



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 7 - Number 1

Celebrating Allen Peck

In this Issue

From the Chairman	4
Memorial Grove at 100	6
THE Glossary	10
The Traveling Mountaineers	14
What's a Seed Drone?	19
Flyin' Smokey	21
New Acting Boss	23
Free Money	25
Jim Ficke Profile	26
Remembrances	31
The Last Word	35

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



"Colonel" Allen Peck, District 2's second Forester.

With the end of World War I, leadership changes came to District 2. In February 1920, a month after Smith Riley officially retired, Chief Forester Greeley appointed Allen S. Peck as District 2's second Forester. Allen Peck, or "Colonel" Peck, was a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York, and the University of Michigan's School of Forestry.

He started his long and varied forestry career in 1902 as a student assistant of a survey party in the state of Maine.

The following year, Gifford Pinchot assigned him to a crew making preliminary investigations in the Sand Hill region of western Nebraska to establish planting programs thereon.

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

Like many of the first foresters, Peck's career took him through the Halsey Nursery in Nebraska.

From a ***Gifford Pinchot and the Old Timers blog***,

Peck wrote, "Leaving my home at Batavia, New York on July 1 (1903), I went to Nebraska as Student Assistant, reporting at Halsey to Charley Scott, after completing the last section of the railroad trip from Broken Bow on a freight train." Peck continues, "The nursery and field planting project at Halsey was well under way. I found there a gang of young foresters, including "Hoss" Stabler, Tom Swan, Krauter, Mast, Bridges and Holroyd....Here, between the the Dismal and the

Loup and along the Niobrara, we saw the beginnings of that great job of forest creation that has grown to be such a comfort and inspiration to the people of the sand hills country, and a monument to that early group of foresters who were pricked by the urge to tackle the hardest jobs first--men who took their love of trees to the prairies and plains and could not be satisfied until they had tried to make forests where there were none.

To me this summer of 1903 was a second and very important chapter in my training for forestry. I was introduced for the first time to the cattle country of the West, to the chuck wagon, and the saddle horse, and stock saddle as a daily habit. I learned a lot about the fine points of the cow horse, the rattlesnake, the transit and stadia rod, and developed an interest in nursery work and tree planting that has always remained strong. These two months in the sand hills of Nebraska were the first

steps in a wonderful jaunt that took me by easy stages to the Rocky Mountains where I was introduced to a Forest Reserve, then to New Mexico, Arizona, California, and finally back to

Washington through the South."

After returning from this assignment, Pinchot engaged him as a forest assistant in Forest Extension with a pay of \$1,000 per annum. For the first few years, he worked in Pennsylvania and New York, preparing planting plans for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which had lands in Monroe, Carbon, and Schuylkill Counties, Pennsylvania, and for the Great Bear Spring Company in Oswego County, New York. After a brief stint studying planting opportunities in Ohio and

Indiana, Peck was stationed in Washington, D.C., where he became Chief of Cooperation under the Office of Forest Extension.

In 1909, he transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico, as District 3's Chief of Planting. In New Mexico, he conducted cooperative planting and nursery studies with state universities, and even took part in a watershed project on the Las Animas National Forest (Administrative Notes 1951: No. 6).

Noted for his political abilities and his public relations skills, Allen Peck rose to become District 3's Assistant District Forester (USDA Forest Service 1906b, 1907b, 1908, 1909c). At his next stop, from 1914 until the outbreak of World War I in April 1917, he was an inspector in the Division of Operation in the Washington Office of the Forest Service.



Regional Forester Colonel Allen S. Peck on horseback in June 1941 in the Bear Creek area on the Rio Grande NF. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Forest Service History.

(continued on Page 3)

(continued from Page 2)



Peck-Hilton Family on the Medicine Bow National Forest 1931.

He then had twenty-two months of service overseas with the 20th Forestry Engineers of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) from 1917 to 1919 (Administrative Notes 1951: No. 6).

As a commissioned officer, Major Peck (later Lieutenant Colonel) served alongside Majors Henry S. Graves and William B. Greeley in the Department of Construction and Forestry. This was the first time that foresters had ever figured in an American military unit, where they got production of lumber restarted and then supplied the AEF with that resource (Guthrie, et. al. 1940).

During his period of service, Colonel Peck was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, and also was presented with the Legion of Honor Cross by the French government (Administrative Notes 1951: No. 6).

Upon his return to America, Greeley appointed him as District 2 Forester, where one of the tests of Peck's administrative skills was to reorganize and maintain District 2 in the face of federal budget allocations that made it necessary to reduce personnel numbers during the post-World War I years.

Peck served as Rocky Mountain District 2 Forester under Chief Foresters Greeley and Stuart. On May 1, 1929, the agriculture secretary approved a change in the official designation of the nine districts of the Forest Service from "districts" into "regions" in order to avoid confusion with ranger districts.

District 2 was renamed Region 2: Rocky Mountain Region, which had responsibility for Colorado, most of Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and western Oklahoma for a short time (Godfrey 2005: 220). Peck thereafter served under Chief Stuart, and later under Chief Forester Ferdinand A. Silcox and Acting Chief Forester Earle H. Clapp as Region 2's Forester. In December 1943, Peck retired in the midst of World War II.

*Editor's Note: Much of the above article is found in **From Prairies to Peaks - a history of the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service**, by Anthony Godfrey - published in October, 2012. Pages 150-152.*

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Hello from the Chair



Bob Sprentall - chairman of the Rocky Mountaineers.

Another year has ended and a new one has begun. I feel honored to be the Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers and able to work with a group of folks I highly respect. This organization has a lot of dedicated individuals who make us run like clockwork.

All the Area Representatives are making contacts with Districts, Forests and

other units to see how we as an organization can be a part of activities that will be of a benefit. Our board members and committee chairs do an outstanding job to make sure we are financially sound and involved with regional and national activities.

It is my focus this year to put a spotlight on our mission for the Rocky Mountaineers. For those who have not gone to our web site, I have provided that statement:

Mission or Purpose

The overall mission of this Association is to enrich and add value to the lives of Forest Service retirees who care greatly about the agency and the Rocky Mountain Region by:

- Enhancing the connectivity of retirees, spouses, and others who take pride in having been a part of the outfit in the Rocky Mountain Region.
- Providing members timely updates of information about association members, regional and local happenings, meetings or special event specifics, special stories of historical significance, and other association business.

- Encouraging local groups to either initiate or continue ongoing efforts to connect informally for lunch or other opportunities and gatherings.
- Ensuring there is opportunity for others who have special interest in the Rocky Mountain Region to also stay actively connected.

Helping retirees “give back” to the outfit through education and support to the resources and communities that defined their lives, and to other retirees and Forest Service families needing special support.

Improving the overall participation, ownership, and support of the Memorial Grove and ensuring that all Region 2 folks deserving of remembrance are appropriately honored.

Keeping association administration effective, simple, professional, and designed to ensure a sustainable vibrant organization that represents retirees throughout the entire region and keeps them connected regionally and nationally.

Our flagship emphasis is our scholarships and Memorial Grove. This year we are offering four scholarships of which two of them are designated for those pursuing a degree or path in natural resources. Also, this is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Memorial Grove. I would encourage you to attend this service.

If you know of individuals who are doing things outlined in our mission by volunteering, part of civic organizations, or fulfilling a lifelong dream please let me or your area representative know so we can get it into the our newsletter.

— Bob Sprentall

Membership and Finance Report

Our membership is back up to 443 members. We haven't cracked the 450 threshold yet, but maybe this will be the year. If you know of someone that should be a member of the Rocky Mountaineers, encourage them to join.

Thanks to everyone that has paid their 2020 dues and made donations so far. If you haven't made a payment yet, you are now an official member of the Procrastinator's Club. This isn't something to be proud of, so please pay your dues today.

Annual dues remain \$20/year per household. Never have to worry about paying dues again with a Lifetime Membership of \$250 per household. We currently have 116 Lifetime Members. We always appreciate donations to support our funds for Memorial Grove and Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships.

The Memorial Grove fund is used to support the Memorial Grove site in Monument, CO and our ceremony in May of each year.

The Scholarship Fund is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. We have awarded two

\$1,500 scholarships in each of the past few years and we will plan to award four scholarships in 2020.

We make it easy for you to make a payment. If you would like a receipt or to pay with a credit card, click on this link

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Membership/MemberForms/Dues-Donations.php>

This will take you to our Dues and Donation page on our website. Fill out the short form and you will be emailed a receipt.

If you want to pay by credit card, continue to the PayPal website which manages our credit card payments. It is safe and secure.

If you don't need a receipt, you can drop a check or a \$20 bill in the mail to our address -

Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 270462
Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Thanks again for your support!

Our Newest Members

John and Vorawanee Booth - Windsor, CO

Dave and Lois Cawrse - Ft. Collins, CO

Deb Ekstrand and Mike Larson - Idaho Springs, CO

Rick and Linda Ellsworth - Woodland Park, CO

Carol and Mike Hindman - Gypsum, CO

Carol and Russ Howe - Montrose, CO

Dennis and Marilyn Johnson - Grand Junction, CO

Doug and Kirsten Laraby - Winter Park, CO

Jane Leche - Aurora, CO

Carmine and Barbara Lockwood - Montrose, CO

Tom and Enid Malecek - Crestone, CO

Jon Morrissey and Colleen Hannon - Granby, CO

Colleen and Rob Oquist - La Junta, CO

Wayne Quade - Montrose, CO

Deanna Reyher - Custer, SD

Karen Roth and Mark Klug - Ft. Collins, CO

Rocky Mountain Region Memorial Grove

A hundred years of planting trees to honor those who served here

Note: This article is adapted from the history of Memorial Grove on Monument Nursery by R. G. Colwell, Pike National Forest 1943-44 and an updated earlier writing by former District Ranger Bill Nelson in 2006 for the National Museum of Forest Service History newsletter.

This year marks the hundredth year anniversary of the first planting of trees at the Memorial Grove. The story of the Memorial Grove takes place near the town of Monument, Colorado, a small town of about 8,000 people sitting at 6,961 feet above sea level south of Denver and just north of Colorado Springs along Interstate 25. It's currently the home of the Pike Hotshots and the Monument helitack crew and is on the Pike National Forest.

