



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 8 - Number 2

The Planting: Remembering the Beginning of Memorial Grove

- 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.



For over a century now there has been commitment to remember and honor the people who have worked to care for the land and resources that have been entrusted to the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountains. Every special story has a beginning and too often we take for granted what others have done. This writing is intended to allow us to reflect on the beginnings of the Memorial Grove, the reason it was started, the idea, the planting itself, the planters, the honored, and the Grove itself.

Memorial Grove in a way symbolizes our respect for the Forest Service people who have "cared for the land and served the people" in our Rocky Mountain Region since the beginnings of the

outfit. The Forest Service was just barely fifteen years old, the first world war had just ended, a worldwide Spanish Flu pandemic had taken a huge toll, and the automobile was just beginning to reshape the country. What the 20's and the years ahead would bring was yet unknown, but there was a sense that those who had passed on and had been a part of this new conservation effort should not be forgotten, especially those who had given so much for their country.

The Reason

The War - When the United States entered the war in Europe in 1917 the Forest Service became heavily involved in a critically important effort to establish what would become the 10th and 20th Forestry Engineers regiments. Across the country many young men who worked for the Forest Service as rangers, in the woods as lumberman, and in the sawmills left their jobs and families and went off to the forests of France to serve their country and General Pershing.

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Because of skills these men brought to the Army these units became highly effective in meeting their principal mission of providing lumber and timber products needed by the Allied forces. By 1918 the combined regiment totaled over sixty thousand and included many of the rangers and top leaders in the Forest Service, even Chief Forester Graves and Assistant Forester Greeley who both became Majors in the Army and were there doing what they could to help.



Alan S. Peck

Many others like Alan S. Peck, who would become the District Forester here in the Rocky Mountain Region, were also key to the Engineers success. There were other Forest Service men who enlisted with Army units other than the Forestry Engineers. Just as with all Army units there were casualties in the 10th and 20th regiments and by the end of the War the

casualty list for these units was nearly four hundred, ninety-five of whom were lost with the sinking of the *Tuscania* on February 5, 1918.

In 1919 after the War had ended and men began to come back to their normal lives, there was a national movement within the Forest Service to plant a tree as a memorial honor on Arbor Day for all those who did not come home, so direction went out to all units to do just that. It is unknown how many of these plantings were done, but we do know that among those that were done, there was a planting of five trees at the Monument Nursery in June 1920 as living memorials for Horace Quivey, Thomas Keefe, Marcy Meaden, Ralph McTavish, and Cosmer Leveaux who all had died in the Army during the War.

The Flu

Looking at the first thirty honorees and the date of their deaths reveals several interesting historical

realities. It is apparent that the number of deaths in 1918 and the first part of 1919 were a much greater proportion of the total than any of the previous years. This was obviously due to the losses in the War, but also the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 took a significant toll across the country and the Forest Service was also significantly impacted. We know that at least one of the five soldiers who did not return, Marcy Meaden, died from the influenza (non-battle) at his duty station at Fort Dix in New Jersey on September 22, 1918, and was identified like so many others as a casualty of the War. We don't know for certain but suspect that at least some of the deaths in 1918 and 1919 were likely attributed to the flu.

In an October 1918 newspaper record from the *Laramie Boomerang*, it was reported that the first death in Wyoming was in Casper on October 10 and the first death in Laramie was of a Medicine Bow employee, E. T. Conwell on October 15. E. T. Conwell's name has never been added to the Memorial Grove list. News did not travel as fast back then as now and sometimes it did not travel far at all. It is highly likely that there were other unreported deaths during this period of the Spanish Flu and the list does not fully reflect the impact of the 1918 flu. We just don't know, but we suspect the losses from the pandemic may have given some added importance to recognize those who had died from the flu and other causes in addition to the war casualties.

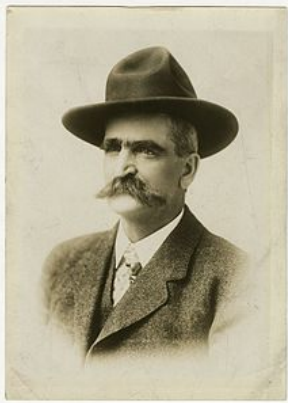
The Idea

By spring 1921 District Forester Alan Peck (Colonel) decided that the idea of a more inclusive permanent Memorial Grove should be established at the Monument Tree Nursery and it was to be a place to honor not just the five soldiers, but was also to be a place to honor all those who were known to have died while working for the Forest Service in District 2, or after retirement.

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What caused Colonel Peck to make this change to be more inclusive is obviously not known for sure, but again it may well have been because of the number of people who were lost because of the Spanish Flu in the two years just before. In addition to five deaths attributed to military casualties one of which was from the flu, there were six other deaths in those two years of which several were likely due to Spanish Flu.



Seth Bullock

It is possible the passing of the iconic Seth Bullock on September 23, 1919 might also have had an influence on this decision to think of remembering people who had such an important influence on the work of the Forest Service.

Bullock had not only been the first Forest Supervisor of the Black Hills, but he also had been a lawman, politician, investor, hotel owner, and a

lifelong friend of Teddy Roosevelt and Peck likely felt it important to remember him.

The idea was therefore to have an inclusive memorial grove and to start this in 1921. The first planting was to be thirty trees to honor thirty men who had worked in District 2 and had died from 1909 to 1919. The trees were to be planted on Memorial Day which had been recognized on May 30 each year since 1868 when the tradition was initiated. Nursery Assistant, Walter Schrader, selected a site for the planting on the west end of the first planting area that had been established in 1907. A search began for suitable trees to be transplanted for this Memorial planting. C. G. Bates, who oversaw the Fremont Experiment Station suggested that the trees could be taken from a gulch just a short distance from the Fremont Station that was located at the base of Pikes Peak near Manitou Springs.

From this suggested site, Walter Schrader, Pikes Peak Rangers (South) John Patterson and (North) Frank Poley, and C. G. Bates and his assistant Oliver Robertson dug 27 blue spruce and 3 Engelmann

spruce that were between a foot and half to three feet tall and prepared them for transport by wagon to the Mt. Manitou Incline Railroad and then on down to Manitou Springs where they were loaded in a truck and taken to the Nursery and stored until the day of the planting. Everything was ready for the planting. The first planting at Memorial Grove ended up being done on Sunday, May 29, 1921 the day before Memorial Day since Monday was to be a regular workday and it was felt the planting should not be done on official time.

The Planting

Sunday, May 29 turned out to be a particularly good day for planting. The high temperature for the day was about 77 degrees and early in the morning it got down to just 48 degrees. The spring had been an unusually wet one and the nursery area had about two feet of snow just a month earlier; however, on this day there were no storms, and the skies were clear. The records indicate that the precipitation at Monument for 1921 was 26.66 inches which was 8 inches more than was normally expected. It was indeed a good year to plant trees.

Those who were there for the Sunday planting and ceremony consisted of a small number of Forest Service officers and their families who wanted to be a part of this special recognition. Three of these were from the District Office in Denver and likely five or perhaps more were stationed on the Pike National Forest. From Denver, of course, was Colonel Alan S. Peck who had just turned 41 and his wife Jessie (36) and their three children, Allen (10), Alice (8) and Kate (6) who lived just four blocks east of the Colorado Museum of Natural History and Denver Zoo at 2815 Clermont; also from Denver was H. N. Wheeler who served as the Chief of Public Relations and Fred Johnson (age 32), who was a Forest Examiner, and his wife Rosalie. It is likely that all of these came down to Monument together, but it probably was a two and half hour trip one way from Denver.

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From the Pike National Forest were Forest Supervisor Ress Phillips (44) and his wife Essie (37) and their two small daughters, Jean (4) and Joyce (2); Ranger Homer Smelser (43) and his wife Minnie (40) and their three children, Homer F. (17), Charles (14), and Lily (11); and without question Walter Schrader (37) and his wife Elizabeth (30) and their three children Walter (8), Frank (6), and Elizabeth (4); Ranger John Patterson, Ranger Frank Poley (who was Schrader's brother-in-law), and probably a several others who worked at the Nursery. There were probably at least fifteen adults all in their thirties except for Peck and Phillips who were the seniors in their early forties. The eleven children who were there were aged 2-17 and most certainly enjoyed the outing but didn't do a lot of planting.

The small trees were planted in five diagonal rows with twelve foot spacing and a tree was planted for each person who was to be honored at the Memorial. Walter Schrader made certain that the planting was done with care and a good record kept of the

locations of each planted tree. The photo to the right shows the planters working at planting the four trees in the second



Planting trees on May 29, 1921

diagonal row. The lone tree to the left near the fence had been planted in honor of Seth Bullock and was the only tree in that row. The trees being planted in the second row were for W. H. Hazzard nearest, then Horace B. Quivey, then William H. McKinnon, and then the last tree in the distance for Allen W. Murdock.

The First Honored

The list of the thirty men who were first honored. To see the complete list along with their positions and workplaces, and the dates of their deaths, go to this [link](#) for the whole story and the spreadsheet.

Carl W. Gleason

Wm. H. McKinnon

Sydney Moyelle

W. H. Hazzard

L. C. Miller

S. A. McIntyre

John R. Murray

Erle T. Very

John H. Mullison

Ebb Rea

C. W. Fitzgerald

George O. Harlan

Henry C. Hall

Perry Snodgrass

John N. Evans

Edgar L. Palmer

Alfred Anderson

Edward T. Wehrly

Oscar E. Lorenz

***Horace B. Quivey**

***Cosmer M. Leveaux**

***Marcy M. Meaden**

***Thomas P. Keefe**

Allen W. Murdock

Robert E. Pratt

Joseph M. Russell

Allen G. Lincoln

Arthur C. Cole

Silas W. Yarnall

Seth Bullock

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The asterisks by the names indicate a WWI casualty. Ralph McTavish who also died on 9/30/18 during the World War and had been honored in the 1920 tree planting was somehow not included in this planting in 1921 and a tree was not planted for him until 1927 when it was recognized that he had been missed. He had been a "blueprinter" in the District Office in Denver before enlisting.

In addition to those who were lost in the War, a number of those who died in 1918 and 1919 quite likely might have succumbed to the Spanish Flu which had a grip on the country at that time. There were at least six or seven who died during the time of this pandemic.

The Grove Layout

After the trees were planted an accurate record of the location of each tree and who it was intended to honor. The photo below was taken in 1922 four years after the first planting and shows an additional sixth row of trees (identified by Roman numeral I) with four additional names of D. C. Montgomery (1922), Homer E. Smelser (1922), Miss Imogene I. Tayloe (1923 and who by the way was the first woman honored at Memorial Grove), and Thorbern L. Fagraeus (1924). The trees were already starting to form up as a Grove and in the years ahead more names would be added.



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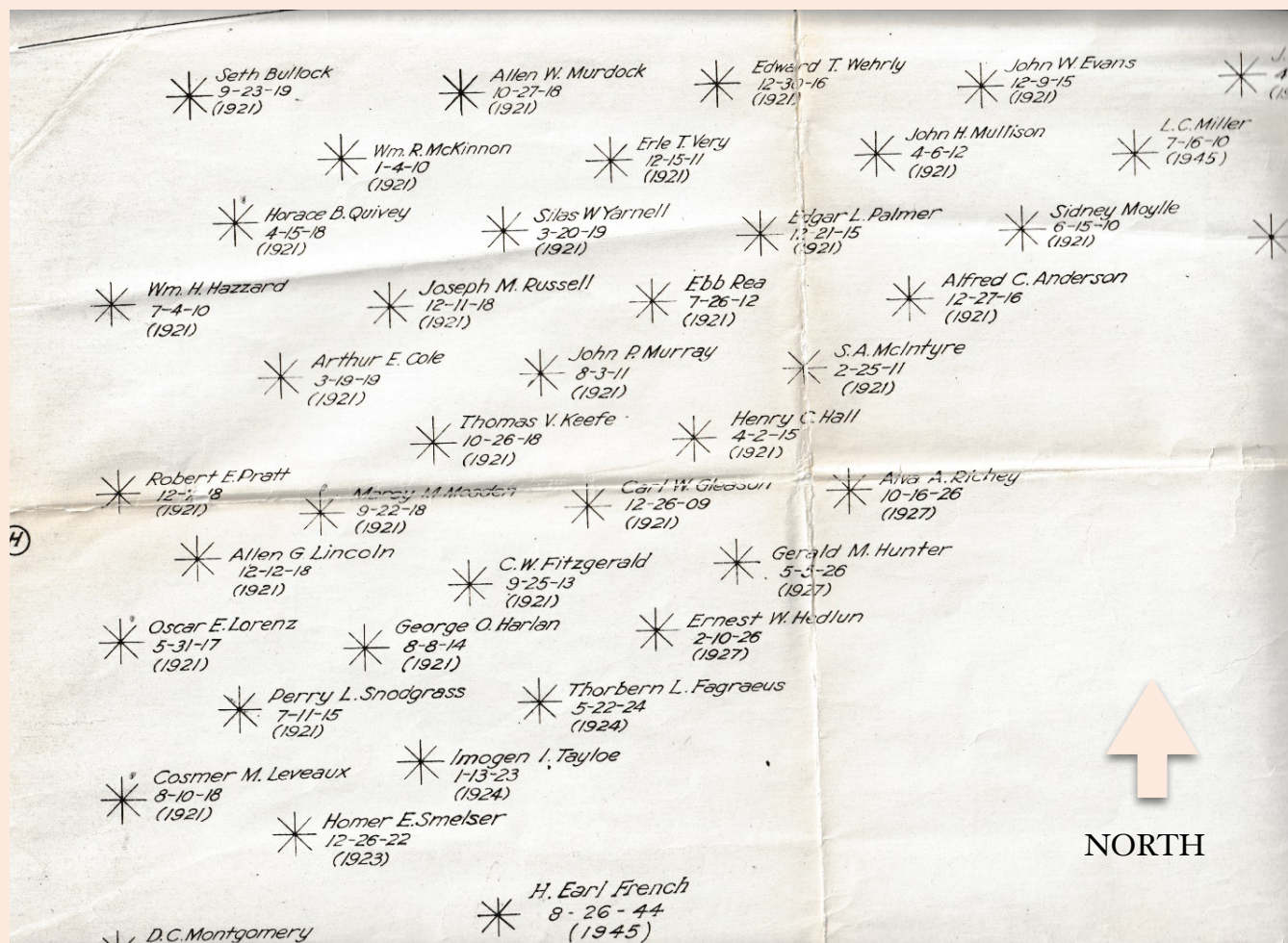
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Map Showing location of planted trees

West End of Planting Area No. 1

Original 1921 Planting layout of 30 trees is shown in first five diagonal rows with the first row being just 1 tree in honor of Seth Bullock in upper left corner, second row has 4 trees, third row has 6 trees, fourth row has 9 trees, and the fifth row has 10 trees but the upper tree in row identified for L. C. Miller is labeled erroneously with (1945) and it should have shown 1921 as the year planted.

