



# The Rendezvous

*The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association*

*Volume 9- Number 1*

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*"It's good to know about trees. Just remember nobody ever made any big money knowing about trees."*

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

## Free Money for School

Is there a high school senior in your life? That's great news for them!

The Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship Committee is now accepting scholarship applications for 2022. The deadline for applications is **March 31, 2022**. We plan to offer four scholarships for \$1,500 each. Two of these scholarships are earmarked for natural resource majors.

*(continued on Page 2)*

(continued from Page 1)

The application process requires that applicants must be high school seniors graduating this year.

- **Completion of the Application form**
- **Writing an Essay (limited to 750 words)**
- **Letters of Recommendation (optional)**
- **Applicants must be sponsored by a member of the Rocky Mountaineers.**

Go to our website at [rockymountaineers.us](http://rockymountaineers.us) and click on the "Scholarship" tab for all application process details.

In 2015 the Rocky Mountaineers established a permanent memorial college scholarship fund to assist deserving high school students. The inspiration of the Memorial Scholarship was to honor Clint Kyhl, who passed in February of 2015. One of Clint's core values, as a steward of public land, was to provide for quality and diverse education experiences for families. We have awarded 18 scholarships over the past seven years.

If you have questions, send us an email at [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:thom46pson@gmail.com), 303-552-1711

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

## Rocky Mountaineers 2022 - By the Numbers

**2013**

The year Rocky Mountaineers are established

**I**

Members living in a Foreign Country

**51**

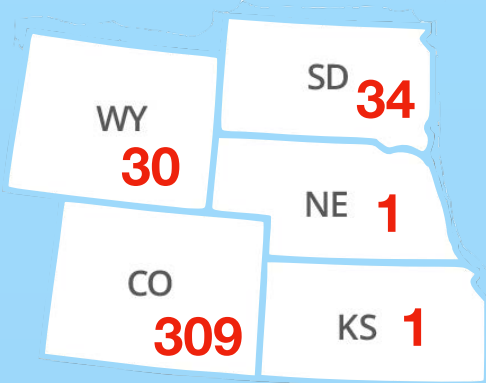
Different area codes among members

**\$6,000**

Value of scholarships to be awarded in 2022

**12**

States with only one member



Members by state in the Region

**9**

Years that the Rocky Mountaineers have sponsored a ski day

Donors to the Memorial Grove Fund

**39****153**

Lifetime Members

Donors to the Scholarship Fund

**34****463**

Members of the Rocky Mountaineers - 1.16.22

## News and Notes From the Chair



*Brent Botts, Chairman of the Board.*

It's 2022 and as I hang up a new calendar, I also look to a brighter and more productive year less hindered by Covid. Zoom meetings will still be scheduled and face masks will still be needed from time to time, but the future appears much brighter. I have more trips planned and hope for some long overdue vacations including a trip to Lake Tahoe for the Forest Service Retiree Reunion in August. I hope you too are planning to stretch your wings and enjoy some travels.

I am excited about the many great programs the Rocky Mountaineers have on tap for the new year, including awarding four more scholarships to deserving seniors, hitting the slopes for another Ski Day at Winter Park and our newest program, the Rocky Mountaineers Grant Program, aimed at projects that further the goals of the Rocky Mountaineers within the Rocky Mountain Region.

Our organization continues to grow and serve as a catalyst to enhance the great work our agency has done for such a long time. When I first retired, I thought, "Well that's it for my contribution to the agency." I now see how our organization and others like NAFSR, NMFSH, and the various Forest Service retiree organizations across the country provide an invaluable service to both the agency and the retirees.

I am sure there are those who retiree and never set foot in a Forest Service office or participate in any retiree events, but it is their unfortunate loss. The continued friendships and support that all of us developed over our careers are still there. In retirement, I have found those relationships even stronger than before. The caring and support for the agency and most importantly the people are paramount.

In closing, I would ask that if you know someone who has retired from the agency, give them a call, and invite them along to your next event or activity. Perhaps that is all they are waiting for.

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## Rocky Mountaineer Ski Day at Winter Park



*Skiers entering large sled in McCall, Idaho - circa 1943. Courtesy National Museum of Forest Service History.*

The Rocky Mountaineers will head to the slopes again at Winter Park/Mary Jane on **Thursday, February 10, 2022.**

This will be the 9th Annual Rocky Mountaineer Ski Day.

As in the past the group will meet at the Mary Jane Base Lodge between 9 and 9:30 am and before heading out to ski together. We will again rendezvous at Lunch Rock at 11:30 am for lunch and our official group photo.

All are welcome and we hope to see you there for another great day of skiing together.

Please let Bjorn Dahl know if you plan to ski with us. Call him at 729-560-3714 or email him at [bdahl@dahlservices.com](mailto:bdahl@dahlservices.com).

Again, one day discount lift tickets will be available onsite for those attending through our host Doug Laraby from Winter Park.

Winter Park is still operating under special pandemic rules for indoor gatherings, and we will follow all guidelines.

# Membership and Finance Report

The Rocky Mountaineers have reached our highest membership level ever with 463 members. This includes 153 Lifetime Memberships.

We are always looking for new members, so help us recruit. Membership in the Rocky Mountaineers is open to both retirees and current Forest Service employees.

## Our Newest Members

**Chandra Allred** - Glenwood Springs, CO

**Linda Hecker** - Littleton, CO

**Jeff Hyatt** - Salida, CO

**Lynn Lockwood** - Meeker, CO

**Sonya Lucatero** - Reno, NV

**Melissa Martin** - Laramie, WY

**Lorraine Miller Parish** - Sun City West, AZ

**Mark Nelson** - Ft. Collins, CO

**Jennifer Prusse** - Avon, CO

**Gary Schiff** - Jerusalem, Israel

**Terry Schneider** - Gunnison, CO

**Bill Shuster** - Vista, AZ

**Courtney Tomlinson** - Douglas, WY

**Margaret Watry** - Gresham, OR

**Jeffrey Wingate** - Colorado Springs, CO

## Our Newest Lifetime Members

**Jeff Hyatt** - Salida, CO

**Deb Ryon** - Evergreen, CO

**Margaret Watry** - Gresham, OR

Thanks to all of you that have paid your 2022 dues and/or made a donation. We really appreciate your support.

If you have not gotten around to making a payment in 2022, now is the time. Annual dues remain \$20/year per household. A Lifetime Membership is still a bargain at \$250 per household.

You can drop a check in the mail to:

**Rocky Mountaineers**

**Box 270462**

**Ft. Collins, CO 80527**

You can pay by credit card by going to our website and click on "Membership" and then "Dues and Donations Payment". Our credit card payments are processed by PayPal (you do not need a PayPal account).

**We have established categories for donations to our Memorial Grove and Scholarship Funds. These categories are:**

- Friend - Less than \$50
- Patron - \$50 to \$199
- Sponsor - \$200 and above

We will recognize donors by each category in the Spring Edition of The Rendezvous.

We always appreciate donations to support our funds for Memorial Grove, Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships, and our General Fund. You can donate at any time during the year.

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

The **Scholarship fund** is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. We plan to award four \$1,500 scholarships in 2022. Two of these scholarships are earmarked for natural resource majors.

The **General Fund** is used to cover our operating expenses and our new Grant Program which is to fund projects on National Forests in Region 2. This will be our first year to award grants.



# Memorial Grove 2022

## Saturday, May 7, 2022



*An aerial view of the Memorial Grove site from Google in 2019.*

Thirty seven people from across the Region will be honored at the annual Memorial Grove ceremony on May 7, 2022. This will be the 101st year that trees have been planted at the Grove site located on the historic Monument Tree Nursery which now serves as the Monument Fire Center and home to the Pikes Peak Hotshots.

The ceremony is open to all family, friends, current employees, and Rocky Mountaineers. Updates on the ceremony details and directions to the site will be posted on the Rocky Mountaineers website later in the spring. After the ceremony, the Rocky Mountaineers will have light lunches available for all attendees.

A workday will be held on April 28th to do maintenance and improvements at the Grove and if you want to help work for a few hours mark your calendar to come to Monument. The work party will gather at 9 am at the Memorial Grove.

Three people who had significant impact on sustaining this Rocky Mountain Region tradition are among those we will be honoring this year:

**Sid Hanks** passed away on June 21, 2021. He was a steadfast supporter of the Memorial during his fifteen years as Deputy Regional Forester and then for twenty-nine years of his retirement he riveted the engraved plates at the memorial during each ceremony.

**Larry Simmons** died on September 16, 2021. Larry was a talented graphic artist who designed the memorial tree stump structures. Larry also was always there to design and produce publications about the Grove.

**Jeff Hovermale**, who passed away on December 29, 2021, worked on the Pikes Peak District for many years and had an enthusiastic commitment to do all he could to ensure that each year's ceremony was a done with the utmost support from the district.

If you are aware of anyone who passed away this past year who is not on the following list of honorees, please let us know along with information important for their remembrance. Send information to Tom L. Thompson at [thom46pso@gmail.com](mailto:thom46pso@gmail.com) so they can be included.



*(continued on Page 7)*

*(continued from Page 6)***2021 Potential Memorial Grove Honorees**

<b>Jack Arnold Arney</b>	White River, GMUG N. F., Rio Grande, R-2 RO, Shasta Trinity	
<b>Daniel Gene Bagley</b>	Black Hills and Bighorn N. F. s	
<b>Evan S. Batson</b>	San Juan, Medicine Bow, and R-4	
<b>Paul William Beaber</b>	San Juan N. F.	
<b>Alfred Braddock</b>	Black Hills and Medicine Bow N. F.	
<b>Benjamin Charles Carlsen</b>	White River N. F.	
<b>Wayne L. Compton</b>	Black Hills N. F.	
<b>John Raymond Cooley</b>	Regional Office/San Juan N. F.	
<b>Chad Levi Downs</b>	Black Hills N. F.	
<b>Gordon Don Erskine</b>	Regional Office	
<b>Jack Duane Fitzgerald</b>	San Juan N. F.	
<b>Mary Waynella Gonzalez</b>	GMUG N. F.	
<b>Gerald Eugene (Jerry) Grady</b>	Black Hills and Bighorn N. F.	
<b>Donna B. (Tommie) Gull</b>	GMUG N. F.	
<b>Sidney Hubert (Sid) Hanks</b>	White River, Nebraska N. F., Regional Office, DRF	
<b>Edwin Holley</b>	San Juan N. F.	
<b>Jeffrey Brian (Jeff) Hovermale</b>	PSICC, Routt N. F.s	
<b>Frank Landis</b>	PSICC, Pikes Peak District	
<b>Theodore William (Ted) LeMay</b>	San Juan N. F.	
<b>John McCarthy, Jr.</b>	San Juan, Black Hills, and White River N. F.	
<b>Charles Edwin (Charlie) Medina</b>	Pike San Isabel N. F. Salida DR	
<b>Mary Morfitt</b>	Rio Grande N. F., Saguache R. D.	
<b>George Arthur Morris</b>	White River N. F., Manti LaSalle R-4, R-8 JCCC	
<b>Homer David Morris</b>	Medicine Bow, GMUG, and Bighorn N. F.s	
<b>Danny Lee Peters</b>	San Juan, Bl. Hills, Rio Grande, Routt, and White River NFs	
<b>Pam Pettit</b>	Black Hills N. F.	
<b>Donald Dean Rogers</b>	Rio Grande, Black Hills, Routt, PSICC, & AR N. F. s	
<b>Cloetta Schroeder</b>	PSICC Admin. Officer, RO	
<b>Larry Simmons</b>	Regional Office, Graphic Arts	
<b>Marvin L. Thompson</b>	White River N. F.	
<b>Ron Thomson</b>	White River N. F. and R-6, Mt. Hood N. F.	
<b>Miles Weaver</b>	GMUG, Mt. Hood N. F.s	
<b>Sandy Wiser Marquis</b>	Bighorn N. F.	
<b>Roger Whiting</b>	Black Hills N. F.	
<b>Paul Franklin Zimmerman</b>	Regional Office	
	<b>NOT FORGOTTEN</b>	
<b>Bobbie Ann King</b>	Arapahoe-Roosevelt N. F.	2020
<b>Eloise Elaine Pepin</b>	Black Hills N. F.	2017

## 1982 - 40 years ago



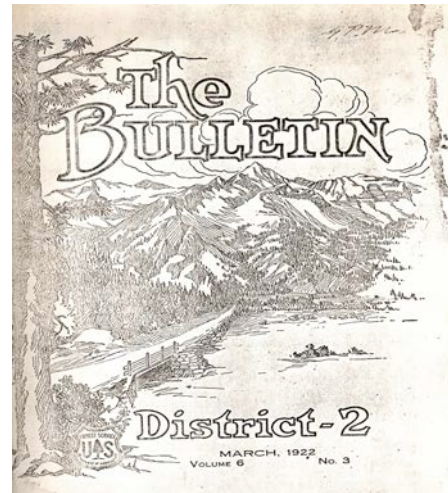
- **Marcel Rivera** was named the Staff Director for Civil Rights
- National Hispanic Heritage Week was mentioned and The Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Colorado danced at the event. The RO's mail clerk, **Tony Lopez**, was the director of the dance troupe.
- **Eighty three** new employees attended Professional Orientation.
- Regional Forester **Craig Rupp** welcomed Chief **Max Peterson** and Vivian Juan, Miss Indian America XXVIII to the Regional Office.
- The **Pine Cone Club** donated \$50 for Christmas decorations for the Children's Christmas Party.
- **A new 16 mm film** "Engineering in a Forestry Environment" was added to the regional free film lending library.