Monument Nursery Site: Originally founded on May 1, 1907 as the Mt. Herman Planting Station, the name was changed to the Monument Nursery within two years. During the first few years, trees from the nursery were used primarily in nearby forests. One of the earliest reforestation successes was on Mt. Herman, rising just west of the complex. When the nursery was first established, it consisted of 480 acres, a barn, and five tent houses for the crew. The nursery was expanded in 1929, when the adjacent Monument Ranch was purchased. The seedling facility was one of the first in the forest system and the most important in the Rocky Mountains. The late 1930's proved to be the nursery's peak production years, with more than 60 employees, and as many as 5 million seedlings shipped annually.

During the Great Depression the site served as one of Colorado's largest Civilian Conservation Corps camps. From 1934 to 1942, CCC crews under Forest Service supervision designed and constructed

buildings, fought fires, manned the nurseries and planted seedlings. Many improvements were made to the nursery during this period, including rock lined ditches and buildings.

Memorial Grove: On April 3, 1919 District Headquarters sent a letter to all forest officers in the Rocky Mountain District noting that "some real forester conceived the idea of a national movement to plant trees on Arbor Day as a memorial to Forest Service men who had lost their lives in the United States armed forces during World War I." The letter further suggested that trees be planted at Ranger Stations and at the Monument Nursery in fulfillment of the idea. Accordingly, on June 10, 1920 five Colorado blue spruce trees grown in the

nursery were planted and marked as living memorials. This first planting was done south of the old storehouse. Similar plantings were made at ranger stations. This was the beginning of the Memorial Grove movement in Region Two.

In the spring of 1921, Colonel Allen S. Peck, District Forester, planned and initiated a movement to establish a permanent Memorial Grove at the Monument Nursery on a regional basis instead of in smaller groves at widely separated locations. The grove was to be a living memorial to all members of the Rocky Mountain Region who had died while in the Forest Service, or after retirement.



Civilian Conservation Corps camp for 200 men. (1933-1943)

(continued on Page 7)

(continued from Page 6)



Planting trees at Memorial Grove, May 29, 1921.

The first list of deceased members of the region to be thus honored comprised thirty names and Carlos Bates, forester in charge of the Fremont Experiment Station, begun in 1909 near

Manitou Springs, Colorado offered to secure the required number of suitable trees from a gulch just below the station.

Planting assistant Walter Schrader, Rangers John Patterson and Frank Poley, with Bates and his assistant, Oliver Robertson, dug twenty-seven Colorado blue spruce and three Engelmann spruce, from 18 inches to three feet tall. The trees were secured, baled in burlap and hauled to the Mt. Manitou Incline Railway in the one-horse two-wheeled narrow gauge cart belonging to the Fremont Station.

The Mt. Manitou Incline Railway transported the trees to Manitou Springs without charge and they were carried by truck to the Nursery, where they were thoroughly wet down and stored in a cool place until the day of planting. The site selected for the memorial grove was in the northwest corner of nursery area 1, immediately in front of the old nursery office and adjacent to the road. The date was set for May 30, 1921, but as Memorial Day in that year was on Monday, the first planting of trees took place on Sunday, May 29, 1921. The trees were set out at intervals of 12 feet, in broken rows, 12 feet apart. The first planting ceremony at the Memorial Grove was attended only by Forest Service officers and their families, who also planted those first thirty trees.

Over the years, the Grove was maintained, names added, and new trees planted, but these happenings were pretty much unpublicized Forest Service actions. Pikes Peak District Rangers and staff were always there over the years to ensure the Grove and the idea of the Memorial was sustained while retirees made donations for engraved brass plates.

When the Berry fire in 1989 destroyed some of the trees, it was decided that instead of planting a new tree for each deceased employee, a plaque would be mounted that listed the names of all who had died within the previous year. That has since been

changed to the current tradition where, in addition to the plaque, a single tree is planted in memory of all employees who died during the previous year.



This 1968 photo with Forest Supervisor Tom Evans (center), honored in 2014, and Pikes Peak District Ranger Dennis Lynch (right) who is being honored this year.

Very few people in the Region, with the exception of some retirees, had any knowledge of the Memorial Grove or its history.

Since 1995 there has been a concerted effort to improve the grove and facilities and to spread the word of its existence and purpose.

Over the last twenty-five years concerted efforts have been made to involve families in the Memorial Grove ceremony and reach out to ensure all potential honorees are included. Through the efforts of many people over the years this memorial and tradition have not only endured, but have grown in importance and significance.

(continued on Page 8)

(continued from Page 7)



Memorial Grove with new fence, 2018.

The Pikes Peak District has provided strong and consistent support for the Memorial Grove and without it the tradition would most likely not have survived these hundred years.

Recently, substantial work has been done at the site, with new flag poles, entrance display, split rail fence, and most importantly the rustic steel metal panels designed to resemble tree trunks where brass plates with honoree names are mounted. Annual maintenance is done on a work day each year before the ceremony. Through volunteer support and special donations, the Rocky Mountaineers reach out across the Region and do what they can to ensure all eligible honorees are identified, families are notified and invited, programs and brochures are finalized, and that brass plates with honorees names are engraved. These special donations also pay for lunch for all attendees and are used to cover miscellaneous other expenses.

The Pikes Peak District provides materials, tools, and makes staff available, including the Pikes Peak Hotshots, for the annual workday. It provides all the support logistics and operations on the day of the ceremony; ensure that the tent, tables, and chairs are all in place; and each year the District employees prepare and serve the lunch after the ceremony. The Regional Office continues to cover the cost of the tent, tables, and chairs as well as the printing costs.

In recent years attendance at the ceremony has increased and there are usually between a hundred and fifty to two hundred people attending, with most of these being family members and friends of honorees.

At eleven in the morning an opening song is sung by Jane Leche, the American Flag is raised by the color guard, we give the Pledge of Allegiance, and a blessing is shared by a Chaplain from the Air Force Academy. After a few short welcomes, a bagpiper plays, a rider-less horse is guided around the grove by the Ranger, the brass plates with names are mounted, and remembrances are then shared as the names of honorees are read. A family member is encouraged to speak about their loved one and after

all honorees are recognized and the ceremony concluded, a single tree is planted to honor all of those who have died. Family members help place a small Colorado spruce tree into the earth.



Jane Leche singing, 2016.

After the ceremony, in true Forest Service tradition, lunch is served in the tent behind the Memorial and families, friends, and all in attendance enjoy fellowship, tell stories

and reminisce about the good old days and talk about the hopeful ones in the future.

The grove is thought to be the only such memorial of this type in existence in the Forest Service and the folks who work on it and the families of loved ones who dedicated their lives to the agency are very proud that this tradition has now reached its hundred year mark. Thanks to the forward looking District Forester Colonel Alan Peck for the inspiration that made this special place possible.

(continued on Page 9)

*(continued from Page 8)***2019 Memorial Grove Honorees**

Henry Emerson Bond	Rio Grande, San Juan, Neb., Bighorn, Med Bow
Clair William Brown	White River and Arapaho-Roosevelt NFs
Andrew Joseph (Andy) Cadenhead	PSICC/Med. Bow Routt NFs
Jack Douglas Cameron	Roosevelt, Bighorn, Black Hills, Med. Bow NF's.
Frances Kathy Collins	White River NF
Patrick Collrin	PSICC, Pikes Peak and Leadville Districts
Harold Davis	Medicine Bow NF
Violet Louise Fitzpatrick	Bighorn N. F.
George H. Geiger	Nebraska and PSICC NF and Grasslands
Phyllis Goad	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.
John Henry Hill	Regional Office, Engineering/Cartography
Eric Jensen	Arapaho-Roosevelt
Donald Eugene (Don) Kistler	Black Hills NF
Ainsie Lee	Regional Office
Dennis L. (Denny) Lynch	Pike N. F., Roosevelt N. F.
Stanley Demond Mason	Regional Office
Robert McAtee	Regional Office, Cartography
Donald Paul Mecklenburg	San Juan, Shoshone, and PSICC
Billy Bonifacio Montaña	Rio Grande N. F., Del Norte R. D.
Alex-Cine Napolitano	Bighorn and San Juan NFs
Lois Statler Hooks Phillips	Regional Office
Donald George Rivers	R. O. Engineering also R-4, R-10, and W. O.
Ralph "Jerry" Stevenson III	Pike San Isabel NF Cimarron Comanche NG
Myron Tjarks	R. O. Administration
Judy Lee Williams	R. O. S&PF, Area Planning and Coop For.
Jack Allison Wolfe	Routt, San Isabel, Medicine Bow N. F., R-9
Richard E. (Woody) Woodrow	White River N. F., R-5,6, & 10

Not Forgotten:

Argel H. Bury	Black Hills N.F.	2018
Ralph Leon Cockrell	San Juan, Medicine Bow N. F.	2012
George W. Darlington	Medicine Bow N. F.	2004
Daryle Eugene Gibson	Medicine Bow N. F.	2018
Harvey Peter (Hoot) Gibson	Shoshone, Black Hills N. F.	2015
Ralph Prater Kelly	Shoshone, San Juan, FWS	2011



A Glossary

Both New and Old School

Editor's Note: This is part one of a "real" U.S. Forest Service Employee's Glossary. The genesis of this little project was over cocktails with Mike daLuz in a bar overlooking Washington, D.C. a number of years ago. He believed this would be a way to transfer that "old-timer" knowledge to the youngsters in the outfit and shortcut their transition time.

Please take a peek and send suggestions to the Rendezvous about acronyms and jargon you used during your time in the outfit. We gladly accept edits, comments, corrections and even notes to us on a speed memo. When we're done, we'll share Mikey's vision with the workin' folks at the USFS.

A.

Accessibility:

The degree to which a product, device, service, or environment is available to as many people as possible. Accessibility can be viewed as the "ability to access" and benefit from some system or entity.

Acre foot:

A water volume measurement equal to the amount of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot – approximately 326, 000 gallons.

Age class:

An interval of years, commonly 20, into which trees are grouped for management. Example: 1-20 years, 21-40 years.

AFMO:

Assistant Fire Management Officer

Air Attack:

Refers to the supervisor in the air (usually in a fixed-wing aircraft) who supervises the process of attacking the wildfire from the air, including fixed-wing air tankers, helicopters, and any other aviation resources assigned to the fire.

Air Tanker:

Air tankers or water bombers are fixed-wing aircraft fitted with tanks that can be filled on the ground at an air tanker base or, in the case of flying boats and amphibious aircraft, by skimming water from lakes, reservoirs, or large rivers.

