



# The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 4 - Number 1

## National Museum of Forest Service History Opens Its Doors (and Trails!)

By Lisa Tate

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



*Smokey and Woodsy loved the crowd.*

Along with U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth (retired), other dignitaries and 275 members of the public, Smokey and Woodsy helped the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, Montana open its visitor center and Forest Discovery Trail for the first time in a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, July 20th, 2017.

It has been a long time coming, and the opening of the Visitors

Center and the new Forest Discovery Trail, is just the initial phase in the Museum's 36-acre campus, located one mile west of the Missoula, Montana International Airport at 6305 Highway 10 West. The Capital Campaign for the 30,000 sq. foot Smithsonian-affiliate Museum building is halfway there, with approximately \$4.5 million dollars raised.

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The Museum, a nonprofit wholly separate from the U.S. Forest Service, is the only museum in the country devoted to telling the conservation story of the nation's forests and grasslands. The Forest Service has been, and is, the cornerstone of that story, which began more than 100 years ago when President Teddy Roosevelt urged Congress to create the agency and appointed the first chief, Gifford Pinchot. The story is large, and includes many partners. It is a rich and important story to tell!

One of the highlights at the Museum campus is our Forest Discovery Trail, complete with beautifully constructed interpretive signs and interactive exhibits designed to inform and

challenge students, families and visitors alike. The trail winds through a Champion Grove of trees, a grove of key tree species in the U.S. whose unique DNA has been preserved.

Lisa Tate, the Museum's Executive Director, says, *"The Museum's Conservation Education Program, in which the Forest Discovery Trail is a component, is part of a larger national effort to share the rich and important story of America's Conservation Legacy and the role the U.S. Forest Service has played in shaping our country."*

Also on the Museum campus is a restored, historic Ranger's Cabin that currently serves as the Visitor Center and features rotating exhibits; a replica of a "L-4" Fire Lookout Tower built for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the Washington D.C. mall and a newly constructed stock corral,

hitching post and knot-tying station which serves as a focal point for learning about the history and use of pack animals in our national forests.

The Museum is open to visitors 7 days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day and by appointment. Several special events are also scheduled to be held at the Museum



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*Lisa Tate is the Executive Director of the National Museum of Forest Service History. She grew up in Montana and as a child she spent most of her play time outdoors. "My family camped, fished and enjoyed the forests of Montana and also as we traveled all across the United States on family vacations. One of my fondest childhood memories was finding a small set of deer antlers spikes in the Lolo National Forest. I was about seven years old. Later in my life I enjoyed other outdoor activities such as skiing, rock climbing, hiking, hang gliding, and horseback riding. Having National Forests as my childhood playground shaped my life and made me the person I am today. I cannot imagine a world without such spaces and I am eternally grateful to the visionaries who have conserved and managed our National Forests for all to enjoy, both in the past and into the future."*

*Lisa moved to Boise, Idaho in the early 1980's to pursue a career in the nonprofit sector, a career path that has allowed her to lead and manage nonprofit organizations such as the Red River Zoological Society in Fargo, ND where she served as Executive Director and the U.S. Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association where she served on the Board of Directors for 22 years and as President for 8 years. She has worked in nonprofit fundraising and executive leadership for over 30 years and is proud to serve as the Executive Director for the National Museum of Forest Service History since August, 2016.*

### ***How To Contact "Rocky Mountaineers"***

Website - [www.rockymountaineers.us](http://www.rockymountaineers.us)

E-mail - [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com)

Editor of Newsletter - Dave Steinke, [dave.steinke@gmail.com](mailto:dave.steinke@gmail.com), 720-289-7621

Website Manager - Bill Disbrow, [bdisbrow@aol.com](mailto:bdisbrow@aol.com), 303-548-7501

E-Mail Manager - Johnny Hodges, [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com), 970-226-6890

Memorial Grove - Steve Deitemeyer, [sdeitemeyer@msn.com](mailto:sdeitemeyer@msn.com), 303-456-0799 or

TomThompson, [tommylthompson@comcast.net](mailto:tommylthompson@comcast.net), 303-933-2135

Membership & Others - P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527



## A Note from Nancy

*By Nancy Warren, Rocky Mountaineers Chair*

My favorite surprise of this year was witnessing the massive numbers of painted lady butterflies coming through Colorado. I knew nothing about this pretty orange butterfly, not even how to correctly identify it, when we were enveloped in swarms of them while walking our dog in the Hayden-Green Mountain open space. It was astounding to see dozens of them lift up each time we passed by a clump of flowering rabbitbrush. Apparently conditions were very favorable for them this year, and they are now winging their way south to Mexico. The miracle



of long-distance migration just never gets old!

Speaking of comings and goings, we have a couple of changes to the Board to announce. Our heartfelt thanks go to Becky Aus, who stepped down as the representative for the Wyoming area, and to

Jackie Parks, who stepped down as representative of the northern Front Range area. We are grateful to have benefitted from their talents, creativity, and outstanding service to the Rocky Mountaineers. We are pleased to welcome Bill Bass and Jean Thomas, who have graciously agreed to fill in behind them on the Board.

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## New Chair-Elect for Mountaineers



The Board of the Rocky Mountaineers has recently nominated Craig Bobzien for Chair-Elect so be looking in your email for a message from the Mountaineers and instructions on voting.

The Rocky Mountain Region represents career bookends for Craig. He began as Trail Crew leader on the Roosevelt NF in 1976, and finished as Forest Supervisor on the Black Hills NF from 2005-16. Craig worked in the field and as a ranger in both the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest, and served on many conservation and community boards. "This is a special opportunity to work with employees and retirees; so many folks that I admire for their care of the Rocky Mountain forests and grasslands."

## Membership and Finance Report

### Finance

Our most significant expenditure this time of year is for the Annual Gathering. We budget \$2,000 for this event to provide enjoyable venues at a reasonable cost for our members.

Thank you for your donations to the Scholarship Fund and the Memorial Grove Fund. We hope to collect enough donations in each of these funds to cover our scholarship awards and the Memorial Grove ceremony each year. Donations can be made at any time with a check or a credit card.

As a reminder, the Rocky Mountaineers is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

### Membership

As of October 1, the Rocky Mountaineers membership is holding steady with 419 members. In June, we lost 18 members for non-payment of dues. Since then we have added 14 new members –

**David and Judy Anderson** – Littleton, CO

**Mark and Laurie Ball** – Durango, CO

**Jim and Andrea Bedwell** – Golden, CO

**Michael and Sandy Burke** – Durango, CO

**Kara Chadwick** – Durango, CO

**Pauline and Fred Ellis** – Durango, CO

**Dan and Peech Keller** – Idaho Springs, CO

**Gary and Juanita Lidholm** – Denver, CO

**Joe Reddan** – Durango, CO

**Tom and Georgena Rennick** – Cortez, CO

**David and Marian Ruff** – Spearfish, SD

**David and Annie Sandford** – Dolores, CO

**Mark Tucker** – Dolores, CO

**Ann Marie Verde** – Lakewood, CO

### Dues

Annual dues remain \$20 per household or you can become a Lifetime Member for \$250 per household and we'll never bother you about paying dues again.