Note: The tree locations are identified with the name, date of death, and then the year planted in (1921).



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The 1987 Mt. Herman Fire burned around the edges of the Grove and several trees were lost that were of the original 1921 planting, including the tree planted for Seth Bullock. The majority of the original plantings still remain. These trees are over a hundred years old.

Closing of the Beginning

As the trees planted in 1921 are now over a hundred years old this year, it is with great appreciation that

we remember those who put forth the extra effort to start this Memorial Grove tradition and who established a pattern of honoring those who have dedicated so much of their lives to the work of the Forest Service in the Rocky Mountain Region. With the names being added this coming September, there will be nearly thirteen hundred names engraved at the Memorial. We will continue on with this tradition into this second hundred years.

Your Area Representatives

Denver Area Representative

Jim Thinnes, Littleton, CO

Northern Front Range and Southeastern Wyoming Area Representative

Steve Johnson, Ft. Collins, CO

Southern Front Range and Kansas Area Representative

Barb Timock, Pueblo

Western Colorado Area Representative

Bob Sieger, Durango, CO

Wyoming Area Representative

Bill Bass, Sheridan, WY

South Dakota/Nebraska

Craig Bobzien, Custer, SD

NAFSR Representative

Sharon Friedman, Littleton, CO

NMFSH Representative

Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO

Liaison for Region 2 (not retired yet)

Jace Ratzlaff, Golden, CO

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Tom Thompson, thom46pson@gmail.com, 303-933-2135

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

Hello From Your Chairman

Welcome Summer



Bob Sprintall - Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers

It is always nice to see summer on its way. The trees are leafing out, the grasses are green, outdoor activities are starting to begin and it is time to get out and enjoy the open spaces. Things are looking a little different than last summer as groups are able to come together and socialize.

Speaking of getting together, I was recently able to join the Black Hills retirees group at their luncheon. I gave a brief update on the Rocky Mountaineers activities along with the upcoming Memorial Grove ceremony and annual gathering at Woodland Park. I encouraged those at the luncheon who were not members to consider becoming a member. Jeff Tomac, the new Black Hills Forest Supervisor was also there and presented the challenges and issues facing the Black Hills National Forest both on the natural resource side as well as the human resource side. There was some good discussion centered on timber management and the upcoming Forest Plan revision which will outline projected harvest levels and

recreation management along with grazing permits. Jeff also discussed the issues with hiring a seasonal workforce as well as filling vacant permanent positions. Conversations with other current employees of the Rocky Mountain Region indicate these same issues carry across the entire region.

I was encouraged to see that those who attended the luncheon were amenable to making themselves available as a resource to Jeff based on their past history and career on the Black Hills National Forest. Even though Jeff had spent time on the Black Hills NF prior to becoming the Forest Supervisor, he seemed quite interested in utilizing their knowledge and experiences.

As we are able to get out more and get together, I would encourage all of you to visit with your area representative to resume local gatherings. It may be just to reconnect again after this long stretch of distancing or to discuss issues in your local area. This is also a good opportunity to network with your local Forest Service managers to learn about current issues and concerns. Our way of life is different now so let us see how we as a group can be a positive influence on natural resource management.

Membership and Finance Report

- Ellen and Johnny Hodges

We want to thank all of you that have made donations to the Rocky Mountaineers so far this year in either our Scholarship, Memorial Grove or General Funds. For those of you that made a donation to the Scholarship Fund, your donation was matched by one of our very generous donors, so you were able to double your money!

As a reminder, you are welcome to make donations at any time throughout the year.

For the first time, we are recognizing donors in our new categories – **Friend**, **Patron** and **Sponsor**. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

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Membership and Finance Report

Friend (\$1 - \$49)

Terry and Joy Armbruster
Lakewood, CO

Terry and Ann Baxter
Ft. Collins, CO

Janice Chapman and Edward Mauch
Gunnison, CO

Dick and Judy Coose
Ketchikan, AK

Bob Dettmann and Chris Buckman
Durango, CO

Linda and Rick Deuell
Laramie, WY

Karen Edstrom
Gunnison, CO

Marv Froistad and Shelley Amicone
Loveland, CO

Bob and Shelley Frye
Colorado Springs, CO

Barbara Goode
Paonia, CO

Nick and Judy Greear
Cedaredge, CO

Evelyn and Steve Gross
Conifer, CO

Joe and Lindy Hartman
Nevada, MO

Patricia Hesch and Dan Fairbanks
Grand Lake, CO

Dave and Sally Hessel
Clark, CO

Jack Infanger and Bonnie Watson
Glenwood Springs, CO

Tommy and Camille John
Lakewood, CO

Dennis and Marilyn Johnson
Grand Junction, CO

Steve and Michele Johnson
Ft. Collins, CO

Paul and Robin Langowski
Ft. Collins, CO

Lynne Larsen and Ed Ryberg
Evergreen, CO

Carolyn Long and Ron Klatt
Durango, CO

Sandra and David Marquis
Sheridan, WY

Carolyn McCabe
Glenwood Springs, CO

David and Doris Mertz
Custer, SD

Lorraine Miller Parrish and Keith Parrish
Sun City West, AZ

Jim and Judy Myers
Cheyenne, WY

Judi and Bob Neukirchner
Golden, CO

Lloyd and Donna Newland
Littleton, CO

Elsie and Terry Peters
Sheridan, WY

Wayne Quade
Montrose, CO

Joe Reddan and Kara Chadwick
Durango, CO

Arlene and Fred Rollo
Poncha Springs, CO

Darlene Sanderson
Ft. Collins, CO

Dave Stark and Penny Conyers
Evergreen, CO

Larry and Nancy Thoney
Wickenburg, AZ

Art and Sharon Tidemann
Greeley, CO

Barb Timock
Pueblo, CO

Wanda and Rick Wheeler
Custer, SD

Patron (\$50 - \$199)

John and Patricia Ayer
Yachats, OR

Deborah and Virgil Barnhart
Delta, CO

Bill and Lois Bass
Sheridan, WY

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Membership and Finance Report

Jo Anne Bridges
Pagosa Springs, CO

Don and Carol Campbell
Grand Junction, CO

Lee and Dottie Carr
Cedaredge, CO

Mike and Marjorie Clinton
Evergreen, CO

Steve and Susy Coupal
Kalispell, MT

Phil and LeAnn Cruz
Washougal, WA

Steve and Patricia Deitemeyer
Wheat Ridge, CO

Judy and Rusty Dersch
Lakewood, CO

Mary Lu Eilers
Golden, CO

Ed and Jeannie Fischer
Custer, SD

Emmett Foster
Pueblo West, CO

Wallace Gallaher
Arvada, CO

Dyce Gayton and Jan Bergman Ft. Collins, CO

Linda Gerrans
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO

Sid and Wonda Hanks
Lakewood, CO

Carol and Mike Hindman
Gypsum, CO
Bob and Lorna Joslin

Lander, WY

Susan and Matt Kay
Laramie, WY

Tom and Donna King
Thornton, CO

Monica and Jevon Klingler
Collbran, CO

Kathy Kurtz
Lakewood, CO

Cristie Lee
Ft. Collins, CO

Gary and Juanita Lindholm
Denver, CO

Jeff Losche
Kansas City, MO

Dennis and Sheryl Lowry
Severance, CO

John and Jenifer Oien
Grand Junction, CO

Linn and Deborah Pettijohn
Meeker, CO

Lois Pfeffer
Bemidji, MN

Bonnie and Tom Schramel
Whitewood, SD

JoAn and James Steele
Ft. Collins CO

Dave and Jan Thom
Custer, SD

Skip and Karen Underwood
Ft. Collins, CO

Mari von Hoffmann
Missoula, MT

Greg and Nancy Warren
Golden, CO

Lois Witte and Scot Kersgaard
Lakewood, CO

Sponsor (\$200 +)

Bev Baker
Louisville, CO

Carl and Maryann Chambers
Ft. Collins, CO

Teresa and Tom Ciapusci
Lakewood, CO

Bill and Laura Disbrow
Rhineland, WI

Mike and Marla Foley
Ft. Collins, CO

Tom Healy and Sue Miller
Colorado Springs, CO

Ellen and Johnny Hodges
Ft. Collins, CO

Deb Jensen
Wenatchee, WA

Sharon, Keith and Craig Kyhl
Wenatchee, WA

Florence Navarro
Denver, CO

Tom and Carol Thomas
Golden, CO (continued on Page 11)

Membership and Finance Report

Newest Members

Dale and Margie Robertson
Broomfield, CO

Steve Lenzo and Deb Donnelley
Colorado Springs, CO

Wendy Schuyler
Custer, SD

Newest “Lifers” (lifetime members)

John Natvig and Lucinda Schuft
Hot Springs, SD

Steve Lenzo and Deb Donnelley
Colorado Springs, CO

Teresa and Tom Ciapusci
Lakewood, CO

2021 Rocky Mountaineer Annual Gathering

Woodland Park, Colorado - September 9th and 10th



The Rocky Mountaineers will hold their 2021 Annual Gathering on September 9th and 10th in Woodland Park, Colorado. This is a great time of year to visit “The City Above the Clouds.”

Link to registration:

<https://rockymountaineers.us/Activities/Regional-Meetings/2021-Woodland%20Park%20Meeting/2021%20Annual%20Gathering%20022521-v21jun29.pdf>

Event #1 - Thursday, September 9th, 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Golf outing at Shining Mountain Golf Course in Woodland Park.

Event #2 - Thursday, September 9th, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Welcome Social and Entertainment by the Fiddlin’ Foresters at Shining Mountain Golf Course Events Center.

Event #3 - Friday morning, September 10th - Choose from two Tours - A) Pikes Peak Summit House B) Manitou Experimental Forest.

Event #4 - Friday, September 10th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch at Shining Mountain Golf Course Events Center and a special presentation “The History of Memorial Grove.”

Event #5 - Friday, September 10th, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Flying W Ranch Dinner & Show.

Event #6 - Saturday - September 11th, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Memorial Grove Ceremony & Lunch. (Monument, Colorado)

2021 Scholarship Winners!



Samantha Westfahl

Samantha is graduating from North Park High School in Walden, Colorado. She plans to study Forestry and Anthropology at the University of Montana.

Samantha is very active in her community and school. She has worked seasonally for the Forest Service and is a Certified Cruiser. She is a long-distance runner and a member of her high school band.

Samantha's comments: "I would like to thank the Rocky Mountaineers Association for helping assist me in my education at the University of Montana. This support from current and former USFS employees means a lot to me because I hope to work for the USFS in the future. Thank you so much!"

She is sponsored by Don Heiser.



The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to announce the winners of the 2021 Memorial Scholarships! We had 20 applications this year and as usual, it was difficult to decide on the winners. This was the second year we had two scholarships just for those studying in natural resources and the second year we offered four scholarships. Each scholarship is the same as last year which is \$1,500. Three of the four winners have parent(s) who worked or are currently working for the Forest Service. This is also the first year we have had two winners from the same high school.

We had three applicants who were natural resource majors. The winners were Samantha Westfahl and Caden C. Pitts.



Caden C. Pitts

Caden is graduating from Salida High School in Salida, Colorado. He plans to study Wildland Fire Science Technology at Pikes Peak Community College.

Caden is very involved in soccer and works for Ace Hardware where he is known as a finisher and great in customer service. He is very motivated and is finishing high school early to pursue higher education.

Caden's comments: "I want to sincerely thank everyone at the Rocky Mountaineers Organization for giving me this wonderful opportunity to continue my education. I would also like to give a shout-out to Tommy Thompson, for he was my sponsor through this process."

He is sponsored by Tommy Thompson.

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2021 Scholarship Winners!



Josie Kaufman

Josie is graduating from Sturgis Brown High School in Sturgis, SD. She plans to study Cell Biology and Neuroscience at Montana State University and then to become a medical doctor.

Josie is a leader in her church, community and school. She is a distance runner for both her cross country and track teams. In addition to her volunteer work she has worked as a life guard and is studying to be an EMT.

Josie's comments: "I want to thank the Rocky Mountaineers for this amazing opportunity to pursue my higher education goals. Every penny counts more than one might think, and I'm truly honored and excited as I will be attending Montana State University. Thank you for the support and time in the Forest Service."

She is sponsored by George King.



We want to thank all the applicants and their sponsors for their interest and participation. And, again, **many thanks to all of you who have generously donated to the Scholarship Fund.** All of you make the growth of this program possible.

We had seventeen applicants who had other studies for their majors. The winners were Reece White and Josie Kaufman.



