information about all those being considered has been included in the Rendezvous Remembrance section in this edition or in other 2015 editions.

The Memorial Grove was started over 95 years ago, after the end of World War I and continues to be an opportunity to recognize the service and commitment of people who have given so much to the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Region. Over eleven hundred people have been honored at the memorial located on the site of the old Monument Tree Nursery.

A work day to do advance maintenance and site improvements at the Memorial Grove will be held on April 28 and please mark this day on your calendar if you want to participate in this volunteer project.

2015 Potential Memorial Grove Honorees

Odean M. Borgen	Black Hills N.F.
Frederick E.(Fred) Buhr	Regional Office
Chuck Calkins	San Juan N.F.
Clyde Duren Jr.	Regional Office
Helen M. Estep	Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F.s
Lisa Ann Fisher	Regional Office, Asst. Director Job Corps
Robert Gibbs Gnam	Regional Office, Mineral Examiner
Rosye (Maxine) Humrich	Regional Office
James Robert (Zeke) Hylle	Black Hills N.F.
William O. (Bill) Kinney	PSICC, Regional Office
Clinton Daniel (Clint) Kyhl	Arapaho, Pike San Isabel, Neb., Med. Bow, R-6 and R-4
George Norman Mandeville	Bessey Ranger District
Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F.s
John T. (Tom) Quinn	Rio Grande, Regional Office Fire Director
William Randolph	PSICC
David John (Dave) Ruhl	Black Hills N.F.
Carmen Sandlin	Black Hills N.F.
Patricia C. Smith	R.O, AR, and W.O.
Nancy Stephens	R.O.
Frederic B. (Fred) Stillman	Bl. Hills, San Juan, Gunnison, Med. Bow, and Rio Grande
Craig Sullivan	San Juan N.F.
Karl F. Zeller	Shoshone, White River, Arapahoe, and San Juan
Not Forgotten:	
Richard Martinez	Rio Grande N.F.
Paul M. Stewart	R.O.

Rocky Mountain Memorial Grove Committee Representatives:

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Remembering Bob Gnam

A remembrance by Denny Lynch



Robert Gibbs Gnam

I am saddened when I learn of the passing of Forest Service friends. But then, often, I recall a story or two about the good times we had and that helps. Some of those times were really quite funny. That was the case when I read in The Rendezvous about the passing of Bob Gnam.

Bob was a mineral examiner in the R.O. and I was a lands staff on the Roosevelt at the time (around 1965). We asked him to examine what Ranger Craig Pender thought was a bogus mining claim on the Boulder District. Some enterprising folks had determined that there were “valuable minerals” beneath a peat bog up near Red Rocks Lake. Of course, they had to strip the peat moss off and sell it in order to get to the “valuable minerals”. I met Bob in Boulder to serve as his helper for the day and we traveled up to the Brainerd Lake area in his gray GSA station wagon.

After the exam (which further reinforced our suspicions) we were traveling back to Boulder. A little way down the dirt road east of Ward we came upon an empty car alongside the road and just a short distance beyond it were two people walking down the road. Being the Good Samaritan FS folks we were, we stopped to pick them up. I moved into the back seat with the man to make room for a very pregnant woman up front with Bob. “Our car broke

down”, she said, “and we were on our way to the hospital in Boulder.” Bob said, “Hospital?” By now we were headed down the road. “Yes”, she said. “I started having contractions this morning and we thought we should go to the hospital.” “Hospital, Contractions!!!” said Bob picking up speed. “Yes”, she said, “I was due last week.” “Last week!!!” said Bob picking up more speed. “We hope it’s a girl,” she stated enthusiastically! I began to mentally review my recent FS first aid course related to birthing babies. Picking up speed was not entirely the best strategy because the road seemed to increase in bumpiness which the gray GSA station wagon didn’t buffer too well. But by now, we were power sliding the corners and Bob had the visage of a man possessed driving in the Indy 500. All this time the husband had been very quiet, but I noticed he was now white-knuckling the back of the front seat, leaning forward with eyes riveted on the road ahead.

We made it to the emergency room at the hospital in Boulder in record time and our occupants were very profuse in their thanks to Bob. “By the way”, she asked, “what is your name?” “Bob, Bob Gnam.” “Isn’t that a lovely name honey,” she said to her husband and he enthusiastically agreed. “A lovely name,” she said wistfully. By then she was fully into contractions and the attendant had her in a wheel chair headed inside.

I’ve always wondered if somewhere out in Boulder County there is a little girl named Bob.