You can now pay your dues or make a donation with a credit card. Go to our website and look for the link on our home page. It is fast, easy and secure.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Wanna Get Away? Come Travel With Us!



We are always thinking about our next trip. The Rocky Mountaineers' first trip was to Ireland in 2015. Then we headed to Italy/Switzerland/Austria/Germany in the fall of 2016. Both of these trips were a blast!

We took a break in 2017. In April of 2018 we are headed to France for a combo river cruise/land tour from Nice to Paris (and by the way we still have a few empty spots if you would like to join us – go to our website for the details).

Over the past couple of months, we polled our members to see where they wanted to go in 2019. We received 30 responses and they pretty much covered the world – England/Wales/Scotland, Dalmatian Coast, Africa, Costa Rica, China, New Zealand, Panama Canal, Israel/Egypt, Canadian Railroad, Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu.

The winner was England/Wales/Scotland, followed by a tie for second between Dalmatian Coast and Costa Rica. So, we are beginning to work on a trip to jolly old England and points beyond in 2019. If you want a peek at what this trip looks like, click on this link -

<https://www.gct.com/trips/land-tours/europe/england-scotland-and-wales/2018/itineraries?icid=global:landtours:bsc2018>

You can save \$\$ by traveling with us. We book the trips far in advance and if you pay in full (with cash) 15 months before the departure date, you get a 10% discount. In addition, we will give you a 10% rebate at the end of the trip. You thrifty Forest Service retirees know a good deal when you see one!

We will send out details in the next month or so on our 2019 trip. If you have nowhere to go in 2018, think about joining us in France.



## Rocky Mountaineers Luncheons



The Northern Colorado/Southern Wyoming group of the Rocky Mountaineers met for lunch in Cheyenne on June 21. About 20 members attended and had a great time visiting and sharing stories. Steve Currey organized the lunch and gave a presentation on the history of Cheyenne. The group's next lunch will be in Ft. Collins on October 17 at C.B. Potts at Collindale Golf Course. Lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. We will also set up a couple of tee times for those people that would like to play a round of golf before lunch.

Please RSVP to [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



*The Denver Chapter of the Mountaineers met at Fiddlestick's Bar and Grill October 10th in Lakewood. Hosted by Lloyd and Donna Newland, it was the largest group of retirees ever assembled for a retiree luncheon, according to reliable government estimates.*

## Early PowerPoint Presentations



**The lantern slide has its origins in 17th century optical viewing devices which came to be known as “magic lanterns.” The earliest slides for magic lanterns consisted of hand-painted images on glass, projected by itinerant showmen to amuse their audiences.**

**Magic Lantern slides from a 1938 USFS slide show of National Forest Playgrounds.**



*From the original transcript:*

“Supervisors, Rangers, and other Forest officers carry on the work of managing and protecting the National Forest resources and assist the public in making use of these resources. Rangers supervise timber sales on the National Forests, also grazing, and other uses of the Forests. They help to build

roads, trails, bridges, telephone lines, and other improvements including campground conveniences. A large part of their time is necessarily devoted to the protection of the forest from fire and to fighting fires when they occur. Physical endurance is necessary to the success of the Ranger, because of the heavy labor and exposure involved in this work.”



**Lantern slide projector,  
circa 1940s**

Whether illuminated by candles, oil, or electricity, “magic lanterns” were the PowerPoint projectors of their day. U. S. Forest Service employees used lantern slides to illustrate talks.



## 2018 Forest Service Retirees National Reunion

*Can You Believe It's Only a Year Away?*

September 24, 2018, will be here before you know it. Your 2018 Reunion Committee has been working for a short 28 months to make sure our time in Asheville will be the best Reunion yet. The Crowne Plaza Golf & Tennis Resort is working to ensure the accommodations will be nothing short of outstanding.



*The luxurious family home of George and Edith Vanderbilt is a marvel of elegance and charm, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago.*

The Field Trip Committee has several adventures for you to choose from including a special tour of The Biltmore Estates and Cradle of Forestry. Marci Spencer, author of the recent book on the history of the Pisgah National Forest, will be presenting at the Cradle field trip. The free shuttle downtown, a mile away, will provide opportunities to explore Asheville.

The Crowne Plaza Resort will begin calling those registered for the Reunion around October 9, 2017, to book their room reservations. To ensure only those attending the Reunion get the special low rate of \$119 / \$139 per night, only those registered for the Reunion will be able to book a room. So, register now. The web site is <http://2018.fsreunions.org/index.htm>.

Please remember, the Reunion is also a fund raiser for the National Museum of Forest Service History (NMFHS). Charlie Richmond is heading up the fund raising committee with a lot of support of the Executive Committee and other Committee Leaders. He is looking for donations, sponsors, those wanting exhibit booth space, advertisers, etc.

and need your help. We are associated with the NMFHS and therefore a non-profit 501.c.3 organization. Charlie can be reached at [csrichmond60@gmail.com](mailto:csrichmond60@gmail.com). Bobby James is heading up the Silent Auction Committee. He is looking for items to be donated, especially from your areas. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Contact Bobby at [bjandsj@bellsouth.net](mailto:bjandsj@bellsouth.net).

The Program is looking good. Speakers include Chase Pickering, Great-great-grandson of George and Edith Vanderbilt, and Bibi Gaston, Great-grandniece of Gifford Pinchot. Bibi's latest book is "Gifford Pinchot and the First Foresters." Dr. Jamie Lewis, Forest History Society, will show the film

"America's First Forest." The program also includes our new Chief, Tony Tooke, and David Lane, North Carolina State Forester.

Entertainment will be with a Southern / Appalachian flavor. For example, The Blues Rangers (a southern region favorite) will provide entertainment at the Banquet.

Have you ordered your shirts or other apparel? Go to: <https://forests-service2016.itemorder.com>. This is a very brief synopsis of what is being planned. Get involved. Get registered!

Questions? Web site is: <http://2018.fsreunions.org/html> or call Sid Haggard at 678-644-7240.



## NAFSR REPORT

*by Tom L. Thompson, R-2 Representative*

The NAFSR Board will be meeting soon to develop the 2018 program of work. If you have any suggestions or input for consideration by the Board, please let Tom Thompson know. G. Sam Foster, retired Station Director at the Rocky Mountain Research Station, is now on board as Executive Director. We continue to work on issues that have been identified as the highest priority for our association to take on and identified before as fire funding, restoration, and public land transfer issues.

In October a John R. McGuire Award will be presented to the family of Brett Beasley, who was a

recreation specialist on the Salida Ranger District for the past twenty years. Brett was highly successful in building support and partnerships to accomplish the recreation program on the Pike San Isabel Cimarron Comanche National Forest. Brett died in a skiing incident in January. Chief Tony Tooke and NAFSR President Jim Caswell will make the presentation on October 23 in Salida. Additional information will be posted on both the NAFSR and Rocky Mountaineers website regarding this presentation in the near future.



