



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Meet Millie



Mildred Lawton, ninety-nine years young and a proud Rocky Mountaineer.

Editor's Note: We had the opportunity to visit by phone with Mildred Lawton, the oldest member of the Rocky Mountaineers.

Rendezvous: Hi Mildred. Tell us a little about yourself.

Mildred Lawton: I was born in Iowa. In the small town of Dows, Iowa which is north of Des Moines. I lived on a farm my whole early life. I was born before school busses. My freshman year I got to drive to school with my brother and a neighbor who had a car, and that's how I got to school.

Rendezvous: Were you born on the farm?

ML: I was born right in town. Dad worked then for the Grain Storage Elevators in town - and when we moved to the farm he farmed with two big Belgian horses.

your family.

ML: My folks were Roy and Mayme Cooper and my husband's name was Lyle Lawton - he passed away in 2005. We had two sons, Max and Bruce who both got engineering degrees and I have 3 grandsons and a step granddaughter and a new great grandson born on April 27th, 2023. I have a brother, Dwane who was 10 years older than me and had another brother, Emory, who had a business in Hampton, Iowa after he grew up. I worked the farm. There is always a job on a farm - during elementary school I worked gathering the eggs - ducks geese and chickens - and had to gather them all up in their coops for the night to keep them safe from foxes. I lost my son Max in 2016 and my grandson Cody in 2017.

Rendezvous: Tell me about the rest of

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*"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers."
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Millie shows off her retirement gift from the Medicine Bow in 1984.

Rendezvous: Where did you go to school?

ML: When I was in grade school, I had to walk 1 mile south and 1/2 west to school. All 8 grades were in one room. Usually I would just follow the road to school but if I cut through the fields it was shorter, but the neighbors had a Holstein bull who would follow and chase me.

I learned how to work and everyone

had a job. After eighth grade I had to go into town and take a test to show them that I had learned everything. It was a different time back then. It was a different world back then - you learned how to work and everyone had a job.

Rendezvous: You had lots of chores?

ML: This was before REA and we didn't have electricity so I had to carry water to keep the reservoir in the kitchen stove full and carry lots of wood to keep the stove working for our heat - but we mainly burned corn cobs because there were lots of those to burn.

Rendezvous: What about after High School?

ML: I wanted to be a beauty operator. My mom and dad said that if I stayed on the farm for a year after high school, they would send me to beauty school. But then I had met my husband so I didn't go on to beauty school. He was from Nebraska and wanted to move to Wyoming. He worked for the railroad as a telegrapher and I worked as a clerk in the Post Office. Later he got work as a freight agent there.

Rendezvous: Where did you move then?

ML: Rock River, Wyoming - a really small town. When I got off the train there, I thought it was the jumping off part of the world. They were really nice people - most of the folks who worked there. It was

very small town - two grocery stores, a lumber yard and mainly railroad men and ranchers.

Rendezvous: What happened next?

ML: Then we moved to Medicine Bow, Wyoming - my husband had been in the service and got a medical discharge and was the freight agent there.

When we were in Medicine Bow, there was a girl who came from another place in Wyoming and she took the test for a job with the Forest Service and passed it but it was hard on a single girl who likes to do things that young kids like to do, so she gave it up and went home. I had already taken the Civil Service test and my name came up and I got the job.



The Milford Family - Max, Bruce, Millie and Lyle, circa 1990.

Rendezvous: So you were now working for the Forest Service?

ML: I was hired as the District Clerk in 1963 - my duties were a little bit of everything - we hired a lot of kids to work up on the forest in the

summer and I had to make out their personnel papers and keep track of their hours and send them in and they were mostly planting a lot of trees in the burned out areas. My boss was Jack Mahan - the District Ranger at the time. The Forest had lots of offices in other towns and also included the Grasslands. Sometimes they would take the clerks out on a tour to see what was going on out in the field...they did it so we could better understand what they were doing. There were nine clerks at the time and we knew each other really well.