Reece White

Reece is graduating from Salida High School in Salida, Colorado. She plans to study biochemistry at Fort Lewis College and later to become a veterinarian.

Reece is very active in both the community and at her school. She has volunteered for several organizations and currently interning with a local vet clinic, the Animal Care Center.

Reece's comments: "The Rocky Mountaineers Scholarship will assist me in paying part of my tuition this fall at Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO. I will be starting the semester in STEM classes and am thrilled to be supported as a woman in science. Thank you for the opportunity!"

She is sponsored by Barb Timock.

Welcome New Retirees

*Direct from the official U.S. Forest Service Retired Personnel Report in Region 2
Inclusive dates are Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 - some possible duplication from previous reports
Produced by the U.S. Forest Service Data, Metrics, and Analysis Team (DMAT)*

Abegglen, Jeffrey S
Nebraska NF

Bartlett, Deanna K
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Bartter, Glenn S
Regional Office

Biery, Edward R
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Bornong, Bernard R
Bighorn NF

Bosworth, Paul
Black Hills NF

Bresnahan, Nicole Marie
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Brown, Dianne A
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Callahan, Cynthia L
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Cheney, Flint H
Regional Office

Cuthbertson, Rebecca Lee
Regional Office

Finn, Sage Rowan
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Giacoletto, Mark D
Shoshone NF

Haas, Wendy L
Medicine Bow-Routt NF

Hall, Sydney Bryan
Rio Grande NF

Harris, Jeri Lyn
Regional Office

Hilton, Michael R
Black Hills NF

Hirtzel, Steven R
Black Hills NF

Hopkins, Kay C
White River NF

Kehm, Jesse L
Regional Office

Koons, Karen
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Mitchell, Scott F
Regional Office

Mitchell, Veronica Bustamonte
Regional Office

Molinari, Arnold Scott
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Mora, Irene C
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Mueggler, Michelle L
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Oquist, Colleen S
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Palmer, Kelly A
San Juan NF

Pechota, Todd L
Black Hills NF

Smith, Michelle S
Pike and San Isabel NFs

Somers, Allen W
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

Speas, Calvin C
GMUG NFs

Sullenger, Donna A
Regional Office

Swain, Ralph W
Regional Office

Todd, Erma Rosanna
Bighorn NF

Van Alstyne, Jeanne Marie
Nebraska NF

Vance, Elizabeth S
San Juan NF

Vigil, Christine Marie
Shoshone NF

Watts, Michael J
Nebraska NF

Wumkes, Kristy Lynn
Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

New Regional Forester



*Frank Beum,
Regional Forester*

Denver, Colorado, March 18, 2021

USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen announced the appointment of Frank Beum as the new regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, effective April 12. Beum will lead more than 2,000 permanent and seasonal employees and share stewardship of 22 million acres of national forests and grasslands with partners and forty-eight affiliated tribes in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

“Frank will provide essential leadership carrying out agency and regional goals to work across landscapes with partners to regain ecological function, reduce the risks of damage to forests and grasslands and the surrounding communities, enhance the user experience, and manage the multiple uses and interests of these public lands,” said Christiansen. “His work will support national priorities such as our role in containing the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring racial justice and equity, rebuilding the rural economy, and addressing the impacts of climate change.”

Beum is currently the deputy regional forester for natural resources for the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service in Atlanta, overseeing 13 southern states and Puerto Rico. He has also served in acting roles as the associate deputy chief of the national forest system and the national director of forest management in Washington, DC, as well as the acting regional forester in the Intermountain Region in Ogden.

Beum has worked in forestry for 40 years in various roles on seven national forests and five ranger districts in the Rocky Mountain and Southern Regions, as well as in the Southern Regional Office, the Washington Office, the Ohio Division of Forestry, and a college fellowship with the Wilderness Society. He began his Forest Service career in the Rocky Mountain Region as a seasonal forestry technician in 1981. After six summers of seasonal work on the Rio Grande, San Juan, and Shoshone National Forests, his first permanent job was on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, serving for eight years in both Colorado and Wyoming.

Beum holds a bachelor's degree in forestry at Ohio State University and a master's degree in recreation resource management from Colorado State University. He and his wife, Jan, have two grown sons, who were born in Wyoming, a daughter-in-law, and one grandson.

Beum replaces Tammy Angel, who has served as acting regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region since January. Angel will return to her position as deputy regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region.

The Home Page for the Rocky Mountain Region - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r2/home>

Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center (Fire) - <https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/index.php>

All the phone numbers and addresses in the Region - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/organization/Rocky%20Mountain%20Region%20%28R2%29>

Memorial Grove Work Day



Left to right: Vic Baer, Brent Botts, Mike Clinton, Bill Nelson, Gary Roper, Steve Deitemeyer, Tommy John, Tom Thompson, Tom Healy

A dozen retirees met six employees of the Pikes Peak District at the Memorial Grove in Monument, Colorado June 3rd for a work day to spruce up the site and to start the irrigation project for the new trees that are planted each year honoring those Rocky Mountain employees who have passed. Project leader, Tom Healy, designed the new drip irrigation system that will greatly improve survival of newly planted trees.

The project is made possible from donations received in past years to the Memorial Grove Fund now managed by the Rocky Mountaineers. Another work day will be planned later this summer to complete the project.

An invitation to help will be posted.

Rocks in the Windsock



Jim Larkin was a legendary Forest Service and backcountry pilot in Idaho during the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. While with the Forest Service, Jim was designated director of

the Western Zone Air Unit, acquiring the national infrared fire-scan imaging program, the National Radio Fire Cache, and supervision of Region 4's in-house air operations.

In 1964, Jim joined the newly-formed Boise Interagency Fire Center, now known as the National Interagency Fire Center, from which he retired as Director in 1978.

Before Jim joined the Forest Service, he flew for Johnson Flying Service and later his own Larkin Aviation. He provided a critical link for the isolated ranchers and homesteaders in the Frank Church Wilderness and Sawtooth Mountains. He delivered mail and medical supplies, performed downed-pilot rescues, and served as a lifeline to the mountain communities.

Frances Zaunmiller (who became known to the pilots irreverently as "The Belle of the Back Woods") had a ranch at Campbell's Ferry on the Salmon River. One

winter Frances called out on the backcountry radio for much-needed supplies. She reported the winds were calm. Jim flew his ski-equipped Travelair to the ranch and noticed the wind sock was hanging straight down although the air was turbulent. This puzzled Jim, but he made the turn for the final approach and was committed to landing. He felt a burst of wind as he turned and was pushed up the hill. Jim shoved the Travelair on the ground with force and speed, and noted pine boughs across the runway at the end of the strip. The skis caught the branches and the aircraft came to a stop.

Frances was waiting at the top of the strip and greeted Jim with a big grin, saying "I knew you wouldn't land with a tail wind, so I tied rocks in the wind sock." Although weighting the wind sock was a very dangerous act, she had enough intelligence to put the pine boughs on the runway to stop the skis, as she wanted Jim to return on future trips. (Larkin story as told to Lori MacNichol, pers. comm. 2002)

In 1991, the Idaho Department of Aeronautics awarded Jim Larkin for 50 years of safe flying without an accident or violation of any kind. At that time Jim had flown over 3 million miles, and was still flying.

Thanks to Ed Waldafel and the R-4 Oldtimers Newsletter in R-4 for this story.

The Unsung Ranger Behind the U.S. Forest Service's Iconic Signs



Carrell in 1946, three years before he was named Ranger of the Year.

Most Americans haven't heard the name Virgil "Bus" Carrell. But drive across the country and you'll see Carrell's work. And if you've entered a national forest, driven to a natural monument, or crossed the Continental Divide, you've probably even pulled over and snapped a selfie next to one of his creations.

Those quirky brown-and-cream trapezoids, with the retro typeface that welcomes you to a U.S. Forest Service-managed site, are his legacy. Over

the last half-century, those signs have become not only instantly recognizable, but iconic.

"Whoever designed these signs really gave a damn," says designer Charles Spencer Anderson, whose influential Minneapolis-based firm specializes in identity development. "I don't know if they had a sense of history when they designed these things, but it appears they understood the gravity of the assignment."

"I, too, remember the Denver sign shop and being amazed at how good those guys were. Those were the days when FS stood for doing things, not prohibiting things behind their desks."

Carrell had no formal design training, but he understood that the project to create signage for Forest Service properties coast to coast called for something special. Carrell and his team would create what he called a "family of shapes," each sign an individual but clearly related to the others. For example, signs marking the Continental Divide are shaped like bow ties, as if two trapezoids were joined in the middle, but sport the same colors as the asymmetrical trapezoids welcoming you to scores of National Forests, and smaller symmetrical trapezoids at trailheads.

A ranger most of his life, Carrell may have seemed an unlikely design savant. He graduated from the University of Washington College of Forestry in the 1930s and immediately went to work for the Forest Service, immersing himself in every assignment from trail maintenance to fire prevention. "Before I was born, he and my mother even lived in a fire lookout tower for a while in Oregon," says Carolyn Dennison, his daughter. *(for more of the story, click the link)*

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/forest-service-signs-history>

"The R2 sign shop used to be in west Denver. On Simms St. as I recall. In the late 60's and early 70's I used to stop in and watch them build signs. No computers and automatic routers. Those guys used hand-held routers and all painting was done by hand. To get the yellow smooth in the letters they would put in in with an oil can, let it set for a few minutes then suck out the excess with some sort of vacuum. Real artists they were, and fascinating to watch."

"I think it was in 1963 when the sign shop moved up from Monument to the west side of Denver, near the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. It was part of the Engineering shop and I'm guessing that there were about six people in the sign shop. Robert Ewin was the guy in charge and it was called the Sign Planning Coordination and Production group. It was a production kind of operation and they made all kinds of signs."

- Lloyd Newland

Hot Links For You

Hill City Saw Mill closes, eliminating 120 jobs

Neiman Enterprises announced Monday the company will permanently close its saw mill in Hill City, eliminating 120 jobs and 12 contract crews, citing a reduction in timber available in the Black Hills National Forest. *(for more click the link)*

https://rapidcityjournal.com/business/local/hill-city-saw-mill-closes-eliminating-120-jobs/article_7d329c67-85ef-5265-9992-f34cdc545cfr.html



Angelina Jolie Fights Fire and Deadly Assassins in 'Those Who Wish Me Dead' Trailer



Jolie stars as Hannah in the film, a smoke jumper who's still reeling from the loss of three lives she failed to save from a fire when she comes across a traumatized 12-year-old boy, Connor (Finn Little), and promises to protect him from pursuing assassins. *(for more information click the link)*

<https://www.etonline.com/angelina-jolie-fights-fire-and-deadly-assassins-in-those-who-wish-me-dead-trailer-163528>

Forest Service Helping Out

More than 250 U.S. Forest Service employees are assisting with COVID-19 vaccinations across the United States. In this video, Forest Service employees assist with COVID-19 at a mass vaccination site in Oakland, California. Brave front-line workers are taking care of 6,700 individuals a day.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4u4hCKi6_Yg

Former/Current Secretary

Secretary Vilsack Meets with Wildland Firefighters 5/17/2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RzX8z5xOdg>

5 REASONS WHY FUNDING THE FOREST SERVICE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

The Forest Service manages 154 National Forests across the country, home to some of the best places to hike, ski, climb, paddle, mountain bike, and camp. But even as the popularity of outdoor recreation increases and the climate crisis intensifies, funding for the Forest Service and other land management agencies has decreased.

However, there is a solution! The Forest Service, as well as other agencies, need robust funding to protect the places we love to play and ensure they are sustained for generations to come.

<https://www.outdooralliance.org/blog/2021/3/30/5-reasons-why-funding-the-forest-service-is-more-important-than-ever>

Meet the RMRS Director

- Interview by Steve Ambrose



Dr. Monica Lear, PhD, Director of the Rocky Mountain Research Station

The Rendezvous:
Hello and thanks for speaking with us. Where were you born?

Monica Lear: I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.

TR: What was it like growing up there?

ML: It's a great place to grow up. I grew up with a lot of musicians and educators.

New Orleans has

an international influence but is also a southern city.

TR: Tell us a little about your family.

ML: I am single so my family is my 90 pound sheepdog.

TR: What made you want to pursue a career in natural resources?

ML: Most of my relatives live in rural Louisiana, and my grandparents own a farm about 40 miles from New Orleans. They have a lot of trees on the property, so I grew up around horses and a little bit of farming. I originally wanted to become a veterinarian and entered pre-vet at Louisiana State University. After awhile I decided that becoming a vet was not for me so I decided to major in horticulture, as my grandparents had a nursery on their farm.

TR: What are the benefits of being Director of RMRS?

ML: RMRS is a great place to work. I have enjoyed working here. The folks at RMRS are kind and very

smart. I have enjoyed the transition from the Washington Office to the field. I'm also learning a lot from the other research station directors, as well as the other executives in the Washington Office. We have challenges but the people work through them in a positive manner.

TR: What are some of the biggest challenges?

ML: I got here in Fort Collins in July of 2019 and was appointed Director in December 2019, just before the COVID-19 virus hit. It has been a challenge dealing with the virus. Also, making the best use of our budget continues to be a challenge.

TR: Are there any work related benefits to how RMRS conducts business as a result of the virus?

ML: RMRS has been very productive during the COVID-19 virus times. We have produced a number of research papers and I think the scientists and staff have enjoyed the flexibility of working in a different environment (at home). We have tried to accommodate our employees with flexible time schedules. Some take care of children, some take care of their parents; others have different commitments.

TR: How does RMRS interact with National Forest Systems and State and Private Forestry?