A remembrance by Lee Carr

The first time I met Bob was unforgettable. During the summer, 1957, between my third and fourth year at CSU, I was working a seasonal job on the Goose District of the Bighorn. On a rainy morning I headed to Sheridan to do the shopping and laundry but slipped off the infamous Red Grade roadway. The car’s resting place, hanging precariously by two inside wheels on the slick embankment, gave me a lot of anxious moments as I stood getting rain soaked. What next? I can’t afford a tow truck, how do I get back to college if this rolls, among other thoughts interspersed with religious rituals. Within 30 minutes, the first vehicle to show up was Bob driving a surplus WWII army weapons carrier (an oversized jeep). In no time, he pulled me back on the roadway, told me to be careful, and was off to examine another mining claim. Our trails crossed numerous times during the next 25 years and I always knew what his knowing smile, to me, was all about.

Remembrances



Chuck Calkins

Chuck Calkins, 81, of Cheyenne died Sept. 30 at his home surrounded by family. He was born Dec. 11, 1933, in Detroit to Charles and Dorothy Calkins. He graduated from Evanston

Township High School in Illinois, Beloit College, and Duke University School of Forestry. He married Janet Layman June 30, 1956, in Evanston, Ill.

He began his career in forestry and fire management in July 1957 as forester in Dubois, WY on the Shoshone Nat'l Forest. He became Asst. Ranger in Dubois in 1958 and then next was Assistant Ranger in Encampment, WY. In 1961 he was Asst. Ranger on the Eagle District of the White River until spring of 1967, when he

became the District Ranger in Saratoga, WY. In 1976 he was transferred to Durango, working in Aviation and Fire Management in the Regional office. In 1985 he moved to the BLM in the Wyo. State Office of the BLM, again in Aviation and Fire Management. He also served as Safety Officer on an Interregional Fire Team. He retired in the fall of 1993.

He and Janet enjoyed family camping trips in the Snowy Range and motor home travels around the country. He was an avid sports fan.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; two brothers, Ken Calkins and Phil Calkins; children, Debby Blake of Gillette, Karen Youngberg of Saratoga, Julie Williams of Cheyenne and Chuck Calkins Jr. of Oakland, Maine; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



William O. (Bill) Kinney

William O. (Bill) Kinney died on September 24, 2015 in Arvada, CO. Bill was born on December 2, 1922 and married Juanita on October 12, 1944.

He served his country during World War 2. Bill worked in the Regional Sign Shop in both Monument and Denver, and then worked as an Automotive Equipment Specialist in the Regional Office, prior to retiring in 1982.

Carmen Sandlin

Carmen Sandlin, 79, passed away on November 21, 2015 in Hot Springs, SD. Carmen was born in Isabel, on May 15, 1936, to her beloved parents Chester and Florence (Wallace) Campman.

Carmen started her Forest Service employment as a SCSEP employee in 1997 and converted to a seasonal appointment at the front office on the

Mystic RD (old Pactola-Harney RD). She retired in 2007.

She is survived by two daughters, Kristi (Scott) Phillips of Hot Springs, and Kathy (Bill) Thoman of Rapid City.

Remembrances



John T. (Tom) Quinn

John T. (Tom) Quinn, a long time resident of Sheridan, Wyoming passed away in Prescott, Az on October 14, 2015.

Tom, a native of Mississippi, graduated from Mississippi State with a Bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. He spent the next two years in the army. He began his Forest Service career as a seasonal working on the Sitgreaves National Forest where he brought his bride, Lindon, to a lookout tower out of Winslow, AZ. During the next three years he worked on the Wasatch National Forest and received his Master's Degree in Forest Management.

He accepted the challenge of forest wildfire and the assignments this challenge brought. In the mid-80's

he was Forest Supervisor on the Rio Grande National Forest. He retired in 1989 as Regional Director of Fire and Aviation for Region 2. One year later he began working for Wyoming Sawmills in Sheridan. He worked for them for ten years.

Tom loved and treasured his family, friends, The United States of America and it's forest lands and wildlife and the discipline of work. His recreation choices included golf, fishing, hunting, reading, playing pool and cards.

He leaves his wife, Lindon, two sons, John (Bradley, S.D.), Daniel (Superior, Wyo.), five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, his brothers, Don and Harold, sister Mary Elizabeth Holyfield, three nephews and four nieces.



Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr.

Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr. of Montrose died Oct. 30, 2015, at his home in Montrose after a 14-year battle with heart disease.

Jay was born to John and Lois Pryor in Grand Junction on Feb. 16, 1942. He

graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1960 and immediately enlisted in the U.S Army. He married Phyllis Peterson in 1961; together they had three children, Lori, Roy and Dina. In 1975, he was united in marriage with Diane Pryor and in combining families, they had 6 children.

