



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 4 - Number 2

A Geographic Glimpse at Forest Fires and the Forest Service

by Tom Thompson

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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.

As another fire season begins to unfold, it is a timely opportunity to reflect on what has changed and what has not changed over the last century in our understanding and approach to wildfire. Much has been and continues to be written about the science, impacts, understanding, consequences, and costs of wildland fire. Over fifty percent of every dollar that the agency receives now goes to fire. This significant shift has had a huge impact on all the other programs in the Forest Service. Multiple use management on all 193 million acres of land on the National Forests and Grasslands is being reduced as the agency has had to shift emphasis to fire suppression. Every year millions of acres are burned.

Every year it seems like an increasing number of communities are impacted. Every year more and more watersheds are left in a deteriorated condition. Every year more and more acres are in need of reforestation and restoration. Every year more and more homes are destroyed in what has become a normal expectation. Only in the thick of the smoke and evacuations does it seem to capture our attention as a society. Certainly it doesn't seem to be the "news" or the "story" that might have been at times over the course of the last hundred years or so.

National Geographic Magazine has been published since 1888 and every month there are stories of interest about our country and the world.



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Even though the focus of these writings is broad and far reaching, on occasion, National Geographic has chosen to delve into the issue of “forest fire” as the national interest and attention trended in that direction. We thought it might be appropriate to just reflect back and use a few National Geographic magazine references as anchors to capture a few of the general themes over the last century or so.

Even though much has been learned in the last century, Gifford Pinchot certainly showed that he had a pretty good understanding of forest fire when he was featured in the Magazine in Volume 10, Number 10 in October of 1899.



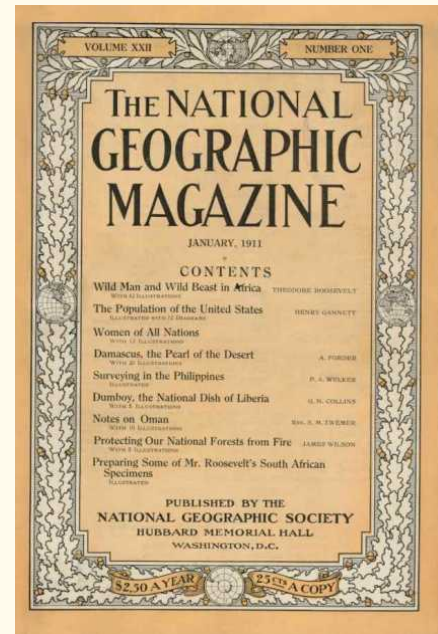
importance of the subject, has, hitherto been accorded to it.” He wrote that “It is unfortunate that our acquaintance with what might almost be called the creative action of forest fire should be so meager, for only through knowledge of this relation and through the insight which such knowledge brings can there be gained a clear and full conception of how and why fires do harm, and how best they may be prevented or extinguished...”

This is the first writing that began to frame the challenges that continue to

dominate much of resource management still today.

It was only ten years later that the huge fires of 1910 brought devastation to the forests and communities in Washington, Montana, and northern Idaho. After that national catastrophe, Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson wrote of the need to protect forests from fire in the January 1911 edition of the

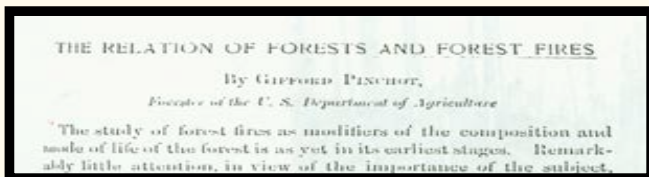
magazine in Volume 22, Number 1. In a sense this writing frames and foretells what the focus would be for many years to come. The emphasis on fire prevention and suppression became a cornerstone of the



agency's existence. The images of the devastation and destruction of the 1910 fires became the driving force for policies and programs to fight fire in whatever way you could.

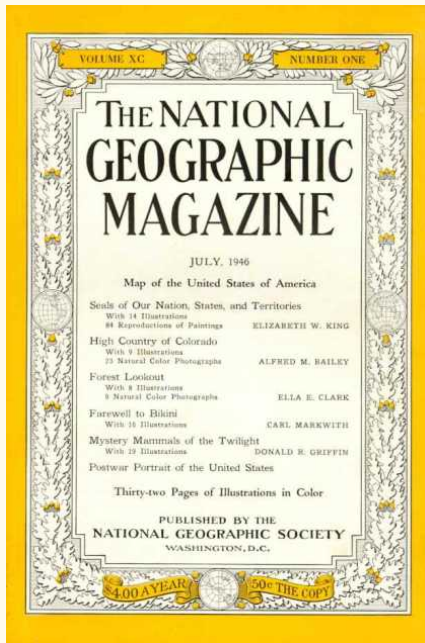
With World War I, the depression, the dust bowl, the CCC days, and then World War II, not much was written, at least in the National Geographic, about forest fires even though from both a policy and practices standpoint there was significant attention devoted to the subject and the issue.

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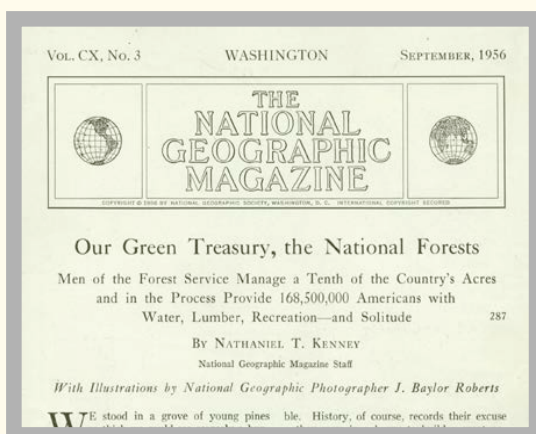


Pinchot wrote about “The Relation of Forest and Forest Fires.” It is clear in reading this piece that even at the end of the 19th century, the importance of fire to forests needed to be better understood. Pinchot acknowledged that “The study of forest fires as modifiers of the composition and scale of life of the forest is yet at its earliest stages. Remarkable little attention, in view of the

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After the war ended in 1945, National Geographic did publish an article about the “Forest Lookout” in the July 1946 issue. This article mostly painted a picture of the importance of fire lookouts across the forested landscapes



in the country, especially the west. It described what life was like and what the daily routines were in keeping a look out for fires on the horizon.

As the agency turned fifty years old, the magazine captured the spirit and challenges of the Forest Service in their article “Our Green Treasury, the National Forests”. Fire lookouts, smokejumpers, and Smokey Bear were symbols of the important place fire had taken in the agency’s mission. There seemed to be a fascination with new ideas and the growing interest in technological solutions to problems. It was suggested that a solution to forest fires was to reduce the occurrence of lighting by undertaking the seeding of clouds to

reduce the likelihood of lightning.

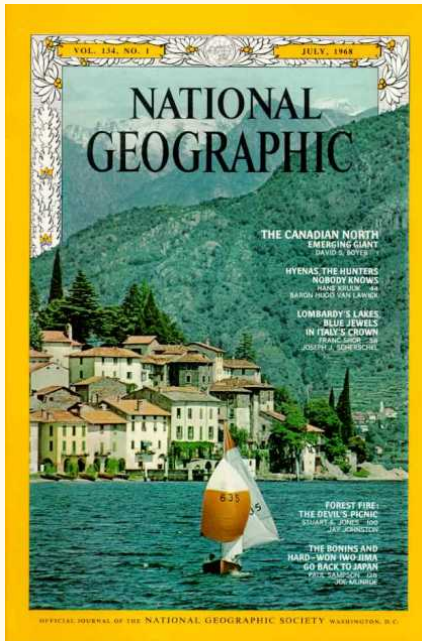
A 1968 issue entitled “Forest Fire: The Devil’s Picnic”

focused on the Northwest fires in 1967 including the Hoodoo Butte and Sundance fires in Idaho, and all the other fires in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. It mostly covered all the aspects of firefighting and the

“ultramodern” methods by which the U.S. Forest Service seeks to control wildfires with helicopters, smokejumpers, dozers, hotshots, back burns, engines, and even had a photo of an exploding fire tower on Lookout Mountain in the Wallowa-Whitman NF.

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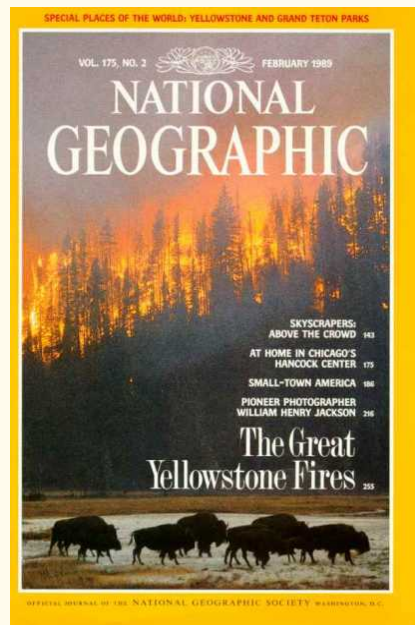


The article closed with the statement that "Through its prevention program the Forest Service strives constantly to remind Americans that fighting forest fires is a dirty, dangerous business, sometimes exciting, but always expensive - in dollars, lives and resources."

With the fires in and around Yellowstone in 1988, fire was center stage for weeks on the evening news. Never before had the country been so exposed to everything that was happening with this major complex of fires and firefighting policies were questioned and debated with the public watching. Gary Cargill, then Regional Forester, explained the challenge very well when he said "if you can't explain your fire policy in 15 seconds, you don't have a fire policy."