ML: We are fortunate to be co-located with some State and Private Forestry groups, as well as some National Forest System personnel. This situation allows us to interact with them frequently and it promotes collaboration. Our scientists provide real time research that can be used in planning now. We have scientists that provide watershed restoration and treatment information to help NFS personnel as well as research involving timber salvage after fire activities. Of course, Forest Inventory Analysis provides data to NFS and S&PF as well as other partners. RMRS has fourteen Experimental Forests, mostly within NFS lands, that provide valuable research over time.

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TR: Are there other partners that work with RMRS?

ML: Other federal agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations are some of our partners. Last fiscal year we processed 520 different agreements representing \$16 million. The Forest Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation organized the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, created to improve forest conditions through partnerships. RMRS is a key member of the Initiative. In Missoula, Montana, the Aldo Leopold Institute of RMRS and NFS (Carhart Wilderness Training Center) are doing some fine work in promoting wilderness management.

TR: What are some of the research results that RMRS has been able to provide?

ML: The new administration has four priorities that RMRS is addressing: controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling climate change, providing economic relief, and advancing racial equity. RMRS has worked with other researchers to assess COVID-19 spread in fire camp and mitigation strategy. RMRS will continue this research. In a second effort, the RMRS wildfire team is using wildfire information to assess the threat interagency firefighters have through rapid COVID-19 testing.

RMRS has a long history supporting the climate change research for forest, agriculture, and range ecosystems through the last three administrations. Fort Valley Experimental Forest is an example where there is a long history of what can be considered climate change research, including baseline data from 100 years ago. RMRS scientists are working to provide market changes for our permittees. There has been some research on bio-char, another example of helping economic relief. An RMRS scientist in Missoula has a podcast forecasting forest and fuel conditions for fire behavior.

We have had long standing tribal relations promoting the knowledge and perspective of tribes. RMRS has been working with tribes to provide research that will specifically help them.

TR: What is the long term vision for RMRS?

ML: I am looking forward to continue to provide science in the landscape that we live in. I want to continue to work with our partners (both internal and external) and provide relative research that they can both use.

Check RMRS Out

- Main web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/>
- Recent Publications: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/publications>
- Science Bulletins and Newsletters: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/publications/series/science-bulletins-newsletters>
- Press Releases and News: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/news>
- You Tube Site - 53 videos: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNsZX2SBTIVmeGKUKLlGvKhDQ3Eid-lL>

National Museum of Forest Service History

Building Update



We continue to have a lot happening at the Museum and remain optimistic that we are moving closer to finalizing the design of our Conservation Legacy Center. We are working with the architect and will be moving to our schematic design in the next few months.

We received a \$250 thousand Wood Innovation Grant from the Forest Service that is intended to allow us to finalize the mass timber design. We continue to work with partners, cooperators, and donors to fulfill our commitment and goal of constructing this building and the finishing the overall site development.

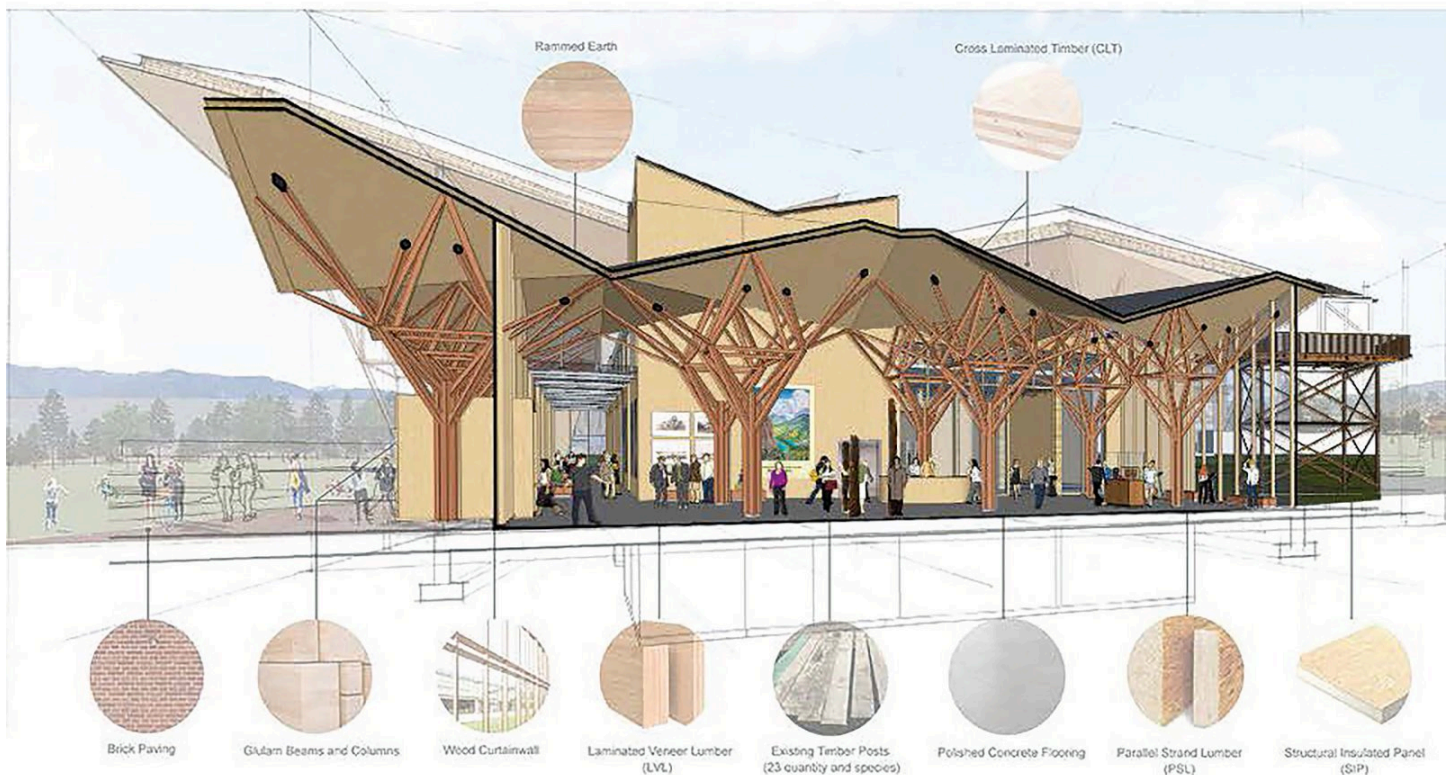


Figure 1 Conceptual Design of Conservation Legacy Center

We recently conducted an online auction to help support our operational expenses and raised over \$50 thousand in this two-week event and thanks largely to our R-2 Director cadre our Region had a major impact on this being such a very successful fund-raising effort. Region 2 NMFSH Regional Director Cadre: Bjorn Dahl, Dan Nolan, Brad Exton, Dave Steinke, Jane Leche, Bill Bass, Elaine Langstaff, Brent Botts, Bruce Short, Dave Cawrse, Jerry Schmidt, Jim Free, Sig Palm, and Steve Ambrose. Pat Lynch is the Board liaison for the cadre.

We also just recently received a \$250 thousand commitment from a retiree who has been an important supporter of the Museum to begin a three-year effort to initiate an ongoing oral interview program for retirees across the country. Our overall Museum membership has now grown to over 1100 and we welcome you to become a member and supporter if you are not already. See our website at <https://forestservicemuseum.org>

NAFSR Report

by Sharon Friedman, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative

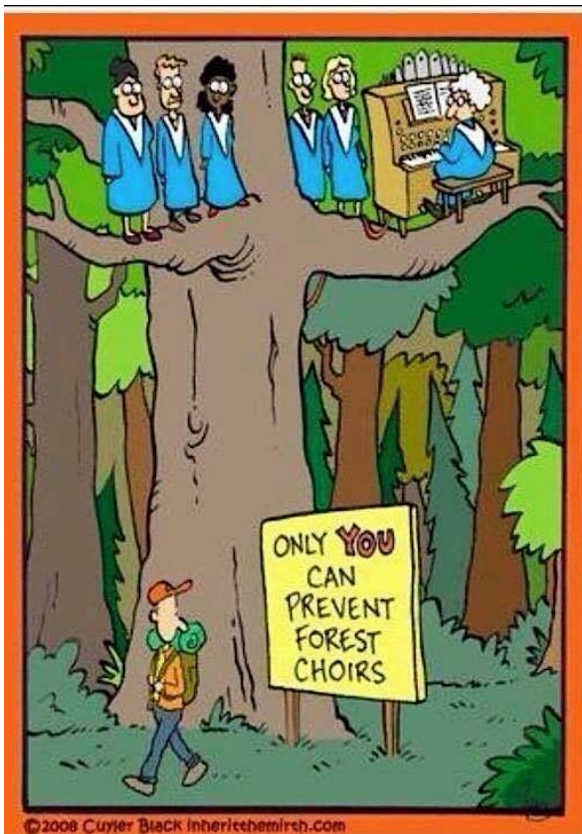


Many thanks to Tom Thompson for his many years of service as the Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR Representative!

I've Zoom Attended...Zattended (?) the May Board Meeting and am still getting my feet wet. NAFSR is welcoming a new Chair, Steve Ellis. Many of you may know Steve from his extensive career in the Forest Service as well as BLM. You can find his bio, as well as the 2020 accomplishments on the NAFSR website. Most recently he was the Chair of the Old Smokeys, the R6 equivalent of the Rocky Mountaineers.

Nora Rasure, Region 4 representative, is leading a committee looking at what NAFSR can do to support the Forest Service's current recreation challenges. I'm sure all of you have noticed personally or read about the crush of people who headed to NF (as well as other) lands during COVID-19. It shows no signs of abating, as we would expect given the great experiences to be had on National Forests. Any questions you have about NAFSR, check on www.nafsr.org or contact me directly at terraveritas@gmail.com. The 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.

Classic Cartoons



The Ranger's Mule

- by A.R. Tiedemann, Research Forest Ecologist (retired)
Pacific Northwest Research Station, LaGrande, OR

"Hank, you gotta get yerself a pack mule," the wizened old-timer advised my dad.

"They are just the ticket for these steep, rocky mountain trails around Ouray. Pound for pound, they can carry more than a horse, are more sure-footed, and they don't eat as much."

My father, Henry F. Tiedemann was keen to listen to the locals to quickly gain an understanding of his new district. It was located in Ouray, Colorado. The Ranger District of the Uncompahgre National Forest was his first assignment in the U.S. Forest Service as a District Ranger. It was 1937, and he had just completed his internship as Assistant District Ranger at Rollinsville, Colorado. He had arrived in Rollinsville in 1936, fresh from Oregon State University, with a Master of Science degree in Forest Management. At nearby Peaceful Valley, he met my mom, and they were married.

After a bit of searching, he found "**Mule**" and added it to his Forest Service herd of two horses - "**Blaze**" and "**Possum**."

"Mule" arrived just in time for a ten day pack trip to the high country to check the condition of high elevation grasslands leased by the Forest Service to a local rancher for summer sheep grazing. One of the ranger's duties was to be sure that the National Forest grasslands were not grazed too early, and not overgrazed by sheep.



*Forest Ranger Hank Tiedemann cooking dinner.
Winter Park Ranger District*

Dad loaded the mule with two panniers of supplies and hung them over the pack saddle. He also loaded Possum with two more panniers. Panniers are big canvas bags that are loaded with supplies and hung on a pack saddle. The pack saddle is like a regular saddle, except that the seat and pommel are replaced by two wooden parts that look like X's on the back of the animal - one over the shoulders, and one over the top of the rump.

Early in the morning, Dad headed up the Horse Thief Trail with his string of animals: Blaze, Possum, and Mule. This steep, narrow, rocky trail winds up the mountain behind Ouray to the high elevation grasslands. It is called the Horse Thief Trail because the Ute Indians used it to move horses they had stolen from the invading white settlers. It would be a good test of newly acquired Mule.

He was feeling pretty good about things as he neared the top of the trail and, because he had the extra pack animal, was thinking about the luxuries he had been able to add: fresh eggs, more milk, and a few cans of beer. About 1/4 mile from the top, he heard an ominous crack that sounded like a pistol shot. This was followed by a loud braying cry from Mule.

"Heeee-haaaa....ooooowww!"

"Aaaaiiee....."

Mule had stepped on a rock, turned it over, and fallen on it's forelegs - breaking a long bone in one leg. Dad had no choice but to shoot Mule with his Colt Woodsman pistol.

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After he had killed Mule, and managed to get all of the supplies situated in the meadow at the top of the trail, he was left with the dilemma of WHAT TO DO WITH A DEAD MULE. It could not be left in the middle of the trail where hikers would encounter it.

So, with the help of some tree limb levers, he managed to push it off the trail. More bad luck. Mule only slid a few feet and then hung up on some shrubs. Dad reasoned that this was ok because the buzzards, coyotes, bears, and such would quickly consume the carcass.

He went about his business for the next several days (minus the luxuries he had planned such as fresh eggs instead of powdered eggs) and headed the horses for home. As he neared the top of the Horse Thief Trail that morning, an awful odor assaulted him. He quickly realized what it was, tethered the horses, and walked down the trail to look at Mule - the mule. Nothing had eaten it, and it was lying there bloated with legs in the air. As a highly conscientious and dedicated Forest Ranger, he could not leave it like this.

"Now, what do you do with a DEAD, STINKING, DAD-GUM, BLOATED MULE?" He had to do something.

"Do I bury it?"

"Do I dig a hole? I do have a small camp shovel...."



Forest Ranger Hank Tiedemann confers with basque sheepherder Tafoya. Winter Park Ranger District

"But I'd be digging for two days... and the stench..."

The only solution he could come up with was to get the mule to the top of the trail and find a way to dispose of it there.

He took the two horses down the trail (minus the panniers on Possum), and roped the mule's hind legs to the two of them. They dragged the mule to the top of the trail, and over to a small stand of trees.