## National Museum of Forest Service History

*by Tom L. Thompson, NMFSH President*

The summer has been busy for the Museum with everything we are doing trying to raise funds for our building, opening our museum site to the public, continuing to electronically catalog our collection of historic items, and build on our education program which got started off strong with our teachers workshop in May.

The National Museum of Forest Service History opened our Museum site in Missoula, MT on July 21 and we have established a visitor center in our historic ranger cabin, completed a short interpretive trail, and paved parking and restroom facilities. We had over 250 people attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and former Chief Dale Bosworth gave the key note address.

On September 10 the Museum hosted a pancake breakfast at the Museum site as a part of the Norman Maclean Festival. John Maclean gave a talk

reflecting on the connections between the Maclean family and the Forest Service. Pancakes were served to nearly 200 people during the morning and attendees could tour the visitor center cabin and walk the interpretive trail.

During the second week of September, we held our first Conservation Legacy Campfire on the Lolo National Forest and hosted about a dozen folks who were interested in learning more about the Museum's work and plans. During that week we toured our newly opened Museum site, the historic Savenac tree nursery, and the 9-mile Remount Station along the Clark Fork River west of Missoula.

We welcome you to join us as a member to support the work we are doing. Donations to support our building or our operations are greatly appreciated.

## Joining #TeamSmokey is just a Snap Away!

By Jazmine Brown

**Editor's Note:** *The event described in this article took place in August 2017. It was a huge success so let's hope the Ad Council and Snapchat partner again.*



As Assistant Media Manager for Business Development & Innovation and the newest addition to Ad Council's West Coast team, I have been tasked with the exciting job of building social impact partnerships that raise awareness of critical issues on the digital media front.

This year, as a gift to Smokey Bear, and a continuation of spreading awareness about the dangers of wildfires, we have a big announcement. In celebration of his 73rd birthday

on August 9, 2017, we rolled out our first-ever Smokey Bear lens!

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has shared his prevention slogan, "Only you can prevent wildfires," and now thanks to our partnership with Snapchat, we can bring his words to life using this lens.

Our Smokey Bear lens utilizes all the capabilities Snapchat allows with the combination of movement, sound, and visual, making the lens interactive on all levels of the experience.

This campaign aims to develop personal responsibility in preventing wildfires – as we have learned from Smokey Bear, nearly nine out of ten wildfires nationwide, on average, are caused by people. By turning yourself into Smokey Bear, it creates a heightened sense of personal responsibility around wildfire prevention as you've now turned into the actual messenger.

With Snapchat being a sharable experience, users can post themselves using the Smokey Bear lens on their story as well as share individual photos or videos privately with their friends on Snapchat. This helps start a conversation among

Snapchat friends that will hopefully expand outside of the app as well.

On average, 1 in 3 daily active users on Snapchat's platform play with lenses every day. This creates greater exposure for Smokey Bear and will put wildfire prevention at top of mind for millions of Snapchat users.

Now, we can all assist Smokey Bear in spreading the word, not wildfires.





## Pittsburgh Company Gets 'Cease-and-Desist' Letter

### Editor's Note:

*In response to last edition's story about the Smokey "Resist" t-shirt, alert reader Karen Bergethon sent us a link to the back-story of the t-shirt and the strong action the government takes to protect Smokey's image.*

Smokey Bear's time in the resistance might be short-lived. Last month, the Pittsburgh t-shirt company Cotton Bureau began marketing a shirt designed to express opposition to the Trump administration. The design featured a bear wearing a hat with the word 'Resist' on it. To representatives of the U.S. government, it looked a lot like another bear they knew: Smokey Bear, the icon of forest fire prevention who's been featured in public service ads by the federal government since the 1940s.

In addition to telling people to prevent forest fires, Smokey is also "a highly recognized advertising symbol and is protected by Federal law," according to the U.S. government. Last month, a company that manages Smokey's licensing for the U.S. Department of Agriculture sent a cease-and-desist letter to Cotton Bureau telling it to stop selling its 'Resist' t-shirt - and destroy any remaining designs with Smokey on it. "He's not a political figure, he doesn't have a political view," says Libby Kavoulakis, owner of the Metis Group, which also manages the USDA's Woodsy Owl licensing. "He's an American icon for wildfire prevention, so any use that's not consistent with that, we are obligated to send a cease-and-desist letter."



Kavoulakis says this isn't the first time someone's tried to use Smokey for something other than his original, legally protected purpose. The firm has also shut down a Smokey Bear anti-fracking campaign. "We had a lot of Smokey Bear smoking marijuana [t-shirts] where everyone thought that was a funny use of Smokey. When all the different states legalized marijuana, a lot of illegal t-shirts came out that we shut down, and we're still monitoring and finding illegal uses with that image," Kavoulakis says.

"We contact anyone with an illegal use. If the product is not produced by one of our licensees or if the image is used inappropriately, we send a cease-and-desist letter. It is standard practice, regardless of the President, current events, social movements or anything else."

Congress actually passed a law in 1952 that gives the Department of Agriculture control over the bear's image. But the question of whether the government's claim over Smokey Bear violates the First Amendment hasn't really been tested all that much, according to the University of Pittsburgh's Michael Madison. "There's not a lot of precedent on this. It's not like Smokey Bear has been in court a lot," Madison says. One exception: In the 1990s, a court sided with environmental groups using a "chainsaw wielding Smokey Bear" to protest U.S. Forest Service practices. Madison says that in many cases, small companies or individuals choose to pull their design rather than challenge the government in court.

## Reunion of 1976 Redfeather Ranger District Employees

by Andy Mason



*Redfeather Ranger District Employees Reunite after 41 years. (left to right) Timber Marking Crew: Andy Mason; Rick Suda; Harv Skjerven and Dennis Suda (2nd from right). Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) Crew: Colleen Skjerven (Bratnaber). Trail Crew: Craig Bobzien (far right)*

Harv Skjerven's USFS retirement celebration (42 years; last assignment as District Ranger, Eagle River RD, Chequamegon-Nicolet NF) in Arbor Vitae, Wisconsin was also a reunion of six 1976 summer employees from the old Redfeather Ranger District (now Canyon Lakes RD, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests). Rick and Dennis Suda, brothers from central Wisconsin, were hired by the Forest Service for the 1976 summer season through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program (signed into law by President Nixon in 1973).

The summer of '76 with USFS was an unforgettable "growing up" experience for the teenage brothers, who were raised on the family dairy farm.

Homesickness brought tears to Rick and Dennis when they left home and the tears returned when they had to leave the District at the end of the summer. Their participation at Skjerven's retirement celebration was a complete surprise to Harv; no one had been in touch with the Suda brothers for 41 years.