In July 2008 National Geographic featured a close look at what it was like on the fire line battling a raging fire in a piece called "Under Fire". It tried to answer the question "Why the West was ablaze?" and focus on why wildfires were burning bigger, hotter, and closer to home. It featured dramatic photos, like the one below, taken by photographer Mark Thiessen of fires and firefighters.

The magazine has done a great job of capturing the stories behind the scenes and the challenges faced in dealing with forest fires since Pinchot wrote the first piece on the subject in 1899.



The quality and timing of the stories has been very good. One could argue that there perhaps should or could have been stories written about the fork in

the road back ninety years ago when the agency decided to aggressively put out all fires no matter what or why. Or perhaps there should have been a story about the fire fatalities at Mann Gulch in 1949 or South Canyon in 1994. Certainly the features and stories that National Geographic has published have raised the awareness of the issue and hopefully they will continue to delve into the natural resources issues facing our nation.

References:

Clark, Ella E., "Fire Lookout," National Geographic, July 1946

Jeffery, David. "The Great Yellowstone Fires", National Geographic, (February 1989), 255-277

Johnston, Jay and Stuart E. Jones. "Forest Fire: The Devil's Picnic," National Geographic (July 1968), 100-127.

Kenney, Nathaniel T., "Our Green Treasury, the National Forests," National Geographic (September 1956), 287-324.

Pinchot, Gifford. "The Relations of Forests and Forest Fires," National Geographic, (October 1899), 392-402

Shea, Neal, "Under Fire," National Geographic, (July 2008), 116-43

Wilson, James. "Protecting our National Forests from Fire", National Geographic, (November 1911)

All “Hail” the new Regional Office

By Dana Coelho, RO Liaison to the Rocky Mountaineers



Photos by Susan Alden

A short two weeks after the Regional Office move and two days after a heart-warming Memorial Grove Honor Ceremony, our honeymoon at the new office location ended. May 8

brought strong wind, rain, and clementine-sized hail to the Regional Office and our neighbors in Golden and Lakewood. Though the building itself was unscathed, many trees and cars were damaged and employees are still working through insurance claims, car repairs, and car replacements. No injuries were reported.

In all other respects, the new location is great. We started work at our new digs on Monday, April 24 and are settling in, working out the kinks, and back to business as usual. We look forward to hosting you and our many other partners for meetings and events in the coming months and years.



RO External Affairs employees Jace Ratzlaff and Lawrence Lujan lend a hand to care for a coworker's damaged vehicle.

How To Contact “Rocky Mountaineers”

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Memorial Grove - Steve Deitemeyer, sdeitemeyer@msn.com, 303-456-0799 or

Tom Thompson, tommylthompson@comcast.net, 303-933-2135

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

Membership and Finance Report

Finance

Thanks to Deb and Eric Jensen for auditing our 2016 financial records.

The Board approved the award of two Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships for 2017.

The Board also approved a donation of \$1,000 to the family of Brett Beasley. Brett was an employee on

the Salida R.D. on the PSICC and passed away in January.

Thank you to everyone for your donations to our special funds for Memorial Grove and Scholarships.

Membership

As of early May, the Rocky Mountaineers membership has grown to 425 members. Our newest members:

- Dave and Cristina Blackford – Custer, SD
- Kerry and Laura Burns – Pringle, SD
- Dave and Stephany Condit – Colorado Springs, CO
- Gretchen Fitzgerald and Jiri Duskocil – Bayfield, CO
- Dyce Gayton and Jan Bergman – Ft. Collins, CO
- Julie Grode – Grand Junction, CO
- Polly Hays – Denver, CO
- Tom Healy and Sue Miller – Colorado Springs, CO
- Diane Hitchings – Lakewood, CO
- Steve and Karen Kelly – Cortez, CO
- George King and Julia O'Neil-King – Spearfish, SD

- Monica and Jevon Klingler – Collbran, CO
- Kimberly Langston – Chadron, NE
- Mechele MacDonald – Ogden, UT
- Ida Marino – Pueblo West, CO
- Laura Mark and Glenville Kedie – Lakewood, CO
- Thomas and Mary Matza – Cheyenne, CO
- Dave and Doris Mertz – Custer, SD
- Martha Moran – Carbondale, CO
- John Murphy – Custer, SD
- Neoma Quintana - Ignacio, CO
- Deb and Tom Ryon – Evergreen, CO
- Hilton and Bernadine Silvey – Lakewood, CO
- Rebecca and Derek Swedin – Custer, SD
- Wanda Wheeler – Custer, SD
- Linda and William Young – Custer, SD

We gained another 12 new Lifetime Memberships for a total of 87 “Lifer Households”. Our newest “Lifers”:

- Vic and Vicki Baer – Aurora, CO
- Ronald and Patty Bauer – Brush, CO
- Craig and Marilee Bobzien – Custer, SD
- Margot Bucholtz – Golden, CO
- Nona Dale and Marv Gerlick – Durango, CO
- Thomas and Mary Effinger – Steamboat Springs, CO
- Brenda Fiddament and Tom Stockslager – Laramie, WY
- Bruce Holmlund – Delta, CO
- Jim and Janet Maxwell – Lakewood, CO
- John and Myra Mumma – Missoula, MT
- Bill and Barb Ott – Arvada, CO
- Jean and Bill Thomas – Windsor, CO

You can become a Lifetime Member for \$250 per household. 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.

Rocky Mountaineers take to the slopes for the Fourth Annual Ski Day at Winter Park



Fifteen Rocky Mountaineers had a special day of skiing together at Winter Park on January 24, 2017. This was the Fourth Annual Rocky Mountaineer Ski Day and as usual the group had a great day. The snow was very good and the weather was just what you would expect on a cold January day. It actually turned out better than was expected weather wise and everyone was glad they made the effort to be there. We enjoyed lunch together at the Lunch Rock Restaurant at the top of Mary Jane and were able to thank Doug Laraby of Winter Park for again being host to this annual event.

There was good powder on the upper reaches of Mary Jane and some of us more conservative ones enjoyed the packed powder slopes further down the mountain. There were no mishaps that were reported

and everyone is looking forward to another Rocky Mountaineer slope fellowship again next year even though with the way it looks outside on this 18th day of May, we probably could go tomorrow. Thanks to Bjorn Dahl for making the arrangements again this year and keeping track of everyone.

Who's that Lady?



Attention alert readers. While going through some old photo files at the Regional Office the other day, I came across these two images. Do you know the who, when, and where of these pictures? I would love to be able to identify her and when it was taken, and then whisk them off to the National Archives for safe keeping for posterity. Let me know, if you know.

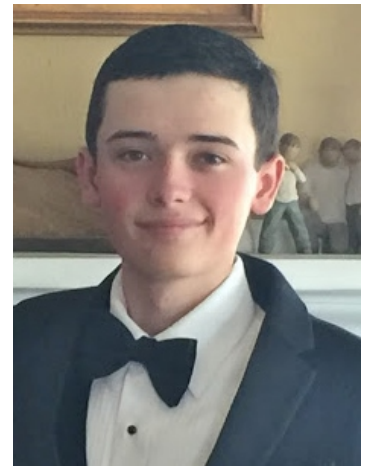
Thanks. Dave Steinke - dave.steinke@gmail.com

Announcing the 2017 Scholarship Recipients



Delaney Khung

The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to announce the winners of the 2017 Memorial Scholarship! We received 28 outstanding applications from talented and accomplished students from all over the Region. The Scholarship Committee carefully reviewed all the applications and made the recommendation to award two scholarships again this year and to select Delaney Khung and Wyatt Clark. We want to thank all the applicants and their sponsors for their interest and participation.



Wyatt Clark

Wyatt Clark – Wyatt is a native Coloradan attending Sargent High School in Monte Vista. His work ethic and commitment to excellence have not only served him to a high degree academically but also in activities such as 4-H, FFA, Knowledge Bowl and many community volunteer programs, all of which he has received noted recognition. Wyatt has mapped out a college career at West Texas A&M that will earn him a degree in Mechanical Engineering and lead him to applying those skills to efficiencies and innovations in agriculture. He appreciates the complexity of public land management via state and federal agencies and the balance of managing highly functioning ecosystems and well as providing for multiple uses.

One of Wyatt's supporters, a rancher from Del Norte, noted his dedication to ranching, his patience, and love of animals. He concisely summed it up, "Wyatt is a hard worker". Nuff said!! Our very best wishes to Wyatt Clark!

Delaney Khung – Delaney is an academically accomplished senior at Pagosa Springs High School. She participates in a colorful variety of activities including track/cross country, student council, music (piano, saxophone and flute), and Honor Society among others. Delaney has pursued, through many programs and projects, her true passion of learning; renewable energy. Her academic plans at University of Colorado include obtaining a degree in Chemical Engineering and applying for the Renewable Energy Certificate Program. She recognizes the potential of forest biomass becoming a vital energy resource and plans to explore this in her upcoming studies.

She had this to say when notified of the award, "It is an honor to receive a scholarship from an organization that enriches the lives of so many Forest Service employees and their families including mine. The Rocky Mountaineers Scholarship greatly assists my future endeavors of pursuing a renewable energy career, and I can't thank this organization enough. "

Delaney's supporters have described her as motivated, intelligent, a true leader and a genuinely nice person. Our congratulations to Delaney Khung!

Thoughts from our Scholarship Applicants

"Public lands are extremely important... My family and I rely on National Forests as a way of life – for income and recreation values."
A.O.

One of the topics that the scholarship applicants were invited to respond to had to do with the importance of National Forests and public lands from a resource, environmental, and/or social point of view. We thought you would enjoy reading some of their insights.