Rendezvous: Did you ever get out to work on a fire?

ML: We had a big forest fire on the Bow River District up by Kennedy Peak when I was there - a big, big fire and when it was pretty close to being out I was allowed to get closer and go look at it.

Rendezvous: What did you like to do after work?

ML: One of my favorite places is Sand Lake. It had a lodge and a series of cabins. We used to go up the road from Arlington to get there. We bought an acre out of 60 private acres - the FS put some short roads in that area...and because I worked for the Forest Service, I had to have a special note from the Washington Office to purchase a single lot for \$600...we did a lot of hunting and fishing especially around Crater Lake.



Mille and her husband Lyle with all the grandkids.

Rendezvous: Anything else??

ML: One thing I appreciated is the pension - I really appreciate that. A lot of that money was used to get college educations for our sons. I never dreamed of being alive this long. I really appreciated being able to have known lots of nice people in my career.

Of all the inventions maybe the best has been the computer - I'm a fan of knowing about the news and being able to know what's going on.

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
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Wyoming Area Representative
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South Dakota/Nebraska
Craig Bobzien, Custer, SD

NAFSR Representative
Sharon Friedman, Littleton, CO

NMFSH Representative
Tom Thompson, Littleton, CO

Liaison for Region 2 (not retired yet)
Jace Ratzlaff, Golden, CO

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Tom Thompson, thom46pson@gmail.com, 303-552-1711

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

A message from the Chair



Retiree Lunch - Deb Jensen and Sharon Kyhl, Wenatchee, WA. Deb and I were roommates at my first forester job in Kremmling, Colorado.

A winter of snow and some of the best ski conditions in years results in a great flux of needed moisture. I hope you are all on high ground and staying clear of rockslides and flooding. The plethora of wildflowers blooming from desert to mountain is spectacular already.

I certainly enjoyed the ski season while it lasted. February came to a halt after I tried a spectacular cartwheel on skis. My first sled ride and first broken leg. (I don't think I was the only one dealing with an injury either.) I'm thankful for great physical therapists and good friends who ran errands and helped.

It sounds like there was a wonderful but rainy Arizona reunion of retirees in March. I'm sure there will be some photos in this issue. Planning is wrapping up for the Annual Gathering October 10-13, 2023. It looks to be a great variety of tours and if the weather holds, some time to bike the Mickelson Trail. Thanks to Craig Bobzien and Bob Sprentall and the committee for their hard work.

I hope you have taken some time to look at our new Rocky Mountaineers webpage. Bill Disbrow has done a tremendous job updating our site using the latest and greatest web technology. His design skills are the best. Thanks, Bill.

This issue of the newsletter includes an interview with Millie Lawton of Laramie, WY, our oldest known Rocky Mountaineer! I'm looking forward to reading her story.

Once you hit 90, your membership to the Rocky Mountaineers is FREE, so let us know when you hit that milestone.

The National Museum of Forest Service History just completed another on-line auction. The museum hopes to be open in time for the 2025 Reunion in Missoula, Montana.

Summer is on the way. Enjoy your travels and time in the woods. Hope to see you all in South Dakota.



2023 Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering

The 2023 Rocky Mountaineers Annual Gathering will be held October 10 - 13 in Rapid City, SD

Registration will open next month. We are holding a block of rooms at the Hotel Alex Johnson.

Rates are \$99 per night. More details to come.

Tuesday, Oct. 10 - The golf event will be held at Prairie Ridge golf course. A guided tour of Ellsworth Air Force Base will start mid-afternoon. An evening reception will be held at the [Hotel Alex Johnson](#) starting at 4:30 p.m. Light snacks will be served along with a cash bar. Paul Horsted, author of "Exploring with Custer" will give a presentation on the second edition of his book at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11 - Meet in the lobby of Hotel Alex Johnson at 8:00 a.m. as we carpool to Wall, SD. Meet at the Wall Community Center for a tour of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Lunch will be held at the Wall Community Center beginning at 1:30 p.m. Updates will be given by Jack Issacs, Forest Supervisor of the Nebraska NF, and by an Acting Forest Supervisor, or the new Forest Supervisor, Black Hills NF.