Colleen and Harv met at Redfeather in 1977 and she worked many years for the Forest Service during Harv's assignments in Regions 1, 6, and 4. Craig Bobzien retired in 2016 after 38 years with the agency (Forest Supervisor, Black Hills NF), and Andy Mason in 2014 after 35 years (Director, USDA/USFS National Agroforestry Center).

## A Blast from the Past

*Former Rocky Mountain Regional Foresters*

*July, 1977*



**Dave Nordwall**  
1961-1970

**Craig Rupp**  
1976 – 1984

**Bill Lucas**  
1970-1976

## Who's that Lady? - Redux



### Alert Readers Respond:

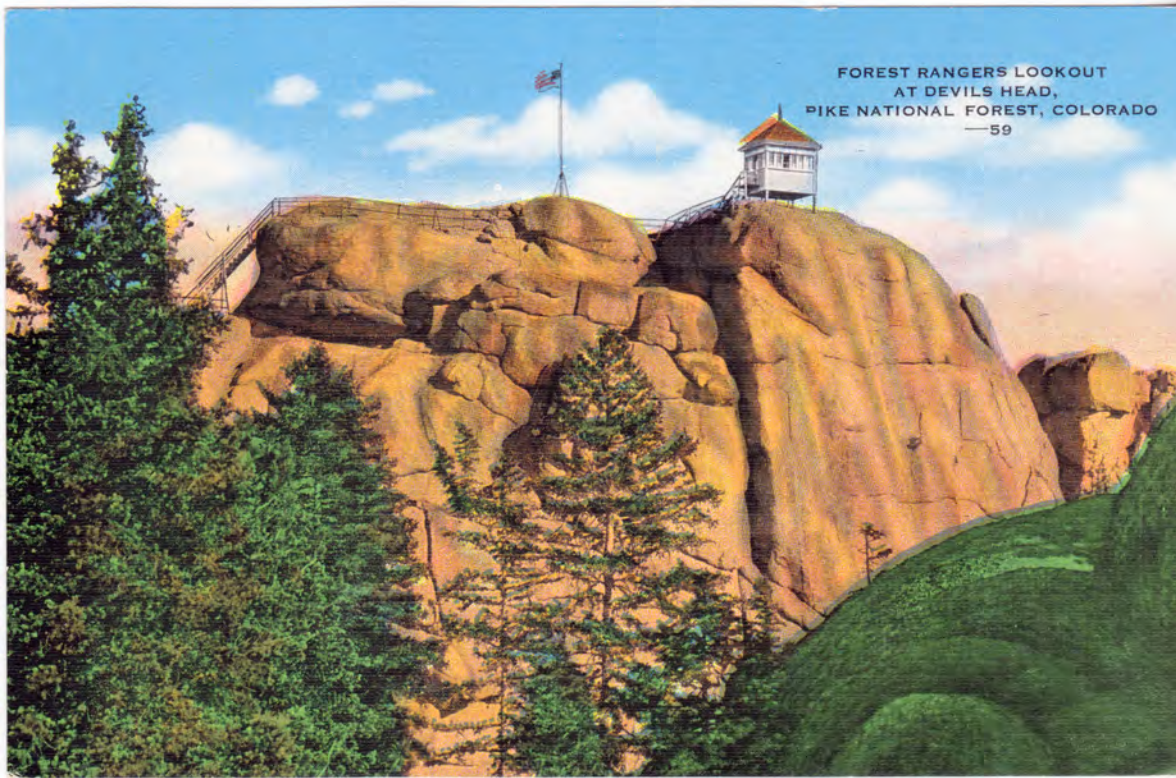
Re: Spring Edition of The Rendezvous: "This is great! Thanks for sharing. I think that is Dottie Grant in the "Who's that lady" question on page 7."

"I think that's the Regional Forester's secretary around the time of Nordwall or Lucas. I can't remember her name though."

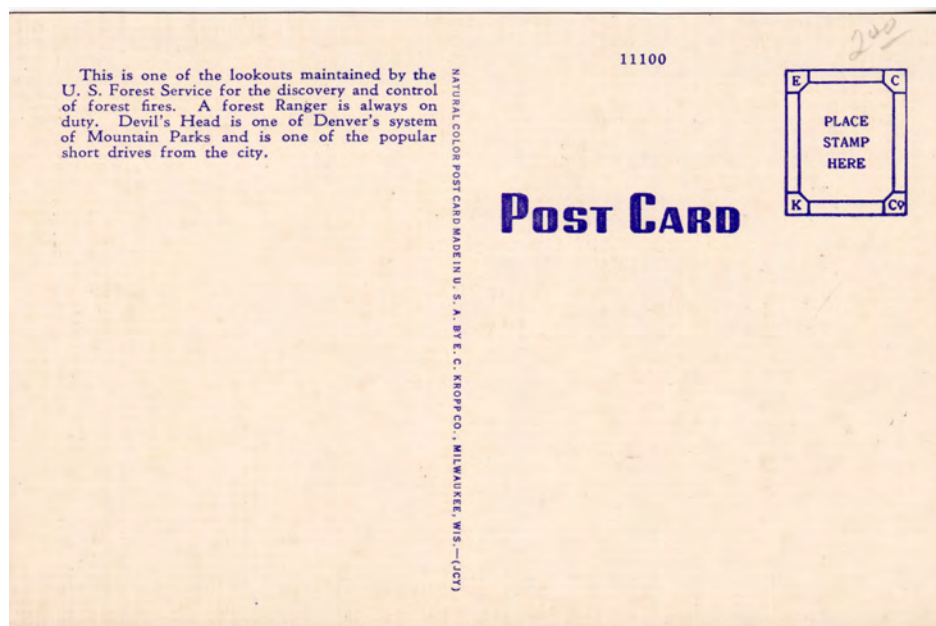
"I think she was was on the Grand Mesa or Uncompaghre down in Delta."



## We Worked Where People Went on Vacation



This vintage linen postcard, circa 1950s, depicts the Devil's Head Fire Lookout at Pike National Forest. The tower shown was built in 1951, replacing the original structure from 1919. Devil's Head Fire Lookout was added to the National Register for Historic Places in 1991. On a clear day, you can see 100 miles in every direction.



## Hail to the Champions

The U.S. Forest Service softball team won the Federal Employees Coed Softball League championship this past year with a sterling 11-1 record. The team competed on Monday nights in the summer of 2017 on the Denver Federal Center defeating other government agencies and proudly representing the Rocky Mountain Region. Sponsoring the team for the tenth year in a row is the team is the gold medal winning Iron Works Brewery and Pub in Lakewood. Forest Service softball historians cannot remember a team with a better record and challenge alert readers to let us know if there was ever was a softball team with a superior record.



**Bottom row left to right:** Annette Pintado, Melissa Hunter, **Coach Jim Pringle**, Hugo Diaz, Gary Schmidt, Bob James, Diane James.