AL:

Annual Leave

AMP:

Allotment Management Plan

AMR:

Appropriate Management Response

AMS:

Agricultural Marketing Service - USDA

AO:

Administrative Officer

APHIS:

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service – USDA

AQM:

Acquisition Management Staff Unit

ARPNG:

Arapaho Roosevelt and Pawnee National Grasslands

ASC:

Albuquerque Service Center

ASQ:

Allowable Sale Quantity

ATV:

All Terrain Vehicle

AUM:

Animal Unit Month

AWOL:

Absence Without Official Leave

B.

Bambi Bucket:

A bucket suspended on a cable carried by a helicopter to deliver water for aerial firefighting. Each bucket has a release valve on the bottom that is controlled by the helicopter crew. Developed by



Bambi bucket

Canadian Don Arney and produced by SEI Industries since 1983.

(continued on Page 11)

Glossary continued

(continued from Page 10)

Basal Area:

Used in forest management that defines the area of a given section of land that is occupied by the cross-section of tree trunks and stems at their base.

Bear Wear:

Any of the variety of coats and hats and pins and blankets and a host of items associated with Smokey Bear.

BFR:

A really big rock – as in “I hit a BFR with my rig.”

Bladder Bag:

A heavy-duty, collapsible, five-gallon capacity yellow vinyl tank bag with a brass, hand-operated pump, 1/4” hose, and padded shoulder straps. Weighs 4-1/2 lbs. empty.



Bladder Bag

BIA:

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIFC:

Boise Interagency Fire Center – (old school) now known as NIFC.

Biomass:

Biological material from living, or recently living organisms, most often referring to plants or plant-derived materials.

BIG:

Blacks in Government

BLI:

Budget Line Item

Blowdown:

A tree or stand of timber that has been blown down by the wind.

Board Foot:

A specialized unit of measure for the volume of lumber in the United States and Canada. It is the volume of a one-foot length of a board one foot wide and one inch thick.

BOR:

Bureau of Reclamation – Interior Department

BLM:

Bureau of Land Management – Interior Department

Brush Hook:

A fire tool with a single-edge blade that is 12” long, 3” wide on a 36” curved wooden axe handle. An excellent clearing tool.

C.

Cache:

A hiding place especially for concealing and preserving provisions or implements. In fire, caches are located in every geographical region of the United States with a shared national inventory value of over \$91 million. These resources are shared and moved throughout the wildfire season to allow us to annually issue supplies and equipment to a variety of incidents throughout the year.

Canopy:

In a forest, the branches from the uppermost layer of trees; on rangeland, the vertical projection downward of the aerial portion of vegetation.

CDOW:

Colorado Division of Wildlife – now the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

CE:

Categorical Exclusion

CEQ:

Council on Environmental Quality

CFO:

Chief Financial Officer

CFTR:

Cooperative Forestry and Tribal Relations

CFR:

Code of Federal Regulations. A set of regulations that have been published in the Federal Register, and are used to govern Forest Service Activities.

CIP:

Capital Investment Program.

Clearcutting:

A controversial forestry/logging practice in which most or all trees in an area are uniformly cut down.

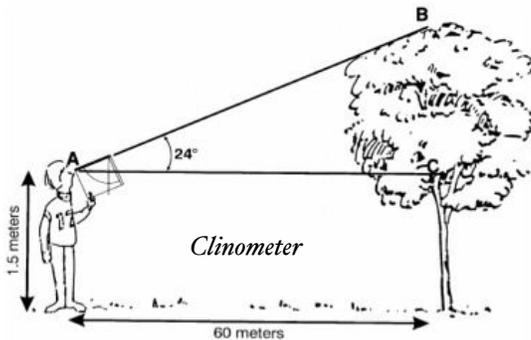
(continued on Page 12)

Glossary continued

(continued from Page 11)

Clinometer:

An instrument for measuring angles of slope (or tilt), elevation or depression of an object with respect to gravity.



Climax:

It's not what you think!

The final or mature seral stage in secondary plant succession that persists for an indefinite period of time if no major disturbances occur.

COB:

Close of Business - usually in the Washington Office.

COLA:

Cost of Living Adjustments - might be just for old timers.

Combi tool:

The firefighter's version of a military entrenching tool. A small shovel head which can be folded straight for use as a shovel or folded at 90 degrees for use as a scraping tool or hoe on a 5 foot handle.

Commercial Use:

The use of products from the National Forest to make a profit.

Cone Crop:

Refers to the interval at which conifer species produce good cone crops.

Cord:

A stack of wood that contains 128 cubic feet. Measurements are usually four feet high - four feet wide and eight feet long. A pickup truck will hold about one-half cord of wood.

Corks:

Also known as caulk boots, are leather boots with hobnailed soles worn by lumberjacks in the timber producing regions of the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

CPW:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CR:

Civil Rights Staff Unit

C-Rats:

An individual canned, pre-cooked, or prepared wet ration often issued to firefighters when fresh food is in short supply.

Cruiser Vest:

Cruising vests are designed to accommodate a variety of equipment. Many styles of vests are available that suit the many types of work that are being done. Vest pockets are designed to fit the various pieces of equipment used for a variety of tasks.

CUI:

Controlled Undisclosed Information

CUPOLA:

In design work, a feature added to the layout so that the boss can make an edit and feel like they contributed.

Save That Date!

The Rocky Mountaineers gathering will be **September 8th and 9th, 2020** in Woodland Park, Colorado. Preliminary details include special rates at the Woodland County Lodge, golf at the Shining Mountain Golf Club, and some fabulous tours on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests including a sneak peak of the new Summit House on Pikes Peak. It promises to be a beautiful time in south central Colorado.

Rocky Mountaineers Carve it Up

Seventh Heaven at Winter Park

The Rocky Mountaineers Seventh Annual Ski Day was held at Winter Park Ski Area on Wednesday, February 12. It was a “powder” day and twenty Rocky Mountaineers thought it was indeed Seventh Heaven, an absolutely wonderful day. Our host, Doug Laraby from Winter Park skied with us and was presented with a beautiful Forest Service belt buckle in appreciation for his continued support of our group of skiing Rocky Mountaineers.

The group met early in morning at the Mary Jane Lodge and then skied together all morning long. After the usual great lunch at the Lunch Rock Lodge two separate groups formed up and skied the rest of the afternoon and then gathered at the base area to enjoy some time together. As can be seen from the photo below, there were lots of smiles and stories to be shared all day long.

What a fun time with friends! Question of the day...do women or men wear more colorful ski garb?



Standing: (L to R) Doug Laraby, Ken Kowynia, Dan Nolan, Bernie Weingardt, Joe Reddan, Susan Alden-Weingardt, Aaron Mayville, Gary Patton, Wendy Magwire, Greg Warren, Nancy Warren, Mary Beth Gustafson, Robin Langowski, Paul Langowski, Deb Ryon, and Jon Morrissey.

Kneeling: (L to R) Bjorn Dahl, Jim Bedwell, Melanie Woolever, and Patricia Hesch.

Rocky Mountaineers Cross the Pond

by Mary Petersen

“Feeling a bit peckish? How about some Jammy Dodgers? Yorkshire tea and crumpets? Perhaps some haggis, neeps and tatties?”

From August 24 to September 7, thirty-eight Rocky Mountaineers and friends wound their way through England, Wales, and Scotland, tasting these and other uniquely regional foods, and seeing numerous historic sites along the way with our fantastic program director Louise.



The Rocky Mountaineers tour group in Great Britain.

With knowledgeable and humorous tour hosts and presenters throughout our trip, we laughed and appreciated all they had to share with us about their history and culture!

We retirees appreciated the opportunity to get reacquainted and reconnected after many years. And, of course, we tried to identify many unfamiliar trees (Plane tree, Atlantic cedar, Monkeytree puzzle and beech) and bird species (European robin and wagtail) we saw along the trip. Keen to see some native wildlife, we soon found that sheep were more plentiful than trees in this verdant landscape, though we saw some badgers along the way!

We started our travels in London where we were able to customize our sightseeing. Fellow travelers went to see Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, London Bridge, the Churchill War Rooms, Abbey Road, or other sites of interest.

From London, we traveled to and stayed in Bath, Caernarfon, York, Grasmere, and Edinburgh. We

toured Oxford University and spent time shopping or at the Ashmolean Museum. In the city of Bath, a prosperous high society destination in the 18th century under King George III, we took a tour of the

Roman Baths, and had time to walk the ancient streets, shopping and listening to the buskers who performed in the streets. At Stonehenge, we walked around the iconic structure, learned of its history, and absorbed the mysteries of its construction and purpose.

We stopped at a farm shop for a traditional lunch

and went to the town of Llangollen, Wales, through the Snowdonia region and the steep-sided rugged Cambrian Mountains to the town of Caernarfon, a small town on the west coast. We toured this medieval city, had time to explore the Caernarfon Castle, and were welcomed in by local families for home hosted dinners and some of the legendary Welsh hospitality and food.

Our “Welsh Experience Tour” included a ride on the Ffestiniog Railway, the oldest independent narrow gauge steam train in the world. It was built in 1832 to carry slate but has been carrying passengers since 1864. We traveled through Snowdonia National Park’s spectacular scenery to the National Slate Museum where we learned about the historic slate industry and ate a traditional slate workers’ lunch with Welsh Cake for dessert. That evening we attended an evening of Welsh music and learned the phonetic Welsh alphabet!

(continued on Page 15)

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Ffestiniog Railway in Wales built in 1832 to carry slate.

We rode through green hillsides with numerous rock walls and flocks of sheep to the medieval city of York. We stopped in the City of Chester, England, where we enjoyed a walking tour of this medieval center and ancient Roman walls, past “the Rows,” a series of two-tiered shops. Some of the group chose to tour the Chester Cathedral while some chose to walk the Roman Walls or visit the Falconry Center.

In York, we toured the York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps. Its great East Window was completed in 1408 and is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world! The next day, York Minster hosted pop star Ellie Goulding’s wedding which was attended by members of the royal family and some celebrities. Those who attended the Evensong in the evening got to sit in the wedding chapel amid her profuse floral wedding display. We walked York’s centuries old Roman Walls which surrounded the medieval town center. Vikings also left a presence in this city in the 9th century, succeeding the Romans, calling the town Jorvik. We had lots of time to explore the city on our own, visiting the Shambles, the Railway Museum, and eating in local pubs or bakeries.