### Retirements:

- **Dick Caruso**, the director of Fiscal and Accounting.
- **George Campbell**, budget and accounting officer for the Bighorn NF.
- **Dave Molinaro**, Recreation and Lands.
- **Vi Welt**, after 21 years of service retired as the secretary for Range and Wildlife in the RO.
- And **Lloyd Newland** who retired July 24, 1982 from the Engineering Staff Group. Lloyd joined the Forest Service in 1961 as a mechanical engineer in the Regional Office and was promoted to regional equipment engineer managing the regional fleet and supervising the mechanical engineering group.

He and **Donna** plan to remain in Denver.

## 1922 - 100 years ago



Florence Villa, Fla.

**February 1, 1922**

District Forester  
Denver. Colo.

Dear Sir:

A few days past I shipped via express prepaid one box 200 pack pineapple oranges, addressed to the District Office Employees, % District Forester, Denver, Colo. I shall be pleased to have you see that each employee in your office receives an orange with my regards. If there are any that are sick, be sure that they get a taste.

This is just a little reminder of the days I worked at the Forest Service. Hoping the fruit arrives in good condition and there will be plenty to go around.

With my best wishes and kindest regards to you all.  
I am

Yours very truly,  
F. J. DeHaven

Dear Mr. DeHaven:

The employees of the District Office wish me to extend to you an expression of thanks for the box of delicious oranges with which you have so kindly remembered us. Not only was this box of unusual fruit especially enjoyed, but there was even a greater satisfaction because of the feeling that we were so thoughtfully remembered by one who formerly worked with us.

With personal thanks for your very kind remembrance, we wish to extend to you our sincere hopes for the best of success in your undertaking.

A. S. Peck, District Forester



## ACES is the Places



The Forest  
Service (FS)  
Agriculture  
Conservation Experienced

Services **(ACES)** program was authorized by the Farm Bill (Agriculture Act of 2014, amended in 2018).

It allows the Forest Service to partner with the National Older Career Center (NOWCC) to hire people that are at least 55 years of age who have specific skills that can serve to temporarily fill skill gaps in the workforce or to mentor and train new employees.

NOWCC delivers the ACES program for the Forest Service, under a Master Agreement that began in 2018 and runs through March 15, 2023.

NOWCC has supported and provided experienced workers in the Federal workforce for nearly 25 years; it started working with the Environmental Protection Agency in 1997. The program provides administrative support to the ACES program for agreement development, recruiting, hiring, and managing enrollee pay.

These information bullets are for those of you who have retired and for those who are about to retire and want to know more about being an ACES enrollee:

For those that are FS retirees, ACES wages will not impact your CSRS retirement annuity. However, if you have a FERS Supplement, there may be impacts to that supplement if you exceed the annual earnings threshold that is set by the Social Security Administration.

ACES is open to anyone who is at least 55 years of age and who meet the requirements of the position and eligibility to work in the United States. It is NOT limited to Forest Service Retirees or retirees of other federal agencies. A retiree may begin work as an ACES enrollee immediately upon retirement, there is no waiting period.

All enrollees receive a program orientation and are supported by NOWCC staff. The FS monitor (or supervisor) will provide office space, security clearance, access to the FS computer and system, as well as use of government vehicles, if required to perform the work.

Enrollees are not employees of the Federal Government nor are they employees of NOWCC. They are participants in a grant funded program. For the purpose of obtaining computer and security access enrollees are considered Forest Service “affiliates”.

Pay is determined based on a sliding scale of an hourly wage. Hourly wage is determined based on the position and the qualifications needed to fill that position.

**Level I: \$15.00 to \$24.99/ hour**

**Level II: \$25.00 to \$34.99/ hour**

**Level III: \$35.00 to \$49.99/ hour**

**Level IV: \$50.00 to \$80.00/ hour**

*(continued on Page 10)*

*(continued from Page 9)*

Schedules are flexible and can range from part-time to full-time. Enrollees may be field going, work from an office setting or work virtually, depending on the position's needs, as outlined in the ACES position description.

A Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) is the document that provides support for an ACES enrollee. An ACES position description, a statement

of work, a cost analysis (budget), approval of funding and coordination with G&A and a line officer's approval are all required to launch an ACES SPA.

Contact the National Older Worker Career Center (NOWCC), to learn more:

Rhyneta Fleming, NOWCC ACES Program Manager at [rfleming@nowcc.org](mailto:rfleming@nowcc.org)

NOWCC ACES Recruiters at:  
[Acesrecruiters@nowcc.org](mailto:Acesrecruiters@nowcc.org)

Becki Heath, Program Development Consultant at:  
[bheath@nowcc.org](mailto:bheath@nowcc.org)

Visit [www.nowcc.org](http://www.nowcc.org) or call NOWCC at (571) 451-0251

## The Rocky Mountain Region Impact



*Mike Watts*

- **Region 2 has one of the bigger programs in the country**
- **56 enrollees across most Forests and in the RO**

"I retired as the Pine Ridge District Recreation Program Manager on the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands at the end of 2020. I knew that after 33 years of work with the Forest Service it would be difficult for me to quit cold turkey. The ACE's program seemed like a good choice for me.

During my career I spent as much time as I could doing fieldwork. This was also true with my ACE's experience, especially since I never received a profile for computer access. At first it was a little adjustment not having as much hands on with the recreation program since, as a contractor, I no longer had Forest Protection Officer, collection officer, purchasing, supervision and other administrative duties. However, this gave me more time to concentrate on mentoring others and accomplishing fieldwork. Overall it has been a good experience and I'm considering helping out for part of the 2022 field season."

# William Kreutzer in the News

By Mary Ann Chambers

## Editor's Note

If you go to be the [Rocky Mountaineers](#) main web page - so expertly managed by our own Bill Disbrow, you'll often find hidden gems. One of them is right here with a picture of William Kreutzer. Mary Ann Chambers gives us the back story.



Did you see the short film about Bill Kreutzer, the first Forest Ranger on the Rocky Mountaineers' website? He finished his career as a forest inspector on what is now the Roosevelt National Forest in the 20s and 30s. He retired from the Forest Service in 1939 after 41 years. The short film was one of the bonus features on the Greatest Good, a film produced by Dave Steinke and Steve and Ann Dunskey for the Forest Service Centennial in 2005. The DVD is still available from the Forest History Association in Durham N.C. ([foresthistory.org/store/](http://foresthistory.org/store/))

Like many public affairs specialists in Region 2, I worked on a small portion of this project. I collected photos and interviewed Bill Kreutzer's granddaughter and wrote some copy for it. The film mentions the trail named in his honor. What a guy. There are not many in our agency that get something named after them. The Kreutzer Nature Trail is located near Mountain Parks Campground in the Poudre Canyon, on the Roosevelt National Forest.

The Kreutzer Nature Trail itself speaks volumes about all the people that have done their share for the National Forests, including Forest Service recreation managers, firefighters and volunteers. The trail escaped the 2020 Cameron Peak Fire, but endured the High Park Fire in 2012. Many hikers, including me, believed that burned ground and fire scarred trees were the result of the wildfire. However, Kristi Wumkes, recently retired Volunteer Coordinator for the Canyon Lakes District said that firefighters backburned along a portion of



Linda Reiter and Karen Roth - Poudre Wilderness Volunteers on the North Fork Trail.

the trail to stop the fire's progress. The sacrificial acres probably saved the campground and nearby homes.

After the fire, recreation managers and the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers (PWV) found the trail in need of some work, but no major reroutes were required. The Boy Scouts who also had adopted the trail and PWV cleared fallen trees and PWV continues to patrol the trail.

You still can help by volunteering for organizations near you that continue to keep up the trails and do other work on the National Forests as budgets dwindle. Just like the Forest Service, PWV does not let just anyone in. To do trail work, you have to apply starting in January, be interviewed and attend a little training. They do a lot of other things that you can apply for anytime. Things such as hosting information tables at trailheads, website maintenance, office work, fundraising and much more. Go to <https://pwv.org/> for more information about this great group.



# Fire in the West - A Video Collection

By Steve Ambrose



*The Little Pine Fire in Bonner County in Idaho. Photo by Ashley Stoneham, Idaho Department of Lands.*

Do you want to know the latest on fires and fire management in the west? Are Wildland Urban Interface areas increasing? What has been the history of fire in the west? Bark Beetles and fire...what's the relationship? How is aspen related to fire? What has happened to the Giant Sequoia in California?

If you want to know more read on.

The World Wood Day Foundation and International Wood Culture Society are partnering with the [Rocky Mountain Research Station](#) (RMRS), to present a series of videos: **Fire in the West**, to answer these and a host of other questions related to fire.

In the last few decades, wildfires in the west have become an increasing problem for the US. The amount of acreage wildfires have burned in the US has increased exponentially in the last 3 decades. Through presentations and discussions with experienced researchers, the partnership hopes to open a conversation with the public as well as researchers and resource managers about how and why wildfires occur and hope to bring more awareness and understanding about them

As a result of this partnership, RMRS scientists are taking part in this year's virtual World Wood Day celebrations hosted by the International Wood

Culture Society and the World Wood Day Foundation. This year's theme is CO<sub>2</sub> and Wood.

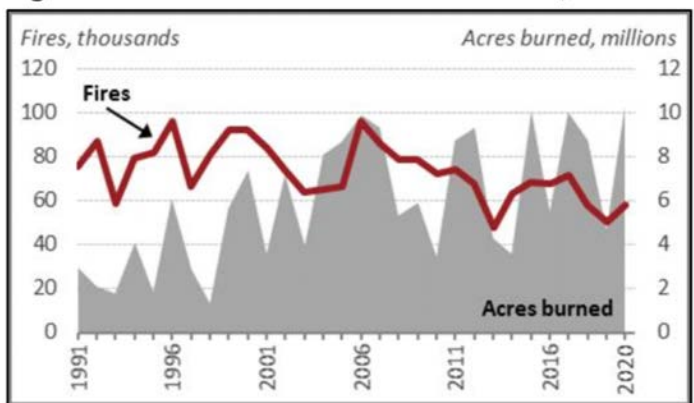
Videos will be posted every month through March 2022. Started in November 2021, these videos will feature presentations from RMRS scientists and other specialists on topics related to fire in the west. There are two recordings available now and more to follow each month.

Click here to see the first two videos:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/rmrs/events/world-wood-day>

For example in the video on bark beetles, [Dr. Sharon M. Hood](#), Research Ecologist with Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) and [Jessica Brewen](#), Science Delivery specialist with RMRS discuss the effects of bark beetles on fire. I (Steve Ambrose) host this presentation and the discussion focuses on two elements that impact forests directly: wildfire and bark beetles. In her demonstration, Dr. Hood explains how fire effects tree defenses and forest resistance to bark beetles; and how we could create resilient conditions in forests to withstand beetle outbreak and other disturbances.