**Top row left to right:** Dave Steinke, Steve Trujillo, Jack Corcoran, Michelle Corcoran, Alex McGrew, Tiffany Arnold, Katelyn Jones, Christina Carbone, Kendall Jones.

**Not pictured:** Dave Brooks, Teri Parvin, Cris Newton, John Schlesselman, Tony Wardell, Isabella Trujillo.

### Just because we had a little space here...

A petite woman applied for a job on a timber crew. "Sorry, says the head ranger, eyeing the woman up and down, "You're just too small."

"Give me a chance to show you what I can do," the woman pleads. "You won't regret it."

"Okay," says the boss. "See that giant Ponderosa Pine over there? Let's see if you can chop it down." Half an hour later, the mighty tree is felled, amazing the boss. "Where'd you learn to cut trees like that?" he asks.

"The Sahara Forest."

"You mean the Sahara Desert?"

"Sure, if that's what they call it now."

## 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 04/01/2017 to 09/30/2017

*Produced by the U.S. Forest Service Data, Metrics, and Analysis Team (DMAT)*

*Source: NFC's Insight Reporting Application (Personnel History Folders) - RUN DATE 07/17/2017 and 09/30/2017*

## Congratulations!

**John L. Augustson**  
White River NF

**John B. Bachtel**  
San Juan NF

**William T. Bass**  
Bighorn NF

**Ruth E. Beckwith**  
Bighorn NF

**James Sankey Bedwell**  
Regional Office

**Vernon R. Bentley**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**Donald R. Bergstrand**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**Weston D. Burch**  
Nebraska NF

**Laura L. Burns**  
Black Hills NF

**Ginger R. Domingos**  
Regional Office

**Pauline E. Ellis**  
San Juan NF

**Thomas J. Gonnoud**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**Lori A. Haug**  
Pike/San Isabel NFs

**Alfred A. Heinrich, Jr.**  
Regional Office

**William  
R. Highland**  
Regional Office

**David A. Howard**  
Pike/San Isabel NFs

**Dennis L. Jaeger**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**James A. Kirschvink**  
White River NF

**John K. Lee**  
Nebraska NF

**Lee Ann Loupe**  
GMUG NFs

**Katherine I. Maynes**  
Regional Office

**Melinda Louise  
McGann**  
Regional Office

**David John Mertz**  
Black Hills NF

**Stephen W. Mottus**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**John R. Murphy**  
GMUG NFs

**Hal W. Pearce**  
White River NF

**Karen L. Roth**  
Arapaho  
& Roosevelt NFs

**Lisa Sanders**  
Black Hills NF

**Sally L. Stevenson**  
Rio Grande NF

**Dennis C. Vincent**  
Rio Grande NF

**Mike E. Wheeler**  
Med Bow-Routt NFs

**Ross D. Wilmore**  
White River NF



## Odds and Ends

Information gleaned from various sources over the past few months



*George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III is an American politician who is the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture, in office since 2017. Perdue previously served as the 81st Governor of Georgia from 2003 to 2011.*

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue gave his first remarks to USDA staff.

Sonny Perdue came by his knowledge of agriculture the old fashioned way: he was born into a farming family in Bonaire, Georgia. From childhood, and through his life in business and elected office, Perdue has experienced the industry from every possible perspective. Uniquely qualified as a former farmer, agribusinessman, veterinarian, Air Force veteran, state legislator, and governor of Georgia, he is the 31st United States Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsKRiz32Vv4>



*Tony Tooke was the Regional Forester for the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service. Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since age 18, including many assignments in Region 8 and the Washington Office (WO).*

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Perdue administered the Oath to Tony Tooke as New U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief, on September 1, 2017, at White Mountain National Forest, near, Albany, NH. Governor Sununu and USFS employees were in attendance for the swearing in ceremony.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=eLxCT5YKKO4>

**Russ Bacon** has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor on the Medicine Bow Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland. Russ had served as Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison National Forests for the past three and one half years.

**Sylvia Clark** has accepted the position of Deputy Director for Renewable Resources. Sylvia is currently the District Ranger on the Boulder Ranger District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. She assumes her new role on November 13.

## “That’s the Way I Remember it”

*Each newsletter we will be featuring an interview with retirees from R-2*



### **Debbie Ball** *A spouse's point of view*

**The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?**

**Debbie Ball:** I was born in Denver and ten days later adopted by a family in Longmont, Colorado where I was raised.

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

**DB:** After graduating from Longmont High School, I went to Hastings College in Nebraska where I majored in music. After two years there I transferred to Northwestern University in Illinois and graduated two years later with a degree in Social Work.

**TR: What was your family like?**

**DB:** My parents were florists in Longmont. They had always planned on having a big family and started out with five boys. Three of the boys died at various times. The oldest son Bobby, age 12, died Christmas Eve in mother’s arms. She went into a deep depression and the family doctor suggested adopting a new baby - this time a girl - to help ease the pain. Six months later the doctor called to tell them he had found a baby girl in Denver. That baby was me, and I have to admit I was loved and spoiled and wanted from day one. My parents were devout Christians and I grew up in the Presbyterian Church. Our family was very active in the church and I went to Sunday school, church, youth group on Sunday nights, played the organ, sang in the choir and every summer for twelve years went to church camp.

**TR: Tell us a little about some of your first jobs.**

**DB:** I was a typical teenager in those days. I did a lot of baby sitting earning 25 cents an hour before midnight and 50 cents an hour after midnight. I worked at a local bakery and also at the flower shop. When I graduated from Northwestern, my advisor told me that if I was serious about being a social worker I should go on and get my Masters degree and go into child welfare work. I was so tired of school by then I decided to wait awhile. That spring, the State Department was going to Universities around the country and recruiting graduates to work for the Foreign Service. I applied and was accepted and then moved to Washington, D.C. with a new job.

**TR: How did you get involved with the Forest Service?**

**DB:** Well I met this tall, good looking guy from Alabama who also lived and worked in Washington, D.C. His name was Herman Ball. We had dated for six months when I decided to leave the foreign service and return to Denver. I worked for the Colorado Welfare



*Deborah Jane Leonard - High School Graduation.*

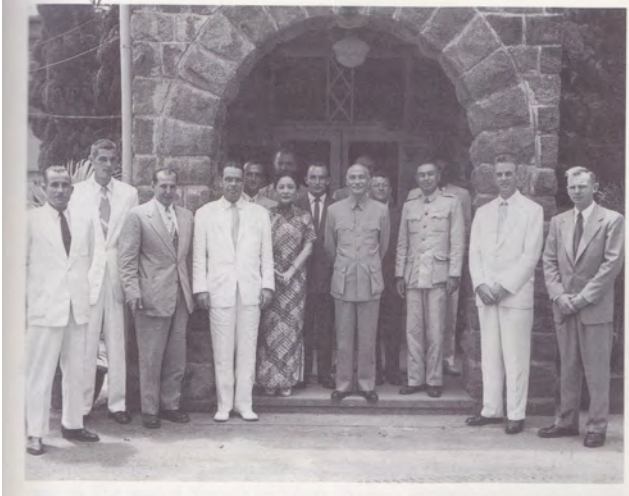
Department as a social worker. Herm and I wrote letters back and forth and five months later Herm quit his job with the C.I.A. and moved to Colorado. We got engaged and were married in the Presbyterian Church in Longmont on June 10, 1956.