While in Yorkshire, we toured Whitby and Castle Howard. Whitby Abbey had spectacular views of the city and of the North Sea. We walked down the 199 ancient stone stairs through the medieval streets and went through the Jet Museum on our way to have a traditional lunch of fish and chips in this original whaling port. ‘Jet’ is a black stone made from fossilized monkey puzzle wood.

We toured through Castle Howard which houses remarkable antiques, paintings, and sculptures of the world. It was also the site of Goulding’s wedding reception and overnight accommodations to her wedding party. Some members of the tour were excited to see Katie Perry and Orlando Bloom on the Castle grounds!

We traveled through the Lake District of England, the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks, to the towns of Settle and Hawkshead. I toured the Hawkshead School which William Wordsworth attended. We then spent an afternoon at the Beatrix Potter historic site near Sawrey, where we learned about Beatrix Potter’s life in Victorian England and her conservation efforts of the ancient Herdwick sheep (which we saw on the steep slopes and pastures nearby).

In Grasmere, we took a walking tour, passing through the graveyard where William Wordsworth and family were laid to rest. Some of the group stayed in Grasmere for the afternoon, shopping and hiking in the rain, while others took a boat ride in Bowness-on-Windermere. We enjoyed a delicious lamb dinner with sticky toffee pudding at our hotel and a humorous dinner presentation from Robert, a dry stone waller, about the art and science of building quality dry stone walls.



Tom Thompson stops to chat with Teddy.

(continued on Page 16)

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We stopped at Hadrian's (Roman) Wall and the Lanercost Priory; ate a Sunday dinner that included curried parsnips and Yorkshire Pudding in Moffat; and rode through Gretna Green and the site of the Lockerbie disaster. We stayed three nights in Edinburgh, Scotland during the last leg of our two week journey. While there, we took tours of the city and Edinburgh Castle. Many visited the National Museum of Scotland, the National



Herdwick sheep in the Lake District.

Portrait Gallery, and other sites, or spent some time watching stunt scenes being filmed for "The Fast and the Furious 9" on the street in front of our hotel!

Some in our group took an optional tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia, a luxury ship commissioned by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954. We enjoyed a farewell dinner complete with a military bagpiper Alistair who appeared in a kilt and a large black feather headdress and performed native Scottish tunes before our dinner which included traditional Scottish broth soup, haggis, neeps, and tatties, and traditional Scottish shortbread. A red-haired Jim Thinnes helped Alistair present the haggis during the Robert Burns' address!

While travelling through England, Wales, and Scotland, we engaged in many informative discussions with our Program Director about the human occupation of Great Britain; the history of religions through the centuries; the Monarchy and



Jim Thinnes proudly presents the haggis.

the Royal Family; the politics of Great Britain, their Parliaments, and Prime Ministers: the status of Brexit and the passionate arguments on both sides; (We even got to see a very civilized demonstration in the streets of York one day as well as watch the votes against Boris each night on the BBC!); the National Health Service; Great Britain's response to climate change (which includes an offshore wind farm and goals for the reduction of coal in power generation); and so much more! It was truly a wonderful experience for our wayfaring group!



"The Rows" in Chester's town center.



NAFSR Report

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative

As reported earlier, NAFSR had what was perhaps the most active year we have ever experienced. Much work was done to respond to opportunities to positively influence the ability of the agency to better meet the challenges it faces, including workforce capacity, environmental assessment and decision making, budget, and other organization issues. We released a comprehensive report entitled “Revitalizing the Culture and Streamlining Processes” which we continue to hope will provide impetus for change that might increase the capacity of the agency to meet today’s challenges. We continue to provide our support for the Forest Service Civilian Conservation Center within the Job Corps Program nationally. We completed nearly every item in our program of work for 2019.

At our recent Board meeting we committed to continue do all we can to continue to address workforce capacity issues. We will also be looking at what we can do to help the agency take on the huge reforestation issue that has developed as millions of acres of forest lands have been burned in wildfires over the last decade or so. The seriousness of this issue is the result of many combined factors and will not be solved easily, but we believe it is paramount that this reforestation issue be recognized and actions taken to reverse the trends. Again, for review of all of our position statements, reports, and letters you can visit our website at www.nafsr.org. Our Board is dedicated to helping the agency and to represent the collective views of all Forest Service retirees as best we can. We invite you to become a member if you are not already.



National Association of Forest Service Retirees Board, February 2020.

National Museum of Forest Service History

by Tom L. Thompson



The beginning of 2020 finds the Museum at a pivotal time. We have had several significant donations and are hopeful that this year will mark a real turning point in our efforts to move toward completion of our “conservation legacy center”. During our once a year in person board meeting the first week of February we reaffirmed our commitment to three basic strategies: 1/ Continuing to make significant progress toward completing our capital campaign, 2/ strengthening our operations activities and actions, and 3/ building wider awareness of who we are and what we are doing with retirees and current employees.

Our membership continues to grow as more and more people recognize who we are and how important what we do is in protecting and using the history of the Forest Service to tell the wonderful story of conservation in America. We have set our sights at climbing to at least a thousand members by the end of this year and invite you to seriously consider becoming a member if you are not already. We are offering a \$20.20 yearly membership through the year which is just six cents a day. Increasing membership numbers significantly strengthens our fundraising ability and truly makes a difference.

We have over fifty-five thousand items in our collection and nearly three quarters of them are digitally catalogued and available online. If you have historical items that you think might be of value in our collection let us know. We don't need dishes, uniforms from the last 50 years, or cross cut saws unless they have some real special connection. Lastly, our last newsletter featured an outstanding article on recovery efforts for the American chestnut authored by Bill Ciesla, one of our Rocky Mountaineers.

Again, even though we have asked many times, please consider becoming a member. We know you will be proud to be a member of your Museum. You can find more information about membership and other details on our website at www.forestservicemuseum.org.



National Museum of Forest Service History Board, February, 2020.

DroneSeed

Introducing a New Tool for Wildfire Reforestation

Professionals know that nursery suppliers lack capacity to reforest after large wildfires - especially repeat fires.

That's why DroneSeed invented a proprietary seed vessel that boosts survival rates. Now there is a go-to contingency plan to quickly restore thousands of acres of wildfire ravaged land starting in 30 days.

Company managers understand that forestry is complicated. Sometimes land managers need tree planters, sometimes they need helicopters.

Seeding by drones appears to be the sweet spot in between. Keep the speed, boost the survival of seed, and do it affordably and at scale.

DroneSeed load thousands of seed vessels at a time into our [FAA heavy-lift certified drone swarms](#), each aircraft planting 3/4 of an acre per flight, or 57 pounds.



Drone crews bring one of the drones up for a pre-flight check.



A drone swarm drops seeds on a steep mountainside.

The company is a team of silviculturists: nursery managers, foresters, ecologists, biologists, and engineers. They love the data, theory, and the hands on work necessary to grow forests.

They understand land owner objectives and work with three of the five largest timber companies in the world and The Nature Conservancy.

Their customers trust the experts on site to do the work independently, safely, in compliance, and on time.

DroneSeed uses swarms of drones in groups of up to five to cover large areas of land faster than could be covered by a single drone. And these drones are big - to give you an idea of how big, each one can carry up to 57 pounds of seeds. Each one of the drones used in their swarms can weigh up to 115 pounds. DroneSeed has permission to fly up to five of these heavy-lift drones at a time in a swarm.

To ensure that seeding efforts are precise and not scattershot, these swarms use software to deploy seed vessels to targeted areas, called microsites, where they'll grow best.

Check out a story that appeared on the Today Show in January.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe-784cGFzY>

Or check out the company website for more information.

<https://www.droneseed.com/videos>

Weekends with the Accomplished

The “Weekends with the Accomplished” sponsored by the [Center of the American West](#), at the University of Colorado in Boulder, provides an opportunity for participants to work with accomplished practitioners of applied history.

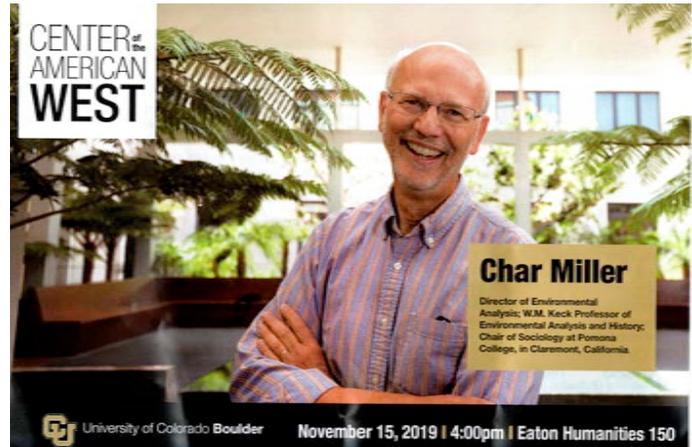
Applications for the program are open to area graduate students and recent Ph.D’s who want an opportunity to acquire new skills specific to their area and topics of study.

Young historians are invited, ranging from recent Ph.D’s to promising students in community colleges, to meet with a distinguished visitor - a university based historian who has made a difference in the world by bringing historical perspectives to bear on current conflicts, dilemmas and problems. The young historians have the remarkable opportunity to hear the stories of the accomplished historian, learning how he or she took up the enterprise of public engagement and figured out how to perform this strenuous activity with grace and persuasiveness.

The first visitor in the “Weekends with the Accomplished” series was Professor Char Miller of Pomona College in California. Many U.S. Forest Service employees over the past thirty years have had opportunities to observe and engage with Char, and a number of recently, and not so recently, retired folks were invited to assist through conversations with the students. Former Deputy Chief Tom Thompson, former Regional Forester Rick Cables, former Director of Recreation Jim Bedwell, Silviculturist Jim Thinnes, author of the book Megafire Michael Kodas and others ventured up to Boulder to interact with the students.

Professor Miller and the invited guests attended presentations by the students and asked probing questions about their field of study. Conversations centered around the role that Char played while working with and for the Forest Service and what some of the challenges were while working for a public agency that is often in the headlines daily.

An informal reception at Patty Limerick’s home with all involved was stimulating and all those attending remarked that they received much more than they gave.