Jay was an equipment operator on the GMUG NF from 2001-2014. Jay enjoyed working and he spent his life in various types of construction. He logged and built many of the roads in the mountains of Colorado. Some of his most memorable areas are Taylor Reservoir, Land's End on Grand Mesa, Hanks Valley on the Uncompahgre, and the beach and campground at Ridgway Reservoir.

He started his career at the family business, the Pryor Sawmill, until it sold in 1980. He then formed a partnership business, P&S Construction, with his best friend from high school, Bob Sparlin. Jay also spent several years working construction for Homeland Security, on the Arizona Mexico border. At age 72, Jay retired from the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest Service.

Jay loved to spend time with his family hunting, fishing and camping. Jay also loved watching and cheering on the Broncos. He was a member of the Elks lodge for over 36 years.

Jay is survived by daughters Lori (Dan) Maguire of Montrose, Dina Jones of Grand Junction; son Roy (Danette) Pryor of Montrose; brother Larry Pryor of Barleson Texas step-daughters Kim English of Montrose, Kindra Marts of Kellyville, Okla.; and step-son Kyle Rose of Montrose; 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Remembrances



Nancy Stephens

Nancy Stephens, who retired recently from the Regional Office, passed away on October 15, 2015. She was born November 19, 1939 to Wilbur and Gladys Carlson. She grew up in Dixon, Illinois. Nancy worked for a

number of years as a Forest Service visitor information specialist and was at the front desk to greet visitors. Nancy enjoyed being outdoors and especially loved to be camping with family. She is survived by daughter, Deanna Branan, and son, Dan Stephens, as well as four grandchildren, David and Rachel Stephens and Anthony and Chris Branam, and 2 great-grandchildren, Macaylea and Lexie Branan.



Craig Sullivan

Craig Sullivan, San Juan NF Headwaters Forester on the Columbine/Pagosa RDs, passed away on June 17, 2015, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Craig spent his childhood in northcentral England and moved with his family

to Wisconsin in 1976. He graduated from Parker High School in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1981. He proudly served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper ranger, earning the rank of sergeant.

Craig earned Bachelor's degrees from University of Wisconsin at Stout and Stevens Point and completed Master's degree work in Silviculture and Forestry.

Craig had a 20-year career as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His work took him and his family to Montana, Alaska, Tennessee, New Mexico and finally, Southwest Colorado, where Craig worked for 11 years.

Craig is survived by his wife, Danielle, and their two sons, Ethan, 16, and Charlie, 10.



Donald D. Loff Sr.

Donald D. (Don) Loff Sr. died on January 8, 2016. Don worked in Region 6 for a good part of his career and in the Washington Office. He came to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1980 as

Director of Engineering and retired in 1990. Don was involved in many of the Forest Service programs

including recruitment of engineers, the geometronics service center, and was a valuable member of both national and regional management teams. He was a great friend, and we will miss him. He is survived by his wife Jean of Wilsonville, OR and children and grand-children.

Remembrances



John Carey Watt

John Carey Watt died on January 3, 2016.

John was born on July 19, 1925 to Alice and Herbert Watt in Takoma Park, Maryland. John's father Herbert, had emigrated to the United States from Ireland in the

early 1900s and had found success in industry and higher education. This provided John with a wealth of experiences in major mid-west and eastern cities including Washington D.C., New York, Chicago and Pittsburgh.

After high school, John attended the University of Chicago but prior to graduation enlisted in the Navy and served during WWII. His ship, a destroyer escort, saw action in both theaters of the war and was part of the convoy that sailed into Tokyo Bay to accept the Japanese surrender. At the end of his two and a half years of service he returned to the University of Chicago and obtained a Liberal Arts degree. He then attended Yale University where he received a Masters Degree in Forestry. It was during a summer internship at Yale that he first came to Colorado and fell in love with its' wild places.

After graduating for Yale, he took a job with the State of Illinois and during that time met his first wife Edith Woodrow. They were married in her home town of Jerseyville, Illinois on January 7, 1953 and were married for 51 years. John took a job with

the US Forest Service in Alturas, California as an assistant ranger and his son Frank was born there in 1954. John then received a promotion to Ranger for the Siskiyou Forest Head in Mt. Shasta, California and his daughter Chris was born there in 1957. John took a job in personnel management in the regional office in San Francisco in 1961 and then moved to Denver in 1965 in personnel. He retired in the early 80's with over 30 years of service with the US Forest Service.

He was a very dedicated and loving grandfather to Luke and Heidi Counts, Jenny Meier, Tyler and Allison Watt and great-grandfather to Vinny Counts, Leo and John Watt. Towards the end of his life he said that his true purpose in life was to be a grandfather. After Edith died in 2003, John remarried in 2004 to Lois Bisbee. They had 11 wonderful years together spent traveling the world and rooting for the Colorado Rockies. John also loved the Denver Broncos and was a season ticket holder for many years with seats in the infamous South Stands at Mile-Hi stadium.