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**TR: Tell us a little about Herm - for those who might not have met him.**

**DB:** Herm was born in Mobile, Alabama and grew up in Robertsdale, Alabama. He had an older brother and two younger sisters. He graduated from high school and joined the Merchant Marines. Four years later he was discharged and went to Auburn University where he graduated with a degree in forestry. During the summers of his college years he



*Generalissimo and Mme Chiang Kai-shek pose for group picture. Herm is second from the left - from **Raiders of the China Coast***

went to Missoula, Montana where he worked as a Forest Service smokejumper. The summer after he graduated a United States C.I.A. representative came to Missoula and hired eight smokejumpers to do a mission for them in Taiwan. Herm worked for the agency for eight years and was in Washington D.C. between assignments when I met him. In 1956 when we were married, the Forest Service was not hiring many new employees, so Herm decided to go to Florida where he got a job with a survey company and I worked for the welfare department.

We spent two fun years in Florida. We went to the Orange Bowl in Miami (CU versus Clemson), went on a tour of Cuba, enjoyed the beaches, the seafood and the year 'round warm weather. I learned to like grits, hush puppies and seafood! Our first little girl Cathy was born in Florida. We came back to Colorado in 1958 and Herm got his first Forest Service assignment as Assistant Ranger in Bailey, Colorado.

**TR: What was it like being a spouse in the Forest Service?**

**DB:** It was a great experience! Each new assignment introduced us to new Forest Service friends. I was a stay-at-home mom and gave piano lessons. It seems like every town we moved to needed a piano teacher. I taught out of the home and we met a lot of local residents through my students. Everyone was so friendly and helpful and truly a close knit circle of friends. I was very proud of Herm and the work he was doing. He loved the Forest Service and its many challenges and became very involved in its work and community events.

**TR: Tell us a little about your family?**

**DB:** We had five children and lost three of them. Cathy our first daughter and Nancy our last child died of Werdnig Hoffmans Disease which is a rare form of Muscular Dystrophy. Our only son Billy died from carbon monoxide poisoning on a skiing trip to



*From left to right: Hannah Morgan, Evan Morgan, Rhian Morgan, Tricia Morgan, Herm and Debbie Ball, Bailey Hause, Cindy Hause, Righ Hause, Ali Hause, Garrett Hause.*

Durango. Our two daughters Cindy Hause and Tricia Morgan are both college graduates and each have three children. Cindy is a CPA and works for Oracle. She lives in Littleton. Tricia is a physician assistant and does medical research.

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She lived in Thailand for twenty years working on an AIDS vaccine project. She now lives in Colorado and works for an International Health Organization doing research on children's diseases around the world.

The six grandchildren are of course very special. Two have graduated from college and four are still studying in college. Our family is very close. We all go on trips together and enjoy family gatherings throughout the year.



*Herm and Debbie Ball, 50th Anniversary at their home in Lafayette, Colorado*

**TR: How many moves did you make in your time with the Forest Service?**

**DB:** We made eight moves. From Bailey, Colorado we went to Colorado Springs, then Sundance, WY, Custer, SD, Lakewood, CO and then to Washington D.C. (where we lived in Maryland). Then to Durango and back to Lakewood where we were when Herman took an early retirement in 1982.

**TR: Herm had a job that had him travel a lot, spend time in small aircraft and often fighting fires. What was that like for you and your family?**

**DB:** We lived in the Forest Service house in Custer, South Dakota when Herm was the ranger there. Whenever he was on fires I would have some of the wives come over and we would listen to the Forest Service radio transmissions from the fire. It was interesting and we felt part of the action. The children still remember the time the fire crew put out a radio request for more toilet paper! Of course I missed Herm and worried about his safety, but also felt like his being away was a sort of vacation for me...less cooking, laundry and schedules.

The kids and I enjoyed new adventures and we knew Herm was most of the time doing what he loved doing.



**TR: What was the Pine Cone Club and were you a member?**

**DB:** The Forest Service Wives club in Denver was very active. We called ourselves the Pine Cone Club. Herm often referred to us as the "Pinon Nuts." There were several bridge groups in the club. We met once a month for lunch and always had an interesting program. I was President several times.

We printed yearbooks with names and addresses of Forest Service people around the region. We worked on all the national conventions and provided food and encouragement to Forest Service families in need. I will always remember when we lived in Lakewood. One holiday season we invited our husbands to a party at the Melodrama in Heritage Square. The Master of Ceremonies started the evening by welcoming everyone and introducing several groups in the audience. When he introduced us he said, "and here tonight is the Pine Cone Club from Lakewood. As I understand it, they are the wives of the Forest Service men who work in this area. I'm not sure exactly what they do...I guess their main function is to service the Foresters."

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**TR: Can you tell us any good stories about you and the Forest Service?**

**DB:** I will always remember the fun times we had in the Forest Service. It seems like we were always having parties and being involved with the community. When we lived in Custer it was an honor to be in their annual Gold Discovery Days celebration. Several of the Forest Service wives belonged to a local extension club. We had a float in the parade. It had been years since I had stuffed paper napkins into chicken wire. We moms stood in the pickup bed which pulled a big wooden flatbed.

We put all of our kids dressed like the real pioneer children on that flatbed and had a big sign that read "We Helped the West Grow."

Herm was the parade's Smokey Bear and Billy got to ride in the Fire Lookout Tower on the Forest Service float. We were all in the Discovery Days Pageant. I was the sun with twelve little girl sunbeams. Cyndi and Tricia were dressed as flowers and danced all over the hillside. Billy didn't want to be a skunk so they let him be a bunny. He looked so cute in his bunny outfit. Herm was one of the scouts and rode a horse around looking for approaching Indians.

At one of the parties in Sundance, Herm along with three other fellows did a belly dance. He did it only because his head was hidden under a big black hat and no one knew it was him. We made these enormous black hats out of construction paper. They covered the head and both arms that were raised

over the head. His chest was painted like a face. We used makeup and drew eyes and a nose and the bellybutton was the mouth. A shirt and tie went around the hips and the pants and a belt went around the knees. We used the song from the *Bridge Over the River Kwai* and it had a lot whistling...the guys would twist and turn pretending their belly button was their mouth and they were whistling. It was oh so funny and the hit of the party. At our 50th wedding anniversary our nephews and grandsons dressed up and did the belly dance as a surprise for Herm.