"When I go (away) to school, I know that the National Forest still belongs to me even though I won't live next to it anymore."

B.H.

"Preserved lands protect us: they save our environments and our origins.... Nature can fill someone with a sense of belonging, without being anywhere near another person.... National Forests remind us of how life was originally. By doing this they protect us from going too deep into modernization and ourselves." A.S.

"Being in the backcountry always demands my ego to return to a humble state... I am grateful that I can walk out of the forest and be a better person than when I started." S.S.

"I view public lands as an invaluable resource.... They have inspired me and can... inspire generations to come, but only if they are maintained, preserved and kept accessible for everyone." C.B.

"(M)y family has been extremely fortunate... We love to camp, fish, hike, backpack, tour, and experience... the national forests."
L.N.

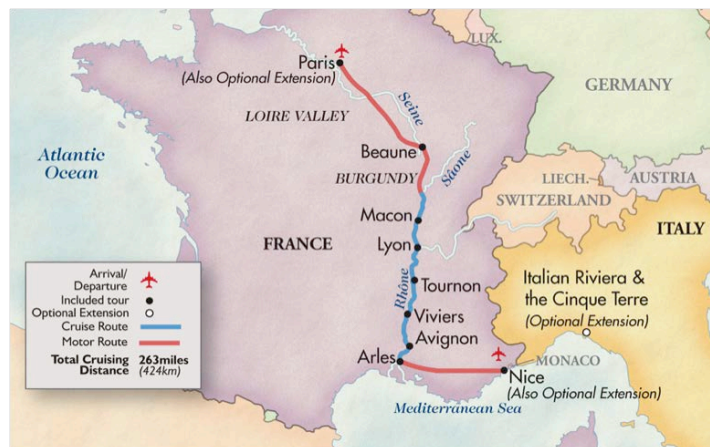
Rocky Mountaineering



The Denver area retirees met for lunch on January 19 at Davie's Chuck Wagon Diner in Wheat Ridge and on February 15 at the Iron Rail Tavern in Wheat Ridge. Approximately 30 retirees attended each luncheon. Regional Office representatives updated the retirees on personnel changes and the upcoming office move in early April from 740 Simms to Denver West. Jim Thinnes agreed to fill in behind Lloyd Newland as the local retiree coordinator in 2018.

France is Calling You

The Rocky Mountaineers' next international trip is to France in 2018. The main trip will run April 26 to May 8. This will be an exclusive trip for members of the Rocky Mountaineers, families, and friends through Grand Circle Travel (GCT).



The total price with airfare from Denver ranges from \$4,895 to \$5,695 (depending on your cabin selection) before discounts. Currently you can receive a 6% discount from GCT if you pay in full now. In addition, at the end of the trip, the Rocky Mountaineers will provide a rebate of 10%.

The trip includes 2 nights in Nice; a week cruising the Rhone River on the 46-passenger M/S Provence with stops in Avignon, Viviers, Tournon, Lyon, and Macon; and 2 nights in Paris. We hope to fill all 46 slots with our group.

Optional extensions include a 4-night pre-trip in the Italian Riviera and the Cinque Terre and a 3-night post-trip in Paris. You can find all of the details on our website. Go to www.rockymountaineers.us

2017 Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering



The Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering will be held this year on September 20 – 22 in Durango. This should be a gorgeous time of year to visit southwest Colorado.

Here is a tentative list of the activities –

Wednesday, Sept. 20 –

Meet and Greet at Hillcrest Golf Course starting @ 6 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 21 –

Board of Directors Meeting @ 7 a.m. in Durango

General Membership Meeting @ 11 a.m., Pine Song near Vallecito Reservoir

Picnic @ 12:00, Pine Song near Vallecito Reservoir

Friday, Sept. 22 –

Forest tours or a possible work project on the San Juan N.F. or activities on your own – ride the Durango/Silverton train, visit Mesa Verde National Park or other highlights of the San Juan National Forest.

Several tours and activities will be available on Friday, Sept. 22. Room blocks are being arranged at the Holiday Inn Express in Durango and the Sky Ute Casino in Ignacio. It will be a great chance to catch up with your friends!

We will provide more details as they are firmed up. We will also ask for RSVPs later this summer so we can get a head count.

Mark your calendars!!



Work on the Eighth Forest Service Retirees National Reunion is picking up. The Executive Group (Dave Jolly, Liz Agpaoa, Sid Haggard) drafted the list of activities for the week and the program a few days ago and presented it to the Core Team for review.

As was done in Albuquerque, the emphasis will be on providing a lot of time for fellowship, visiting with old friends, and for exploring Asheville. There will be a stimulating program centered around our theme "Rediscovering the Birthplace of Forestry in the United States". The Core Team, consisting mostly of committee chairs, is busy as well. For example, the Field Trip Committee has identified several options for Wednesday including a special tour of the Biltmore Estate and a trip to the Cradle of Forestry.

The Venue Management Committee is working on the menus for the week and other chores such as signs, name badges, audio visual, etc. The Registration Committee, which a lot of people are asking about, has created the registration form, instructions, & procedures. You will be hearing from Silent Auction and Fund Raising Committees very soon.



Registration will open March 15, 2017. The following pages contain the form and additional instructions. Please note that you must print the form or, if are reading this from a newsletter or other printed material, tear out the page, fill it out, and mail it along with a check to the address listed on the form. Two important items to remember:

(a) If you register before March 31,

2018, there is a discount of \$45 (\$200 rather than \$245). So please register now.

(b) The Crowne Plaza, whose daily rate will be \$119 plus taxes, cannot accept reservations before October 8, 2017. But they will maintain a priority list for those registering for the reunion early. If you register before October 8, 2017, they will call you to book your room. So, the message is, if you want to stay at the Crowne Plaza and if you want to save money on the registration fee, REGISTER EARLY.

Questions: SidHaggard@att.net or 678-744-7240.

Reunion Home Page:

<http://2018.fsreunions.org/>

Want to submit an article to the Rendezvous?

The Rocky Mountaineers are always looking for articles of interest. Articles may focus on special events, travel, volunteer opportunities and achievements, and remembrances. Articles that have pictures need to have captions for each picture.

The Rendezvous Editors will review submitted articles. Editing may be done for readability, spelling, and grammar.

Submit your articles to: dave.steinke@gmail.com

A Brief History of U.S.F.S. Reunions

(Thanks to Lou Romero from R-3 for much of this information)

- 1991** Region 2 and a number of retirees hosted the first reunion in Glenwood Springs, Colorado as part of the Centennial Celebration of the 1891 creation of the Forest Reserves.
- 1995** Region 4 “Old Timers” retirees hosted the second reunion in Park City, Utah at Snowbird under the leadership of Stan Tixier.
- 2000** Region 1, Northern Region retirees hosted the third reunion in Missoula, Montana and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees was founded as a result of this gathering.
- 2005** Region 6 Old Smokeys retirees under the leadership of Bob Williams hosted the fourth reunion in Portland, Oregon as part of the Centennial Celebration of the 1905 establishment of the U. S. Forest Service. NAFSR and the NMFSH held their annual meetings in conjunction with this reunion.
- 2006** Region 3 Amigos retirees under the leadership of Lou Romero reviewed all Forest Service retiree organizations and this led to a national sequence, or queue, for the next three reunions that gave Region 1 and the National Museum of Forest Service history first choice for 2009, California retirees the option for 2012, and the Amigos the option for 2015.
- 2009** Region 1 retirees again hosted the fifth reunion in Missoula, Montana with support from both the National Museum of Forest Service History and the National Smokejumpers Association. Beryl Johnson and Dave Stack led this effort. NAFSR and the NMFSH held their annual meetings in conjunction with this reunion. California opted out of a 2012 reunion. In 2010 Region 2 retirees made an offer for the 2012 and in 2011 the Amigos agreed to take their planned position for the upcoming reunion in 2015.
- 2012** Region 2 retirees under the leadership of Tom Thompson hosted the “Rendezvous in the Rockies” reunion in Vail, Colorado in September with Teddy Roosevelt taking the spotlight throughout. This was the sixth reunion and was a great success. NAFSR and the NMFSH held their annual meetings in conjunction with this reunion.
- 2015** Region 3 Amigos under the leadership of Lou Romero hosted the “Rally on the Rio” reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico and this seventh reunion was also another great success. A joint meeting of NAFSR, the NMFSH, and representatives from all regional associations was held at this reunion. The Southern Forest Service Retirees Association agreed to take on the 2018 reunion.
- 2018** The “Reunion at the Cradle” is planned to be held September 24-28, 2018 in Asheville, North Carolina under the leadership of Dave Jolly, Liz Agpaoa, and Sid Haggard. The National Museum of Forest Service History will be working to line up a host for 2021.
- 2021** ???



NAFSR REPORT

by Tom L. Thompson, R-2 Representative

The NAFSR Board met in February and developed a work plan for 2017 and 2018 which includes a focus on position papers for fire funding, restoration, and public land transfer issues.

Executive Director Corbin Newman is moving to Tucson and wants to devote more time to retirement so we have recruited Sam Foster of Durango and former Rocky Mountain Region Station Director to take over the reins as Executive Director. We have added a two new Board Members. Bill Timko has come on the Board and will serve both as a Board representative from the Washington, D.C. area and the NAFSR legislative representative. We have also welcomed Susan Giannettino from Idaho to the Board. We have upgraded our website and encourage everyone to check it out at: NAFSR -<http://www.nafsr.org/>

While at our NAFSR Board gathering in February, we had the opportunity to have a joint meeting with the NMFSSH Board and the Chief on the second day. The photo below shows members of both Boards along with the Chief.