Char Miller, Director of Environmental Analysis and History, Pomona College in Claremont, California was the first presenter in the “Weekends with the Accomplished” series.



L-R: Jim Thinnes, author Michael Kodas, Rick Cables, Tom Thompson, director of the Center of the American West Patty Limerick and Jim Bedwell.

High Flyin' Smokey Bear



Smokey flies low during high winds at the 2020 Macy's Day Parade.

Concepts of a Smokey Bear balloon have dated back as early as 1962. Goodyear rejected the idea, though the reasoning behind this is unknown. After being put on the back burner for over three years, he would finally take shape as a balloon in the Parade.

The Smokey Bear balloon first appeared in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 1966, making his debut alongside a new Superman balloon. The 58-foot tall balloon was sponsored by the General Electric Company which gave publicity to a network television animated special,



The most famous bear in the world waved to a large crowd in New York.

"The Ballad of Smokey Bear", which aired later that evening. The balloon became an instant Parade mainstay, as he made sixteen consecutive appearances before his brief retirement in 1981. Twelve years later, he would come out of hibernation to celebrate his 50th birthday in 1993. This version of Smokey was permanently retired that same year, and hasn't appeared in the Parade since.

The balloon later appeared at the 1995 edition of Macy's Balloon-A-Thon, marking this as the original Smokey balloon's last public appearance.

Smokey was carried by New Milford Fire Company #2 from 1966 to 1979. The Fire Company, from New Milford, NJ, returned as an escort to Smokey lead by the Fire Department Color Guard in 1980, Macy's employees carried the Bear in 1980-81 and 1993.

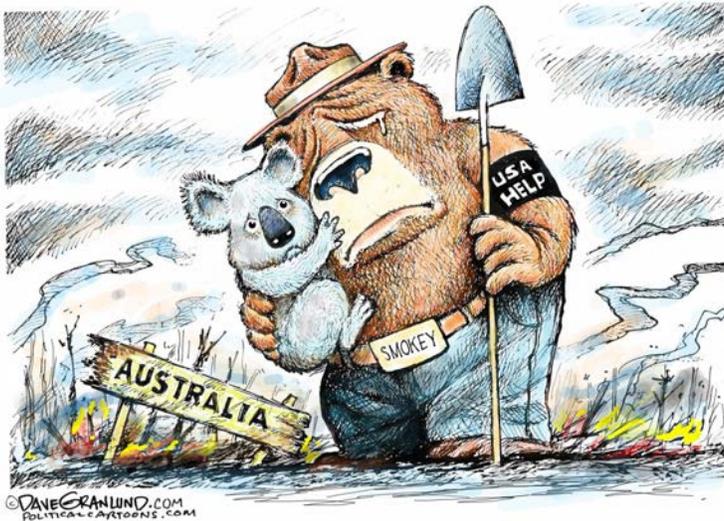
The original Smokey Bear balloon still exists in the float warehouse, and is one of the oldest surviving balloons, with only the brim of his hat missing.

After an absence that lasted over twenty-five years, Smokey made his grand return in the 2019 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, this time as a brand-new heritage balloon to celebrate his 75th birthday. This balloon is almost identical to the original Smokey

Bear balloon, but with a more modern design technique, and is smaller in size, measuring 51 feet tall, 16 feet long, 25 feet wide and requires 40 handlers to manage him. Additionally, with the return of the new Smokey Bear, twenty members of the New Milford Fire Department were members of Smokey's Balloon Crew, carrying him down to Herald Square.

Smokey Bear Down Under

- National Interagency Fire Center
News Release - January, 2020



As wildfires continue to burn in Australia, the United States is sending additional U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) wildfire personnel to assist with ongoing bushfire suppression efforts in Australia. Three 10-person Incident Management Teams and a group consisting of air support personnel have arrived in Australia in recent days. Additionally, two 20-person hand crews will be traveling to Australia today, January 22.

These crews are a combination of DOI and USFS firefighters from throughout the United States. The U.S. has already deployed more than 200 USFS and DOI wildland fire staff to the Australian Bushfire response.

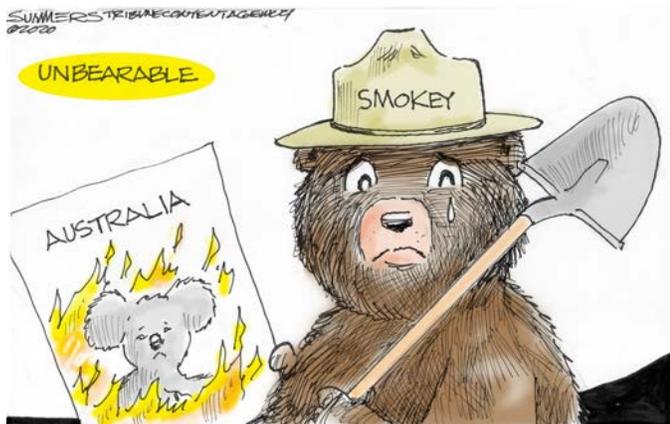
Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) CEO. “We are grateful for the arrival of the U.S. fire task force personnel this week. We’re halfway through the summer and there are still challenges ahead for us this season.”

U.S. Forest Service Fire Director Shawna Legarza recently returned from Australia in support of the bushfire response. “The large, landscape-scale devastation is unprecedented in terms of its impact on Australian economy, its people and their communities, and the effect to numerous ecosystems and habitats. It was humbling to observe the Australians’ resilience, the response in Australia, and level of support from our agency.



We will continue to learn from each other in this complex fire environment.”

The U.S., Australia and New Zealand have been exchanging fire assistance for more than 15 years. The most recent exchange occurred in August of 2018, when 138 Australian and New Zealand wildfire management personnel were sent to the U.S. for almost 30 days to assist with wildfire suppression efforts in Northern California and the Northwest.



Acting Regional Forester

Jennifer Eberlien Appointed to Serve as Acting Regional Forester



Jennifer Eberlein, Acting Regional Forester for R-2.

DENVER, Colo., Oct. 29, 2019 – USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen announced the temporary appointment of Jennifer Eberlien as the acting regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, effective October 29. As acting regional forester, Eberlien will lead over 2,000 dedicated employees and share stewardship of 22 million acres of national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming with partners and forty-eight affiliated tribes.

For over 20 years, Eberlien has worked for the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in a variety of positions across the country. Her formal education is in anthropology and archeology. She began her federal career as an archeological technician with the USDA Forest Service in Wisconsin. She has served in various roles, including heritage program manager, national recreation fee coordinator, forest supervisor and deputy regional forester.

Eberlien will serve as acting regional forester while regional forester Brian Ferebee is assigned to a project at the USDA Forest Service Headquarters in Washington D.C.

Portrait of a Smokejumper



The U.S. Forest Service has about 320 smokejumpers that work from seven bases located in [Grangeville](#), Idaho; [Redding](#), California; [West Yellowstone](#) and [Missoula](#), Montana; [Winthrop](#), Washington; and [Redmond](#), Oregon. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also has smokejumpers at two bases, one in Boise, Idaho and the other in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Smokejumpers travel all over the country, including Alaska, to provide highly-trained, experienced firefighters and leadership for quick initial attack on wildland fires in remote areas. Fire fighting tools, food and water are dropped by parachute to the firefighters after they land near

the fire making them self-sufficient for the first 48 hours. Most smokejumpers work from late spring through early fall.

Check out a behind-the-scenes look at what Smokejumpers encounter from the locker room to a live fire, thanks to the Forest Service woodland firefighting team in Redding, California.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6QfMdkCkzE&feature=push-sd&attr_tag=aG2V7RaieOcSiFwT%3A6

Restoring Southwest Colorado

by K. "Reid" Armstrong
Communications Project Manager

In May 2019, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the U.S. Forest Service brought together leaders and CEOs from a dozen conservation organizations across the state to gauge interest in doing something bigger to restore Colorado's treasures from wildfire.



From left is Zach Knight, Co-Founder and Managing Partner Blue Forest Conservation; Tim Mauck, Deputy Director Colorado Department of Natural Resources; Ross Melinbuk, Vice President of Conservation, National Wild Turkey Federation; US Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen; Mike Lester, State Forester, Colorado State Forest Service; Marcus Selig, Vice President, National Forest Foundation.

The group evolved into the *Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative (RMRI)* and more than 30 organizations have since joined the effort. On Dec. 9, 2019, the RMRI unanimously selected Southwest Colorado as the first place where it wants to focus its collective efforts. The project area encompasses nearly 750,000 acres, stretching 120 miles along Colo. Highway 160, including the towns of Cortez, Dolores, Mancos, Durango and the San Juan National Forest.

Southwest Colorado comprises rural communities linked by transportation corridors, power lines and water.

The project area is situated within a forested landscape with a large ponderosa pine component. Fire suppression has led to dense, overstocked forests.

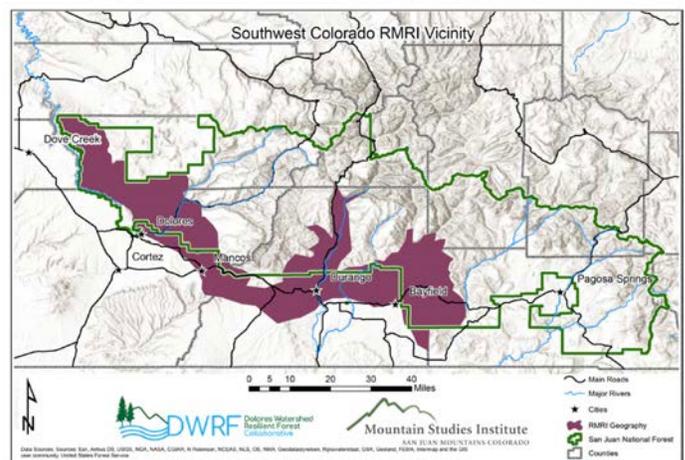
Recent fires, like the 416 fire, have had significant impacts on the communities and Animas River, including fisheries and recreational opportunities critical to the rural recreation and tourism economies.

The forest products industry has increased substantially in the area, providing a viable economic driver for forest restoration, which has been absent for over 20 years.

Critical water resources in the project area support fish and wildlife habitat and the water supply for six Colorado communities, three tribes in two states and numerous downstream communities in the Colorado River Watershed.