He gathered enough dead wood for a large fire, and proceeded to cut the mule apart. He spent the next several hours cremating the mule. Late afternoon, he packed up and headed down the trail. When he got home, Mom took one look and exclaimed, "Henry, what happened - you look sick? You are really green around the gills."

Needless to say, he could not eat dinner, and had very little appetite for a few days. After mom told me this story, she said, "Please don't ever, EVER mention anything about MULES to your father."

- Art Tiedemann lives in Ft. Collins

Dan Nolan forwarded this story to us at the Rendezvous. Art Tiedemann's father was the District Ranger on the Idlewild District, Arapaho National Forest 1937 - 1945. Dan said that Art had mentioned some stories he had written about his dad and encouraged him to share them. "The Mule" is a story Art shares with us along with two great photos."



It's the GRAND Opening of the Forest Service Exhibit at Heritage Park Museum - June 19th and 20th, 2021.

Open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. the exhibit as well as the rest of the museum can be viewed for free during Kremmling Days. For more information -

<https://grandcountyhistory.org/museums/heritage-park-museum/>

Forest Products Lab to the Rescue

-from the USDA

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, the U.S. Capitol building was the target of an attack that left it ransacked and vandalized. The destruction was extensive, including many irreplaceable historical wooden artifacts and objects, including doors, intricate millwork, moldings, desks and podiums. The historic preservation specialists with the Architect of the Capitol would need help to restore the building.



Dr. Robert Ross, supervisory research general engineer, Forest Products Laboratory. USDA Forest Service photo.

Enter Nathan Kamprath, U.S. Army DEVCOM and leader of a current joint project between the Department of Defense and Forest Products Laboratory. Recognizing the significance of the damage, Kamprath contacted FPL research engineer Robert Ross for assistance with the U.S. Capitol repair. He then connected Ross with Architect of the Capitol historic preservation specialists overseeing the restoration of the U.S. Capitol building. Ross, who has worked at FPL for over 30 years, knew exactly what to do.

Tucked in a dark, remote storage stall in FPL's basement, a stack of priceless historic mahogany lumber had been waiting since 1919 for seemingly just this moment. Ross and an FPL crew dug out the treasure in order to transfer 78 of the 11.9 inch-by-12-foot mahogany boards. Starting in June, this wood will be used to aid in the repair of the Capitol. The 3,000-pound stack of lumber is incalculably valuable. Today, mahogany has protected international conservation status and the high-quality, clear old-growth mahogany originally used in the Capitol building is no longer available.

Harvested sometime in the early 20th century, this stack is believed to be part of the materials used in FPL's early work on the properties and performance characteristics of wood during World War I.

Though the geographic origin of the wood (Philippines, South America or Africa) is uncertain, its journey can be traced through New York, before it found its home in Madison, Wisconsin.

FPL has a long history of helping the DoD. A technical report from 1919, "Warping of Aircraft Propellers," points to evidence of this lumber being originally conscripted for propeller research. During WWI, propellers were shipped to France for use in Curtiss OX-5 airplanes. Because the cross-continental trek caused potentially dangerous moisture increases in wooden propellers, FPL conducted warping research at the request of the U.S. War and Navy Departments.



Dr. Robert Ross standing in front of storage shelf 36 where the legacy mahogany has been housed for over a century. USDA Forest Service photo by Kathrine Drake.

"We cannot be 100% sure this sample of lumber was used in the study described in the 1919 report, but it is the same species combination, it fits with what the research the lab was doing at the time, and it's been in the storage stalls since 1919. Though the records are not complete, the evidence for its original purpose is more than compelling," Ross explained. Ross has been a part of several historically significant restoration

projects over the years but when asked how he felt about being part of the U.S. Capitol reconstruction, he said, "It is truly a privilege and honor to take part in the restoration of one of the most important buildings in the United States. It's at the center of our country and government. And I consider working on the U.S. Capitol the most important project I've ever worked on because it serves to rebuild the heart of our democracy."

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FPL legacy mahogany in storage since 1919. USDA Forest Service photo by A. Androff.

FPL's station director, Dr. Cynthia West agreed, "FPL has a long history of significant contributions to our nation since its establishment in 1910.

During WWI we worked with the DoD to improve airplane construction and parts.

We are proud to offer a piece of the laboratory's history that was used in the defense of our country to now repair our U.S. Capitol Building, the seat of our democracy. Today our work has grown from these early roots as we advance research

towards a sustainable future by developing renewable wood-based building solutions and new materials from wood."

In preparation for its 850-mile journey, FPL researchers tightly and meticulously bundled the mahogany stack in tarps. On Feb. 25, the lumber stack was loaded on a flatbed and left Madison, Wisconsin, for the Capitol. It arrived less than a week later. Upon receipt of the shipment, Architect of the Capitol, J. Brett Blanton stated, "I'm humbled and so appreciative of the support from the United States Forest Service. The mahogany provided by USFS is invaluable and will be used by the Architect of the Capitol to restore historic millwork in our nation's temple of democracy."



The aged stamp on the stave of old mahogany planks says, "From L. T. Williams & Son, New York." USDA Forest Service photo.

Traveling through more than a century of time and human tumult, FPL's mahogany will begin its final transformation this summer. The AOC confirmed that their carpentry shop will start using the wood in early June to replace damaged wood fixtures and the doors that open to our democracy every day.

At a closer glance, FPL's legacy mahogany looks like a big pile of dusty boards. But if you were to get close enough, the lumber stack smells like sawdust and the momentous passage of time. Underneath the dust, a vibrancy of warmth and rich russet color seeps through. No matter how much time has passed, this wood is still alive with purpose. FPL is proud to offer the legacy of its past to heal the history of the U.S. Capitol's present.



FPL's legacy mahogany, wrapped and ready for its 850-mile journey to the Capitol, being loaded on a flatbed. USDA Forest Service photo by Lon Yeary.

To find out more about the extraordinary contributions our researchers are making to the world of wood science, please visit the [Forest Products Laboratory](#) website.

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Sharon Kyhl

Retired in 2016

36 years of Service

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Sharon Kyhl: I was born in Kansas City, Missouri and

lived in the small town of Trenton. We moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa when I was about ten years old. Our backyard was a cornfield with a few islands of cottonwood that made great climbing trees.

TR: Tell us a little about your family growing up.

SK: I was raised in the Midwest with a family that believed wealth was not monetary but being rich in love of God and family. We were taught to always do our best, and the sky was the limit in our dreams and ambitions. I am the oldest of three and have a sister and brother. My dad was a passionate reader and really encouraged my love of books. My mom was “Martha Stewart.” She designed and made most of our clothes, was an amazing cook – both in taste and presentation, and very artistic. She loved music and sang often at church.

My parents grew up on dairy farms in Minnesota and were the first to leave the farm. I loved our visits to the farm during the summer and Christmas time. My grandpa would take me on hikes in the woodlot and show me wildflowers and trees. There were also lots of walks following the tractor and trailer picking up rocks from the fields and weeding. That usually earned us some fishing on nearby lakes.

My dad was a court reporter and worked for a county and federal judge at the courthouse. He usually had several weeks off in August as the courthouses did not have air conditioning early on, so that is when we took vacations to the reporter annual convention. These were the traditional road trips in the station wagon

where we had a cooler and a Coleman stove, so we did not have to search out restaurants. Finally, I convinced them we needed to try camping and we rented a tent trailer. We did road trips throughout the country and as many national parks and baseball fields that we could see. My dad was a Dodger’s fan, so we got to see a lot of games! In fact, I remember seeing Babe Ruth’s wife throw out the game ball in Atlanta after Hank Aaron had beat Babe’s home run record. He hit another home run at that game.

We started backpacking when I was in junior high. We had a glorious trip to Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior. We were outfitted by a canoe company so did not have the lightest gear and remember trading off carrying a garbage bag that held 6 loaves of lifesaving bread! We were then off to Grand Teton National Park and Mt. Rainier the following year.

TR: Where did you go to school – early school and college - and what was your favorite subject?

SK: I loved school especially science, history, and music. I grew up with boys next door, so we were always outside building forts, and collecting things. I always had interesting objects to take to school like rocks, bird feathers, insects, snakes...the latter did not go over very well when I brought one in a coffee can.

I remember moving to Iowa and the boys would not let the girls play softball at recess and I did not understand that (I grew up with parents that encouraged me to do everything and I did not know girls would ever be not be allowed to do anything). So, the schoolyard teacher asked them (told them?) to let me play. The boys all moved up as I stepped to the plate. I hit a double, and from that point on, girls could play ball at recess.

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*Sharon Abramson
(Kyhl) - crew boss in
California.*

School was not complete without piano, violin, and guitar. My girlfriends and I even had an all-girls band – before the Spice Girls! I also played tennis and volleyball.

The summer of my Junior year I applied to a Student Conservation Association Trail Crew in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest out of Stehekin, Washington. It was a wonderful experience meeting fellow high schoolers from all over the country and

helping maintain the Pacific Crest Trail. (Who knew that 35 years later I would be working out of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF).

College – In fifth grade, I had given a speech that I wanted to be a forester when I grew up. (Second choice was archaeologist!) I really wanted to go to Ft. Collins, Colorado, but I was very fortunate to go to Iowa State (ISU). Yes, I know there are a lot of cornfields there, but ISU was the first forestry school west of the Mississippi River. We learned about trees and forestry throughout the country, and I went to summer camp at Lubrecht, Montana.

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

SK: Every summer I worked in the woods somewhere – Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie – trail crew, Chequamegon-Nicolet – camp counselor, Bureau of Land Management in Idaho Falls, Idaho as one of the first women on the fire crew, Clearwater – TSI crew, Stand Exam crew, Arapaho-Roosevelt – YCC Environmental coordinator at Jim Guercio's Caribou Ranch outside of Nederland, and Routt National Forest – Timber Sale Prep.

TR: What was your first job with the Forest Service?

SK: Fortunately, the Routt National Forest Supervisor, Jack Weissling, wanted to see more female

foresters get in the door. (Thanks to Paul and Linda Ries for encouraging me to apply).

I was hired as the forest's Information Receptionist in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. (Interestingly, my husband, Clint, was also hired that way in Kremmling a few years later). I need to thank Jim Webb, Forest Range Conservationist for sitting close to the front desk and keeping me from providing too much erroneous information! (Jim, to this day I admire your vast knowledge of rangeland grasses and vegetation, grazing, and historic knowledge of that forest).

I stayed in the position about eight months and then applied for the large sale forester job on the Middle Park District in Kremmling. My first duty was to read



Doing stand exams in the Troublesome.

the Manual and handbook! I was so fortunate to do Stage II stand exams, write the NEPA, conduct public meetings, lay out the timber sales, prepare the timber sale contracts and then administer the actual sales. I certainly learned a lot along the way – particularly from the loggers! I spent many years working in the Troublesome area, so I followed the news closely as the East Troublesome fire tore across the landscape.

My ranger, Roger Corner, gave me the opportunity to go to Silviculture School so I could become a certified silviculturist. He also encouraged me to get active in the Society of American Foresters (SAF) by assigning me the job of Newsletter Editor for the CO/WY section.

Due to being a silviculturist and being active in SAF, I was selected to go on a Silvicultural Trip to Australia and New Zealand with SAF. What an amazing opportunity and one of the highlights of my career. (Clint and I had married three months before and we paid his way to go along).

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*(continued from Page 28)***TR: Tell us a little about your career and the different jobs you held.**

SK: After Clint and I got married while both in Kremmling, we were able to get forester positions on adjoining districts on the White River – Minturn and Eagle. It was interesting holding the same positions and were able to combine crews on a few projects to get the sales prepared. Our oldest son Keith was born while we were there, and we struggled trying to find childcare.



Wilderness Education Leadership award with Mary Beth Hennessy presented by Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill and Chief Jack Ward Thomas.

We were fortunate to both get positions on the South Park Ranger District in Fairplay where we could find childcare.

I had the recreation, wilderness, interpretation, and at some point, fish &

wildlife programs. I was also the silviculturist. Clint did lands and minerals, timber, roads, facilities, and fire. We had a relatively young and fun district and Johnny Hodges was our ranger to start. He kept us active in the community building baseball fields and picking up roadside trash!

This is when I learned about grant programs available for trails, historic preservation, and interpretation. We were able to get additional funding and restore the Wilkerson Pass Visitor Center, Boreas Section House, Roberts Cabin, and get Boreas Pass designated as a Rail Trail. During this time, I was able to serve on the board for San Dimas and Missoula Research and Development Centers and review and select recreation projects throughout the country. I was also on the Chief's Wilderness Field Advisory Council and took the lead with Mary Beth Hennessy and many others in developing the Wilderness Box Environmental Education Program.

I was offered the Recreation staff job on the Medicine Bow-Routt but turned it down as we had a second son, and there was not a job available for

Clint. Dual careers were challenging, but not impossible and we really worked hard to find opportunities that would keep us together as a family. Johnny was immensely supportive and allowed us to bring Craig into the office for the first few months of his life.

We tag teamed the rest of our career – Black Hills NF and Clint as District Ranger on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, then I took a position with the Design Center in the Regional Office and followed Clint to Laramie District Ranger on the Med Bow-Routt. I certainly enjoyed the interpretive work around the region and country. Clint encouraged me to apply for the Wyoming Capital City Coordinator which I held for two years. It was a challenge working with all the state and federal partners and I got to help plan and facilitate Wyoming's first Climate Workshop.

Then off to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest where Clint was the Deputy Forest Supervisor, and I took a lead on the ARRA Team for Grants & Agreements for Oregon, Washington, and Alaska out of Portland. I then led the Grants and Agreements team for the northern area and was able to continue virtually when Clint took the Forest Supervisor's job on the Bridger-Teton NF. My path was certainly different than I would have ever thought, but so glad I had a fun and challenging career with a wonderful partner and family.