Thursday, October 12 - Meet at the District Office/Research Station just south of Rapid City at 9:00 a.m. An update from Research will be given from 9:00 to 9:30. We will then travel to Case 1, the first Forest Service timber sale in the United States. Lunch will be held at the Boxelder Job Corp. There will be a brief presentation about their current projects.

Friday, October 13 - As a bonus for those that are interested, we will have a guided bike ride on a section of the Mickelson Trail.

Membership and Finance

Ellen and Johnny Hodges

We want to thank all of you that have made donations to the Rocky Mountaineers this year in either our Scholarship, Memorial Grove, or General Funds.

Our donation totals to date: **Scholarship** - \$4,075 **Memorial Grove** - \$3,450. **General** - \$1,405

As a reminder, you are welcome to make donations at any time throughout the year. We are recognizing donors in the categories of Friend, Patron, and Sponsor. If we missed anyone, please let us know. For those members that made donations in memory of someone, we have included the name of the honoree.

Friend (\$1 - \$49)

Chandra and Brent Alldred,
Glenwood Springs, CO

Terry and Joy Armbruster,
Lakewood, CO

John and Mary Ellen Barber,
Loveland, CO

Marilee Bobzien, Hamilton, MT

Lee and Dottie Carr,
Cedaredge, CO

Janice Chapman and Edward Mauch,
Gunnison, CO

Robert Clemans and Victoria Baker,
Golden, CO

Tom and Diane Condos,
Rathdrum, ID

Steve and Susy Coupal,
Kalispell, MT

Ronald Decker and Becca Smith,
Pagosa Springs, CO

Martha Delporte, Lakewood, CO

Linda and Rick Deuell,
Laramie, WY

Marv Froistad and Shelley Amicone,
Loveland, CO

Dyce Gayton and Jan Bergman,
Ft. Collins, CO

Evelyn and Steve Gross,
Conifer, CO

Terry and Elaine Hoffman,
Parker, CO

Rick and Patricia Hudson,
Custer, SD

Jo and Wayne Ives,
Carbondale, CO

Jim and Lisa Jaminet,
Saguache, CO

Tommy and Camille John,
Lakewood, CO

Steve and Michele Johnson,
Ft. Collins, CO

Carol and Robert Jorgenson,
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Bob and Lorna Joslin, Lander, WY

Susan and Matt Kay, Laramie, WY

Monica and Jevon Klingler,
Collbran, CO

Bob and Mary Lillie, Green Valley, AZ

Mark and Mindy Martin,
Loveland, CO

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Littleton, CO

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John and Margie Quenoy,
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Broomfield, CO

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Pueblo West, CO

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Doreen and Billy Sumerlin,
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Bruce Ungari and Kathy Hardy-Ungari,
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Glenwood Springs, CO

Jack and Kathy Walton,
Missoula, MT

Craig and Lynn Whittekiend,
Lakewood, CO

Wayne and Ruth Wilkins,
Lakewood, CO

Lynn and Shawn Young,
Buffalo, WY

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Membership and Finance

Patron (\$50 - \$199)

John and Patricia Ayer,
Yachats, OR

Bev Baker, Louisville, CO

Bill and Lois Bass, Sheridan,
WY

**John Baumchen and Angela
Safranek,** Canon City, CO

• *In Memory of Jeff Hovermale*

Don and Carol Campbell,
Grand Junction, CO

Carl and Maryann Chambers,
Ft. Collins, CO

Pete and Leah Clark, Monte
Vista, CO

Mike and Marjorie Clinton,
Evergreen, CO

Dick and Judy Coose,
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Phil and Leann Cruz,
Washougal, WA

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Mary Lu Eilers, Golden, CO

Mike and Marla Foley, Ft.
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• *In Memory of Roger Tarum*