*Herm Ball and the Black Hills performance troupe interpret the "Belly Dance."*

**TR:** What are you doing now? What's keeping you busy?

**DB:** Well after Herm died in 2014 I've been very busy with family and friends. I play bridge, still teach piano and manage (with help of course) our land. Herm planted several hundred trees and they are now marketable. We also have alfalfa every year to sell. I volunteer as a Home Respite Care giver with Hospice, and I sell books on Amazon for my church. I knit and crochet hats, scarves

and necklaces which we sell and donate the money to *Relay For Life* which is a great fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Just recently I leased land to a Professor at CU. They have a government grant to study hemp and its medical possibilities. They needed land nearby to plant. My grandson is helping with the project. My daughter and grandson dog-sit for people who go on vacations and don't want to use the kennels so they bring them to our house. The dogs love the land to roam, the grandson loves the money, and Grandma isn't lonely!

## Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering

*Durango, Colorado - September 20-22, 2017*

by Bob Sprentall, Western Area Representative Rocky Mountaineers

What a time was had by those who attended the Rocky Mountaineers annual gathering in Durango, Colorado. It started out on Wednesday when seven dedicated golfers attempted to conquer the Hillcrest Golf Club. The story of the day was that the greens were fast. The weather was perfect unlike the golf scores. This was followed up by 54 members attending the Meet and Greet at the Hillcrest Golf

Club that evening for folks to get together and spend time to renew friendships and to meet those newly retired. Forest Supervisor Kara Chadwick of the San Juan National Forest was there to greet folks who traveled from seven different states. The fall colors were at their spectacular peak and provided the perfect setting for the gathering.

On Thursday, the membership meeting was held at the incomparable Pine Song Ranch Park. President Nancy Warren gave an overview of what was happening with the Rocky Mountaineers organization while Tom Thompson provided updates about the Memorial Grove and the National Museum of Forest Service History. Forest Supervisor Kara Chadwick provided updates on what projects were being conducted on the San Juan National Forest and the importance of partnerships to accomplish those projects. Ken Carpenter, owner of Pine Song Ranch, gave a history of the area and



*Several members toured the Chimney Rock National Monument area.*

ranch and recognized those organizations who partnered with his family for proper forest management. It was such a peaceful setting along the banks of the Pine River.

The locally catered picnic following the membership meeting satisfied appetites with barbecue sandwiches and snacks. There was plenty of food to go around for the 74 folks who attended. During the picnic the San Juan String Band performed and shared typical music which they present to school age children for environmental education. The afternoon and evening was left open so folks could discover the Durango area and the many natural wonders there.

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Friday greeted southwest Colorado with threatening skies, so only two of the tours chose to brave the weather. There were 10 hearty souls who were given a brief overview of the Bonita Peak Mining District by Ben Martinez of the San Juan National Forest, and then traveled to Silverton to tour the Gladstone Interim Water Treatment Facility. This facility treats the water from the Gold King Mine where the large release of water occurred in 2015 which caused the Animas River to turn a yellowish color for a time. Another group of 10 went to the Chimney Rock National Monument east of Durango. This is one of the seven National Monuments solely administered by the Forest Service and folks were provided a tour of the area and given an archeological overview by Paul Blackmon of the San Juan National Forest.



*The San Juan String Band entertained everyone at the picnic.*

So many “thank you” wishes to Nona Dale, Bob Seiger and Bruce Short who were instrumental in putting this event together and those who helped them to present a memorable experience.

Hope to see everyone again next year!



*All of these people at the picnic had worked on the San Juan National Forest during their careers.*

## Remembrances



### Jim Gerber

**Jim Gerber**, of St. Anthony, died on July 15, 2017, at the age of 76. Jim was born to Millen and Evelyn Gerber on Aug. 29, 1940, in Toledo, Ohio. He attended college at Michigan State, receiving his degree in forestry. While working for the Forest Service he lived in Idaho,

Colorado and Utah. His desire was to retire in Idaho, where he has spent many years enjoying hiking and

serving on various committees for the community. He was always ready with a smile and a wave, and he loved his family deeply.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by daughters Roxanne (Page) Bane, of Cortez, Colorado; Karyn Gerber, of Cortez, Colorado; and Katy (Jared) May, of Lexington, South Carolina. He is also survived by grandchildren Zach (Mal) Bane, Emily (Ty) Bucher, Brayden May and Taylor May, and by great-grandchildren Annie Bane, Gabe Bane, Kinleigh Bane and Oliver Bucher.



### Francis Grim

**Frances Grim**, formerly of Durango passed away unexpectedly on Monday August 28, 2017 in Chandler, AZ.

Frances was born Dec. 21, 1939 in Dixon, New Mexico, to parents Candido and Aurelia Barela. This was

a special day for her, as her father Candido passed away on her 5th birthday, serving his country in World War II. Her mother raised her along with 3 sisters and a brother in Santa Fe, N.M. This is where

she met her husband Richard "Dick" Grim. The two settled in Durango, CO where they raised their two boys. Frances worked 30+ years for the Forest Service on the San Juan N.F., and upon retiring she moved to Maricopa, AZ.

Frances is survived by her two sons and their families. Mark, Debbie, Sami and Michael Grim, of Phoenix, AZ. Sam, Teresa, and Trini Grim of Maui, HI. Sister Margaret Perea and brother Candido Barela and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard, mother Aurelia, and sisters Carmen and Mela.

### Thomas Edward Lewis

**Thomas Edward Lewis**, 85, Grand Junction, died April 5, 2017 in Fruita, CO.

He was a forester for the U.S. Forest Service. He was ranger at Laramie River District on Roosevelt in 1961 and was range management and wildlife staff on Gunnison N. F. in 1965 and the forest staff on the

Black Hills N.F. He retired off the Inyo N. F. and returned to Colorado and resided in Grand Junction.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley A.; one son, Thomas Jr. of Grand Junction; one daughter, Sharon Lewis of Elk Grove, California; and one brother, Rodney of Pueblo.

## Remembrances



### Leroy James "Roy" Cutler

**LeRoy James "Roy" Cutler** died Sept. 19, 2017, in Custer, SD. Roy was born May 9, 1928, in Roubaix, S.D., to William Ernest and Violet Mae (Cooper) Cutler. He grew up in Silver City, S.D., and went to high school in Rapid City, S.D.

After graduation, he lived at Pactola Camp while working on the Pactola Reservoir. Roy joined the U.S. Army in 1950. While stationed in Germany he drove tanks until his honorable discharge in September 1952. After his discharge, he returned to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

In April 1964 he went to work at the Black Hills National Forest. During this time there he met and

worked with a great bunch of coworkers. Roy fought many forest fires throughout the Black Hills and in many other states. He also implemented watering stations throughout the Black Hills for wildlife. Roy retired in September 1983 and traveled to different states with his family.

Roy is survived by his sister, Wilma Rhoades of Custer; brother, Marion Cutler of Lead, S.D.; sister-in-law, Jean Cutler Maze of Kansas; cousins, Dick Cooper of Everett, Wash., and Patti Cooper of Hinders, Nev.; nieces and nephews, LaVonna (Steve Maines) Rowlette, Theron (Meredith) Cutler, Lance (Susie) Cutler, Lyle (Angie) Cutler, William, Violet and Kevin Cutler; and great-nieces and great-nephews, Chris, Jesse and Nick Rowlette and Terra, Gage, Ella, Meghan, Cody and Zane Cutler.