TR: Who were some of your early bosses that gave you good advice in your career?

SK: Roger Corner provided wise council to many young women that were on his District. He encouraged involvement in SAF, and always said it was good to take time to meet and get to know other Forest Service employees after hours when we were at various workshops.

Johnny Hodges was a good role model – work hard, have fun, get involved in your community and with your district family.

Marsha Kearney challenged me to get involved beyond my district – forest and region-wide groups, as well as national opportunities.

So many people supported us throughout our careers and for that I am so thankful.

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*(continued from Page 29)***TR: What were the best and worst parts of your jobs?****SK:**

My favorite times were doing Stand Exams. I could not believe I got paid to hike in the woods and have a picnic every day.

I really enjoyed working with people that had the same passion for conservation, similar interests in the outdoors, and all the fun we managed to have hiking, rafting, fishing, backpacking, biking, after hours. There may have been some BBQs and beers along the way! Those friendships are still treasured today.

The challenge was the ever-changing policies and direction and how we were going to persevere through to get the best job done with the ever-decreasing budgets. I did enjoy developing unique partnerships with many organizations and writing grants to extend our funding – trails, scenic byways, rails to trails, historic preservation, and interpretation.

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

Mentoring staff and watching them get promoted and move through the agency. Developing partnerships with groups to promote our unique mission.



Clint and Sharon Kyhl

TR: Tell us about Clint.**SK:**

I met Clint in Kremmling, Colorado when it was the Middle Park District and managed from the Routt. I had called back to Iowa State looking for a TSI crew boss and was told this guy would be great! Well, he was! It was a small

world as my dad worked across the street from his dad, my mom played tennis with his mom's best

friend, and my brother played tennis against Clint's best friend. We became great friends and got married. We vowed to never talk shop at home and were fortunate to move through the agency together.

He brought calm, humor, patience, and a great ability to read people and find common ground on the job and at home. He was passionate about his job and his family. He enjoyed his stints as District Ranger, both on the forest and grasslands. He was passionate in his negotiations to get the Medicine Bow Rail Trail through. He thrived on the challenges brought on as the Beetle Incident Commander. He became an expert agency administrator for all the fires on the Okanogan-Wenatchee.

Mary Peterson added the following regarding Clint as an employee:

"I happily hired Clint for four different positions over the years I worked for the Forest Service - as ranger on the Buffalo Gap NG, ranger on the Laramie RD of the MBR, acting deputy forest supervisor of the MBR&TBNG, and as Region 2 bark beetle incident commander."

Clint had a clear sense of mission. He was thoroughly knowledgeable in all natural resource areas, planning, budgeting, and environmental analysis. He had fire management experience from firefighter to agency administrator. Clint was calm and diplomatic in high stress or conflict situations. He worked well in teams and shared knowledge and expertise easily. He was an excellent public speaker and articulated well the issues, opportunities, visions, and actions needed to solve issues. He operated in a very collaborative way with state and other federal agencies and with interested members of the public. Clint presented himself so well to Congressional staffers, local government officials, and employees at all levels of the US Forest Service that he was highly regarded and trusted. He held himself and others accountable for the assigned work and problem resolution. Clint set a great example, a good sense of humor, and enjoyed working with and serving others.

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His last job was Forest Supervisor of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. As most of you know, he was diagnosed with ALS at 53 and passed at 54. We had kept our home in Wenatchee, WA, so we moved back as it was more accessible. Our sons arrived unannounced and had quit their jobs to care for him. We were so blessed to have them home for 6 months.

Clint was so moved by the outpouring of love he received by the staff and friends in Jackson, as well as throughout his career. He was humbled by the daily letters, calls, and visits. He had some great laughs and was so touched by the many videos of Ice Bucket challenges that year in his honor. He so enjoyed people and always asked about their families first and then got to the business at hand.



Granddaughters Clover Sue and Charlie Joy.

TR: Tell us about your family.

SK: I am so thankful that Clint and I were blessed with two sons, Keith and Craig and they continue to bring me such joy. We are all very close and always spent summer breaks, ski trips, and Christmas with extended family. Clint and the boys continued the annual Kyhl male bonding fishing trip to Canada as

soon as school was out. This including uncles and cousins and was always a highlight for them. Clint was all about making memories and documenting them with lots of photos and videos. The boys were active in hockey and soccer which involved lots of minivan road trips through Colorado and Wyoming, through wind, rain, sleet, and blizzards.

Keith and Britt have blessed me with two sweet granddaughters – Clover Sue and Charlie Joy. I had no idea how much fun grandchildren could be and having raised two boys, what fun it is to have girls in the

family! Britt is in nursing school and they live in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Craig and Summer are living in my camper in Steamboat having just returned from a work assignment in London. Summer teleworks to Houston as a project engineer for British Petroleum, and together they also have a 3-D map company – [Alaska Mountain Maps](#) - making custom maps anywhere in the US. Craig is working at a local cabinet shop and helping us with GIS maps until they find a way to get back to Alaska. He had left an environmental engineer position.

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

SK: One of my first days on the job in Kremmling, I went out to the field with my supervisor, Eric Jensen. For those that knew him, he was very tall, with very long legs, and walked very fast in the woods. I was bound and determined to keep up with him and was nearly running all morning. Finally, he turned around and said, “Sharon, I’m trying to ditch you. I have to use the bathroom.”

I was involved in a lot of public meetings. I remember two particularly contentious ones while Johnny Hodges was ranger. One was an open house in Fairplay on roadless areas and three large men were causing a raucous at the front desk upset with the proposal and I was waiting for them in the conference room. Their jaws dropped when they saw it was only me – 9 months pregnant. They admitted they could not yell at a pregnant woman. I think they were fearful I would have the baby on the spot. I do believe Johnny purposely used me to keep things calm!

The other one was down in Lake George. I believe we were proposing to relocate a campground off the river in Elevenmile Canyon. I remember Johnny and I were just waiting for the eggs and tomatoes to fly at us as we spoke from the front of the room. We thought we were going to have to sneak out the back door. At the end I was speaking to an elderly woman who flashed me her pistol in her purse and told me she was not afraid to use it if I came anywhere near her place. I never ventured close.

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TR: You've got a consulting business in Colorado. Tell us about it.

SK: Our oldest son Keith had graduated from the University of Wyoming and was on his way to hunting camp when he got a call from his uncle in Iowa who had a friend looking for some help on his forest outside of Steamboat. Keith had worked on a fire crew and was good with a chainsaw, so he took the job (after the hunt!).

Come to find out, Jim Ficke was the consulting forester on the property. (Jim was the ranger when I was in college working with the YCC program and ended up on the Routt during my time there. We had stayed in touch through the years as he was also an alum of Iowa State). Keith worked for Jim for a few years. Long story short, Jim was ready to really retire at the ripe young age of 84. I certainly can say I never had any plans to start a consulting business when I retired, but a month later (October 2016) – and a lot of meetings with the Small Business Development Center, we had the opportunity to buy Jim's consulting company. My son and I became [Natural Resource Solutions Group, Inc.](#)

I primarily write Forest Ag Plans for private landowners and do fire mitigation workshops and fire risk assessments. Keith hires the crew, and they implement the forest plans. He has also developed a large clientele outside of the Forest Ag program doing fire mitigation, lot clearing, trail building, mastication, etc. I will say, we now have several female clients that have taken a real interest in their forest and know how to run a chainsaw and can identify every tree on their property.

Needless to say, we are learning a lot – from Quickbooks to unemployment insurance. I am sure Clint is just shaking his head wondering what we were thinking! It has been a joy (mostly) working with our son. And in fact, our youngest son Craig has done GIS mapping for us and developed our webpage.

TR: You've got vineyards in Washington. Tell us about that, and are there samples?

SK: Clint had a dream that "they" would all come if we planted a vineyard. Oh boy and did "they." He arrived in Wenatchee at least a month before I did



Using an old cider press for grapes.

and had already decided we would plant a vineyard in the weedy horse pasture of our 3 ½ acre property. Now, at this point, we were still drinking wine out of a box, helping the boys with college. I thought he had completely lost his mind. In fact, I recently found a note I had written him asking if he was having a midlife crisis followed by a list of questions on how much water will the vines use, how much

will this cost, where will we get the vines, and what the heck do you know about vineyards. The boys thought that was hilarious.

His first cost estimate for setting up our new irrigation system was \$10,000 – which would include irrigation to plant grass, about 400 trees in addition to 500 vines. He decided we could do it ourselves. Having just arrived in Wenatchee, I figured we had about two months to get it done before the snows. Fortunately, the snow season is much shorter, and we worked through Thanksgiving, dry fitting it all. Spring arrived, and we only missed one joint that erupted as Old Faithful. We planted Merlot, Shiraz, Riesling, Gewürztraminer (Concord, and two varieties of table grapes) with lots of help, in April of 2010.

It took three years to harvest our first grapes and eventually got around 75 gallons before Clint passed. Now, we get over 200 gallons for personal use only! That is why we offer the free wine of the month club as bribery! It is a fun hobby, and I cannot imagine jumping through all the hoops to get licensed to sell wine. Maybe when I retire! Anyone is welcome to come. Harvest is a big celebration and coincides with Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, Washington just up the road.

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*(continued from Page 32)***TR: Tell us about the Clint Kyhl Scholarship fund.**

SK: Many thanks to all those who worked on getting the permanent memorial college scholarship fund off the ground, especially Tom Thompson. I appreciate that we are recognizing students in any major and was glad we now specifically include natural resource majors for two of the scholarships. I would encourage all of you to give to this fund in honor of anyone who has made a difference in your life or career. I know Clint would have been humbled to have been the inspiration in getting this established.

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

SK: Take a summer job with the Forest Service. The more field experience you have, the better. And you will have a good idea if the Forest Service is a good fit for you. Find a mentor from the office. Be patient but persistent. Get involved in the Society of American Foresters while in college and go to a convention. You will meet practicing foresters, and it will benefit you to meet as many as possible. SAF usually hosts college reunions so you can meet those from your Alma Mater. Contacts are very important throughout your career.



My family. Left to right: Brett Dick, Keith Kyhl, Sharon, Craig Kyhl, Summer Holt. Headed to a party at the Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, Washington after a day of harvest.

TR: What do you fill your free time with?

SK: Free time??? I did seem to have more during COVID, and did a lot of reading, and a lot of zoom workshops. I still love to learn - the latest in forestry, to how to identify pests or mildew in my vineyard. I am still trying to make a good bottle of wine, though we did win Best of Show and two first place and a second-place ribbon at the Chelan County Fair. Trust

me, the competition is not that stiff in the amateur division! I am fortunate to have the support of our family and friends in the endeavor. As Craig reminded me the first harvest without Clint, "If it is not fun, don't do it. Dad wanted this to be a fun time with friends." I could not do it without all the help, and it is a lot of fun. You become a wine of the month club member for any work you volunteer to do. I can always find something - from pruning, mowing, netting, harvest, and finally bottling! It is a big party!

I still love to hike and travel and enjoy going on trips with friends including the Rocky Mountaineer groups. I love cooking ethnic foods and baking and a group of us in the neighborhood enjoy getting together to eat - including outdoors during the winter! We even bought a pizza oven. We have an annual Christmas cookie bake off - and there are a lot of Swedish cookies that make up the boxes!

Note from the Editor

Do you know someone who should be featured in our retiree interview? Would you like to learn more about one of your fellow retirees? Send me a note and I'll do all the heavy lifting and get them to spill the beans and tell us all about "the way they remember it."

Dave.steinke@gmail.com

Remembrances



Paul Beaber

Paul William Beaber died on March 31, 2021. He was born in the Silverton Miners Hospital on March 19, 1949 to Frances (Swisher) and Ross Beaber, who ran the Silverton Standard newspaper for years. Paul grew up

in the John and Amanda Cotton House, which is one of the oldest remaining homes in Silverton. Paul attended Silverton High School, where he participated in nordic and alpine skiing, basketball, and played tuba in the school band, graduating in 1967.

He went on to Colorado State University, graduating in 1971 with a degree in Social Work, and worked as a counselor at Golden Gate Youth Camp. In March 1974, Paul married Mary Jeffries and they moved to Durango, Colorado, where he got work as a temporary survey technician, launching him on his life's career. Paul worked for Goff Engineering/Surveying in Durango and for the Bureau of Reclamation at Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona. He acquired his Colorado land surveyor's license in 1987. For 27 years, Paul was a Land Surveyor/Realty Specialist for the San Juan National Forest, finally retiring in 2005. Paul surveyed and marked more than 350 miles of National Forest boundary, worked on land exchanges, large land purchases, and acquisitions of right-of-ways for USFS trails.

Beaber, an active skier, and hiker, volunteered in the

late 1990s to help reopen Silverton's Kendall Mountain Ski area after 24 years of closure. He had skied at the original incarnation of the ski hill as a youngster in the 1960s. When some people think of community leaders, they might envision the mayor, president of the chamber of commerce, or director of a big non-profit. But folks in Silverton, Colorado, are just as likely to think of Paul Beaber. The "Beabs" was never mayor, but he was a fixture of the town all the same, embodying the notion of Silverton in a way that few others do.

Paul was there on his kicksled at the Silverton Sparking Sled Rodeo, which he started and organized, wearing the hat emblazoned with the logo of the Silverton Mountain School, the non-profit quiet-use recreation group Paul founded, which had over 200 members. He was there with tuba in his arms when the Silverton Brass Band played on summer evenings as alpenglow set Kendall Mountain afire. He helped his wife, Mary, organize the Silverton Hillside Cemetery workday for a decade. He was instrumental in helping bring KSUT to Silverton. And when the nordic track at the Hillcrest golf course wore thin, he could be found shoveling snow onto the bare spots to make sure skiers could still get in some kicking and gliding.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of 47 years, brother, Steve Beaber, cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.