Sitting - Tom Thompson, Chief Tom Tidwell, Jim Caswell, Corbin Newman, Larry Payne
 Standing - Lisa Tate, Darrel Kenops, Hank Kashdan, Andy Mason, Jane Kollmeyer, Dave Stack, Steve Anderson, Johnny Hodges, Jim Golden, Marlin Johnson, Rich Guldin, Larry Gadt, Phil Aune, Mike Rogers, Pat Lynch, Pete Griffin, Rich Stem, Nancy Gibson, Lynn Sprague, John Drake

The Northern Colorado/Southern Wyoming group of the Rocky Mountaineers will hold their next lunch on Wednesday, June 7 starting at 11:30.

The lunch spot will be the Wyoming Rib and Chop House, 400 W. Lincoln Way in Cheyenne.

All members and friends and family are invited.

NMFSH Update

by Tom L. Thompson, President NMFSH



The NMFSH Board adopted a new Strategic Plan at our meeting in February. We are doing all we can to be ready to begin construction of our National Conservation Legacy and Education Center in Missoula, MT by the fall of 2018. This spring much work has been done so that we can open the site by this July and use the Bungalow Ranger Station building which is on location to house exhibits. We have a restroom installed, paved parking, landscaping, entrance gate, and will have an interpretive trail done to provide access to outdoor exhibits.

The Museum hosted a Library of Congress teacher workshop the week of May 8-11 in Montana and had teachers from all around the country there to learn about the history of the Forest Service and undertake research projects. Our education director, Cheryl Hughes, did a marvelous job putting this session together. We have added two new Board members since the first of the year. Both Nan Christianson (former Assistant Station Director at Rocky Mountain Research Station) and Rich Stem (former Deputy Regional Forester in Region 2) joined the Board in February.

Through painstaking efforts the extensive collection of the Museum will now be available for anyone to use—researchers, students, historians or anyone with an inquisitive mind! With over 36,000 items still to upload this is a work in progress.

Our traveling exhibit has been located at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry north of Colorado Springs since February and in June it will move to Ketchikan, Alaska. There is still time to visit the exhibit before it leaves Colorado. In September, the Museum will be participating and hosting a breakfast during the Norman Maclean Festival in Missoula and John Maclean will be the featured speaker.

Support of this national effort is greatly appreciated by either membership or donation. See our website for details at <http://forestservicemuseum>



Photos of the Museum site with the new paving:

What's Funny?



Jay Fanelli, from Pittsburgh PA, and his partners owned a graphic design business. But they wanted to make t-shirts for fun, so they founded **Cotton Bureau** almost four years ago as a way to make and sell t-shirts for designers and illustrators. The business grew, and eventually the team closed the graphic design business.

The artists submit their designs, and if Cotton Bureau accepts them, the company prints and sells them on its web site. Often the shirts are sold to raise money for charities like medical research or promoting STEM education.

One of the best sellers is a t-shirt with the word “Resist” emblazoned on the hat of a character resembling a displeased Smokey Bear.

That t-shirt titled “Only You Can Prevent Alt Facts” — will benefit national parks, though it’s not affiliated with any federal agency. So far, they’ve sold over 9,000 of that one.

“We get orders from all over the place,” says Joel Peretic. “We get a lot of Asian countries. We ship to every continent.”

Fanelli says it’s not surprising that t-shirts referencing agencies that study climate science and

promote conservation have sold well. “Science and environmentalism have been under attack from the right for years. I don’t think it’s any coincidence these two shirts have become lightning rods for that kind of activism.”

Fanelli says they’ve lost customers with their foray into activism, but not nearly as many as they’ve gained.

It’s probably been awhile since you surfed over to see Smokey on line. Check him out!

<https://smokeybear.com/en>



Photo: Reid Frazier

"One of the things that it's easy to forget today is that the Forest Service was founded at a moment that we today call Progressivism, when a great many people were very enthusiastic and idealistic about the prospect of reforming American society and American life by applying expert knowledge, good science, democratic values in the spirit of improving the nation, improving the people, bringing benefits to all Americans. And in many ways, the Forest Service was the ultimate Progressive government bureaucracy. It was idealistic young people, trained as scientists, bringing their scientific knowledge to the forest, to the public lands and trying to bring the benefits of those lands to the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time -- that classic Gifford Pinchot utilitarian principle."

*William Cronon, Professor of Environmental History,
University of Wisconsin, Madison*

Eight Days at the Bottom of the Grand Canyon

by Johnny and Ellen Hodges



Hiking up Havasu Creek on Day 6, Mile 157

Want to get away? Head for the bottom of the Grand Canyon. No cell phones, no TV, no news. Nothing but sun, water, rocks, sand, wind and stars. A bit of heaven on earth.

And by the way – when you are floating down the Colorado River on a motorized raft – bring enough gas to finish the trip. We didn't.

Starting at Lee's Ferry, a few miles below Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell, our group of 24 mostly Rocky Mountaineer members rafted 226 miles in 8 days. We passed over 95 named rapids, including 4 of the most difficult (class 10 on a scale of 1 to 10) – Hance, Horn Creek, Crystal and Lava Falls.

Running rapids isn't an exact science, even in 32 foot rafts. Water levels change daily and the wind blows and "things just happen". We sometimes drifted off our "line" in the rapids or turned sideways or ran into rock walls or ran over rocks (the warning from the captain would be we are going to "touch"). We broke several propellers.

One bit of training advice we received before the trip was to ride on the hood of your car through a car wash. That was exactly right. We were smacked by 50-degree river water and if we weren't prepared, it would run up your sleeve, up your pant legs, down your neck and leave you shivering.

We camped each day on sandy beaches. After the first day, we had sand in our hair, ears, underwear, tent and sleeping bag. On the days the wind was blowing 40 mph, we also had a little sand in our food and happy hour beverages.

The bottom of the Grand Canyon must be one of the darkest places on earth. Although we only had a small slice of the sky to view each night, the stars filled the sky with dazzling brightness.

As the river descended the canyon, each day gave us a new geology lesson. We passed from the Kaibab limestone on the rim through many different strata to the highly resistant Vishnu Schist where the river was narrow and the rapids were big.



Running Lava Falls Rapid in our 32 ft. raft on Day 7, Mile 180

We hiked most days, climbing to small waterfalls, up the Little Colorado River for some body surfing through the rapids and along the lower reaches of Havasu Creek with its beautiful turquoise-colored water.

On our last day, as we approached our take-out spot at Diamond Creek with a ½ mile to go, our engine died. We were out of gas. We were the lead raft and Captain Ed waved frantically at our second raft, several hundred yards behind us. If we drifted past our take-out, we would have to continue to Pearce Ferry on Lake Mead, 54 miles downriver.

Our other guide, Somer, brought her raft up and tried to push us into an eddy without success. Finally, she pushed us against the far shore where we tied up to a rock. Luckily there was one other motorized raft hanging around with some spare gas. We traded a bottle of whiskey for a gallon of gas.

A fitting end to one of our most fun adventures ever!



Relaxing at our camp below Deubendorff Rapid on Day 5, Mile 133



Lining up as a "human train" to ride the rapids in the Little Colorado River on Day 3, Mile 61

The Oldest Ranger Station in the United States

by H. W. Thurston, former Forest Supervisor

Having been actively engaged as United States forest ranger on the upper stretches of the North Fork of the Shoshone River during the season of 1903, I was covering my territory when I arrived at the Walter Braten cabin at the junction of Middle Creek, now Pahaska Tepee. Orders awaited me there to

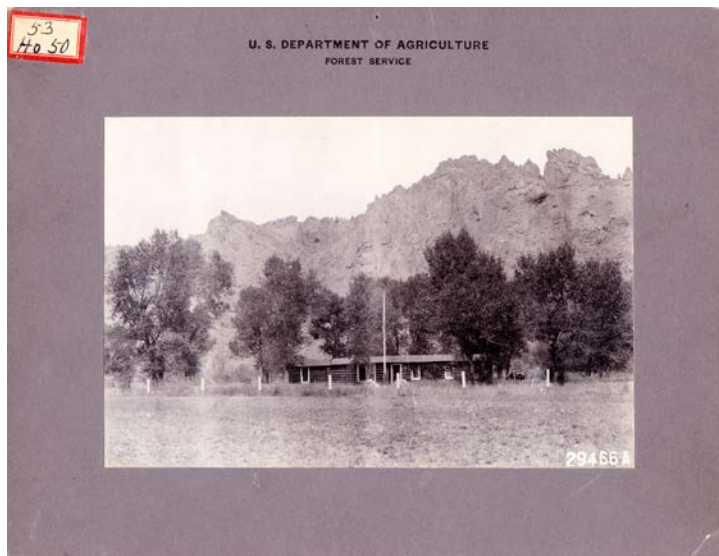
proceed directly to the Walter Doherty cabin at the junction of the North Fork and Elk Fork streams to meet ranger Milton Benedict, who was on his way from Cody with lumber and material for the construction of buildings at that point to be used as quarters for Forest Supervisor W. H. Pierce.

dark, but I shall never forget the brilliant golden light of that evening. The tall cottonwoods formed a canopy of scarlet and gold over the cabin. It did not seem real, it was like a stage setting.

Somewhat later in the evening Ranger Benedict came in with the fourth and last four-horse load of supplies, having been the better part of two days on the road from Cody. After the lumber was stored away and our food supply taken care of, we settled down for the winter and were ready to go on with the erection of the building. The logs had been cut, peeled and adzed by Ranger Sherwood an old-time Michigan lumber cruiser. The site was delightfully located in a broad stretch of mountain valley. Water was near, wood abundant, and fish and game plentiful. The work progressed steadily and the the weather continued mild and pleasant.