His love and compassion for his family has given us wonderful memories and we are all honored to have known and loved him. He will be forever in our hearts. John was preceded in death by his first wife, Edith. He is survived by his wife, Lois; children, Frank (Thea) Watt and Chris (Ken) Counts; grandchildren, Jenny Meier, Tyler Watt (Katie), Allison Watt, Luke Counts and Heidi Counts; and great grandsons, Vinny Counts, Leo Watt and John Watt. He will be deeply missed by everyone.

William Randolph

William Randolph recently passed away in Canon City, CO. He worked for a time in Grants and Agreements under the Wounded Warrior Army Veteran Training Program.

The Last Word

A Uniform Appearance

by Tom L. Thompson

At the recent Forest Service Reunion in Albuquerque, Char Miller made a presentation and referenced the beginnings of the Forest Service as an organization. He talked about what came together in the early years of the “outfit” that created the chemistry for success. It was the passionate leadership exhibited by Pinchot, appropriate authority documented in The Use Book, a dedicated ranger cadre with training in forestry, a decentralized organization, a badge and a uniform.

As Char spoke about the uniform and badge being a key component of the success of the Forest Service, I reflected on the reality of what he said. How do you measure the importance of a properly worn uniform? Does wearing a uniform increase the quality of public service or improve the visibility and presence of forest officers and staff? Is there a difference in how a person conducts themselves or sees their work if they are in a uniform? Is there a difference in how much attention or

respect is paid to a person wearing a uniform? In my view,



William Kreutzer in first Forest Service uniform - 1900

the answer to each of these questions affirms to me that wearing a uniform at the appropriate times and manner is very important to not only the organization but also to the people who wear it.

As we went through our careers, many of us had positions where

wearing the Forest Service uniform was expected on most days. It made getting dressed and out the door in the morning fairly easy as far as wardrobe. The only challenge was making sure that the shirt and pants were washed and ironed and the name plate and badge were in their proper place. When I wore a uniform it gave me added pride and a measure of extra responsibility to uphold. Kitty and I still have our first uniforms that we proudly wore on the Tongass National Forest purchased from Nudelman Clothing in Portland, OR, but for some reason they seem to have shrunk a bit since the 60's. It must have been the wool fabric.

Several Forest Service employees from the Southwest Region attended a part of that reunion in New Mexico and were available one afternoon to give briefings on current programs. Their presence in uniform gave us a chance to reflect our own pride in the outfit.

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Rocky Mountaineer member Melanie Woolever shared with me how it made her feel:

"I never liked the darned uniform. It never fit right, was uncomfortable, the shade of green was awful and the shirt color clashed with the pant color. Having said that, I virtually melted when I got there and saw the folks in uniform, wanting to embrace them shouting 'MY PEOPLE!' I suspect in another couple of years, I'll have to hold myself back from hugging someone I've never met simply because they are in a FS uniform. It didn't occur to me that I'd react that way to so strongly missing my work and 'my people'."

There are those who might scoff at the value of a uniform, but I believe the uniform is and has been without question a symbol of professionalism, responsibility, service, and

pride for the outfit. Many of us are reminded of this every year in May at the Memorial Grove ceremony. The Ranger and his personnel from the Pikes Peak District are always in uniform. They represent the agency very well and are proud to wear the uniform as they prepare for the day and the lunch. They ensure everything happens without a hitch and I know that family members who come to honor their loved ones truly appreciate feeling connected to the agency and having current employees in uniform. You can sense that they share with pride the feelings that come from being associated with people who are proud of Caring for the Land and Serving People.



Dana Coeblo, who is our Rocky Mountaineer liaison from the Regional Office, is shown here in good company and in her uniform as well!

Over the years the uniform appearance has changed. Like Melanie, each of us in our time probably had our own thoughts about how its looks could be improved, how it might fit better, or even be more practical for some work. As changes were made it usually took a bit of time to adjust and accept the new look. Not all changes were easy to adjust to. I certainly was not in favor of discontinuing the "rocker arm" patches. They were worn on the our left shoulder and identified everyone by their home unit. Even though it was a chore for someone to sew on new patches every time you moved, I think there was a special feeling to be able to wear the name of your unit. But even though the design has changed over the years, I think most of us always felt good when we could wear the uniform.

In this new year, I look forward to seeing folks who are still working in the U.S. Forest Service uniform and resolve to make sure I tell them that their appearance and dedication to "the outfit" is greatly appreciated!