Wayne Compton

Wayne L. Compton passed away peacefully in Custer on March 16, 2021. He was born February 12, 1935, to Lewis M and Evangeline Compton at his father's homestead on the Limestone near Moon, South

Dakota. This remained his home until he was 19 years

old when he took a seasonal job with the U.S. Forest Service at Teepee Ranger Station. He worked as a logger and ranch hand in the Newcastle, WY area. In 1955, he met his future wife while working on one of these ranches. He married Betty Mahnke in 1958, in Newcastle, Wyoming.

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Remembrances

(Wayne Compton continued)

In 1959, he began a permanent career with the U.S. Forest Service at the Junction Ranger Station which brought the family to Custer, South Dakota. Their first child was born in May of that year. In 1961, the Harney Ranger District was created by a consolidation of Bear Mountain and Hill City ranger districts, Wayne moved to the district headquarters in Hill City at this time. In 1962, they welcomed their second child and purchased a home on Clay Street in Custer. Wayne spent many years with the Forest Service serving as a fire control technician and in forestry management. He served with Black Hills Helitack, and as a liaison with contract fire crews fighting fires in many western states. He retired from the Forest Service in May of 1994.

After retirement he spent three summers returning to his love of horses working as a wrangler for Roy Miller's Trail Rides north of Custer. In the fall of 1995, he started working for the Custer School District as a crossing guard and custodian in the winters and later a groundskeeper. He worked for the school district until

2010. Outside of his careers he served the community he loved in many ways. He was an active member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Parish, a member of the St. Brendan's Council of the Knights of Columbus for 56 years, he served as a member of the Custer City Council, he was active with Custer Youth Bowling and the Teener Baseball program and served as a member of the Custer Volunteer Fire Department for 33 years.

He is survived by his wife Betty Compton of Custer; daughter Janice (Jim) Coates of Custer; daughter Vicki (Daniel) Keierleber of Newcastle, WY; grandson Cody (Bridget) Coates of Thermopolis, WY; granddaughter Candace Keierleber of Federal Way, WA; granddaughter Whitney (Justin) Cosenza of Casper, WY; great grandchildren Zayden and Jasmine Cosenza; Jackson, Grant and Andrew Coates; brother Lewis J. Compton of Hill City, SD; sister Augusta Nissen of Billings, MT and many extended family and special friends who continue to love him.



John Cooley

John Raymond Cooley passed away on February 19, 2021. He was born on a farm in central Michigan near the town of Owosso on November 13, 1927 to Raymond and

Tressie Cooley. He had a pony named "Red". His first job was delivering ice to iceboxes using a horse and wagon. He was the first member of his family to go to college, and earned a Master's Degree in Hydrology.

He served as a cartographer in the Korean War, and had a 35 year career with the Forest Service. He was in multiple use management and watershed in the Regional Office throughout the 60's and early 70's and served as a staff officer on the San Juan from 1974

until he retired in 1983. He and his wife lived in Durango for over 50 years.

He was an accomplished outdoorsman, horseman, and skier. He built cabinetry and solar water panels for the house he grew up in, and a pair of kayaks in which the family often went fishing. He loved to read the westerns of Louis L'Amour. He researched his family's genealogy, and hand-tooled a wallet for me that I carry with me to this day.

He provided for his sons Charles and Robert, his four grandchildren (Sara, Anna, Hayden, and Jaxsen), his community, and the forests of Colorado. He spent the last years of his life tending to the every need of his wife of 63 years, Kathleen (Peanuts) Cooley, who passed away in December 2020.

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Remembrances



Chad Downs

Chad Downs, 43, of Spearfish formerly of Fort Pierre passed away on Thursday, March 11, at his parent's home in Fort Pierre surrounded by his family after a courageous battle with

Esophageal Cancer. Chad graduated from Stanley County High School in 1996. While attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology for Civil Engineering, he met his wife and soulmate Sonia Trautmann. They were married in the Spearfish City Park on November 7, 2009.

He worked as a Civil Engineer at the SD Department of Transportation and the SD Department of Game, Fish, & Parks in Pierre, and the US Department of Veterans Affairs in Fort Meade. Chad landed his dream job as a Project Engineer at the US Forest Service in Spearfish in 2019. Chad was the most kind and compassionate person anyone would ever meet. His free-spirited personality and infectious smile brought joy to so many lives. His strength, determination, and work-ethic were unmatched and he was always willing to help others when they needed it. Chad had such a kind soul and huge heart that drew people to him. He made everyone he met a better person by the way he

lived his life. Chad loved music and one of his favorite bands was the Dave Matthews Band. The lyrics from Chad's favorite DMB song Two Step said it best ... life is short but sweet for certain.

Chad and Sonia moved to Spearfish in 2018 so they could live in the beautiful Black Hills and enjoy all the outdoor activities anytime they wanted to. Chad loved snowboarding, splitboarding, mountain biking, hiking with the pups, and exploring new trails, ski resorts, National Parks, forests, breweries, and restaurants. Chad loved fishing on Lake Oahe and hunting doves and pheasants with his favorite pups Emma and Ellie. Chad and Sonia's love for the outdoors and adventures took them to many beautiful places, with their favorite being Glacier National Park. Chad cherished the time he spent with his family watching football, going to the snowmobile races and snowmobiling, hiking local trails, hanging out at Mountain Meadows, tubing down Sand Creek, and just spending time together during the holidays. He was such a supportive and incredible brother who was always there to listen.

Chad is survived by his wife Sonia Downs, his favorite pups Emma and Ellie, his parents Dan & Barb Downs, brothers Shawn and Jason and their families, and Sonia's family.



Jack Fitzgerald

Jack Duane Fitzgerald, 81, a longtime resident of Mancos, Colorado passed away near his Queen Valley, AZ home on January 25, 2021. Jack was born on May 14, 1939 to Edna R. and James H. Fitzgerald at the family home in Mancos, Colorado. Born in the months preceding the start of World

War II in a very large family meant that Jack and his brothers were counted upon to contribute. They could be found hunting or fishing in the beautiful San Juan

Mountains and Jack and his brothers were known for their steady aim and they could be counted upon to bring home dinner on most days. They had a very close family.

As a young man, Jack worked at a variety of odd jobs but the job he loved most was working for Fred "Doc" Reddert as a Veterinary Assistant. In 1958, Jack married his high school sweetheart, (Mattie) LaNita Trevino and for over sixty years they were almost inseparable whether it be work, play, or spending time on the lake or the hills with family and friends.

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Remembrances

(Jack Fitzgerald continued)

Jack was always a good provider for his family for his family of six children. He dutifully handed over the paycheck to LaNita at the end of the week and never asked for anything for himself. Like his father he raised an enviable garden, raised animals on their farm and hunted to provide food for his young family. In the early years, Jack worked for the National Park Service where he worked to restore the Indian ruins at Mesa Verde National Park and later with the Forest Service where he supervised the ruin restoration at Chimney Rock. Jack remained at the National Forest Service where he worked and cultivated friendships that lasted a lifetime.

For thirty straight years Jack had teenagers in his home, including granddaughters who he and LaNita raised after Jacque Lynn's death in

1984. He always found time to cheer them on at band concerts, basketball, volleyball, and football games. If there was a lake with fish in it, or an open bow season, you would know where to find Tony, Dennis and Jack. Jack loved every minute he spent with his boys.

Jack lived in service to his family and his community. He gave of his time to help the community and earned local recognition as the Citizen of the Year in 1990. Jack fulfilled a lifetime dream by building a log cabin with the help of his wife, children and friends in an aspen clearing in Spring Creek high in the San Juan mountains. This family cabin became the Mancos home to so many visiting family members and friends and became a cherished destination for so many family events over the years.



Jerry Grady

Gerald Eugene (Jerry)

Grady passed away on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. He was born on Feb. 18, 1936 in Mitchell to Frances (Schurz) and Robert Grady. As the story goes, before Jerry was born, his mother rode into town from the family farm in a horse drawn sleigh to avoid

the impending brutal winter storm!

Jerry grew up on a farm outside of Ethan with his siblings Roberta, Bob, Frances, and Charles Daniel. He enjoyed a childhood of farm life and attended country school taught by his older sister. He attended Notre Dame High School in Mitchell and played football wearing a leather helmet!

After high school, Jerry attended Northern State and Dakota Wesleyan before enrolling in the U.S. Army. During his time of active duty, he was stationed in Germany and traveled all across Europe, bonding with fellow soldiers, and making lifelong memories. He came back to Mitchell in 1958 and later met the love of his life, Doris Blankenship. They were married on June 25, 1960. Jerry used the GI bill to enroll at

South Dakota State University and graduated with a civil engineering degree while working a full-time job in construction with Banner Associates.

Jerry began a proud 32-year career with the U.S. National Forest Service in Glenwood Springs, CO, and stayed active in the U.S. Army National Guard, retiring with honors as a Lieutenant Colonel. The Forest Service took Jerry and Doris to Chadron, NE, and Sheridan, WY, where they made many friends through church and on the golf course.

Jerry was active in the Knights of Columbus, Sheridan City Planning Commission, and Kendrick Golf Course. His work included designing and upgrading many roads and bridges throughout the Big Horn Mountains. As an engineer, Jerry was also skilled at designing and building various home projects. He owned many tools and prided himself on his "workshop." In his spare time, he researched and cataloged his family history, tracing relatives back to Ireland. You could also find him perfecting his golf game and searching for lost balls. His hard work paid off with a hole-in-one at Meadowbrook Golf Course in 2017!

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Remembrances

(Jerry Grady continued)

Jerry and Doris welcomed a baby daughter, Deb, in 1970. He was a devout husband and father. Much family time was spent at swim meets, school events, and visiting relatives around the country. Upon retiring in 1998, Jerry and Dode traveled and explored many states, but eventually moved to Rapid City to be near their grandchildren. Grandpa Jer became the best babysitter, taxi driver and permanent sports fan to the kids' many activities.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris, and his daughter and son-in-law, Deb and Dr. Joe Hartford, his grandchildren, Sophie, and Colton Hartford, all of Rapid City. He is also survived by his sister, Francy Bejarano, Globe, AZ; brother, Dan (Madonna) Grady, Spokane, WA; and many nieces and nephews.



Jim Hagemeyer

James L. "Jim" Hagemeyer, an adventurous spirit who found his life's purpose in the mountains of the West, died Friday, April 23, 2021, in Missoula, Montana with his wife and children at his side.

Born on November 26, 1937 in Burlington, Iowa, along the Mississippi River, young Jim spent his days roaming the forests. He learned to trap small animals and fished from banks and boats. During the summers, his parents sent him to work on one of his numerous uncles' farms.

While a landscape architecture major at Iowa State University, he attended a meeting with a U.S. Forest Service recruiter that changed his life. Jim went west to be a summer firefighter. As a handy, outdoorsy kid who could wield an axe, Jim was soon plucked from the ranks to become a smokejumper, stationed in Missoula in 1957 and 1958. Jim then became among the first landscape architects hired by the Forest Service. It sparked a much-loved career that spanned more than three decades over five states.

In the 1960s, he lived in big cities and little towns throughout Colorado. He hunted birds, refinished furniture and collected jazz records. He learned to ski by tailing the best instructor at Buttermilk Ski Area—he could barely afford the lift ticket—who begrudgingly adopted him. Skiing became a passion, and he soon served as a landscape architect working on ski area development in Colorado. The owner of Aspen

Highlands named the run Wine Ridge after the festive picnics Jim and friends threw there. He survived an avalanche at Breckenridge that was later written up in Reader's Digest.

He and his future wife, Gretchen, crossed paths several times—at Iowa State, Vail and then finally in Taos, New Mexico, before coming together. They married in 1970. A creative thinker willing to challenge norms and work collaboratively with communities, Jim's skills captured attention and prompted the Forest Service to promote him throughout the years. He particularly loved being district ranger in Dillon, Colorado, where the Summit County Citizens Association named him Citizen of the Year in 1972.

Jim long wanted to return to Missoula, and he landed the regional director of planning role at the Forest Service Region 1 office in 1986. He retired in 1994 and enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing and biking in Montana and Arizona, where the couple spent winters. He also wrote his memoir, "Saving Trappers Lake," focused largely on his years in the Forest Service. Between the outdoors, constant house and garden projects, sporting events and time spent with friends and family, he enjoyed a rich, active life right up until his passing from a brief illness.

Jim is survived by his wife of 51 years, Gretchen; his children, who he called the "lights of his life," Heidi (Tim Neville) and Andrew (Allison Mouch); granddaughter Evie Neville; and sisters Leah Fisher and Miriam Johnson.

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Remembrances



Warren Hartman

Warren Leonard Hartman

passed away on March 16th just two weeks short of his 90th birthday. He was under care of hospice and his wife and “adopted” grandson Shawn were at his bedside when he “crossed

the bar”. Warren was born on March 30, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY to Carl and Ethel Hartman. He was raised in Yonkers, NY where he was active in school band, boy scouts, church youth fellowship and junior rifle club. He attended the State University of NY College of Forestry from 1948 to 1952 and graduated in Forest Management. While in college he was a photo editor of the Camp Log and Yearbook.

After his junior year he made his first trip west and spent the summer as a fire lookout and trail crew worker in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana and after graduation he served as a trail crew foreman. In the fall of 1952 he received an appointment as a forester on the Gunnison National Forest in Colorado. He was drafted into the Army in June 1954 serving until 1956, returning to the Gunnison NF. He served as District Ranger at Pagosa Springs, CO on the San Juan NF; at Steamboat Springs, CO on the Routt NF; and at Salida, CO on

the Pike/San Isabel NF. In Steamboat Springs he served on the Winter Sports club board which ran Howelson Ski Hill located in downtown Steamboat. He was also a member of the National Ski Patrol and earned a private pilot license in 1972.