The money for these buildings were appropriated by the Government and was the first money ever to be granted for Forest officers' quarters, making this the oldest ranger station in the United States. Other stations had been built prior to this, but none of them under Government appropriation.

At the end of a beautiful October day I reached the proposed site, turned my saddle and pack horses loose and made camp. Storing my outfit in the cabin which was already well filled with supplies and a good cook stove which Ranger Benedict had brought out from Cody going and the coffee boiling. It was then getting



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE			
PRESENTED BY	COPYRIGHT	REPRODUCED	
LOCALITY. <i>Shoshone N. F.</i>	DATE. <i>Aug. 29, 1916</i>		
SUBJECT. <i>Fremont County, Wyoming</i>		DIAM.	
<i>Wapiti Ranger Station (This station represents to the public the class of buildings maintained by the Forest Service on a road over which 1000 automobiles pass every summer.)</i>		HEIGHT.	
		DENSITY.	
		AGE.	
		EXPOSURE.	<i>3/4</i>
SPECIES.		STOP.	<i>82</i>
		LIGHT.	
RELATIVE SITUATION.	HUMUS.	HOOR.	<i>12 M.</i>
<i>T32 NR 106 W. 6. p. m.</i>		DIRECTION.	<i>N</i>
ALTITUDE.	SOIL.	PERMANENT NO.	<i>29466A</i>
SLOPE.	GROUND COVER.	COL. No.	<i>63</i>
ROCK.	TAKEN BY	<i>W. I. Hutchinson</i>	
		<i>Ho 50</i>	

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The main building was to be a three-room structure. The office was separate and directly west of the living quarters. In later years the intervening space was enclosed. North of the site was a cabin which we used for our winter quarters. The stable and corrals were not built until the fall of 1964. These were supervisors' quarters until 1907, then became rangers' quarters. W. H. Pierce, as Supervisor, and I, his assistant, lived here during this time. Then after his resignation I became Supervisor and the quarters were ordered moved to Cody.

During the six months of the original construction of the buildings I learned to know and admire the many good qualities of Ranger Benedict. At that time a man of forty-five years or thereabouts, tall, broad shouldered and self reliant, an old-time cowboy, who because of economic necessity changed his mode of life and became a forest ranger. He was one of the the early frontiersmen who played a large part in the winning of the West. In the winter evening he told the story of the drama of the west as he had seen it and had helped create it. His early mode of life made him a forceful individual, kindly, loyal, and steadfast. He was one of the kindest men to his horses that I have ever known. In the old days he had punched cows for Major Frank North on the upper Dismal River in Nebraska, and

for Colonel W. F. Cody at North Platte. He has now retired to the peaceful years of old age which his years of effort have earned for him.

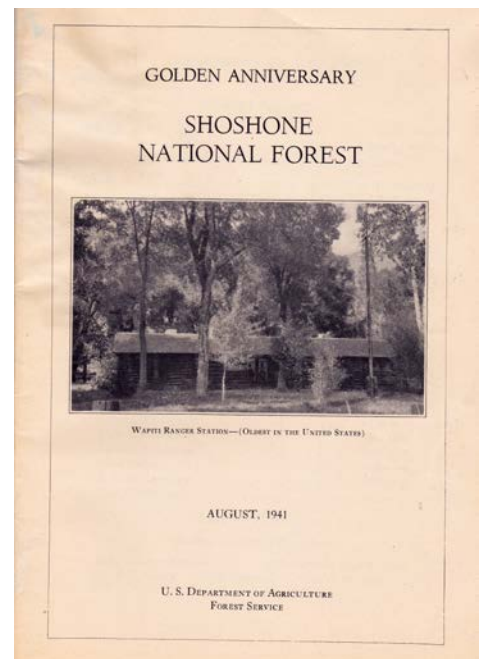
The cabin was well built, warm and comfortable. Water had to be carried from the river to the house, but at that time this was not considered any great hardship.

South of the quarters there was a long ridge and the present North Fork-Cody road was laid out between this ridge and the buildings. North of the buildings and across the North Fork River another ridge extended eastward from Sweetwater to Horse Creek. To the east was a beautiful vista of mountain ridges and snow-capped peaks. The valley in which the buildings lay was at the confluence of the North Fork, Elk Fork and Sweetwater streams. At that time the North Fork was called the "Stinking Water" because of the sulphur springs along its banks just west of the town Cody.

During our occupancy many distinguished people came to the quarters. Among them were Superintendent A. A. Anderson of the the Yellowstone Forest Reserve, Col. W. F. Cody, Dr. Frank Powell (White Beaver), Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, Secretary of Interior James Garfield, Col John

Pitcher, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, and many others of prominence from various parts of the world. Major Hiram Chittenden made these his headquarters on his frequent trips as engineer during the construction of the Cody road.

Thirty-eight years have elapsed and many changes have been made, but the original buildings still remain to remind us of those early days. The same majestic mountains and beautiful scenery recall memories of that wonderful long ago.



This recollection is republished from the Golden Anniversary of the Shoshone National Forest pamphlet published in August, 1941.

The Tradition Continues

Memorial Grove, May 6, 2017

by Tom L. Thompson

On Saturday May 6 over a hundred and fifty people gathered at the Memorial Grove at Monument to recognize and remember twenty-nine honorees who worked in Region 2 during their careers. The weather was perhaps the best we have ever experienced on this first Saturday of May. No one could remember such a perfect day for this event. Dave Condit, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the PSICC NF and NG, gave welcoming remarks. Jacque Buchanan also gave opening remarks and talked about the significance of this event and the people we honor in the Region. She also acknowledged and thanked all the people who work

to make sure this tradition keeps going.

Over the years retirees have volunteered to help the Region carry this great tradition forward. As you look back at just the last twenty-five years, there have been continuing volunteer commitment to improve the site, ensure that families of honorees are properly notified, and generally take care of all the details getting ready for each years ceremony. Much of this work was taken on by Lloyd Newland who was the spark plug and energy behind Memorial Grove for most of the last three decades. Lloyd deserves thanks from all of us for his long time dedication and commitment to this unique Region 2 honoree memorial. Lee Carr also kept the tradition afloat during some of the lean years on interest. Likewise, the work behind the scenes from the

Pikes Peak District Rangers and staff is monumental to say the least. The District has always been there to support the effort all year long and year after year. It is one of those “other duties as assigned” tasks, but it is done willingly and very professionally.

The Grove was started in 1920 and there are eleven hundred and fifty seven names now engraved on the brass plates at the Memorial. There were family members of nearly twenty honorees this year and as the names were read of the honorees very special stories were shared by representatives of the families. The program this year included music by Jane Leche and Johnny Neill and bagpiper Ken Giese. Rocky Mountaineer Steve Deitemeyer and District Ranger Oscar Martinez conducted the Riderless Horse part of the ceremony while the bagpipes played in the distance.



(center) Tom Evans, Pike National Forest Supervisor, (right) Denny Lynch, Pikes Peak District Ranger, and an unknown employee at the Memorial Grove in July, 1969.



Left to right - Erin Connelly, PSICC NFs and NGs Supervisor, Oscar Martinez, Pikes Peak District Ranger and Dave Condit, Deputy Forest Supervisor, May, 2017.

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*(continued from Page 21)***2016 Memorial Grove Honorees**

James William (Jim) Bailey	Arapaho NF, R-5, R-10 Special Agent, Law Enforcement
Linda Kay Bledsoe	Arapaho-Roosevelt, White River, RO, GMUG NFs Lands
Jeni Bradley Evans	Rio Grande NF, R-10
Martin Cole (Marty) Everitt	FHA, RO Engineering
Ronald Frederick (Ron) Greenwald	Pine Ridge, Boxelder, R-6, National Office Job Corps
Gordon W. Griswold	GMUG NFs Engineer
Betty K. Harden	White River NF, R-2, R-1, and R-3 Computer Tech.
Stephen R. (Steve) Hemphill	Umatilla R-6, R-5, GMUG NFs Engineer
Robert Earl (Bob) Houser	San Juan, White River NFs
Lynn Edward Laumer	Black Hills NF
Donald D. (Don) Loff Sr.	RO as Engineer Director, WO, R-6, R-4
Walter B. (Walt) Metcalf	RO Routt, Med. Bow, GMUG, Black Hills NFs, WO, R-3
Charles Dwight Minnemeyer	RO in S & PF Insect and Disease Mgmt.
John T. Minow	Rio Grande, Black Hills, Gunnison NFs, RO
Harry R. Nickless	Pike San Isabel NFs Cimarron/Comanche NG, R-3
Stephen G. (Steve) Nielsen	R-9, R-5, Medicine Bow-Routt NF
Willard Charles Rambo	San Juan N. F.
Samuel Carl (Sam) Schroeder	Bighorn, Carson, A/R, White River, and PSICC, Salida RD
Clarence J. (Sime) Simones	Nebraska NF, Job Corps, R-6, R-8, R-9
Teresa Olivia Towry	Rio Grande NF Computers
Wendal G. (Van) Van Scyoc	Rio Grande, Routt, Gunnison, White River NFs RO Budget
John Carey Watt	R-5, R-2 RO Personnel
Madeline V. Wooden	Black Hills NF

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Memorial Grove Ceremony 2017.