**Figure 1. Annual Wildfires and Acres Burned, 1991-2020**



**Source:** NICC Wildland Fire Summary and Statistics annual reports.

**Note:** Data reflect wildland fires and acres burned nationwide, including wildland fires on federal and nonfederal lands.

If you have any questions call (970 402 0304) or e-mail me a note at [sambrose624@hotmail.com](mailto:sambrose624@hotmail.com)



## U.S. Navy National Forest



*Navy foresters assess a white oak tree set aside for future use in repairing USS Constitution. It is in the largest contiguous forest under single ownership in Indiana, including nearly 150 GPS-located mature white oaks set aside for future use by Constitution. (U.S. Navy/Bill Couch)*

Maintaining a forest for ship building would make a lot of sense if ships were still made of wood. But they aren't. So why does the U.S. Navy maintain a white oak forest in the middle of Indiana?

The white oak tree might have been the most fundamental building block of the young United States -- literally. These giants provided the earliest Americans with shelter, built the country, laid the railroads that connected its coasts and kickstarted an industrial revolution.

From Maine to Florida and inland to the Great Plains and the American Southwest, white oaks were used to conquer the frontier, enforce U.S. foreign policy and kick the Royal Navy out of our waters. The USS Constitution, the only still commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy that has sunk another vessel, is made from that same white oak. And the Navy needs to repair her from time to time.

The Constitution and other ships of its time were made from the hardest woods available for shipbuilders. For the nascent American Navy, the white oak was the perfect hardwood. When the Constitution was launched in 1797, it was one of the most formidable ships of its time. It was among the strongest, fastest and most powerful ships of the day.

USS Constitution sunk the British HMS Guerriere at the beginning of the War of 1812.

Nowhere was this more apparent than the fight in which the frigate earned its nickname. During its famous encounter with the HMS Guerriere in the War of 1812, it's said the ship's 22-inch thick hull caused British cannonballs to bounce off its sides. When the U.S. sailors saw this, they were said to have shouted, "Huzzah, her sides are made of iron!" From that day on, she was known as "Old Ironsides."

There isn't much trouble coming from the King of England these days and the age of sails has long given way to the age of steam (including nuclear steam). Yet the USS Constitution remains commissioned in the U.S. Navy, connecting the history and traditions of the past to the traditions of today.

Constitution is the last of the remaining original six frigates authorized by Congress in 1794. The other five were broken up or captured by the mid-1800s. The Constitution survived because its victory over Guerriere was so resounding that keeping her together remained popular among citizens for decades.

She became a training ship for midshipmen at the Naval Academy during the Civil War and, after that, became a notable ship used for ceremonial purposes before being converted into a museum ship in 1907. In 1997, in a celebration of its bicentennial, Constitution underwent a complete refit and sailed on its own power to ports around the United States. ([More from military.com](https://www.military.com))

## White River State Park?



*Sweetwater Lake, located in Garfield County, is Colorado's 43rd state park.*

Governor Jared Polis announced Wednesday, October 20, that Sweetwater Lake, located in Garfield County near Dotsero, will be Colorado's newest state park.

"Sweetwater Lake is simply gorgeous, and has great potential for even more recreational opportunities like a campground," Governor Polis said Wednesday. "This is the first of its kind partnership in Colorado to create a state park on U.S. Forest Service land, and we look forward to working with our partners and Coloradans with the ultimate goal of adding Sweetwater Lake to Colorado's world-class state park system for fun,

conservation, education, and to support job growth for the region."

The news comes less than two months after the White River National Forest purchased Sweetwater Lake and the 488 acres of land surrounding it. The acquisition guaranteed the area would be saved for public access and not open to residential development.

Wednesday's announcement is the result of a partnership between Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Eagle Valley Land Trust (EVLTL) and the U.S. Forest Service. EVLTL had previously organized a "Save the Lake" campaign.

"The conservation of Sweetwater Lake is the realization of a community vision decades in the making," said EVLTL's executive director Jessica Foulis. "EVLTL is looking forward to closely coordinating with the Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife as we move forward with plans for Sweetwater Lake."

According to the governor's office, Sweetwater Lake will see improved facilities by June 1, 2022. Those improvements will include a new boat launch. Additional changes will be made in consultation with the public.

"Colorado Parks and Wildlife is excited to modernize facilities, and provide updated and sustainable recreational services through this partnership. Our main priority is to conserve the unique character of the area while improving access to this incredible property," said Dan Prenzlowl, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

This is the second time a state park has been created during the Polis administration. Around this time last year, the governor introduced Fishers Peak as Colorado's 42nd state park.

## The National Reunion!



**Welcome Forest Service Retirees to the Golden State Gathering  
with a Silver Lining!**

**You are invited to attend the Forest Service Retiree Reunion in  
South Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada**

**Monday, August 29th - Friday September 2nd, 2022**

Registration for the August 2022 Forest Service Retiree's Reunion at Lake Tahoe is now open! Once you register, you will be able to make reservations for the extremely discounted hotel rooms we have negotiated for you at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. August is a prime time to visit Lake Tahoe, and we are so excited to be able to offer you an entertaining schedule of events in this world-class setting.

Information about all of the activities and events we have planned for you is posted on the website <https://2022fsretireereunion.org/>. Click on the menu button of the home page, in the upper left corner, to browse through the prepared program, register for the event, make your reservations, see all the planned activities, and more! You may also Contact Us through this site.

It is easiest for you, and for us, if you register online through the website. However, if you prefer, you can fill out a registration form and mail it to us with a check for payment.

We are seeking donations for the Silent Auction through our website so please visit us in the coming weeks for more information. In the meantime, if you would like to donate an item, an experience, or an opportunity, let us know with an email to [RetireeSilentAuction@gmail.com](mailto:RetireeSilentAuction@gmail.com). Proceeds, after expenses, will help build the nest egg for the 2025 Reunion, and support the National Museum of Forest Service History.

We are hoping to see you all in August as we Reconnect, Explore and Appreciate!

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Gibson, Reunion Chair



# Rocky Mountaineers on the Move

## Get Back to Normal and Travel!



*Cindy Dean and Jim Thinnes sent this photo from the Ocean Explorer, of a few Gentoo Penguins hitching a ride on a passing iceberg. 1.23.22 - Photo by Cindy Dean.*

The view from our veranda is surreal as we float among huge icebergs in Antarctica. Our ship, the Ocean Explorer, departed Ushuaia, Argentina and crossed Drake Passage into the Southern Ocean to get here. Today is the third of our seven days in one of the most remote places on earth. Amazingly, we have internet here although the bandwidth is too small to share our photos of this amazing land and sea and its penguin, seal, whale, and other inhabitants (they somehow found a way to send the above image).

Some people think we're crazy to travel during the pandemic but we feel quite safe. We're healthy, fully vaccinated, and follow recommended protocols. For this trip, we had to test negative for COVID prior to

Not quite ready to travel yet.? Go virtually with a ticket to the [Colorado Environmental Film Festival](#). CEFF has made the difficult decision to transition to an all-virtual festival for 2022 due to the current COVID surge in Colorado. The all-virtual setting for this year's Festival will allow us to share films and conversations about the pressing issues facing our planet with audiences across the globe, while also preserving public health in the face of the continued COVID-19 pandemic. With recent COVID surges impacting our community in Colorado, we ask for your understanding as we adapt to the changing situation.

Join us February 24-March 6 online featuring **90+ films** on-demand plus live Filmmaker Conversations and more!

boarding our plane in Denver. We were tested again in Buenos Aires before flying to Ushuaia. And we were tested a third time a couple days after we boarded the ship. One passenger tested positive and is now confined to his cabin. The remaining 100 passengers and crew wear masks in public areas except while eating.

The Rocky Mountaineers are planning a different polar destination in Finland and Norway this summer. Trip details are available on the Rocky Mountaineers website [HERE](#). We have an opening if you're interested in joining us. Contact Jim Thinnes at [jimthinnes2@gmail.com](mailto:jimthinnes2@gmail.com) if you want more information or would like to join the group.

Travel has changed a bit but it remains a source of wonderful experiences with a little planning. Follow CDC guidelines for vaccinations, face masks, social distancing, etc. Check destinations for infection levels, travel requirements, venue status, etc. Enjoy life, whether it's at the end of the world or close to



*Image from **Songs of the South - A Musician's Birding Journey to Antarctica**, playing at the Colorado Environmental Film Festival in February 24 - March 6, 2022.*



# Meaningful Reforms Needed to Support Firefighters

*Thanks to the Cody Enterprise, October 2021*



*Tim Hart of Cody was a smokejumper out of West Yellowstone.*

On May 24th of this year [2021], I received the phone call every firefighter's spouse dreads and hopes will never come.

My husband, Tim Hart, a smokejumper out of West Yellowstone, Mont., was being life-flighted to a hospital. He had had a hard landing while parachuting into a wildfire in southern New Mexico.

In a daze, I traveled to the ICU in El Paso, Texas, and spent the next nine days making life-altering decisions for both of us. I was grappling with emotions that changed my life, my outlook on the future, and fundamentally who I am. On June 2nd, I sat next to Tim, holding his hand and stroking his shaved head as life support was removed. I played the song we danced to on our wedding day and sang to him as he took his last breath and his heart finally stilled. I can still close my eyes and see that last moment etched in perfect clarity.

Tim's tragic death has helped bring to light many concerns, often overlooked, that plague wildland firefighters on the line of duty.

These heroes endure brutal conditions. They sleep on the ground for weeks, work in smoke without the aid of respiratory protection, endure extreme physical

and mental fatigue from 16 hour shifts, and combat dangerous conditions through a "fire season" dramatically extending with each passing year. Often, the bases firefighters serve in during fire season are far away, forcing them to pay rent while also paying their family's housing costs back home.

In even bleaker, but all-too-common, scenarios, the lack of affordable housing forces them to live out of tents or personal cars. Tim lived three summers out of his truck because there was no housing available at his base in Idaho.

Isolation from friends and family translates into frightening statistics that are taking deep root in the firefighting community and impacting their well-being. The suicide rate for a federal wildland firefighter is beyond troubling. The divorce rate among women in this field is multiple times higher than the national average, with many more issues manifesting in ways we are still learning about.

For all they are expected to sacrifice and endure, one might think our heroic defenders would receive fair and competitive compensation and benefits. Sadly, I know first-hand that is far from the case. Entry-level wildland firefighters start at just over \$13 per hour – a base salary less than many service workers. As their careers progress, they often find themselves in an untenable situation to earn as much overtime and hazard pay in order to make up for a low-base salary. In order to offset low wages and off-season bills, a perverse incentive is created to work no matter how physically drained or emotionally exhausted they become.

This outdated and merciless system demands a call to action. I, and the Grassroots Wildland Firefighters, call on Congress and President Biden to immediately enact meaningful reforms.

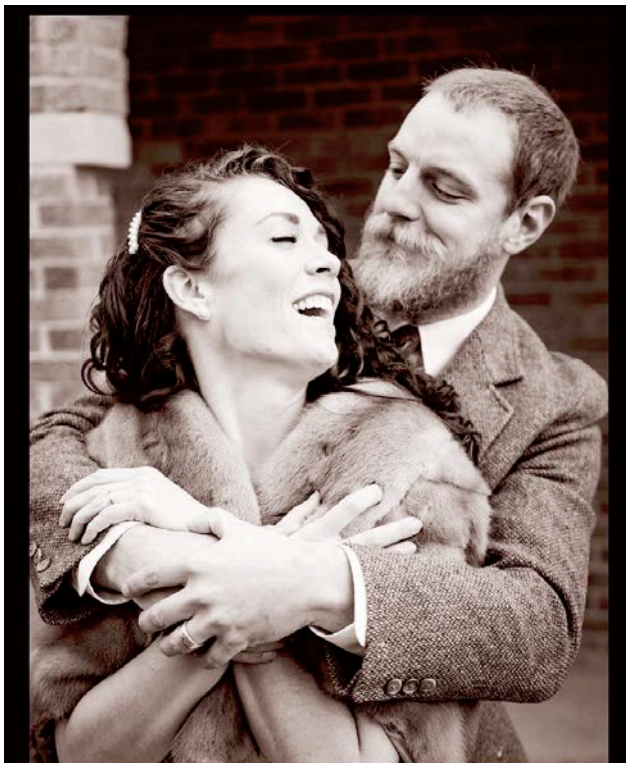
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These include significantly increasing federal wildland firefighter wages, offering year-round and long-term health benefits, propping up proactive and robust mental health programs, and providing housing stipends for those who work far from home.