In 1976 while at Salida, CO he met and married the love of his life Janice who was the Forest personnel officer. They transferred to Anchorage, AK in 1977 and thus began his interest in boating and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. In 1980 they moved to the Olympic National Forest in Olympia where he was a resource assistant at Shelton then moved to the Forest Headquarters where he served as a coordinator for hydropower project studies and other land jobs. He also served as Information Officer on the Olympic Interagency Incident Command Team. He retired in May 1986 but stayed on the team for several years after retirement.

He is survived by his wife Janice; by his older sister Audrey, of Westerville, OH; her sons Bill (Murielle) of Salt Lake City, UT and their daughter Autumn (Josh) Brielle, Freya of Wooster, OH; and son Scott (Audrey) of Orlando, Florida and their children Kelsey, Sean, Glen; by his younger sister Joan of Staten Island, NY; and by his adopted grandson Shawn Burdett (Shandi) of Olympia, and their children Seaira, Sariah, Shanelle.



Edwin Holley

Edwin H. Holley of Bayfield, Colorado, died March 19, 2021 at his home, surrounded by family. He was born on October 12, 1934 to Lige and Gladys Holley in Lynn, TX and grew up there in Texas. He worked in steel works for a while in Pueblo and

then moved to Bayfield where he started work with the Forest Service.

Ed retired from the Forest Service in 1983 and went into building and construction until 1993. He loved exploring the mountain country and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was very much loved and will be missed.

He is survived by wife, Heidi; children: Robin (Ken) Heskett, Mark Holley, and Aaron (Cristy) Holley; grandchildren: Drew, Jaclyn, Rebecca, Brittney, Cody, & Cooper; great-grandson: Parker; one great-grandson on the way; and sister: Pat McMillan.

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Remembrances

Cloetta Schroeder

Cloetta Jane Schroeder was born on June 22, 1961 in Williston, North Dakota and passed away on April 23, 2021. Cloetta worked as Administrative Officer on the PSICC and also worked at Rocky Mountain Research Station as Administrative Officer.



Ron Thomson

Ron Thomson, Aspen resident for 43 years, died while on vacation in Scottsdale, Arizona January 8th, 2021. Death came from an infection in his sole kidney after a misdiagnosis and

removal of the other one just three years ago.

After growing up in Milwaukie, Oregon and being an Oregon Duck, Ron started his life's work as an air traffic controller for the U.S. Air Force, based in the Philippines, during the Vietnam War, and later worked as a civil engineer here in the Roaring Fork Valley, but his most satisfying work was as a U.S. Forest Service employee and later as a volunteer for the U.S. Forest Service. He managed the Wilderness Program at Zig

Zag Ranger District on the Mount Hood National Forest, in Oregon and White River National Forest here in Aspen.

When not working he was exploring the world on his own time visiting some 101 countries.

Of the many non-profit environmentally-based organizations and endeavors that Ron was personally involved with over the years, he was proud of helping start the Independence Pass Foundation with Bob Lewis in 1989.

Ron leaves behind his adoring wife, Donna. His ashes will be spread at the Maroon Bells when the flowers are in full bloom this spring and his spirit will always live there.



Helen Williams

Helen E. (Austin) Williams

passed away on October 1, 2020 after falling and breaking her hip. She was born in Denver to Natte and Mary Austin on November 22, 1933 but Fort Collins was her home since age 10 as it has been for seven generations of her

family. Helen was involved with every part of her three children's lives in school, scouts, church and sports. She rarely missed a program, concert or sporting event that involved her children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren.

After time with the school district she worked for the Forest Service and thoroughly enjoyed the people she worked with, the mountains, and working with partners writing contracts and permits.

In 1978, she married Don Williams and during their almost 40 year marriage they enjoyed sports, trips, exercise, and family. After retiring, Helen was busy with her young great-grandchildren, assuring they knew the Pledge of Allegiance, and numbers and letters before starting preschool. A cancer survivor, Helen was a strong woman, a believer in equal rights, never complained, always had a kind word to offer a friend, a memory to share with a stranger, and believed one should be responsible, do your best, and have fun.

She is survived by children, Steven, LeAnn, and Greg; grandchildren Ryann, Jenny and Derek and great-grandchildren Danae and Kace Hodge; a special sister-in-law Carole Austin.

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Remembrances



Paul Zimmerman

A rich life's journey came to a close for **Paul Franklin Zimmerman** of Hagerman, Idaho on February 6, 2021, due to a heart attack.

Paul took to the long and winding trail on July 5, 1944 when he was born to Ida Mae and Paul Zimmerman in Danville, Kentucky.

He grew up in Farmer City, Illinois. He attended Southern Illinois University, graduating with a degree in forestry. He worked for 33 years for the U.S. Forest Service in a variety of positions in Idaho and later Colorado.

Paul and his wife, Nancy, happily retired in 1999 and they returned to Idaho to build their dream home outside of Hagerman. While the dream home could sometimes be a bit of a nightmare, Paul and Nancy have lived there since. Paul kept himself busy with work in his shop and his large garden in the back yard, of which the bulk of the harvest was donated to the WEMA Emergency Food Pantry in Buhl.

Paul had an extensive list of volunteer activities. He was the team leader for nine Paint Magic houses. He also was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, and was devoted to every need of his church, Immaculate Conception in Buhl.

He enjoyed fishing immensely and was a perpetual reader. He long harbored a secret dream of becoming a radio disc jockey. And he would have made a darn good one! From the Barenaked Ladies to Eric Clapton, he loved his music.

A multitude of family and friends will remember him for his exquisite woodworking talent. From picture frames, to bookcases, to kitchen tables, to china hutches, his beautiful pieces enhance homes across Idaho and elsewhere.

Paul is survived by his wife of 41 years, Nancy; sister, Dolly (Norm) Lauria of Bay City, Michigan; stepdaughter, Jill of Arvada, Colorado; daughters, Laura Zimmerman of Boise, Idaho; and Ellen Zimmerman of Hudson, Colorado; son, Keith Zimmerman of Boise, Idaho; and grandchildren, Hailey and Gage Eastman.



Joseph Zylinski

Joseph Zylinski, federal executive, civic leader, veteran and long-time resident of Ironwood, Michigan died on Oct. 21, 2020 at 93. He was born in Natrona, Pennsylvania, to Bronislaw and Helen (Olczak) Zylinski and graduated from Har-Brack High School in Natrona Heights in 1946

with his twin brother Conrad. Upon graduation, joined the U.S. Army and served in Korea until 1948 when he returned and began studying forestry at Pennsylvania State University.

After spending a solitary summer in a fire watch tower at Mount Adams, Washington, he was recalled to Korea in September 1950 and found himself serving in the now renowned Army's 2nd Engineers

Combat Battalion which was tasked with holding off nearly 400,000 Chinese soldiers invading across the Yalu River from Thanksgiving Nov. 25 to Nov. 29, 1950, to allow the rest of the United States and United Nations forces to escape and regroup. They fought in sub-zero conditions for those five days with temperatures dropping as low as 50 degrees below zero, until they were finally overwhelmed by the advancing Chinese.

The 2nd Engineers burned the unit's colors and remaining equipment to keep it from falling into Chinese hands and the majority of the remaining U.S. soldiers were killed or captured by the communist Chinese forces.

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Remembrances

(Joe Zylinski continued)

Joe survived the cold, those battles and fought in Korea until September 1951. He left the Army an operations master sergeant after turning down battlefield commissions to be elevated to officer and was awarded three Bronze Stars and two Korean Service Medals. He never shared much about that year in Korea and never complained about the cold again. Returning to Penn State, he continued his studies and while working at a summer job, rescued a co-worker who might have been crushed by heavy glass panes in a workplace accident. Joe was admitted to a Pittsburgh hospital and was tended to by a captivating young nurse, with whom he eloped just a few months later.

After graduating in 1954, he accepted a position with the U.S. Forest Service, and he and Mary Ellen drove west, where they spent the next nine years. Joe served first on the White River National Forest, and it was there, in Minturn, Colorado, that their daughter, Susan, was born. In his 33-year career, he served on four Ranger Districts, six National Forests including: the Pike on the Buffalo Creek District, Rio Grande on the Saquache District, Wasatch as Watershed Staff, Tongass-Alaska region as Watershed Director and

Ottawa as Forest Supervisor, as well as at U.S. Forest Service Headquarters in Washington DC, where his daughter, Barbara was born. His final assignment was as supervisor of the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of American Foresters, a member of Soil Conservation Society of America, the Association for Range Management and the Michigan Forestry Association. Joe took his hobbies seriously and was an avid outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman, scuba diver, golfer and cross-country ski enthusiast. After his retirement, he pursued his love of aviation and earned his pilot's license.

To his family, Joe was a loving, kind and generous husband, father, uncle and brother. He was the embodiment of leadership, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. He is survived by his beloved daughters, Susan Olson of Anchorage, Alaska, and Barbara Zylinski, of Washington DC; five grandchildren, Robert Olson, Megan Olson, Dana Olson, Sophia Mizrahi and Nina Mizrahi; and five great grandchildren and his sister, Annette Zylinski.



Pam Pettit

Pam Pettit passed away May 12, 2021 at her son's home in Upton, Wyoming. She was 68 years old. Pam was born on January 4, 1953 in Rapid City, SD to Louis "Punk" and Francis "Sister" (Belmont) Pettit. She grew up and

enjoyed her time in the Black Hills.

On February 19, 1977 she married Jim Hammond, and on February 25, 1980 she gave birth to her son, Thayne Hammond. She enjoyed being a mom and lots of family fun.

In 2007 she retired from the federal government after 24 years of service with the National Park Service and Forest Service. After her retirement she became a

"hired hand" helping learn and put on cowboy cookouts with Clayton and Rhonda Sander.

The outdoors was her haven, it offered her peace that she treasured. You could find her out picking raspberries, fishing, taking a walk, or gardening. She loved time with family and friends and all animals big and small.

Those she loved life with are: son, Thayne Hammond; sisters, Janet Reindl and family and Nancy Budden and family; special friends, Jody and Bob Dahlke, Tim Sander, Clayton and Rhonda Sander and their children, Leighton and Addie Jo, Bob and Mandy Schefer and family, Jesse and Nastel Dean and family; and her Upton "Kids", Chad Hillman and family and Mykle and Tabitha Pierce and family.

The Last Word

Closure and Connection

- by Tom Thompson

A news story last evening featured a woman whose father was lost in a training exercise off the coast of Florida along with the entire crew of a World War II Navy submarine. The doomed submarine had just recently been found and the story was about how important it was for the family to finally get a sense of closure.

We often speak of the importance of "closure", but its importance is only fully recognized when we do not have it or cannot have it. The loss of so many, like those lost in that submarine, happened without the opportunity to have that closure. Since 1868 after the Civil War, Memorial Day has been observed as a special day to remember those who sacrificed so much for our country and to provide an opportunity to gain some sense of closure.

As we reach out to families of those whom we intend to honor at Memorial Grove each year there are always expressions of thanks and appreciation that the Forest Service and retirees continue to put forth great effort to recognize our honorees. It usually comes as a thank you note, a phone call, or an email, but it is always a sincere message that truly comes from the heart. This year there has been a significant increase in the number of family members who have already shown their gratitude.

Not surprisingly, as I have listened to people this year and read their notes, many have spoken of how special this coming together in September will be for their families to provide closure that they have been lacking. Because of the pandemic the usual



opportunities to have memorial services or celebration of life gatherings has been greatly disrupted or in many cases just foregone. In many cases there has not been the opportunity for needed closure and connection with others who share the emotion, feelings, and loss.

Thinking back over the last thirty years of

Memorial Grove ceremonies, it is apparent to me that we do not fully appreciate just how important this tradition is to families and friends. If there was no other reason to keep Memorial Grove going into this next century other than the connection and closure it provides to families, then it would truly still be worth it.

This year is a unique year in that we are just now beginning to return to some of our normal patterns of socialization. For most of us the thing we have missed the most has been the connectedness, the sense of community, and missing the closure. Across the country, we have missed the school room, the office, the trips, the weddings, the graduations, the holiday reunions, the funerals, the vacations, the soccer games, the concerts, the luncheons, the outings, the visits to see the grandkids, and the visit to the assisted living center to see a family member or friend. All of these and many more coming together times have to a large degree been foregone.

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Many of these are also a form of closure or significant change in a life story...many are what we spend so much of our time doing because they do allow us to come together and share an important part of our lives. It is not as if you can't go on without them but missing a funeral, a birthday, a wedding, or even the graduation of a grandson or granddaughter just feels or leaves one a bit lacking something of importance. Yes, the miracle of

technology has allowed us to be virtual attendees at many of these special times, but even so there is something lacking. There is a lack of feeling, of connectedness, of warmth, and touch. We miss the hug, the handshake, the smile, and the reassurance that does not come through the WIFI.

A memorial is certainly one of the most important times for family to come together and share their memories and their appreciation for all a loved one meant to them. The Memorial Grove ceremony this year will be extra special this year because it will provide a chance for some families and even co-

workers to honor those we have lost this very difficult year. It will be a chance for closure.

This year's Memorial Grove ceremony will also be a chance to look back at all the people that have been honored over the last hundred years at the Monument site and remember what special contributions they made to taking care of the forest and grasslands of the Rocky Mountain Region. It will provide us with a chance to consider the importance of the first century of this Memorial and let us proceed on with the next hundred years of remembering and honoring.

Memorial Grove Ceremony

Saturday September 11, 2021

10:00 AM at the Grove at Monument, CO

Recognizing Honorees from 2019 and 2020

RSVP to thom46pson@gmail.com