Not Forgotten:

Doyle William Ashby

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NFs 2003

Danny Gomez

Routt NF, BLM, BIA 2013

Gary P. Hendricks

Regional Office, R-2; R-1, R-5 1991

Mike Mata

Medicine Bow/Routt NFs 2007

Kenneth Earl (Kenny) Sallee

Black Hills NF 2015

Morris LeRoy Shiley

Black Hills NF 2013



A work day was held on April 28 to make sure the Memorial Grove area was ready for the gathering of families and friends. We thank all who were able to help with this work. If you would like to contribute to the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Grove effort to help cover cost of engraving, lunch, and some maintenance costs, please do so and feel free to make your donation in memory of any honoree, past or present.

If anyone is interesting in helping work on this Committee, please let Tom Thompson or Steve Deitemeyer know. We need to get a few more folks trained in the details of carrying this event on into the future.

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 FY17Q2 R2 Retirements

BEARD, DAVID J.

Bighorn NF

CAULKINS, JAMES N.

Medicine Bow-Routt NF

CLARK, RICHARD A.

Medicine Bow-Routt NF

EDWARDS, PETER N.

Regional Office

GOEHL, GEORGE A.

GMUG NFs

GONZALES, LINDA**TORGERTSON**

White River NFs

GREENLEY, SUSAN K.

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

HERNANDEZ, DEBORAH E.

Bighorn NF

HICKS, JOSEPH M.

Shoshone NF

IPSWITCH, STEVEN RONALD

Nebraska NF

KARASCH, PAULETTE J.

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

LOCKWOOD, CARMINE N.

GMUG NFs

MCCLURE, THOMAS W.

Regional Office

MCKEEVER, ROBERT C.

GMUG NFs

MOBLEY, DAVID W.

Pike and San Isabel NFs

STEPANICK, ADAM

Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Remembrances

Joe R. (Rudy) Candelaria



Joe R. (Rudy) Candelaria, a 48 year resident of Durango died May 11, 2017 at Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango, CO, he was 78.

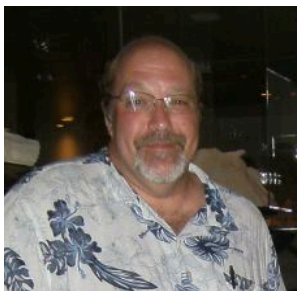
Joe was known to most people as "Rudy." Rudy was born on November 19, 1938 in Rosa, NM. He studied at Fort Lewis

College and then proudly served as a Marine on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. After serving our country, he flew across the ocean to find himself back in the beautiful mountains of Pagosa Springs, CO. Here he found and married the love of his life, Susie O'Caña. They were happily married until the day she passed.

Rudy worked at the local sawmill in Pagosa Springs. Later, he joined the Job Corps and taught carpentry. Shortly after, he joined the Forest Service. He retired from managing the San Juan National Forest and always shared stories of his mountain adventures and his love for the outdoors and where he lived.

Rudy is survived by his children Thomas (Marcelino), Paul (Mike), Monica and Rudolph (Mathew) Candelaria, along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Levi Griego and Donald and Steve Candelaria.

Timothy (Tim) Clark



Tim Clark passed on March 29, 2017 in Belize while on a diving trip. He grew up in Shawnee, KS and was a graduate of Shawnee High School. For a number of years he worked for the Forest

Service as the Regional GIS Coordinator. After leaving the Forest Service he worked for ESRI. He also had worked for the EPA, Jefferson County, Colorado and the State of Missouri. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri School of

Forestry and a member of the Society of American Foresters.

He lived life to the fullest and was always up to a new adventure whether it was marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade dressed as Pikachu or Eelpout ice fishing in Minnesota in minus 50 weather. Tim loved his Harley, scuba diving, gardening, the Denver Broncos and Colorado. He is survived by his girlfriend Clissy, son Troy and daughter Julia.

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Remembrances



David "Dave" Davies

David J. (Dave) Davies

passed away on May 17, 2017. He was born in Cody, Wyoming on June 12, 1933 to John and Ethel Davies. Dave worked for the Forest Service during the summers at Wapiti Ranger Station. He served in the Marine

Corp and was assigned to the USS Kearsarge. He married Mae Elaine Baetz in 1954 and came back to Colorado to finish his education in Forestry at Colorado State University. They had two sons, Randall Scott Davies and Brian Jack Davies.

His first position with the Forest Service was as a recreation forester on The Routt National Forest. He also worked on the Medicine Bow National Forest, and the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests. He finished his 30-year career in the Regional Office in Denver where he worked in Recreation and Lands.

In retirement Dave enjoyed extensive traveling in the U.S. by motorhome along with many international trips, including Africa, South America, Japan, Germany, Balkan States, Kiev, Russia, Wales, England, South Korea and many trips to Mexico

Dave was an active member of Green Mountain United Methodist Church where he participated in a mission trip for Katrina, and in recent years, Project Cure. Dave loved square dancing with Rocky Mountain Squares. Dave was a member of Friendship Force of Denver, and volunteered 12 years with Keystone Ski area. He ran seven marathons with a local running club.

Dave is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mae, and son, Brian, granddaughters Meghan Earley, (Trisha Shiflett) and Jenna Casto (Derrick Casto), two great grandsons, Preston Earley and Austyn Earley. Dave came from a large family of nine and is survived by his twin sister, Delores Blanc, of Oakland, NE, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Sandra Jean (Ashton) Green

Sandra Jean (Ashton) Green

passed away on March 16, 2017 in Lakewood, Colorado. She was born July 30, 1946 in Butte, Montana. Sandy worked at a variety of jobs but is mostly known for her loyal service to the US Federal government. She

worked at the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and National Resources Conservation Service. Her fondest memories, however, were when on fire duty with the U.S. Forest Service. She truly loved sleeping in a little tent and battling those pesky forest fires. Sandra was adored by the firefighters and was the life of fire camp.

Sandra loved arts and crafts and over the years produced countless needlepoint, water color and pen

and ink decorations, and ceramics that adorn her friends and family's walls in numerous states. One of Sandy's frequent statements throughout her life but especially in the final couple years was that she was a "Tough Old Broad and could beat this thing". She certainly gave it a fight. Sandy was a Montana girl at heart despite living in the Denver area for the last 12 years. A memorial and celebration of her life will be held later in the year somewhere in Montana where her ashes will be scattered.

She is survived by her two sons, Trent and Brian Green and their two spouses Catherine and Lori Green, respectively. Her three grandchildren, whom she adored beyond belief, Kayla, Morgan and Forrest Green will miss her greatly.

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Remembrances



Priscilla Mercedes Riefkohl Guzman

Priscilla Mercedes Riefkohl Guzman died on February 1, 2017. Priscilla was born in 1975 in Puerto Rico. She married Mario Rafael Rodriguez Medin in August of 2000. Priscilla received her MA degree in Archaeology

at the University of Birmingham, UK in 2001 and her BA in Anthropology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus in 1998. Priscilla served as an archaeologist for 20 years, most recently as a zone archaeologist on the PSICC since 2012.

A native of Puerto Rico, she started her Forest Service career on Yunque National Forest in 2003 before moving to the Stanislaus NF in 2006. As anyone who had the privilege to work with Priscilla knows, she was one of the hardest working, most conscientious employees the Forest Service has been blessed to have.

She worked closely with native tribes in all her years as an archaeologist. She was instrumental in renovation work done at Devil's Head Lookout. She will be most remembered by her unwavering spirit and fight to the bitter end of her battle. She is survived by her loving husband Mario and precious daughter Maia, age 8.



Gilbert R. (Gil) Hedrich

Gilbert R. Hedrich, of Spearfish, died Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, at his home. Gil was born on 2/16/1936 in New York City, New York.

In 1961 he began his Forest Service career on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Laramie,

Wyoming. He received his Wyoming Licensed Land Surveyor License in 1975 and in 1977 he transferred to the North Zone Engineering of the Black Hills National Forest and received his South Dakota Licensed Land Surveyor License in 1977. Gil retired from the Black Hills National Forest in 1983.

There are numerous parcels of private land on the North Zone (Bearlodge, Nemo and Spearfish Districts in South Dakota and Wyoming) of the Black Hills NF. During his tenure on the Black Hills he supervised Force Account Crews and Cadastral Surveying Contracts to set property corners and post the boundary on at least 95% of the boundaries between these private and NF lands.

He is survived by a brother, Roland, who lives in California.

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Remembrances

William "Bill" S. Jarrell, Sr.

William "Bill" S. Jarrell, Sr. left earth on March 19, 2017 to join his beloved daughter Cynthia A. Jarrell in heaven. Bill greatly missed Cindy in the past 2 years since her death and looked forward to their reunion. Bill was born to M.L. and Nellie Joe Jarrell in Rusk County, Texas on August 6, 1936. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in Texas with a forestry degree. He spent his entire career working for the US. Forest Service.

During his career, he lived in Oregon, South Dakota and many places in Colorado, with his favorite being

Delta, Colorado. He enjoyed coin collecting, coin hunting, and his pets.

Bill is survived by his son William "Jay" S. Jarrell Jr., daughter Catherine (Jim) Weiman, grandson Nicholas (Caitlyn) Weiman, granddaughter Rachel (Casey) Weiman, and sister Sara Adams. In addition, he is survived by the cats he loved, Lily and Payton. Bill was a good father, grandfather and man. He will be missed by those who loved him dearly.



Richard M. Jewell

Richard M. Jewell passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Pagosa Spring on Sunday March 12, 2017 after complications with pneumonia and over a decade of battling Parkinson's. Rick was

born on February 8, 1951 in Chicago, IL. Growing up in the woods of New Hampshire, Rick fell in love with the outdoors and later became a forester for the Forest Service for over thirty six years. Just like the John Denver song "Rocky Mountain High", he moved to Colorado his 27th year and never looked back.