Local partners already include:

- Columbine Resilient Forest Partnership
- Dolores Watershed Resilient Forest Collaborative
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Dolores Water Conservancy District
- Mountain Studies Institute
- San Juan National Forest
- Wildfire Adapted Partnership



We are looking forward to working with the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative to expand our partnerships locally and statewide.

2020 Rocky Mountaineers Scholarship

The Rocky Mountaineers have established a permanent memorial college scholarship fund to assist deserving high school students who are directly related to current Rocky Mountaineer members or are endorsed by a Rocky Mountaineer member.

One objective of the scholarship fund is to provide a donation opportunity for members and families, friends and associates of Rocky Mountaineers who wish to honor and pay tribute to a loved one.

The inspiration of the Memorial Scholarship was to honor Clint Kyhl who passed in February of 2015. One of Clint's core values, as a steward of public land, was to provide for quality and diverse education experiences for families.

We presented our first scholarship of \$1,500 in 2015 and awarded two additional scholarships in 2016 through 2019 respectively.

NEW FOR 2020 – We are pleased to be able to award FOUR \$1,500 scholarships, with two earmarked for natural resource majors.

The Rocky Mountaineers are dedicated to supporting the many avenues of natural resource careers and to the development of promising young people who are related or connected to the Rocky Mountaineers. Donors play a significant role in achieving this goal. Please consider supporting this program.

Application deadline is **March 31st** - go our website for all the details.

<https://www.rockymountaineers.us/>

News From the Mother Ship

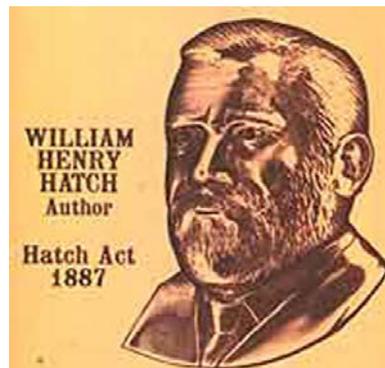
The Latest - and Greatest - Videos from USDA



Grain Bin Safety Week is February 16-22

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue talks with South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem about the importance of safety when working with grain bins on farms and agribusinesses. Governor Noem shares a personal story of loss due to a grain bin accident on her family's farm.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybz9kej1F4U>



The Hatch Act Illustrated and Explained

All Federal employees must avoid violations of the Hatch Act (the law imposing limitations on the political activities of Federal employees). Diligently observing the Hatch Act and

Federal Ethics rules help to maintain the public's trust in government. This short video provides a quick overview of the Hatch Act as well as practical advice about social media usage that employees can use right away to avoid violations of the Hatch Act.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCYVTYDmv0g>

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Jim Ficke
Retired in 1990
32 years of service
2 years military

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Jim Ficke: I was born in Oak Park, Illinois and lived there as an infant. My dad was an electrical engineer and jobs were tough to find. We moved to a suburb of Joliet, Illinois in 1933 where he worked for the utility company.

TR: Tell us about your family.

JF: I have two sisters. I was the oldest. My mother was a stay-at-home mom. I met my wife, Barbara in college and we have been married for over 60 years. We have 3 great children. The oldest, Jim, went to grade school in Leadville, Colorado and high school at Centaurus in Lafayette, Colorado where he graduated as head boy, then went on to West Point Military Academy. After retiring as a Colonel, he took a job as Director of Orthopedics at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore. His wife is also a doctor. He has a daughter and two sons. His older son, Ben, also went to West Point and is also a doctor. Our second son, Tim, went to forestry school for a couple of years, then joined the Coast Guard. When he got out he started work for the Steamboat Springs Ski Area. He has worked there for 24 years. Tim has one son and is married to a fish biologist. Our daughter, Susie is married and has two

kids. Camden is on the U.S. Junior Ski Jumping team. He is waiting to hear if he gets an appointment to West Point. He spends most of the winter and part of the summer training and competing in Europe with the team. Their daughter competes in biathlon. Both are excellent students in high school at Steamboat Springs. My wife Barbara has been a teacher in most of the places we lived. She was on the school board in Steamboat for 16 years. She worked as a travel agent for a while, then went to work for Continental Airlines. She retired from that and now we fly free on United Airlines.

TR: Where did you go to school?

JF: I went to grade school in a one room schoolhouse for all eight grades with one teacher and an assistant in rural Illinois. In the fall we were allowed to bring a shotgun to school so we could hunt pheasants on our way home. Time changes a lot of things! I went to a neighboring town for high school (Lockport Township High School). I went to Iowa State College to study forestry. My favorite subject in college was plant taxonomy.

TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service and what were some of your first duties?

JF: My grandfather had a forest and farm north of Brainerd, Minnesota. My family always spent a week there in the summer. We camped in his back yard. His house was small but warm in the winter. We fished, cut pulp wood and thinned some jack pine stands. It was heaven for a young kid.



Jim Ficke with a six by six bull elk in 1985.

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For two summers I worked in northern Wisconsin at a fishing lodge. I hauled ice to the cabins. The ice was cut in the winter and stored in sawdust in a barn-like shed. I cleaned boats, cleaned fish, hauled wood, started the generator for the camp just before dark. Our visits to Minnesota and two summers in Wisconsin caused me to have some understanding of the forest, of nature and a love of the outdoors. After my first year in college, my grades were so poor that I joined the Army and went to Korea during the war. After returning to Iowa State, I held several seasonal jobs. The first was for the Forest Engineer's office on the Medicine Bow, the second was on a timber sale preparation crew on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The third was on the forest inventory team on the Siskiyou National Forest.

TR: And then your career began?

JF: My first professional job was out of the R-2 Regional Office on the forest inventory project. Clarence Averil and Nels Watson were our bosses. They stayed in Denver and the rest of the team was out in the field measuring plots and delineating forest types. This job gave me a chance to meet some guys



Jim points out a healthy aspen stand.

who eventually became good District Rangers, notably the most memorable were Bill Ripley, Ted Lemay and Neal Edstrom. The results of our project were township maps with ownership and forest cover for all National Forest lands. I was the low man on the project and spent most of my time in the office.

TR: Tell us about your early jobs.

JF: From the RO, a great supervisor, Jim Wenban, brought us to the Roosevelt Supervisor's Office. While there, I worked on timber crews and the inventory of potential recreation sites. This was the data used in the region for development of some ski areas. I spent time with Wayne Parsons, the forest

landscape architect planning camp and picnic grounds. My next stop was in Estes Park as assistant ranger under an early day ranger, Evert (Eric) Erickson. Barbara and I felt good having a Forest Service house to live in. Eric was not a professional, but he was understandably the most practical and best woodsman I had the pleasure to work for. The Forest Service managed the Twin Sisters Lookout in those days. Later Rocky Mountain National Park took it over. Next we went to Bailey in the Pike National Forest. We had about a week to get moved in the middle of the winter. The district had a big sale in Lost Park and the cutters were almost out of trees to cut. In those days we recognized that you could not manage the forest without timber cutters. This was an isolated camp and mill that operated year-round. My District Ranger was John Burke. He was very professional about everything on the district and held everyone to very high standards.

TR: Then it was off to Leadville?

JF: From Bailey I was promoted to District Ranger in Leadville. When I arrived, Forest Supervisor, Tony Skufka gave me strong directions, "I want you to know your district better than I do by this time next year." Based on what I learned from Rangers Eric and John, the district organization was a mess. I was faced with firing a 42 year old forester, eight years older than me. I was considered a "young punk" ranger and felt like I wasn't getting much support from the rest of my staff or some supervisor office staff. Concurrently we were engaged in some huge land impact projects. Two trans-continental divide water diversion tunnels and associated roads, tunnel debris dumps, canals, power transmission lines, development of two large lake recreation areas, and a land acquisition by the Bureau of Reclamation. This was all very exciting, but we also had to deal with community opposition. We had another internal project called the Barometer Watershed. It was run by David Falletti, a great hydrologist. During my nine years in Leadville, I worked for four supervisors – Tony Skufka, Bob Cermack, Ken Quinkert, and Bob Ridings. They all had different management styles and where they put their emphasis on the forest. I loved the Leadville District and was able to turn down one transfer.

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TR: What came next?

JF: I could not have accomplished much if I had not had a great staff behind me. They were Tom Lonberger, Steve Deitemeyer, Emmett Foster,



Jim on one of his favorite horses Shadowfax.

Bernadette Zancanella, Stewart Parks, Chuck Waggoner, Helen Epperson, Ed Bailey and great support from the Supervisors

office. One of the most memorable bits of advice I received from Deputy Basil Crane while on a pack trip in what is now the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness was “to be a successful line officer in the Forest Service, you must attempt to: 1. keep your boss satisfied, 2. keep your employees satisfied, and 3. keep the public satisfied. This advice should be passed on to young foresters who want to be rangers or supervisors.

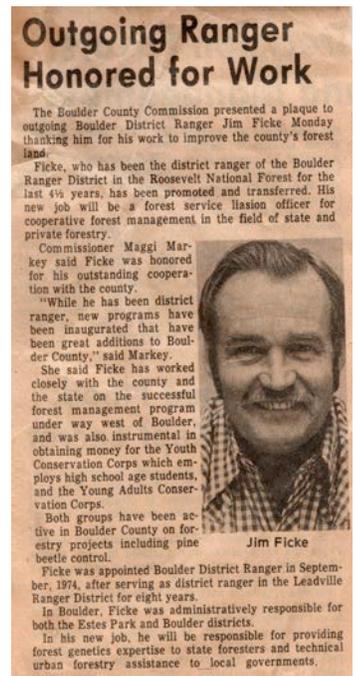
We then moved to the Boulder Ranger District. We finally bought our own house where we could keep horses. The shock there was the huge number of in-holdings, grants, unpatented mining claims, homesteads patents, timber and stone patents, Boulder watershed grants, reservoirs, railroads and other public roads. In addition to the legitimate in-holdings, there were numerous second homes and other types of occupancies on weak or fraudulent mining claims. Many of them blocked access to the National Forest. There was considerable outfitter/guide use. None had permits. We corrected that. My assistant ranger and I decided that if we wanted to make a positive impact on the district we would clean up the trespasses. While there we eliminated over twenty unauthorized occupancies and returned these areas to the public use.

TR: And then where did your career continue?