Federal firefighters should receive their own “wildland firefighter” classification and pay scale – just like other employees of the federal government. Temporary workers should be allowed to “buy back” their time served as firefighters to credit their retirement when they are hired as permanent employees.

Finally, programs should be created to study and track the



*Michelle and Tim Hart at their wedding in December, 2019.*

effects of chronic exposure to smoke and firefighting chemicals, and to retrain or reeducate firefighters who wish to transition out of the profession.

These initial steps are the bare minimum and serve only as a starting point of what our country should give those who defend our lives, our homes and our public lands.

In life, Tim had an impact on so many people. I choose to hope that his passing can serve as a wake-up call to the needs of his brothers and sisters who are out fighting on our behalf today.

**Michelle Hart**

# National Museum's History Corner

Sharing the rich history and stories  
of America's conservation legacy



The Museum is on a roll in 2022! A few recent updates from our many programs and activities:

## The Museum's Honor Roll

Please take a few minutes to review the Museum's Honor Roll (<https://forestservicemuseum.org/honor-roll/>) and reflect on the memories you have about these friends and colleagues. Although there are about 350 honorees, we know there are many, many more who deserve to be honored! Would you consider nominating someone? Follow the instructions on the web page to complete a nomination for a person, group, or even an event. A \$100 donation is submitted with your nomination. For any questions about the Honor Roll please contact Lisa Tate ([lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org)) or Tom Petersen ([tom.petersen@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:tom.petersen@forestservicemuseum.org)) or call the Museum, (406) 541-6374.

## Conservation Legacy Center – Fundraising and Design Move Forward

Our highest priority is to complete the Capital Campaign for the Conservation Legacy Center (CLC), the flagship building on our Missoula campus. We have received significant cash donations in the past year from several new donors. Moreover, Rich Stem, our Forest Products Sector lead and his committee, have been successful in securing cash and in-kind donations (e.g., lumber) from nine forest product companies. The CLC design maximizes the use of wood and, in particular, mass timber technology. We are most fortunate to have Tom Chung as our architect (Leers Weinzapfel Associates), who specializes in mass timber design. We are also



Conceptual rendering of exhibition entrance at the new Conservation Legacy Center.

pleased to announce the completion of the CLC exhibition conceptual design by Art Processors, a world class creative technology company who specializes in designing exhibits and visitor experiences. A Museum committee, led by President Tom Thompson, has worked closely with Art Processors on the exhibition design since June 2021. We are also very grateful to our Executive Director, Lisa Tate, for her tireless leadership and work on all CLC activities. If you have personal contacts with potential donors of materials, services (or cash!), please contact Lisa at [lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org) or ph. 406-541-6374.

## Report to be published Spring 2022

The Museum's Regional Director Cadres continue to help us document the names of every district ranger and their years of service on each national forest and grassland dating back to 1905 (and sometimes earlier). Forty forest/grassland histories with ranger lists (including the Arapaho and Roosevelt, Bighorn, Black Hills, Pike and San Isabel, and Routt) have been published and can be viewed online.

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Many thanks to Dave Stack, our volunteer Historian & Curator for all his support to Ranger Roll Call. The Museum has set a deadline of March 1, 2022, to receive additional ranger lists, which will be included in an interim report and widely distributed to agency leaders and Museum members. If you are interested in helping the Museum complete the Ranger Roll Call for any of the remaining R-2 national forests or grasslands, please contact Andy Mason, [acmason1954@gmail.com](mailto:acmason1954@gmail.com), (571-214-5536).



*Conceptual rendering of an interactive tree cookie exhibit where visitors will be able to learn and share.*

Reunion, so if you have items that are more suited to that event, please keep it in mind. A request for donations for our spring 2022 online auction will be distributed soon with a desired due date of March 31. If you have items to donate or questions please contact Andy Mason, [acmason1954@gmail.com](mailto:acmason1954@gmail.com), (571-214-5536).

### **The Rocky Mountain Region Cadre**

Every region has a cadre of volunteers whose primary aim is to increase awareness of Museum and activities among retirees, current agency employees, and other communities of interest. Dan Nolan serves as director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Cadre (Region 2 and Rocky Mtn. Research Station) aided by these cadre members: Steve Ambrose, Bill Bass, Brent Botts, Dave Cawrse, Brad Exton, Jim Free, Phil Hoefer, Kathy Kurtz, Elaine Langstaff, Sig Palm, Bruce Short, Jerry Schmidt, and Dave Steinke. To strengthen communication between the Board, directors, and cadre members, each region also has a Board member liaison, which for R-2 is Pat Lynch.

### **Museum welcomes Jane Leche to the Board of Directors**

At the January 2022 Board meeting, we welcomed our newest Board member, Jane Leche. Jane retired recently as R-2's Customer Service, Tourism and Outreach Program Manager. During her years in R2 she was also lead vocalist and played rhythm guitar with the Fiddlin' Foresters, the "official old-time string band of the U.S. Forest Service."

Contact us if you need more information!

Do you have questions about any programs and activities at the Museum? We offer updates via Zoom if you and a group of friends are interested. Please contact: Lisa Tate, Executive Director, [lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:lisa.tate@forestservicemuseum.org), (406) 541-6374.

### **2022 Public History event: "Early Wives of the Forest Service"**

We have begun planning for a 2022 public history event, which will feature the most treasured stories of the women who lived and worked in remote locations and were essentially unpaid members of the Forest Service. The Museum has asked each regional director to identify 2-3 narrators (people to interview) from their region. Ideally, these individuals will have not already had a professional oral history done and have some interesting stories to tell. If you know anyone who fits that description, please contact the Museum's Oral Historian, Dr. James Wall by email at [james.wall@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:james.wall@forestservicemuseum.org) or by phone at 406-541-6374.

### **Spring 2022 Online Auction**

Building on the success of our spring 2021 online auction, the Museum is planning its next auction, tentatively scheduled for April-May 2022. The 2021 post-auction survey of our bidders and the feedback was very positive! Once again, we will be requesting donations of suitable items (valued at \$100+), including vacation rentals, fishing trips, artwork, ski tickets, musical performances, and more. The 2022 Forest Service Reunion at So. Lake Tahoe (Aug. 29 – Sept. 2) is also a major fundraiser for the Museum. There will be an in-person silent auction at the





## NAFSR Report

*by Sharon Friedman, Rocky Mountain  
Region NAFSR representative*

The NAFSR website has many updates and other features of interest, so if you haven't been there in a while, check it out! Be sure to scroll down to the bottom as there's good stuff all the way down.

While it was not directly related to the bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, the Forest Service had been working on a ten year program for implementing fuel treatments on a landscape scale. The bill gave the Forest Service a large infusion of cash to go about it. It's based on firehedges that have been prioritized to protect the areas in greatest need. [Here's](#) a link to the description of the effort.

NAFSR spoke with the Forest Service on ways that retirees could potentially help. Representatives from NAFSR attended an [Aspen Institute workshop](#) on wildlife resilience with other groups to help the Forest Service develop its plans.

On another note, energetic and interested retirees might want to help the Forest Service with this work by .. going back to work. If so, check out the [ACES program](#).

The Fire Committee at NAFSR is currently working on a position paper on managed fire.

If you have any questions about NAFSR, check on [www.nafsr.org](http://www.nafsr.org) or contact me directly at [terraveritas@gmail.com](mailto: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. I encourage you to become a member if you are not already.



*The world's largest Smokey attraction.*

HILL CITY - Sitting at 30 feet tall and at 25 feet in length - he's the "big" story in Hill City - literally.

Brothers Jordan and Jarrett Dahl, of Dahl Brothers Chainsaw Art, along with a team of artists from all over the country, created the world's largest Smokey Bear in just 10 days. This Smokey Bear is extra special, however.

Smokey Bear is the official mascot of the Hill City School Rangers, recognizing the assistance of a crew of 25 Hill City school boys - including the entire basketball squad, one eighth grader and several boys who recently attended school or graduated who assisted the Civilian Conservation Corps, U.S. National Forest Rangers and were among the 4,000+ firefighters and in battling a three-day fire in July 1939.

Because of their service, the U.S. Forest Service recognized the "Rangers" crew from the Hill City Schools and awarded them the distinction of being the only school district in the country allowed to use Smokey Bear as its mascot.

See more in the award-winning [Black Hills Pioneer](#).

## Foresters in Space!



On June 21, 2021, a member of the United States House of Representatives elected by the people of Texas had an unusual question for an employee of the US Forest Service Tuesday. Jennifer Eberlein, the Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System in Washington, was testifying during a live streamed broadcast of a hearing before the House Natural Resources subcommittee on national parks, forests and public lands.

Rep. Louie Gohmert (pictured above) asked her a question. The topic at the time was climate change.

“I understand from what’s been testified to the Forest Service and the BLM you want very much to work on the issue of climate change,” Rep. Gohmert said. “I was informed by the immediate past director of NASA that they found that the moon’s orbit is changing slightly and so is the Earth’s orbit around the sun,” he continued. “And we know there’s been significant solar flare activity. And so is there anything that the National Forest Service or BLM can do to change the course of the moon’s orbit or the Earth’s orbit around the sun? Obviously, that would have profound effects on our climate.”

After a pause, Ms. Eberlien replied. “I would have to follow up with you on that one, Mr. Gohmert,” she said with a smile.

“Yeah, well, if you figure out a way that you in the Forest Service can make that change,” Rep. Gohmert said, “I’d like to know.”



*An irreverent response from [dissentpins.com](https://dissentpins.com) who will sell you one of these patches for \$13.95.*



*Smokey points out to a bird on his shovel that he and Pooh Bear continue to share one set of clothes.*



## Remembering Betty White



*In 2010 the USDA Forest Service named Betty White an honorary forest ranger. (left to right) Former Chief Tom Tidwell, Smokey Bear, Betty White and Hank Kashdan.*

***[from Smokey's LinkedIn account - if you have an account, link to him]***

*Smokey Bear (He/Him)*

*Smokey Bear at The Advertising Council*

Hi, Everyone. I don't **LinkedIn** very often, but I lost a "coworker" today.

Betty White, my hat is off to you. Whenever I needed help spreading the word about wildfire prevention you got to work. Thank you for being a friend. #❤️

This photo is from over a decade ago when Betty was honored by the [U.S. Forest Service](#) as an Honorary Forest Ranger. Betty wanted to be a ranger as a little girl, but back then, women were not allowed to join. Thankfully, times changed and we followed Betty's lead. Please follow her lead and do your part to prevent wildfires. [#rip](#) [#onlyyou](#)

See more in a story in [Outsider Magazine](#).



*Jim Bedwell was there to help honor Betty White in 2010.*

Betty White, an animal activist, has often spoken about her desire to pursue a role in the U.S. Forest Service, which was unfortunately not a career available to women in the early 1940s after she completed high school.

In 2010, the *Golden Girls* star was made an honorary forest ranger by the service during a ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. White, who was 88 at the time, was presented with both a badge and a ranger's hat. Smokey Bear was also on hand to give White a bear hug.

During her speech, White said she couldn't put into words what the honor meant to her and recounted spending time in California's Sierra Nevada mountain range with her parents growing up.

White assured the audience that, even in her late 80s, she'd use the honor to continue her activism. "Whether I'm a legitimate forest ranger or not, I've been working for the cause for the last 89 years," adding, "I know this is an honorary position but it's also one where I can use my voice to try and protect the remaining beautiful parts of this gorgeous world we live in."