Aside from his career, Rick enjoyed the outdoors by skiing and hiking in the Rocky Mountains and running. As a sports enthusiast, he enjoyed playing in the adult soccer and hockey leagues in Pagosa Spring and Durango, CO and loved following his children's sports career. After retiring, Rick pursued his love of painting and wood working starting his small business Lone Tree Lamps; creating (like he himself was) true, one-of-a-kind Jewells.

He is survived by his wife, Roxane; two children, Caitlyn and John; his sister Barbara, her husband John, and nephew Ryan Clavette; as well as other amazing aunts, uncles, and cousins.

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Remembrances



Dennis Neill

Dennis Neill died on March 5, 2017. Dennis was born in rural north central Missouri on February 20, 1951 to Betty and Hubert Neill. He was of Western Cherokee and Irish

extraction, his ancestors

having fought in the Revolutionary War in Tennessee and Kentucky. After graduating from Trenton High School as a National Merit Scholar he attended college in Columbia, Missouri, in agricultural journalism. He completed his undergraduate work in Pasadena, California at Ambassador College. Dennis grew up in farming country, and growing up there he loved to fish the ponds around the family farm in north central Missouri. On a cross country camping trip his family went to visit an uncle who was working as a dam builder in Oregon. There he got to meet public lands officials, including forest rangers working to manage natural resources on the National Forests. He loved the western landscapes, and managed to hunt and fish on many public lands as he grew to adulthood. He married his first wife, Chris Heap, and had two daughters, Erin and Heather.

Dennis worked at a research job in the USDA in Washington, D.C. and for APHIS in Oregon before becoming the public affairs officer on the San Juan National Forest. Dennis worked his way up as an information officer on the Type 1 fire team in the

Rocky Mountains and worked many fire-fighting efforts, including the Yellowstone fires of 1988; he also was the lead information officer for the national incident management team that traveled across the nation working non-fire incidents. Dennis was instrumental in collaborative work managing the sacred Medicine Wheel and was respected by multiple tribal leaders and holy people. During his career he worked at the Forest Service regional office in Denver, on the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota, a District Ranger on the Grasslands of North Dakota, and finally moved to Alaska to take the lead public affairs officer position on the Tongass National Forest in Ketchikan, Alaska in 2001.

He retired from federal service in 2008, and began a private consultancy, working for The Nature Conservancy in Alaska. Alaska was a dream come true assignment for Dennis, who had worked for several of the affected Boroughs during the Valdez oil spill cleanup. He married Faith Duncan in December, 2001. In 2007 Dennis and Faith lived out a lifelong dream of traveling to Africa. Like most things in his life, he approached his eight year cancer fight with positivism and tolerance. He maintained a smile for friends and a penchant for coffee ice cream until his end on a snowy weekend in March, 2017. He is survived by Faith, daughters Erin Williams and Heather, and grandchildren, Tahauqua "Tag" and Zora Williams.

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Remembrances



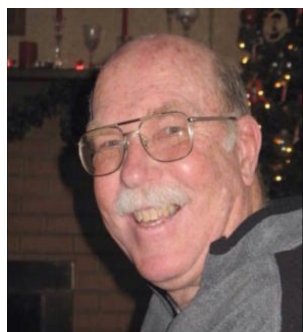
Buelah Kathleen “Kathy” (Starbuck) Kelly

Buelah Kathleen “Kathy” (Starbuck) Kelly died on February 26, 2017. She was born July 8, 1932, in Queen City, Missouri. She and her three siblings were raised on a farm by their parents, Perley Floyd and Bessie Starbuck.

Kathy met her future husband, Robert Emmett Kelly, in Kirksville, Missouri, while he was on leave from the United States Air Force. After they were married they traveled the world. They lived in Turkey and Germany and saw most of Europe before Robert retired from the Air Force and they moved to Gunnison.

Once in Gunnison, Kathy worked for the United States Forest Service wearing many hats, including that of receptionist and forest fire dispatcher. Kathy retired from the Forest Service in 1998 and moved to Montrose. During her time in Montrose, Kathy volunteered at the Montrose Memorial Hospital for more than 15 years. She enjoyed traveling with friends, going to the Magic Circle plays and attending local concerts.

Kathy is survived by her daughter Cheryl Hill of Montrose, and her sons, Randy of Cañon City and Robert (Linessa) of Hutchinson, Kansas. She leaves behind eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Johnny Starbuck and Lucille York of Kirksville, Missouri, and Gerald Starbuck of Ottumwa, Iowa.



Paul “Mike” Winters

Paul “Mike” Winters, 68, of Laramie passed away at his home Tuesday, March 7, 2017 after a courageous battle against cancer. He was born December 29, 1948 in Wheeling, West Virginia to Paul and Julia

(Richmond) Winters. Mike married Roberta (Williamson) Tratos on June 14, 1997 in Douglas, Wyoming.

He was a committed forester, serving over 35 years for the U.S. Forest Service. He enjoyed teaching the Eagle Scouts about leadership and the outdoors. His hobbies included woodworking, hunting and fishing; and he was active in his church home, enjoying morning bible study each week.

He is survived by his daughters Michaela Tratos of Laramie, WY; Brianna Tratos of Las Vegas, NV; brother, John (Maggie) Winters of West Richland, WA.

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Remembrances



Christina Marie Randall

Christina Marie Randall passed away on March 19, 2017. She was born to Henry and Helga Randall, February 28, 1965 at Scott Air Force Base, in St. Clair County, Illinois.

She will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

Those closest to her called

her "Geega", a nick name given to her by her youngest sister. Christina deeply cared about people. A diligent, adventurous and hard working person, she set out to do and experience all she could fit into living life and helping others.

Christina received her bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from Colorado State University. She served as Wildfire Mitigation Administrator for the Colorado Springs Fire Department, spending over 33 years in the fire service. During 19 years with the US Forest Service, Christina served on hotshots, engines, fuels management, timber harvest inspector and battalion chief. During her 14 years with CSFD, she oversaw the wildfire mitigation program including risk assessment, fuels management; grant management, education/outreach and development review. She served on both the International Association of Fire Chiefs Wildland Fire Policy Committee and the

National Wildfire Urban Interface Mitigation Committee.

Christina received numerous awards from both organizations, solidifying her contributions and the success of her efforts to preserve our natural resources and the safety of communities across the nation from wildfire.

Christina married David Mann on April 3, 2001 in Susanville, California. They were the perfect match. Christina had an appreciation of Native American art and a profound reverence for the Native American people and culture. Her respect of life and nature drew her to caring for many animals by rescuing, adopting and supporting animals in need, often ending up with a houseful of dogs whom brought her great joy. She played the piano and loved the desert in all its colorful splendor. Christina was compassionate and generous. She lifted others up when in need and would go to great lengths to take care of her family, friends and co-workers. Intelligent, funny, brave, and kind, Christina impacted people and the world around her by her actions and made it better.

Survived by her husband David Mann, her mother Helga Randall, step-father Les Jergens, sister Patricia Keene, sister Nada Baker.

Loretta Schur

Loretta Schure died on April 3, 2017. Loretta was born in 1937 and raised in Meeker, Colorado. She began working in Personnel/Human Resources for the Forest Service and retired from the Regional Office in 1993. She liked the day trips/details that she went on and acquired many friends while taking part in these. She made a lifetime friendship with Lois Hooks when they did a day of volunteering together. Loretta always a smile and was interested

in what other people were doing in their jobs. She attended many monthly retiree luncheons, Christmas parties and picnics put on by the Forest Service. Loretta is survived by her daughter Lynn.

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Remembrances



Shirley Mae Tafoya

Shirley Mae Tafoya, age 63, former resident of Delta, passed away on March 27, 2017 in Montrose. She was born in Delta July 2, 1953, to John and Della (Sierra) Tafoya. She spent her childhood in Austin,

attended Fairview school in Austin and graduated from Delta High School in 1972.

Ms. Shirley, as she was known, worked on the GMUG N.F.s as the telephone receptionist and retired in 2002. She was dearly missed when she

retired and remembered for her wonderful welcoming voice, sunny disposition, and caring loving personality. She touched many lives and knew most everyone on the Forest or at least their voice. She enjoyed playing computer games, playing bingo with her Valley Manor friends, singing, bird watching, listening to music, spending time with family and friends and watching the Denver Broncos.

She is survived by her brothers, Jose (Ada) Fresquez of Arizona and Ernie (Cecilia) Tafoya of Delta; three sisters, Viola Majors, Jane Tafoya and Lita (Angelo) Armendariz, all of Delta; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Kenneth Howard (Ken) Wood

Kenneth Howard (Ken) Wood passed away Thursday night February 9, 2017 as a result of a second stroke he suffered on February 1st. He had been in the Cody, Wyoming hospital and hospice since then. His funeral was February 17th. Ken was the

Pikes Peak District Ranger in the early 1970's. He later worked as as the Recreation/Lands Staff Officer on the Shoshone NF until he retired early and started a real estate business in Cody.

He was born on August 7, 1939, second child of Robert and Bertina (Vale) Wood in Battle Creek, MI.

He spent his younger years water skiing and swimming at the family lake, playing sports with brothers Wendell (Woody) and Johnny, and fishing and hunting with his dad. He played football and baseball in high school, and earned a football scholarship to Michigan State University, where he finished with the ROTC program. He served in the Army for 2 years at Ft. Carson, CO as a First Lieutenant Commander, then began his first career in the Forest Service.