JF: At this time there was a Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic taking most large ponderosa pine. We set up a demonstration to show what could be accomplished with intensive management (cutting). The deputy Regional Forester, Sid Hanks, a Boulder County Commissioner, the local Colorado District Forester, Ron Gosnell and I went to Washington, DC to make a presentation (plea for funds) to the Chief and our U.S. Representative, Tim Wirth. We were successful and implemented the project west of Boulder on a piece of NF land with good growing potential. As it neared completion Regional Forester Craig Rupp got interested and had many important WO officials come to see the “Front Range Management Project.” It was gratifying to have the project turn out so well and recognized. In 1975 I was named “Ranger of the Year” by the Colorado State Forest Service. After four years I was promoted and moved to Denver to the RO in State and Private Forestry. I worked with state foresters on tree improvement and urban forestry. The job was interesting and gratifying, but I missed being on a forest.

In 1982 I was transferred to the Routt as principal staff for grazing, recreation and wilderness, lands and fire. I retired in 1990. I was elected to the council of the Society of American Foresters about that time.

Following retirement I worked as a consulting forester and occasionally as an expert witness on legal and land issues. I became a real estate agent and sold a few properties. I worked for the Steamboat Ski Area for 23 years in the winter. I am now fully retired and not looking for a job.



Boulder Camera - 1978.

(continued on Page 29)

(continued from Page 28)

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

JF: The best times were when I was working hard to teach my employees to love the forest and follow the advice Basil Crane gave me. I loved convincing the public about multiple use of lands. The worse part was leaving before everything I wanted to accomplish was done. The worst days were right after the Big Thompson River flooded my district on August 1, 1976. One hundred forty three lives were lost, and one hundred fifty nine seriously injured. It was worse than anything I witnessed in the Korean War. The Forest Service detailed several good people in to help us sort things out and rescue those we could. This whole thing was so horrible that I try to forget it. One of my last official "jobs" was to take the Capitol



Chief Dale Robertson, Susie Ficke and Jim in Washington D.C.

Christmas Tree to Washington, D.C. It was an honor. I took my daughter along and while there we delivered Christmas trees to the Colorado Senators and our US Representative from Boulder.

TR: What was the most rewarding part of your job?

JF: Cooper Hill was developed by the Army for the 10th Mountain Division in WWII. It was transferred to the Holy Cross and Leadville Ranger Districts in the late 1960s. The ski area was operated by Lake County under a Granger-Thye permit. The main lift was falling apart. The moms of the Leadville Ski Club cooked hotdogs and chili on wood Army stoves in the barracks. Management of the area

was directed by a board appointed by the county. Much improvement was needed or the area would be closed. Bob Cermak and I gave the entire improvements (not land) to the county. They issued bonds in Leadville and also got a grant from Climax Mining Company and replaced the old T-Bar with a nice Hall Chair Lift. This was a very gratifying experience. It is now Ski Cooper and is doing well. My entire 32 years as a professional was spent in Colorado

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

JF: In the 60s when we went to professional meetings we usually wore a coat and tie. I was asked to bring Ray Paddock, a sheep permittee, to a meeting in Denver. Ray was usually dirty and smelled like sheep. I was to pick him up and drive to the meeting. I decided to dress like I expected to see him. To my surprise he had shaved and bathed and had nice clothes on. I was somewhat poorly dressed and a bit embarrassed at the conference.

Another serious but humorous event. Boulder District opened Sugar Loaf Mountain to Christmas Tree sales every year. We made the roads in and through the sale "one way". We sold tree tags when people entered the area. One year people started showing up with strips of red flagging. We were told they had already paid about a mile down the road. By the time we found out what was going on and went down to investigate, the culprits were gone.

TR: You're a member of the Rocky Mountaineers. Why did you join?

JF: I joined the Rocky Mountaineers because I am most comfortable with Forest Service employees and retirees. It would be nice to have current Forest Service employees pick up on the esprit de corps we enjoyed and what appears to be lacking these days.

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

JF: They need to put more emphasis on good forest management and less on political correctness.

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

(continued on Page 30)

(continued from Page 29)

TR: What do you fill your free time with?

JF: I have 24/7 free time. The following are some of the things I do.

- Practice forestry on 106 acres I worked for as a consultant and am now a part owner.
- Maintain my bee hives and garden.
- Do many kinds of wood working – scroll sawing the best.
- Fish and hunt.
- Follow my grandchildren with their ski jumping and biathlon. Last year we went to Finland in January to watch the Nordic Junior World Championship Competition.
- Tinker with a stamp collection I have had for over 60 years. I have a complete duck stamp collection with my dad’s signature on the early stamps.

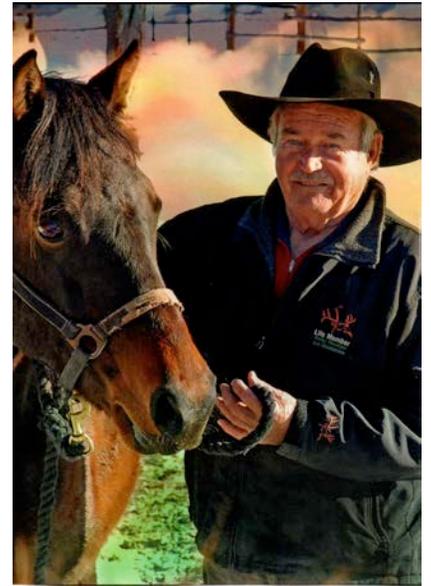


Retired Jim Ficke on his own forest near Gore Pass.

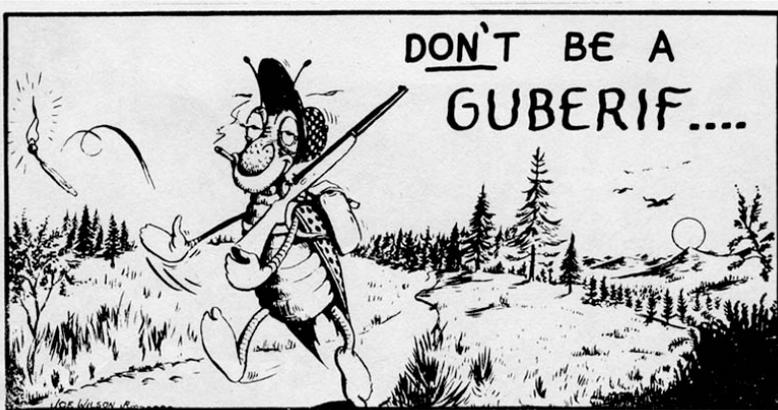
- Participate in the land management of some property in Alamosa County.

TR: Any final words of wisdom?

JF: Get out and know the forest land that you are managing. Know it better than your contractor and permittees.



Jim’s favorite Morgan.



"HELP PREVENT FOREST AND RANGE FIRES!"

KEEP IDAHO GREEN

A Guberif - “firebug” backwards—was a kind of grotesque insect created by the Keep Idaho Green campaign in the mid-’40s. The character, meant to differentiate Idaho’s fire prevention campaign from those of other states, was said to start forest fires due to reckless behavior. The creature was more popular during its time than you might expect, considering it was a giant bug. In 1951, the Guberif was featured on over 100,000 postcards and 300 road signs in Idaho, some of which can still be seen today, and live Guberifs even showed up at some events.

Remembrances



Hank Bond

Henry Emerson Bond, 89, of Cody died in the Powell Valley Care Center in Powell on July 1, 2019. He was born on July 5, 1929, on West Divide Creek, Rifle, Colo. Henry's parents were Henry Stanton Bond and Lula Augusta Robertson. Known as Hank to friends and Bud or Buddy to

family, Henry lived his early life in Colorado until 1945, when he began an apprentice machinist program at the U.S. Naval Shipyards in San Francisco, Calif. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Air Corps in 1946, and spent most of his military career as an instrument flying instructor – John Glenn, first man to circle the moon and U.S. Senator, was his most famous student.

He met future wife Mary S. Farhat on a blind date in April of 1949 and was discharged from the Marines in September of the same year. The couple married in Glenwood Springs, Colo., on May 26, 1950. In December of 1950 the Marines called Henry back

into active duty until April of 1952. The following year he entered Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., where he eventually earned a MS in Range Management in 1959. He began working for the U.S. Forest Service immediately and spent his career in Wyoming, on the Medicine Bow, and Big Horn NF near Douglas, Sheridan and Greybull; then also on the Nebraska, San Juan, Rio Grande and Carson National Forests, retiring in 1983 after 31 years of federal service.

He and Mary then moved to their small ranch near Shell before building his final home near Cody in 1994, until his recent move to Powell. Henry, having loved horses since childhood, raised registered Fox Trotter horses 1968-87. He and three other Forest Service friends brought the first of this breed into Wyoming and the Big Horn Basin.

He is survived by his wife Mary of Powell, and four of his children Dr. Garry Bond of Redding, Calif.; Laura Bond Evans of Cody; Karen Bond of Cody and Mary Lou Hall of Lena Ill. There are also six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one sister Shirley Bond Jones of Grand Junction, Colorado.



Jack Cameron

Jack Cameron passed away on August 17, 2019 in Greeley, CO. He was born on April 6, 1935 in Greeley, CO to Morey and Eunice Cameron. Jack

worked on the Medicine Bow, Roosevelt, Bighorn, and Black Hills NF's.

He is survived by his daughters Jessica Gonzales and Gaye Cameron and son Jeremy Cameron.

Violet Fitzpatrick

Violet Louise Fitzpatrick was born on November 13, 1927 and passed away on August 7, 2019. She retired off the Bighorn National Forest. She is survived by husband Charles Fitzpatrick in Sheridan

and two sons, William and CT and two daughters, Ethel and Colleen.

(continued on Page 32)

Remembrances

(continued from Page 31)



Chuck Dwyer

Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer, 98, of Lakewood, CO, passed away January 9, 2020. Chuck was born in Denver, CO May 17, 1921. He attended Wheat Ridge High School and the University of Colorado at Boulder where he earned a

degree in Civil Engineering. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve in December, 1942, achieved the rank of Lieutenant, and served in the Amphibious Forces in both the European and Pacific Theaters in World War II. He was honorably discharged from the Navy to inactive duty in 1946.

Chuck married Lois Sturgeon on June 19, 1948, and settled in Lakewood, CO. He was a Registered Professional Engineer and passenger ropeway specialist from 1946 to 1987, working in the ski industry and then for the U.S. Forest Service, focusing primarily on ski lifts and gondolas but other passenger ropeways were also under his watch.