"In my heart I've been a forest ranger all my life, but now I'm official," she said at the time.

Watch the ten minute [Forest Service video](#) here on YouTube.

# "That's the Way I Remember it"

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



## Colleen Oquist

*43 years of  
Federal Service*

**The Rendezvous:** Okay - before we get to the good stuff - how many moves did you make during your career?

**Colleen:** Zero. (We did move the location of the office once during my career). It's uncommon for a Forest Employee to spend their entire career on the same district, but I spent forty three years on the PSICC, Comanche National Grassland in the La Junta Office. I started as a COOP-Student in 1977. In 1979 I was hired part-time as a clerk/typist, a VIS, and finally an Information Assistant.

**TR:** What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of staying in one place for your whole career?

**Colleen:** The advantages would be knowing the Comanche NG and its unique areas. I developed strong relationships with fellow employees, FS partners, permittees, law enforcement and businesses in the Arkansas Valley. For the first ten years, the office staff in La Junta consisted of one full time Range Tech and me. I had to become a jack of all trades because there was no one else around to do things. I worked my entire career as a part-time employee. This worked out well for me while I was raising three very busy sons. I always said I had the best of both worlds. The disadvantages would be never having the opportunity to travel, work on other districts, or advance my career.

**TR:** People tell me that you ARE the Forest Service in La Junta...is that right?

**Colleen:** I used to hear that a lot. Since I was local, everyone knew me. I was active in the community at work and in my personal life. I believe strongly that we should all do what we can to make our communities better. I was a constant for decades, so I guess that helped my Forest Service status as being known as The Forest Service.

**TR:** Where were you born and raised, and tell us a little about your family.

**Colleen:** La Junta, Colorado. (I don't get out much!) I (maiden name Mayo) married my high school sweetheart, Rob Oquist. We have been happily married for forty two years. We have three sons, Sean, Seth and Zach. They kept us extremely busy while they were growing up. They were all athletes and Rob spent countless hours coaching them until they started middle school and I spent countless hours running them all over the state of Colorado. All of our sons are married and along with their beautiful wives have blessed us with seven grandchildren. Sean and Seth are both chiropractors with practices in Lamar and Canon City. Zach is an engineer for Burlington Northern Santa Fe. We all loved to sing so we enjoyed performing on stage at our local theater, at church, at weddings and for local events.

However, after we sang for a wedding at the Broadmoor our oldest son, Sean, said that was his last family performance. I guess at thirteen he became too cool for us! Rob and I have continued to sing through the years.



Zach, Colleen, Rob, Sean and Seth.

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In July we were asked to participate in the “Masked Singer” at our local theater. We were the Dino Duo. We had a lot of fun keeping it a secret from our family and friends and were honored when the audience selected us the winners.



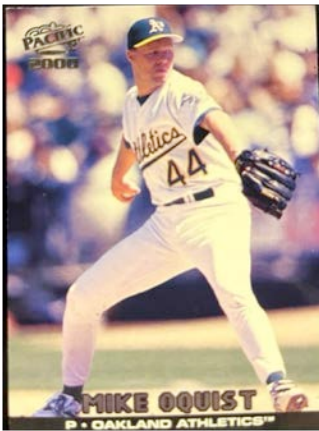
*The Masked Singer - we are the T-Rex Dinos in the back.*

Rob is co-owner of Valley Plumbing and Heating in La Junta. This business was started by his parents in the early 60's. He and his two brothers have run the business for

over 40 years. Recently, Rob has taken on a new role as Otero County Commissioner.

**TR: La Junta is home to some pretty famous athletes like Tippy Martinez, Tim Wayner, and Jim Sullivan... and one of your family members is among them Tell us a little about that.**

**Colleen:** Rob's youngest brother Mike was a natural athlete. From the time he could toddle he was playing ball. There is 11 years between Mike and Rob, so Rob was constantly playing ball with his baby brother. In high school Mike received numerous local, league and state recognitions. He was a great quarterback and excellent basketball player. In fact, his 1000 high school career points has never been broken and he achieved this before the three pointer was part of the game. However, his love of baseball is what took him far beyond the Arkansas Valley. He played for the University of Arkansas until his Junior year. While at Arkansas he



played in the College World Series two out of three years. He was then drafted by the Baltimore Orioles and made his way up through the minor leagues. He

was called up by the main team and made his first big league appearance in New York during Reggie Jackson Day in August, 1993. I will never forget that day. Our friends had a satellite TV and called us to come watch the game. When Mike stepped on to the mound and the name Oquist was written across his back, we all went ballistic and then Rob and I started crying like a couple of babies. It was so emotional, and we were so proud of him. He went on to play another seven years as a middle relief pitcher. He played for Baltimore, the Oakland A's and the San Diego Padres during his eleven year career. We enjoyed going to games whenever we could. Mike now lives in La Junta with his family and is co-owner of Valley Plumbing.

**TR: Where did you go to school – early school, high school and beyond - and what was your favorite subject?**

**Colleen:** I went to school in La Junta. I received an Associates Degree from Otero Jr. College and planned to go to USC in Pueblo and obtain a degree in biology. However, I got married so my plan of becoming a wildlife biologist was put out to pasture. I loved school and enjoyed all subjects, but my favorite was science. I also loved music. I played flute in the band and sang in the concert choir and was part of the madrigal singers.

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

**Colleen:** When I was in the 5th grade, I had the most fantastic teacher, Mariam Hunter, that taught us the importance of environmental conservation and preservation of precious things from the past. I knew at that time I wanted to work for an agency that practiced these lessons. I was granted that opportunity my freshman year of college when I became a COOP Student at the U.S. Forest Service, Comanche National Grassland. Some of my first duties included typing twenty five letters to area permittees with three-part carbons. I had to be fully accurate with my typing because the old typewriter I was using did not have a correction option. I had to use white out. I did a lot of clerical work and tons of filing that had piled up for over a year. The Forest Service manuals and handbooks had constant updates. I have to say that was the least favorite part of my job.

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**TR: What was your first day on the job with the Forest Service like?**

**Colleen:** Well, it was a bit intimidating. The Range Tech showed me where things were and then went to the field. I was alone and felt like a fish out of water. There was a list of things for me to do (like the twenty five letters), so I dug in and started doing the best I could. A few days later the Admin. gal from Springfield came to La Junta and showed me where everything was and instructed me on things I would be doing.

**TR: Tell us a little about your career and the different jobs you've held, details, fire assignments, etc.**



*Colleen at an informational event in La Junta, Colorado.*

**Colleen:** I started my career as a COOP student, then a clerk/typist, then a VIS and finally as an Information Assistant. I think I mentioned before that I became a jack of all trades. I did

procurement, office management, contracts, educational programs, tours, maintenance and visitor services. I also worked on many of the PSICC fires out of Pueblo. I remember 2000 and 2001 were especially bad years with numerous fires burning all over the state of Colorado. I mostly worked in the procurement shop but have worked as timekeeper, driver, and in expanded dispatch.

**TR: You've seen a lot of changes on the National Grasslands in your career. Can you talk about some of those?**

**Colleen:** The most significant change I saw was the development of recreation areas in Vogel Canyon, Timpas, Picture Canyon, Carrizo Canyon and Picket Wire Canyonlands. When I started in 1977, we had no developed recreation sites. As the years went by and

more visitors started coming to the Comanche, sites were developed. All of these sites are well used by the public and much appreciated.

**TR: What were some of the most challenging changes during your career with the U.S. Forest Service?**

**Colleen:** The most challenging changes has been since the pandemic started. Never in my forty three years have I seen the USFS shut down for months, now years. After the pandemic hit the U.S. and everything shut down in March of 2020, I hoped and prayed that everything would be back to normal by summer of 2020. Our office staff is small in La Junta and most employees worked from home. Since my WiFi at home is not that great, I opted to work at the office. I'm used to working alone but months of it was a little much. I could have retired the year before, but I just was not ready. I am a people person and needed to see visitors and interact with co-workers. I made the decision to retire at the end of 2020.

I think the next biggest challenge was the addition of 17,000 acres of land transferred to the USFS from the US Army in the early 90s. This land, known as Picket Wire Canyonlands, contains the longest set of dinosaur tracks in North America as well as other paleontological, archaeological and historic treasures. The main dilemma of this transfer was that access was not included. Military and private lands surround this area, so anytime the USFS needed to go in to work, conduct a tour, have a project etc., permission had to be granted by Pinion Canyon Maneuver Site. This also eliminated the public from driving to the area unless they were on a Forest Service tour. In the beginning, the public had to hike seventeen miles roundtrip just to see the dinosaur tracks. If they wanted to hike to the Rourke Ranch it was twenty three miles. State lands were acquired in the late 90s and reduced the hike to eleven miles to the track site. Our little district had no idea the impact this transfer was about to make. Extra staff was hired including a tour guide, archaeologist, recreation manager, extra recreation staff, a fire staff and finally a paleontologist in 2000. It was definitely a learning and growing experience for most of us and I am proud to say that the management and preservation of the area has been well done.

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**TR: There are some amazing areas on the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands like Pinyon Canyon and others. Can you share some of your favorite spots?**

**Colleen:** We have a saying on the Grasslands that- "Anyone can love the mountains, but it takes soul to love the prairie." At first glance the prairie seems to be a vast area of land that all looks the same. However, if you take the time to explore the Comanche you will find deep canyons, unique and colorful rock formations, stories from the past etched in stone and remains of adobe homes from those dreaming of a better future. Wildlife and birds are plentiful and can be spotted easily and plants and flowers can paint a stunning picture during the spring. The red rock area of Picket Wire Canyon is one of my favorite places. It's an area that is so unique and reminds me of some of the canyon country of Utah. I love being able to see for miles and there is nothing more beautiful than a sunset on the prairie.

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

**Colleen:** There were two that influenced me the most. Charlie Richmond and Dave Pieper. They were incredibly supportive of the Administration staff (which consisted of Cindy Callahan in Springfield and me in La Junta) and gave us opportunities to advance. They believed in us and appreciated our hard work and dedication to the district.

**TR: How many Rangers worked for you and what were some of the best and worst parts of your jobs?**

**Colleen:** I have had the opportunity to work for seven Rangers throughout my career. Most of them were easy to train! (lol) I went to work with a thankful and positive attitude every day. The worst part of my job was working with negative people. There were a few through the years that thrived on making others miserable. The mom in me wanted everyone to get along but I learned that is not always possible. I think the worst thing that can happen in an office setting is



*I'm standing left of Woodsy along with some of our Environmental Poster winners! April 5, 1982.*

to be walking on eggshells because of one nasty person. I did it once, but that too was a learning experience, and I never did it again.

I loved my job! One of my favorite things was taking care of visitors on the phone and in person. I always went the extra mile to make sure they received everything they wanted. Sometimes it was just talking to them on the phone, other times it was walking them through recreation.gov site. My goal was to give the best customer service I could. They were always shocked when I answered the phone, and they did not get a recording. I also enjoyed working with area schools. I went to the classrooms and gave programs on wildlife, fire prevention, the grasslands and the dinosaur tracks. Once with the help of Jeff Outhier, we took a mule to school. Our entire office used to adopt a class every year and we would take them on field trips three times during the school year. I promoted the Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear Environmental poster contest that the National Garden Club sponsored and sent in more posters from the La Junta area than any other place in the nation for many years. We had several national winners. I loved creating brochures and informational pamphlets. My last contribution was a tarantula brochure.

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*Tallulah the Dino, Smokey and friends getting ready for the Arkansas Valley Parade.*

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

**Colleen:** The most rewarding part of my job was knowing that I did the best I could with whatever I was doing and having the privilege to work with some of the most amazing people I have ever known. I had the opportunity to work on fires; was human repeater in the early 1990s during a Picket Wire Canyon Fire - pretty creepy all alone on top of a bluff in the middle of the night with a mountain lion screeching nearby; assigned to a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team, was sent to Reno to help rewrite a portion of the fire manual, worked with amazing Forest Service folks on and off the district and had the opportunity to work on the set of two movies being filmed on the grasslands and one documentary by the BBC. I also enjoyed educating youth about the importance of caring for the land. I believe that by doing this through the years we have seen less vandalism on the Comanche. I started and managed our book outlet with Rocky Mountain Conservancy years ago. We made enough money through book sales to buy interpretive supplies, signs, digital photo frames and maps. I even bought a Sinclair Dinosaur from a local gas station. The office staff painted her a more appropriate dinosaur color and we featured Tallulah in several parades, educational programs and displayed her in front of our office. These extra funds generated through the book outlet were much needed for interpretation in our small offices.