While in the Forest Service, Ken met his wife Terry Feller under the mistletoe while picking up her roommate for a date. They married on June, 20, 1965 in Colorado Springs, and began their family, moving to Monte Vista, CO and Woodland Park, CO. In 1974, Ken moved his family to Cody, and dressed as Smokey Bear in many 4th of July parades. Ken took an early retirement from the Forest Service in 1986, because he wanted to stay in Cody, and became youth director at First Presbyterian Church for 2 years. In 1988, Ken began his second career selling real estate for Brokerage West. Ken was active in his church as Elder and Deacon, sang in the choir, and attended men's Bible Study Fellowship for many years.

Ken was an avid hunter and fisherman, he spent years as a football referee throughout northern Wyoming, and cheering for his favorite teams (the Broncos and the Rockies). Ken and Terry spent time traveling to see kids and grandkids, and played numerous rounds of bridge at the Senior Center. They enjoyed several cruises, and when Ken's mobility declined, he enjoyed playing cards with grandkids. Ken could always be seen at the baseball fields cheering on his grandsons.

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Remembrances

Ken is survived by his wife of 51 years, brothers Wendell Wood and John Hopper, sister Stephanie Walker, children Pam Wood of Portland, OR, Angie (Nathan) Gesner of Cody, Leslie (Jean Findley) Wood of Juneau, AK, Kevin Wood of Long Beach, CA, Erin (Loren) Hazel of Cody, grandsons Jeremy Gesner,

Dylan, Jaxon and Leo Hazel, and Malakhi Wood, granddaughters Alexis Wood, Kyra and Rachel Findley-Wood, and Nevaeh and Antonia Gesner.



H. B. "Doc" Smith

H. B. "Doc" Smith died on February 25, 2017 in Chandler, AZ. "Doc" was born in Mississippi and grew up in southern New Mexico and

west Texas. He graduated from high school in El Paso, Texas and then went in the Navy where he served during the tag end of the Korean War.

After service in the military, he went to Colorado and worked in mines for a year, before enrolling at Colorado A & M at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources in Fort Collins, CO. While in college he worked summers on the Coeur d'Alene National Forest in northern Idaho in 1958, and then in 1959, he was a smoke jumper out of Missoula, MT. After receiving his BS in Forestry in 1961 he started out on the San Juan National Forest at Dolores, Colorado as a timber sales forester.

While at Dolores he was very active in fire and became qualified as a sector boss, division boss, and trained as a line boss. After leaving Delores, he moved to Minturn, Colorado on the Holy Cross District of the White River Forest. From there he became district ranger at Lander on Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming for seven years and

continued his involvement in fire, becoming fire boss qualified.

He moved on in 1975 to become a district ranger in Utah on the Wasatch National Forest; and then later on the Toiyabe National Forest in the Sierras. From there, "Doc" and his wife Kathy moved to Arizona on the Kaibab National Forest, where he was fire staff officer. He became an area commander on the fire side and served on at least seven national incidents across the West.

He retired from the Forest Service then in 1994 and enrolled at Northern Arizona University to work on an advanced degree. In addition to receiving his Master in Forestry, he also became part of the Ecological Restoration Institute where he worked until he finally retired for good. "Doc" and Kathy moved to Phoenix to be closer to their family.

"Doc" was very proud of his Forest Service career and remained involved with National Smokejumpers Association, National Museum of Forest Service History, National Association of Forest Service Retires, Rocky Mountaineers, Amigos, Society of American Foresters, and all the Forest Service Reunions

He is survived by his wife, Kathy and daughter, Kelli, and son, Ken, and their families all in the Phoenix area.

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Remembrances



Roy Thomson

Roy Thomson died in Oakdale, MN on April 20, 2017. He was three weeks shy of his 96th birthday. Born in North Dakota, Roy joined the Civilian Conservation Corps upon his high school graduation. He was assigned to Custer, South Dakota, where he

met his future wife Evelyn.

In 1941, Roy was in Oregon looking for work when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. Enlistment in the army was followed by deployment to Africa under General Patton. His group then landed, and fought in Sicily; then was sent to England, where preparations were made for the European Invasion. Roy landed on Normandy on D-Day, fought across France, then Belgium and Germany. At war's end, his group (62nd Armored Field Battalion) was among the first to return home because their 422 days of battle was among the most days any group had sustained.

Roy returned to Custer, married Evelyn, had two children and went to work for the Forest Service. He started part time planting trees, but was then hired as a clerk typist. He transferred to Steamboat Springs (1952) to work for the Administrative Assistant and a later transfer to Laramie (1956) gave him the chance to work and attend college at the University of Wyoming.

Cody, Wyoming (1958) was his next home, where he was Administrative Officer. His final transfer was to the Regional Office in Denver (1963) where he was a contracting officer. He retired in 1976. During most of his years in the Forest Service, Roy used his army experience as a supply clerk to set up and run the camps during forest fires.

Roy and Evelyn had twenty-five years of golf and sun in Needles, California. They spent their final years in Minnesota enjoying their family, not the weather.



Robert D. (Bob) Sullivan

Robert D. (Bob) Sullivan, of Fort Collins, died on May 19, 2017. He was 90 years old.

Bob was born the son of Virginia Eberly and Del Sullivan on September 5, 1926 in Denver, Colorado.

He was the loving husband of Vella Foster, father of twin boys, Mike and Steve Sullivan and daughter, Ann Clay. He is survived by his wife and children, brother Bill Sullivan of Denver, Colorado as well as his seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Bob met his wife of 67 ½ years, Vella Foster, while both were students at Colorado A&M College. Bob graduated with a degree in Forest Management in 1951. At that time he received an appointment with the U.S. Forest Service at Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado.

Bob retired after a long and successful 33 year career with the U.S. Forest Service. He had a total of 35 years of Government Service to include the 2 years he served in the US Army in the Pacific during WWII and his 33 years with the U.S. Forest Service.

Bob was very active in the community and dedicated many years to the Boy Scouts of America. He was a member of the American Legion, The Society of American Foresters and several other forestry associations to include, The Forest Service Retirees, Colorado Forestry, the Forest Fire Lookouts and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Bob was dedicated to his faith and attended Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Fort Collins, CO. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Fort Collins. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pathways Hospice.

The Last Word

The Value of a Stamp

by Tom L. Thompson

On occasion I still get a letter that actually has made its way to our mail box and displays a cancelled stamp. I say on occasion, because most of us very seldom get a letter that is actually written by a person from afar who wants to tell us something of importance. These “letters” represent nearly an extinct practice of communication. They are usually genuinely crafted with care, respect, gratitude, sincerity, and purpose. Oh for sure, our mailbox has something in it most every day: bills, reminders of appointments, advertisements, political propaganda, catalogs, and both wanted and unwanted magazines, but to get a letter, that truly is a special treat.

My senses perk up when I get a letter. The walk back up the cul-de-sac is more fun when I know there’s a letter to be opened with a message from a friend or family member and not just another bill or innocent envelope disguised as something important by tell tale “Official” or “Open Immediately” splashed around on the front and back. The letters I speak of are special.

The world has changed in so many ways and certainly how we communicate is perhaps one, if not the biggest, change. We get more communication today on a daily or hourly basis than human beings have ever gotten. With e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube, Constant Contact, texting, Skype, the chatter prevails. It is almost impossible to know the many forms or modes of media that seem to expand exponentially ever year. Even though we are perhaps fortunate to have so many ways to communicate it is very apparent that we spend an enormous amount of time doing nothing but messaging back and forth



and have become consumed with being constantly connected in some way. Some of us may soon be diagnosed with CCD or “compulsive communication disorder.”

There is a simplistic beauty in a letter. A number of my most prized mementos on the wall above my desk or in a special folder in my desk are letters with signatures of real people like: the ranger who first talked me into going into forestry, my first ranger, a senator from Oregon, a President, my youngest son, my

oldest grandson, and from friends who are scattered from coast to coast, not to mention most all the little notes that Kitty sent me while I was away for weeks at a time out on Admiralty Island in Alaska. I have cards from my sisters and several very special cards from my mom and dad that I will treasure forever.

Not surprisingly, I don’t have many emails, no “Tweets” that I know of, or other treasured electronic messages or texts. They are all pretty much gone. Oh, if I scroll down into Facebook someplace I can probably find some “Hope you have a wonderful day!” birthday wishes. Messaging today is very fast, very instant, very easy, very brief, and is becoming very illustrative with literally hundreds of different emoji. For all its speed and cutsie accessories, most messages that are sent today are very short lived and quickly find their way to a virtual wastebasket courtesy of the delete button.

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On the other hand, if you look at the letters that Gifford Pinchot or President Roosevelt wrote a hundred years ago, they still sing with passion and purpose. When William Kruetzer, the first ranger on the forest reserves retired in 1940, Pinchot wrote to congratulate him for his many years of service to the Forest Service. I can read Pinchot's words today and they paint a clear picture of the respect and gratitude. Pinchot's thoughts are clear, sincere, concise, and everlasting because they are in a letter that came in an envelope with a stamp on it.

Every year when we send out personal letters to family members of those we plan to honor at Memorial Grove, it is touching how many letters

and notes we get back with expression of gratitude for taking the time to remember and to send a letter of notification. Yes, with a 49 cent stamp on it.

So what is "the value of a stamp"? I guess based on the amount spent on postage for advertisement, it is probably pretty cheap. A hundred years ago you could send a letter anywhere in the United States with a 2 cent stamp shown above. Today it is a bit more for a "Forever" stamp. However, it is hard to put a value on the stamp on the letter from my first ranger, or from my mother, or from Kitty. Those stamps to me are very valuable, perhaps almost priceless.