He served as technical advisor to The Colorado Passenger Tramway Safety Board, and was a member of the American National Standards ANSI B77.1 Committee which prepared safety requirements for passenger ropeways. He founded several organizations in the ropeway industry including OITAF-NACS, the North American Continental Sections of the International Organization for Transport by Rope.

Chuck was a devoted family man. He had many lifetime hobbies including skiing, hiking, bicycling, square dancing and motorcycling, which he took up after his retirement in 1987! He was also a founder and the first president of the Model A Club of Colorado.

He is survived by his daughters Valerie Marris (Barry), Janet Cherne (Kent) and Julie Morris (Joe), grandson Justin Marris (Jacqueline), 3 great-granddaughters, Avery, Quincy and Camber, and granddaughter Breanne Ness (Ryan).



Lois Statler Hooks Phillips

Lois Statler Hooks Phillips, 86, of Arvada, Colorado passed away on December 27, 2019. She was born January 5, 1933 in Brighton, Iowa to her parents

George and Vera Statler. Louis worked for a number of years in the Regional Office in personnel management. She was interred at the Fort Logan National Cemetery next to her late husband Dewayne Hooks.

(continued on Page 33)

(continued from Page 32)

Remembrances



Denny Lynch

Dr. Dennis L. (Denny) Lynch died on November 17, 2019 in Fort Collins. He was born on July 26, 1937 in Coffeyville, Kansas to Ben and Margurite Lynch.

He grew up in Oregon and then to Colorado State University. He graduated with a BS in 1958 and was commissioned in the US Army. In 1959 he married Joyce Sheeley of Salida, CO. After the Army he became a forester on the Mt Hood NF. In 1962 Denny moved to the Roosevelt NF and while working he completed his MS in Business. He was then transferred as District Ranger to the Pikes Peak District. Following this he was assigned to the Colorado State Forest and completed a PhD. in 1974 he became a Professor of Forest Sciences at CSU and loved teaching, advising, and mentoring students. During this time he and Joyce founded the Christian Foresters Fellowship on the CSU campus which met weekly of 24 years and has affiliated groups across the

nation and world. Denny's times with students in the Fall semester forestry classes at Pingree Park and with the CFF meetings on campus and in his home are some of his fondest memories. He retired in 1998.

He was elected SAF Fellow and Golden Member and received the SAF Carl Schenck Award of Excellence in Teaching Forestry. He also received the Erick Nelson Award from Christian Leadership Ministries and other awards for teaching and service to students. He was a life member of the NRA, the American Legion, and the Council on Forest Engineering. Later Denny became a Gideon who loved to share the gospel.

Survivors include his best friend and wife, Joyce; children, Greg and his wife, Beth, and Kristy and her husband, Phil; grandchildren, David, Jonathan, Nathan, Matthew and Celeste, Shane and his wife, Kayston, Shannon; great-grandchildren, Daniella, Moriah & Benjamin, Payton, Clayton; a brother, Pat and his wife, Patty, and a sister, Lynda and her husband, Paul.



Ken Marler

Kenneth "Ken" Efton Marler of Colorado Springs, passed away on January 9, 2020. Ken was born to Ted & Ruth Marler on February 11, 1945 in Lawrence, Kansas. He spent most of his childhood in Kansas and Oklahoma. He met his wife, Gwen while working summers in the Big

Horn Mountains. They married in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1967.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Gwen, in 2009. He is survived by his twin daughters Angela Kammerer and Heather Engle, son in law Gene Engle, grandson Jake Engle, sister Carol Ann Young, brother in law LaDale Young, (5) nieces and nephews and many dear family friends.

Ken graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1966, with a degree in Agriculture. He served in the US Army from 1967-1970, where he was stationed in Germany. He began his career as a Forester with the US Forest Service in 1970. Ken worked on the Medicine Bow/Routt at Encampment, WY; the Rio Grande at Creede, CO and the S.O.; and Colorado Springs and the S.O. on the PSICC. In 2002, he retired after 32 years of service.

In his retirement he and Gwen bought and sold antiques. They enjoyed traveling the county looking for auctions, sales and flea markets. They ran a successful antique business for 10 years. Ken enjoyed camping, fishing and being outdoors. He will be remembered for his kind nature, love for family and friends and his wonderful sense of humor!

(continued on Page 34)

(continued from Page 33)

Remembrances



Stanley Mason

Stanley Demond Mason passed away on September 6, 2019. He was born on June 28, 1978 in Bolton, MS to Samuel Glen and Shirley Mason. Stanley was the older of two children to this union.

He was a man of integrity, funny, loving, opinionated, hard-working, and confident. Stanley grew up in Bolton, MS where his family instilled in him the importance of family, hard work, faith, and caring for others. Leadership was instilled in Stanley as early as a teenager.

Stanley graduated from Alcorn State University with

his Bachelor of Science degree in 2001. Agriculture was always a piece of Stanley's heart even as young as a child. To no surprise, Stanley chose this field for his career. Professionally, Stanley was a Regional Soil Scientist for the Forest Service. In May 2019, Stanley was reassigned as a Deputy District Ranger in Paris, Arkansas. Stanley resided there with his family.

Stanley leaves behind his wife, Mikesia Mason; his daughter, Kayla Jones; his sister, Shamekia L Mason; grandparents, Cleophas and Emma Mae Henderson step-mother, Dorothy Harmon; siblings: LaShunda (Brad) Robinson, Jillian Harmon, Mario Harmon, and Felton Harmon.



Don Mecklenburg

Donald Paul Mecklenburg, of Elkhart, Kansas, passed away Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the age of 84. Don was born June 3, 1935 near Hancock, Minnesota to the late Walter and Ella (Halverson) Mecklenburg and was their only child. Don farmed

alongside his father until he graduated with a degree in Forestry and Range Management from the University of Minnesota. In 1959, he went to work for the U.S. Forest Service at Bayfield, Colorado also serving 6 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. He then was promoted to Ranger in Cody, Wyoming in 1966.

Cimarron National Grasslands is where he retired in 1986. Those who knew Don, know how much he loved God, his bible, horses, as well as his family and friends.

He was united in marriage to Arlene (Wendt) on May 27, 1960. To this union, two children were born, Sandra Mecklenburg and husband Jim Bailey of British Columbia, Canada, and Tim Mecklenburg and wife Morey of Hugoton, Kansas. Don's grandchildren include Cade and Clay Mecklenburg, step-grandchildren Evan, Aimee, and Sophia Bailey and one great step-grandchild, Eleanor Bailey.



Myron Tjarks

Myron Tjarks was born on July 23, 1933 in Nebraska. He was one of 9 children. He went to the army for two years but did not serve abroad.

After leaving the service, he & his first wife moved to Boulder where he obtained his BS in accounting.

He first worked for GSA & soon moved over to the Forest Service Region 2 Regional Office. He worked in accounting until computers came on line. Then he switched over to the Regional computer shop and

worked in various positions there for the remainder of his career. He retired in December 1991. He married Mary Nelson in January 1996. They were married just under 24 years when he passed away May 16, 2019 at the age of 85. He loved to work & build with wood and spent almost every weekend at Jackson Lake, boating & water skiing.

He is survived by four of his siblings, his two sons, Mike & Scott, and their spouses, his wife Mary & stepson, Mark and his spouse. He is also survived by 5 granddaughters and 1 grandson.

The Last Word

Sid Hangs up the Rivet Gun

by Tom L. Thompson



Sid Hanks demonstrates the two-hand rivet technique on the plaque.

What holds our country together is sometimes just taken for granted. As you fly across the country in a Boeing 737 the airworthiness of the plane is to a large degree made possible by the strength and lightness of the rivets that hold the plane together. Rivets hold many things we use everyday together nice and tight. Similarly, if you have attended a Memorial Grove ceremony the first Saturday of May for the last thirty plus years you have seen rivets being placed into the brass plates with each year's honorees names engraved on them at the Memorial. Behind the "rivet gun" for all these years has been none other than retired Deputy Regional Forester Sid Hanks.

Sid retired thirty years ago in 1989 and has been perhaps one of the strongest supporters of the Memorial when you consider it is the rivets that he puts in place each year that holds things together in an orderly and lasting manner. After nearly thirty years in this role, Sid has decided to step aside and let

someone else take on the responsibility. He has drilled holes and placed rivets in the snow, the cold, and the rain. He has always been there and has always got the job done without any great fanfare or attention. His tools are simple: a drill with a good supply of 5/32 hardened bits, a box of rivets, and a rivet gun. His dress is casual with jeans, a comfortable shirt, and a "Sid" ball cap with a number of memorabilia pins strategically placed across the top.

For many years Sid and Lloyd Newland represented all the "retirees" in Region 2 on the Memorial Grove Committee. Sid has served many roles, but his role as official "riveter" has been a position of esteem that he has held the longest.



Sid Hanks drives another rivet at the Memorial Grove.

(continued on Page 36)

(continued from Page 35)



Sid Hanks in the Weminuche Wilderness - circa 1979. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Sid was born in Thedford, Nebraska in the early thirties and did his undergraduate work at Doane College in Crete, NE. After serving his country he got his Masters of Forestry at Duke University.

Sid started work in the Region on the Bessey Tree Nursery in Nebraska in the late fifties and then in 1962 took over responsibility for the Sopris Nursery on the White River. In 1968 he went to the Northeast Area in Darby, PA in Cooperative Forestry with responsibility for forestation. He then went to the Washington Office in Cooperative Forestry again focusing on forestation. In 1974 he came to Region 2 as Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private

Forestry and in 1977 shifted over to Deputy for Resources.

In 1982 Sid became the single Deputy Regional Forester and served in that role until 1989.

Sid is a thoughtful quiet leader. He doesn't want or need to be in limelight. He is dependable, direct, honest, dedicated, caring, and credible. He is respected by those he has worked with and has given much over the years as a leader. He has also proven to be a great "riveter". We will miss him as he steps aside from his role at Memorial Grove. Bill Nelson has served as his under-study for several years and Sid has passed on the "rivet gun."

As we thank Sid for his many years of dedication to the retirees of this Region, it reminds us to remember that it is whole lot of folks that serve all of us in different ways that makes the Rocky Mountaineers so special.



Sid Hanks shows the fine art of riveting to Bill Nelson who will take over the rivet gun in 2020.