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

**Colleen:** Laughter was plentiful in the office most of the time. On the Comanche, we had the most awesome crew of older Americans. Joyce Jones worked in La Junta and would cover the front desk or go to the field. One day the phone rang, and I was on the other line, so Joyce answered. The person asked (with a very heavy, Asian accent) if there were any wild beaver in the grassland? Joyce - 'yes, we have beaver on the grassland.' Caller - 'Oh good, I want to see the wild beaver, where are they?' Joyce - 'well I can't give you the exact location, but I believe there are some along Timpas Creek.' Caller - 'I want to see wild beaver, where Timpas Creek?' At this point I was off the phone and Joyce looked at me and made a circular motion with her finger like this caller is nuts! She transferred the call to me after several more attempts to convince the caller she did not have an exact location for the beaver. I picked up the call and asked if I could help, the caller (who happened to be my onery husband) said, hey babe you want to go to lunch? In which I responded - I take it you want Chinese food? I thought Joyce was going to kill him the next time she saw him. We laughed about the wild beaver for years. Working the front desk, we had calls from visitors asking if Bigfoot had been seen in our area, if the little people still lived in Picket Wire, if they could fly off the canyon top, if they could hike naked, and if we actually had motels in La Junta. I could go on and on, but most visitors asked the standard questions, thank goodness.

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

**Colleen:** I think the current Forest Service is struggling because of the shutdown from the pandemic. At some point they need to open the doors back up and get back to normal for the visitor and the employees sake. I don't believe that all work can be accomplished from home, especially if you are a field-going employee. The lack of employees on the ground has caused recreation areas to deteriorate and the lack of Forest Service presence has caused visitors to run amuck doing things they normally would not do. It's time to open up and get back to work.

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

**Colleen:** I would encourage a young person to seek employment with the USFS only after they completed a four year degree. I would also encourage them to do some type of internship with the Forest Service so they could see if the Forest Service would be the right fit. I think the Forest Service offers excellent benefits to their employees and there is advancement as long as the employee is mobile.

**TR: What do you fill your free time with?**

**Colleen:** I am happy to say I fill my time with whatever I want to do. During the week I am full time Nana to my newest granddaughter, Hadlee. She just turned six months. It's been a long time since I have taken care of a little one full time and I am loving every minute. She is an incredibly happy baby, so it makes my job easy. I was also appointed to the La Junta Tourism Board last January. The board is busy branding La Junta and working with Colorado State Tourism office. I also joined the Community Choir at Otero College in the fall. We just gave a concert in December singing all the songs we learned. The music was challenging but beautiful and I enjoyed it very much. I plan to do it again next fall. I am also a member of a bell choir at church. I love decorating and plan to redo my kitchen this spring. I am also an avid reader. Last year I read over one hundred books. This year Rob and I plan to travel to Yellowstone and down south to explore different areas. This past year we traveled around Colorado and enjoyed the beauty our state has to offer.

**TR: Any final words of wisdom?**

**Colleen:** Just what I have always lived by: Live well. Laugh often. Love much!



*My last day on the job with my faithful co-worker.*

**TR: Anything we didn't ask you about?**

**Colleen:** Through the years I have had the opportunity to visit many Forest Service areas in Colorado and other states and am always in awe of the beauty of Forest Service Lands. But out of all the places I visited, hiking to the top of Storm King where the lives of fourteen fire fighters were lost had to be the most memorable. I was touched that other visitors and family members left mementos at each cross. I went to each spot and said a

silent prayer for each person. I remember thinking that they were so close to reaching the top and might have survived with just a few more minutes. As I descended the trail, I was overcome with emotion and the tears started streaming down my face. I was relieved that I was all alone and had time to grieve for these young men and women who lost their lives on that tragic day. It's a hike I will never forget.

One more memorable story. In the early 2000's the Forest Service was asked to give a field trip to a group of International Scientists meeting at Otero Jr. College and I agreed to drive some of the scientists. Eight Japanese scientists rode with me in my Suburban. I soon discovered that only one of them could speak a little English. I decided to do my best to entertain these very dignified, quiet men. I was the tail vehicle and one of them pointed to a windmill so I stopped so they could observe a working windmill. I also drew them a rough diagram of how it worked. After we loaded back up, I asked my front seat interpreter if he liked baseball. He nodded his head and I asked what he thought of Ichiro Suzuki playing for the Seattle Mariners. That's all I had to say, my silent scientist started talking like magpies. I couldn't understand a word, but could tell they loved baseball, Ichiro and believe they were impressed that a woman knew anything about the game. From that moment on they were like a whole new group. I sent my new Japanese friends windmill lapel pins and I heard they were a huge hit. Several people from the college asked what I said to them because all they talked about was Miss Correen. I said, "the magic word is Ichiro!" It was a delightful experience that I will always remember.

## Remembering Marv Scheinblatt

Long-time Regional Office security guard, Marvin Scheinblatt died Friday, October 22 2021.

Regional Forester Frank Beum wrote to employees. "For anyone visiting the Regional Office, you will remember Marvin greeting you. He dutifully cared for our safety for years both in the old building and making the move with us to the new building. Over the last 20 months, while we have all worked remotely, Marvin helped to keep our doors open, never leaving his post. He was always happy to see any one of us coming in to the building and I'm certain he was waiting for us all to be back in person again. He was worldly and told great stories, he would gladly share stories to anyone who would listen. Many of you may remember during many of the Holidays, Marvin showed his big heart by bringing trays of cookies to share with all employees. It brought him joy to bring us that holiday cheer. He will certainly be missed by many who knew him."

Another long time employee summed it up well. "I am so very sorry to hear of Marvin's passing. When I worked in the Region 2 office, Marvin was the first face I saw every morning and the last face I saw every afternoon. He was such a kind man, and looked out for every one of us. I always felt safe when Marvin was there. He will be sorely missed."

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## Remembrances

### Jack Arnold Arney

**Jack Arney** of Cedaredge, CO died November 2, 2021. He was born December 3, 1931, in Collbran, CO. His mother Imogene Arney died when he young and he, and his two older brothers, were raised by their grandparents Charles and Maud Morrison in Collbran. He went through his school years in the Grand Junction/Collbran area. After high school he joined the Navy and served during the Korean War aboard the battleship USS Iowa which saw action on the North Korean coast. Following military service, he graduated with a degree in Wildlife Management from Colorado State University in 1957.

For two years Jack worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Dept. before taking position as assistant ranger

on the Rifle District of the White River N. F. in 1960. In 1963 he was reassigned to Supervisors Office in Glenwood Springs. From 1965 to 1967 he was assistant ranger on the Cebolla R. D. on the Gunnison and then in 1966 he became District Ranger on the Rio Grande N. F. in Alamosa. In 1975 he moved to Recreation-Lands Division in the Regional Office. In late 1976 he moved to the Shasta Trinity N. F. in Redding, California until his retirement in 1986.

His retirement years were spent on a small ranch north of Cedaredge. He is survived by his wife Jean Browning Arney and son Eric of Morrison and stepdaughter in Pueblo.

## Remembrances



### **Daniel Gene Bagley**

**Dan Bagley**, 49, of Custer, SD, passed away December 6, 2021, at Monument Health Custer Hospital in Custer, SD.

Dan Bagley (AKA Bags, Coach) was born December 4, 1972 in Lake Preston, SD to Donald and Karen (Anderson) Bagley.

The family moved to Newell, SD in 1974, where Dan and his sister Jackie would grow up and attend school.

Dan excelled in sports, playing football, basketball, running track, and also playing Little League baseball in the summer. Dan always had a group of friends and was forever out and about with them. He also enjoyed deer and pheasant hunting with his dad and uncle, and riding dirt bikes out at Orman Dam.

After high school, Dan enlisted in the Army, where he joined the 101st Airborne Delta Co 1/187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasans). After the Army, Dan returned to South Dakota and married the love of his life, Robin Englehart in 1994. Their daughter Caitlyn was born in 1995. Dan went on to serve in South Dakota National Guard with the 216th Firefighting Unit (Hellfighters) out of Sturgis, and he deployed with them in Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004 – 2005. Dan was proud to serve his country and truly looked at military as service.

Dan graduated from Western Dakota Technical Institute with an Associate's in law enforcement technology, and later obtained his Bachelor's in business management degree from National American University. He worked as a deputy sheriff before becoming a juvenile corrections agent, where he tried to make a difference in young people's lives. However, after his deployment, he was done working in an office, and decided to answer his true calling of becoming a wildland firefighter.

His first crew was the state crew, the Black Hats, and after a couple seasons with them, he moved onto joining the US Forest Service Tatanka Hotshots, based in Custer. The family moved to Custer, and Dan spent several years on the crew, which he truly considered a brotherhood. This is where he earned the nickname Coach. Dan was an excellent teacher and wanted his fellow firefighters to succeed. This is where the term "savin' babies" comes from as the crew often found themselves helping others in need, both people and animals.

Dan eventually moved from fire to timber management with the Forest Service, where he worked in both the Black Hills and Bighorn National Forests. Dan enjoyed his time in the woods, vastly preferring it to working at his desk.

Dan had a great love of the outdoors. Anyone who knew him realized how much he enjoyed hunting; fall was his favorite season. Whether deer, elk, turkey, antelope, bear, he enjoyed it all. He and Robin hiked hundreds of miles together, and took up cross country skiing when they lived in Wyoming, and camped around the Mountain West. Dan ran, mountain biked, enjoyed archery, and just generally being active. He and Robin ran the Deadwood and Crazy Horse Half Marathons, and the Bighorn Mountain Trail Run, twice.

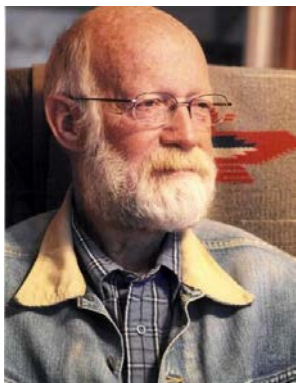
Dan also loved the family dogs that came through his life: Cricket, Onion, Espn, Oscar, Murray, Bones, Finn, and Hannah.

Dan is survived by his wife, Robin Englehart-Bagley, Custer; daughter Caitlyn Bagley (Scott Chipman), Rapid City; father Donald Bagley, Newell; sister Jacqueline Bagley, Elko, NV; niece Shelby (David) Frederiksen, Rapid City; nephew Taylor Smith, Newell, and grand-niece, Quinn Frederiksen, a number of aunts and uncles, many cousins and many, many friends.

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## Remembrances



### Gaines Wright Bearden

**Gaines Bearden**, age 80, died on January 14, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joanna Harvey Bearden, his son Brian Gaines Bearden, and daughter Kelly Margaret Bearden. He is also survived by his siblings Jeff Bearden, Willy Bearden, and Debby Walker.

He was born in Standing Pine, Mississippi, on December 5, 1941, to Virginia Wright Bearden Trigleth and Matthew Gaines Bearden. He grew up in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and joined the Army National Guard right after graduating high school in 1959, from which he was honorably discharged in 1968. During his service he earned a bachelor of science degree in Biology from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. After earning his degree in 1964, he continued with graduate courses and taught school

before starting a long career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1966, which took him west. He retired in 1995 as the Personnel Director of the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife both domestically and internationally.

Throughout his life he held a great love of the outdoors, spending as much of his free time as possible hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. He was also an accomplished musician who played trumpet and guitar, finding friends to play music with wherever he lived. He met his wife Joanna while playing in a folk band together in college, and they were married in 1964. In his later years, he created folk art crosses which were displayed in galleries in Denver and New Mexico.