### Gene W. Eide

**Gene W. Eide**, 79, of The Villages, FL, passed from this life Wednesday, August 2, 2017. Born in Thief River Falls MN, he was the son of the late Gaynor and Mamie (Hansen) Eide.

Gene was a graduate of Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. He was a forester and was employed by the U. S. Forest Service for 40 years. He primarily worked in the Northwest United States where he was known for his guidance, support and mentorship of fellow employees.

Gene served his country during the 1960's as an Air Force veteran.

He moved to The Villages with his wife Laura from Ketchikan, AK in 2001. He enjoyed bowling, golf, bird identification and was an avid gardener.

Gene was a member of The Villages Birders Club and was a volunteer at the Shared Harvest Garden Club.

Besides his parents, Gene was predeceased by a brother, Dennis Eide.

Gene leaves his beloved wife of 52 years, Laura L. (Tonkin) Eide; sons: Erik J. Eide, Salt Lake City, Utah; Kirk W. Eide and wife Miriam, Cartersville, GA and 3 grandchildren: Lauren, Marc and Joshua.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held at St. Timothy Catholic Church on Friday, August 25, 2017 followed by a committal service with Military Honors at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Villages Hospice House, 601 Casa Bella, The Villages FL 32162 ([www.cshospice.org](http://www.cshospice.org)).

Laura Eide's address is 1505 Alfonso Lane, The Villages, FL 32159-8600.



## The Last Word

*The River Still Runs Through it*  
by Tom L. Thompson

On occasion something triggers a memory and I find myself thinking back about earlier days and experiences. For those of us in the Forest Service those reflections almost always are identified by a place or a river. Our annual gathering in Durango, CO this year brought back memories from half a century ago. I spent the summer of 1967 in Durango working as a "Forester Trainee" for the J. Stanley Weidman Sawmill and Logging Company that was located just south of downtown Durango on the east side of the Animas River that runs through the valley. Durango comes from the Basque word "urango" which means water town or a well-watered place and the Animas makes it a well-watered place.

It was my first summer working in the woods and there was much to be learned. I was twenty-one and it was the summer before my senior year at forestry school at Colorado State University. I had every intention of working for the U. S. Forest Service, but had been offered a scholarship and a summer job in a program initiated by the Rocky Mountain Timber Operators Association. It was an opportunity that I could not pass up. After classes ended in June, I headed off to Durango in my old Chevy, found a place to live, and then went to the sawmill to set off on my new adventure. The first few days I was given an opportunity to just ride around with the "Woods Boss" up in Hermosa Park where the logging crew was operating a timber sale



*J. Stanley Weidman Sawmill and log pond with the Animas River flowing behind the tepee burner.*

and building a system road. I think the sawmill was processing about fourteen million board feet of Engelmann spruce a year and all of it came from the San Juan N.F. In previous years they had been operating over on the east side of the Animas River on Missionary Ridge.

Every morning we would meet at 6:15 am at the mill site and about eight or nine of us would pile into an old blue "crummy" and off we would go up the highway along the Hermosa Cliffs to a turn off near the Columbine Ranger Station and at the new Purgatory Ski Area. The road then went up a number of switch backs over the top to Hermosa Creek. My place in the rig was in the extreme back with the lunch pails and miscellaneous boots, coats, muddy rain gear, and a few tools that had been taken to town to get sharpened or fixed.

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I was the only one in the rig who didn't speak Spanish and quite often wondered how much of the conversation was about me. Anyway, I was treated very well by all the crew and they seemed to appreciate having me there for the summer. Everyone was always trying to show me something or explain something and I soon also knew that my position came with lots of "go get this" and "go tell somebody something" orders. I was at the bottom of the chain and that was ok. I had a job.

The harvesting was done by rubber tired skidders or on steeper ground a "jammer" cable system was used. What I remember most about the summer is that every week there was something new to do. One week I would be laying out "jammer" roads using an abney and compass and the next I might be running a rock drill on the road construction or working at installing culverts. There were days when I helped load dynamite and days when I moved a D-7 Caterpillar tractor five miles down the road from one operation to another. There were even some days when I worked at the mill in Durango on the green chain.

One afternoon I spent visiting with J. Stanley Weidman at the mill and was greatly impressed with his story and the history of his family and their company in Michigan and their subsequent move to Colorado. He was interested in my decision to be a forester and my desire work for the Forest Service. He had great respect for the Forest Service but I remember he didn't hesitate to share what he thought were problems of the Forest Service and its timber sale contract.

For most of the summer I shared a two bedroom Quonset hut apartment with a young Forest Service trainee engineer from Kansas who was working at the newly opened Job Corps Center at Pagosa Springs, CO. We spent weekends exploring southwest Colorado trails and doing fly-fishing inventory of trout populations. Every week throughout the summer there was something that happened that I stored away in my memory bank. I had great experiences and learned a lot. Looking back, I didn't learn as much about forestry as I did about people, about how a logging operation runs, and how the Forest Service is viewed by those not in

the agency. I think it was that summer that I realized that forestry was just as much about people and communication as it was about trees. Without question, this experience gave me a very real appreciation for private industry and the importance of the work they do in accomplishing management of forests, but I returned to school that fall even more committed to working for the U. S. Forest Service.

Fifty years later the names and positions of the folks in the Forest Service that I heard of or met back then, like Dave Nordwall, Ernie Grambo, Roderick Blacker, Kaye Luebchow, Karl Zeller, Mark Reimers, and of course Ed Cliff, mean much more to me. There have been many rangers, forest supervisors, and regional foresters since 1967. Durango has changed. Colorado has changed. The old sawmill is gone like so many others across the west. The highway is now on the other side of the river with major shopping and businesses on just about every piece of property. The Job Corps Center in Pagosa Springs has long since gone. Fifty years has brought huge changes to our country. However, the mountain landscape still looks the same as it did back then except of course some fire scars and patches of bug kill. The old clear cuts scattered around are some of the greenest parts of the forest. The peaks haven't moved. The narrow gauge railroad is still spewing smoke up the Animas River valley in the morning as it chugs its way to Silverton. The Stater Hotel is still on the same corner. There are now a lot of places to get lattes, quite a few tour buses, and a good mix of high end stores with expensive art and decor. The Animas is a very busy valley, but "the river still runs through it".

I share these memories in hopes that it might inspire you to think back at your first experiences in the woods or in the Forest Service and even perhaps share them with us in later editions of the Rendezvous. Thinking back about this has been a good way for me to reflect on change and perspective. In his book, Norman Maclean wrote that "Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it." When I think back at my years as a forester, those words and the others in his closing couple paragraphs capture my feelings very well.