A memorial is planned for summer of 2022. In lieu of gifts or flowers, his family requests that donations be given in his name to the Alzheimer's Association at [alz.org](http://alz.org).



### Benjamin Charles Carlsen

**Benjamin Carlsen** passed from this life into the arms of His Heavenly Father on July 15, 2021. Ben was born in Glenwood Springs on March 20th, 1978 and called Carbondale, Colorado his home for the last 20 years. His

love for the valley and the surrounding mountains was evidenced every day in his work with the Forest Service, Snowmass Mountain Ski Patrol, the Aspen City Forestry department, and Aspen Tree Service.

Ben's kind heart, warm presence, and endearing smile made him a dearly beloved member of every community of which he was a part. In 2014, Ben was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. In typical Ben

fashion, he faced the devastating news with grace, courage and determination. For over five years, he continued to live out his adventurous spirit running marathons, skiing coveted mountains in Europe, meeting and marrying the love of his life, and fueling his passion for hunting with his two German shorthair pointers, Gertie and Leroy. A year and a half ago the cancer stopped responding to the treatment that had been so successful, and the battle began in earnest.

In these most recent months, Ben's greatest joy and hope was anticipating the arrival of his first child, due in early January. Ben is survived by his wife Katie, parents Tom and Chris Carlsen, brother Ryan, sister Erin (Matt), nephew and niece Caleb and Alison, grandmother Beverly Clark, and countless extended family and cherished friends.

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## Remembrances



### Gordon Don Erskine

a long time Lakewood resident, Mapleton Care Center at age 78 on October 4, 2021. Gordon was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was raised in Pueblo, Colorado. He graduated from Pueblo Central High School, attended Utah State College and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Utah.

In high school Gordon participated in ROTC and won a Sharp Shooters award. After graduating from college Gordon enlisted in the US Army and served two years of his military service as a Senior Enlisted Personnel Clerk in Germany. Gordon left the Army as a SP5.

Gordon met Brader in November and they were married on Valentine's Day, 1974 in

Pauline "Polly" Brader in Pocatello, Idaho in 1972 and they were married on Valentine's Day, 1974 in Pocatello.

Gordon was a faithful and lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Gordon and Polly were very involved in

genealogy work. Gordon joined the Kiwanis Club of Green Mountain when they moved to Lakewood in 1988. He loved stamp collecting and was a member of both the Israeli Stamp Club and the Westside Stamp Club. He was a licensed ham radio operator and member of the American Radio Relay League which is the national association for amateur radio in the United States. He was also a member of the Prime Timers at St. Jude's and participated in many fall color viewing trips to the mountains with the group. He was an avid golfer and a huge Bronco fan.

After leaving the Army, Gordon was hired by the US Forest Service as an accountant and retired in 2003. While working for the Forest Service Gordon served in Idaho, Utah and Colorado. Gordon received numerous awards from his service there. After his retirement he enjoyed meeting his former coworkers for lunch.

Gordon is survived by his wife Polly; sister Claudia Erskine Marvin (Eugene "Bud" Marvin); numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



### Jeffrey Brian (Jeff) Hovermale

**Jeff Hovermale**, 57, of Colorado Springs, Colorado passed away peacefully on December 29, 2021 with his family at his side. He is now with Mother Earth and the great spirit gods.

Jeffrey is known throughout the Colorado Springs region for his decades of service to the people and land. Born in Smithsburg, Maryland on October 20, 1964, Jeffrey attended Allegany College of Maryland before serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in

Ecuador. Prior to moving to Colorado Springs, Jeffrey held a variety of positions with the U.S. Forest Service, starting in Yampa, Colorado. He retired from the U.S. Forest Service as the Lands, Special Uses, and Minerals Staff Officer on the Pikes Peak Ranger District. His achievements include leading the agency's role in building the new Summit Complex on Pikes Peak - America's Mountain and consultations with seven Tribes on the management of the sacred summit. Within the community, Jeffrey worked to support and improve the Mill Street Neighborhood and was widely known for his gentleness and generosity.

Jeffrey maintained a sense of youthful curiosity his whole life, and found joy in large and small adventures.

Maryland before serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in

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## Remembrances

*(Jeff Hovermale continued)*

He had hiked most of the trails on the Pikes Peak Ranger District, was a lover of bluegrass music and live concerts, rode his Schwinn cruiser around downtown, was known for listening rather than talking, was an avid traveler, and made time for a regular Sunday drive to points of interest throughout Southern Colorado.

Jeffrey will be lovingly remembered by his mother, his

brother and sister-in-law, his nephew and niece, and his great-niece and great-nephew. Jeffrey was predeceased by his father.

A celebration of Jeffrey's life will be held at a later date in the new year. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made toward the maintenance of Memorial Grove via

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



### Theodore William (Ted) La May

**Ted La May** passed away on November 26, 2021. Ted was born in Huntington, New York on September 21, 1929 to parents Ernest Joseph La May and Alice (L'Hommedieu) La May. He was the youngest of eight siblings.

He graduated from Huntington High School in 1949 and

attended one year of college at what was then Chanute Junior College in Chanute, Kansas. He enlisted with the U.S. Army, where he honorably served during the Korean War. Upon his return stateside, and taking advantage of the GI Bill, he enrolled at Colorado State University, which at the time was known as Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) College. He graduated in 1956 with a major in Forest Management. After college, he was hired by the U.S. Forest Service to work on a timber survey crew out of the Region 2 office in Denver, Colorado. A few years later he was promoted to an Assistant District Ranger, serving on the Yampa District of the Routt National Forest. As a devout Catholic, he would regularly attend mass at Holy Name Catholic Church in Steamboat Springs where he caught the eye of a few of the local church ladies, who quickly introduced him to Patricia (Pat) Ann Shearer. Ted and Pat were wed June 4, 1960. Ted was named the District Ranger for the Collbran District on the Grand Mesa National Forest in 1961.

He and Pat added to the family while in Collbran introducing four children into the world. Ted went on to have a 38-year career with the U.S. Forest Service which included stops on the Alder District on the Rio Grande National Forest, and the Piedra and Animas Districts on the San Juan National Forest. He retired in 1994. In his professional capacity, he was most proud of helping set aside the Falls Creek archeological area, converting Hermosa park behind Purgatory into the national forest, converting private inholdings to public lands within the Weminuche wilderness area, and working closely with the Colorado Trail Foundation to complete the southernmost section of the Colorado Trail into Durango. Ted was gracious, kind, and a true family man. Whether you were an immediate or extended member of the family, part of the Forest Service family, the Colorado Trail family, a friend or acquaintance, republican or democrat, Ted always welcomed you into his family.

He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years Patricia Shearer La May, sister Patricia Langley, daughters Karen and Diane, sons Keith and Chris, son-in-law Russ Dubiel, daughter-in-law Cathy (Mueller) La May, four adoring grandchildren Lindsey, Siena, Ryan, and Loghan, and a long list of extended family. He was preceded in death by his three sisters Norma, Peggy, Dorothy(Dot), and three brothers Donald, Bernard (Bud), and Robert (Bob).

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## Remembrances



### Claude Kendall "Ken" Lister

**Ken Lister**, 87, passed away on January 15, 2022, in Bozeman, Montana. Ken was born and raised the oldest of four brothers in rural Iron County, Utah, near Parowan, where he learned to love nature. He graduated from

high school before serving in the U.S. Army for two years in the 1950s.

After returning stateside, Ken earned a degree in entomology at Utah State University. His education prepared him for a long career as an entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service, mostly in Colorado. As part of his work, he co-authored numerous scientific articles about pine beetles in our national forests.

Just after his 30th birthday, Ken married Barbara, and the couple raised two daughters, Coreene and Janice, who both live in Bozeman now, and a son, Greg, who resides in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After divorcing in the early 1980s, Ken met and spent his life adventures with Anne Wheeler until she passed in 2020.

Recreational activities that have brought him the most joy include birdwatching, skiing, windsurfing, biking, and traveling (to Mexico, Europe, and Bird Island). He enjoyed listening to old-time western tunes and was also a pretty talented woodworker and gardener in his day!

Ken is survived by his daughters, Coreene Masse and Janice (Albert) Garcia; son, Gregory (Hawley) Lister; and 16 grandchildren.



### Danny Lee Peters

**Danny Peters**, 90, of Manning Iowa, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. He was the son of George and Milda (Wegner) Peters, was born at home on April 15, 1931, in Aspinwall, Iowa. In October 1934, he was baptized by

Pastor Johann M. Ansorge at the Zion Lutheran Church in Manning and was confirmed there on April 14, 1946.

Dan spent his early childhood in Aspinwall, attending the two-room schoolhouse until they moved to Manning in 1942. He finished his regular schooling in Manning and graduated with the high school Class of 1949. He was a proud member of Manning's 1948 state basketball championship team.

During some summers Dan worked for the Milwaukee Railroad in Manilla and Aspinwall, and after he graduated, he spent six months at the Telegraphy and

Business School in Chillicothe, Missouri, where he became an accomplished telegrapher. He then got a job in Council Bluffs where he worked for the railroad until he was married in 1952. During his time in Council Bluffs, Dan was a substitute telegrapher for vacationing senior positions, which gave him the opportunity to move around to various small railroad towns. It was during this time that he became a very accomplished baseball player, playing with various local teams.

On June 15, 1952, Dan married his high school sweetheart, Lois Wilhelm, at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning. Five children: Michael, Mark, Julie, Jeffrey and Gregory, were born to this union. Six months after his marriage he was drafted into the U.S. Army. Dan served proudly in Korea and was an ammunition runner during the Battle of Pork Chop Hill and was promoted twice during his service. In February 1954, he was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant.

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## Remembrances

*(Danny Peters continued)*

He then returned to Iowa and went to school at Iowa State in Ames where he graduated with a degree in forestry. While there, he was a member of the 1957 baseball team that took third place at the College World Series in Omaha.

His 25-year forestry career took him to the Black Hills in South Dakota, and Dillon, Pagosa Springs, Steamboat Springs, and Monte Vista, in Colorado. Upon retiring from the Forest Service, he followed the generations of Peters men before him and started his own painting business. He continued to paint well into his 80s mostly volunteering to head up smaller projects around the various communities where he lived.

In June 1991, after the passing of his mother the previous Christmas, Dan and Lois moved back to Manning. Dan was a very active community member in every community in which he lived, and Manning was no different. Within a few years of moving back, he served as Manning's mayor for five years and was instrumental in many of the major community projects going on during those years. Mainly Heritage Park Farm, the Hausbarn, the Trinity Church relocation,

the development and restoration of Great Western Park, early design of the trail system, much of which was adopted in the current design, and the Manning Veterans Wall.

He served proudly with the VFW honor guard having just retired his active status early in November at the age of 90.

Dan is survived by his five children: Mike and Callie Peters, Bozeman, Montana; Mark and Lynne Peters, Stagecoach, Colorado; Julie and Jim Rabbitt, Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Jeff Peters, Pagosa Springs, Colorado; and Greg and Randy Peters of Manning; 12 grandchildren: Daniel Peters, Darcy (David) Goodson, Michaela (Josh) Quinlan, Michael (Stephanie) Rabbitt, Timothy Rabbitt, Emily (Will) Lamb, Meghan Rabbitt, Wesley (Whitney) Peters, Nicholas Peters, Kristen Peters, Alison Peters and Nathan Peters; six great-grandchildren: Ava Peters, Dorothy Goodson, Charlotte Goodson, Micah Quinlan, Julie Lamb and Harlyn Rabbitt; a brother David (Dee) Peters, Plano, Texas; a sister Cynthia Genzen of Manning; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



**Cloetta Jane Schroeder**

**Cloetta Schroeder** passed away on April 23, 2021, in Windsor, CO. She was born on June 22, 1961, in Williston, ND to Roger W. and Charolette Schroeder. The family moved from North Dakota to Casper,

WY in 1970. She received an Associate Degree in Data Processing from Casper College in Casper, WY and after working in private industry for a year she worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Casper.

After her time with the BLM, she moved to the Bighorn N. F. in Sheridan. She worked in Region 6 as a Group Leader for Information Resource Management in early 2000's and then became the Administrative Officer on the PSICC. She then moved to the

Washington Office as Assistant Director in the Office of Chief Information Officer, and then her final position was as Assistant Station Director for Operation at the Rocky Mountain Research Station.

She was highly respected by all who worked with her. Cloetta was a truly a big-hearted person. She cared for all her employees and was highly respected by her co-workers. Cloetta was always on the forefront of making business practices, budgets and personnel practices support the work and people of the Forest Service. She loved her family deeply and her face shone whenever she talked about family visits and adventures. She is survived by her younger sister Donnetta.

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## Remembrances



### **Paul F. Senteney**

Paul Senteney died on January 19, 2022, in Delta, CO. He was born to Kenneth and Ruth Ann Senteney in Mattoon, IL on February 4, 1930. He married Helen in 1951 in Albuquerque, NM. Paul was a

wildlife biologist and member of the Society of Range Management.

Paul was the Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Staff Officer on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.

when he retired. His career started in Region 3; he was on the Kaibab N. F. through the 60's; then to the San Juan N. F. in early 70's; then to GMUG in 1976; he retired in 1989. After retirement Paul had a ranch outside Delta and raised horses.

Helen passed away in 2017. He is survived by his sons, Rick and Doug; grandchildren, Seth and Kate, and great-grandchildren, Gabe and Nate.



### **James Lynn Simonson**

**Jim Simonson**, age 80, passed away peacefully in his home on January 3, 2022.

He was born in Sioux City, Iowa, November 26, 1941, to Carroll and Myrtle

(Haeussler) Simonson. Jim was blessed with two great loves in his life. On September 17, 1961, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Karen (Moffitt) Simonson, and was blessed with three beautiful children. Following Karen's passing in 1987, Jim was fortunate to find love again, and on November 10, 1990, married his wife, Glenda (Strain Banks) Simonson.

While he was never a man of many words, Jim loved his family fiercely and took every chance he could to brag about his beautiful children and grandchildren. He was proud to have three children and three step-children, Judith (Rick), Jon, Jean (Wayne), Laree (Randy), Scott (Audrey), and Michael (Betsy); seven

grandchildren, Cody (Kaitlin), Caryn (Josh), Alex, Ryan, Molly (Kaesey), Matt (Jennifer), and Isaac, and four great-grandchildren, Camden, Kendall, James, and Robert. Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Karen; son, Jon; parents, Carroll and Myrtle, and brother, Charles.

Jim was happiest when he was outdoors. After spending 34 years proudly working for the U.S. Forest Service, he spent his retirement sailing around different lakes in Colorado on his boat, Euphoria, traveling around the country in his fifth wheel with his wife, geocaching with his grandchildren, or walking his dog around the neighborhood and saying hello to all his friends along the way.

If you're seeking a way to remember Jim's life, go outside, look up to the sky, take a deep breath, and appreciate the great outdoors. That's where Jim found peace, and we hope it brings you peace as well.

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## Remembrances



### Marvin L. Thompson

**Marv Thompson** passed away on November 5, 2021. He was born on July 29, 1947 to Wakefield V and Marcy Thompson. He was a proud Marine and served his country in the Vietnam War where he was wounded. He was discharged with several medals as well as a Purple Heart. After his discharge

he traveled to every state in the US. He settled in Colorado where he met his wife of 44 years Paula, where they had many adventures together. They settled in Rifle where they had 2 children Wendy and

Crystal. Once settled in Rifle, Marv went to work for the USFS and made it a career of 25 years from which he proudly retired.

Marv loved spending time with his grandkids, enjoying the outdoors in the forests, camping, working on guns, and working on crossword puzzles.

Marv is survived by his wife of 44 year Paula, children Wendy Thompson, and Crystal Thompson, Grandchildren Marcus Thompson, Nakasha Reynolds, Chayton Reynolds, Eddie Richardson III, Sachmo Straw, Jiraiya Straw, Everett Straw, Thomas Gonzalez, and Cooper Cox. Brothers David, Jerry, Timmy, Tommy and many ½ brothers and sisters.



### Roger L. Whiting

**Roger Whiting**, 74, of Custer, SD, passed away November 25, 2021, at Monument Health Custer Hospital in Custer, SD. Roger was born December 23, 1946, in Rosebud, SD, to Arlington and LaVerne (Frank) Whiting. Roger was the first Whiting in his family to earn a college degree, obtaining

his Associates Degree in Forestry from Sinte Gleska University. Roger married Irene Jean Williams in 1971 and to their union was born one daughter and three grandsons. Roger married Monica Whiting in 1978 and to their union was born three sons and one granddaughter.

Roger had a smorgasbord of careers including, but not limited to, Rancher, Milk Truck Driver, Tribal Police Officer, City Police Officer, Todd County Sheriff and Forester for thirty plus years.

Roger was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, lifetime member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, a Radioman 3rd Class in the U.S. Navy until his honorable discharge in 1970 and a member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association Inc.

These personal attributes of Roger are still indisputable facts, but are subjective given each individual's personal relationship with Roger. We have

listed them in bullets, as we could fill pages describing how he personified these qualities. In no particular order:

- Roger was ornery.
- Roger was forever fixing something, for somebody, for everybody.
- Roger had a strong will and defended his values.
- Roger liked to work with his hands, he was skilled and handy at welding, among other crafts.
- Drinking coffee at French Creek Supply.
- Roger was a hardworking man, efficient and productive.
- Roger was generous to a fault.
- And perhaps an understatement, but Roger was independent.
- Roger possessed the gift of being an amazing Grandpa.
- When Roger wasn't busy with the above, he was busy telling his sons what to do.

Surviving Roger is Monica, his wife of 43 years; sons, Jacob Whiting; Aaron (Rebecca Hannah) Whiting; Clarence (Thea Teasley) Whiting; daughter, Syd (Tim) Agla; brothers, Charles Whiting; Bill Whiting; sister, Laura Vodicka and his grandchildren, Penelope Whiting; Brayden Agla; Colin Agla and Aaron Agla.

# The Last Word

## Normal Will Never Be Normal Again

by Tom L. Thompson

Normally I would not begin to write about what is normal because normally not every body's normal is the same, but because these are not normal times, I thought I would do something not normal and go ahead and write about what I normally would not.

So, if you cannot remember back when, it has been two years since there was any air of normalcy across the country. Kitty and I were in the final stages of getting ready for a trip to Australia and New Zealand to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary. I had just returned from a trip to Squaw Valley in California to give a presentation to the National Ski Areas Association winter convention. The monthly Denver Area Retiree group had just had lunch at Jose O'Shea's and planned the February luncheon at the Fossil Trace Golf Course.

A headline article in the Denver Post on January 30, 2020, was that the "First U. S. case of person to person spread of coronavirus reported by health officials." Over the next month things began to change quickly and normal started to disappear. By March it was no longer normal, and it was evident that we were facing one of most significant tests and worldwide challenges of modern times.



Plans changed, trips cancelled, meetings postponed, and all the sudden over two hundred million people were using Zoom every day. Sewing machines came out of the closet and we were starting to crank out little masks. Grocery store parking lots started to

become transfer sites for preordered groceries. If you were able to go inside a grocery store the shelves were quickly becoming bare, especially for toilet paper, disinfectant, and baking supplies. As increasing numbers of people started working from home, morning traffic became astonishing light and parking lots that would normally have few open spots were almost vacant.

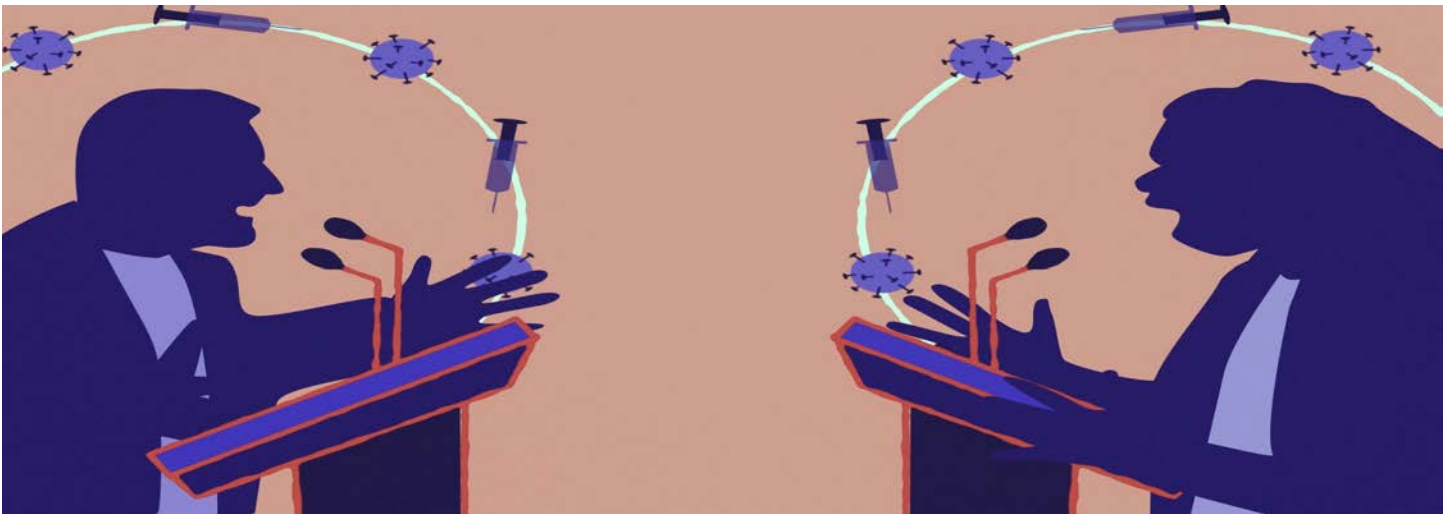
Normal had abruptly left. Indications were that this sudden change to the world could be weathered if we all just hunkered

down for a bit. But

hunkering did not seem to work and as we all now know the world that we had known, the patterns of life that seemed comfortable, and the connections with family and friends that are so important to all of us were all drifting away. The handshake, the hug, morning coffee with friends, luncheons, church, and so many other daily or weekly patterns changed, and we all knew a new reality had arrived. There were new vaccines, mandates, isolation and quarantine, testing, boosters, social distancing, delta, omicron, and on and on. These are now just the normal.

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So here we are at the two-year mark. Things have gotten better once or twice but the virus still has a grip on our lives the world over. There are very few among us who have not known someone who has died because of the virus. The reach of this pandemic has touched every aspect of our lives, and nothing has been the normal we once knew. Our medical systems, our economic systems, our supply systems, and our social support systems are being stressed to the limit in some cases.

As all this has transpired, we have experienced the most contentious, partisan, and stressful time in the political arena that any of us can remember and there does not seem to be any change forthcoming soon. Across the country we have experienced extremes in weather. The fire catastrophe that occurred near Boulder with the loss of over a thousand homes was so heartbreaking to see happen. We know that such a firestorm happening in the winter in a suburban area is certainly not normal. Normal has disappeared.

When it looks strange to see a photo of a person without a mask, or pause before you hug your grandchild, or recognize how so many other things have changed in our lives it is a fair to begin to think that “normal will be never be normal again.”

When I think back at what “normal” used to be, the 1968 song by Mary Hopkin keeps echoing in my mind...

**“Those were the days my friend  
We thought they’d never end  
We’d sing and dance forever and a day  
We’d live the life we choose  
We’d fight and never lose  
For we were young and sure to have our way  
La la la la la - La la la la la - La la la la la...  
Those were the days, oh  
yes those were the days.”**

So now I am sure you are convinced that I am without question not “normal,” and you should just put this newsletter down and go back to what you normally do. Before you do, we should remember that there have been other times in the history of our country, like the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, and World War II, where our parents and grandparents had similar feelings of where “normal” had gone, but they prevailed and became stronger. I hope we do the same and endure the challenges we face and as a nation become stronger together because of it. Again, we certainly are being tested beyond anything we could have imagined two years ago.