Emmett Foster, Pueblo West,
CO

Wallace Gallaher, Arvada, CO

Tim Garvey and Liz Mauch,
Montrose, CO

Joe and Lindy Hartman,
Nevada, MO

Tom Healy and Sue Miller,
Colorado Springs, CO

Dawn Heiser, Cedaredge, CO

Carol Hindman, Gypsum, CO

Bruce Holmlund, Delta, CO

• *In Memory of Dick Cook, John
Oien, and Joe Newton*

Carol and Russ Howe,
Montrose, CO

• *In Memory of Susan Dilly*

James and Cindy Hubbard, Ft.
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Meridian, ID

Tom and Donna King,
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• *In Memory of Adrian Dargen*

Kathy Kurtz, Lakewood, CO

Paul and Robin Langowski, Ft.
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• *In Memory of Richard P.
Caissie*

Jim Lawrence, Littleton, CO

Cristie Lee, Ft. Collins, CO

• *In Memory of Roger Tarum*

**Lee Ann Loupe and Monte
Melanson,** Delta, CO

John and Peggy Morrison,
Lakewood, CO

**Dan Nolan and Marilyn
Hunter,** Hot Sulphur Springs,
CO

Colleen and Rob Oquist, La
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Paul and Mary Peck, Greeley,
CO

Tom and Georgena Rennick,
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Greeley, CO

Barb Timock, Pueblo, CO

• *In Memory of Henry
Tiedemann*

Mark Tucker, Dolores, CO

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Lakewood, CO

Linda and William Young,
Custer, SD

Sponsor (\$200 +)

Nancy Barleben, Littleton, CO

- *In Memory of Roger Tarum*
-

Ellen and Johnny Hodges, Ft. Collins, CO

- *In Memory of Jack Weissling and Roger Tarum*
-

Deb Jensen, Wenatchee, WA

- *In Memory of Roger Tarum*
-

Sharon Kyhl, Wenatchee, WA

- *In Memory of Clint Kyhl*
-

Frank and Susan Roth, Powell, WY

Greg Thompson and Shirley McCabe, Monte Vista, CO

Denise Tomlin, Lakewood, CO

Non-Member Donations

Kezia Windham, Parker, CO

Courtney and Nate Tomlinson, Douglas, WY

- *In Memory of Larry Simmons*

Our Newest Members

Annie and Victor Apodaca, Custer, SD

Nancy Barleben, Littleton, CO

Sam and Connie Barone, Alamogordo, NM

Pete Blume, Loveland, CO

Andrew Carrier, Colorado Springs, CO

Cindy Correll, Sedona, AZ

Kelley and Angelo DeJulio, Montrose, CO

Ryan Fricke, Grand Junction, CO

Mark Hooper, Colorado Springs, CO

Murle Paris, Overton, NV

Mark Varhus, Salida, CO

Linda and William Young, Custer, SD

Our Newest "Lifers" (Lifetime Members)

Nancy Barleben, Littleton, CO

Jo Anne Bridges, Pagosa Springs, CO

Pamela and Casey Bristow, Pagosa Springs, CO

Judy Hudson and Barney Lyons, Caldwell, ID

Neoma Quintana, Ignacio, CO



Memorial Grove Work Day

Just days before the ceremony ~ 6.1.2023



A safety briefing was given by the Pikes Peak Ranger District personnel to the hearty gathering of retirees who came down to prepare the Memorial Grove area for the ceremony on Saturday.



Mike Clinton helped Jim Thinnies spruce-up some of the older trees with mulch and pruning.



Mulching all the trees from previous plantings needed to be done.

The workday at Memorial Grove is a really good way to give back. If you haven't tried it, give it a shot next year. Great weather - usually - some light work and you get to swing a Pulaski again. Good conversation with fellow retirees and some of the workin' folks on the Pikes Peak District...who really do all the hard work and bring all the tools and line us out pretty nicely. Then we head over to Monument for a delicious lunch at [Rosie's Diner](#).

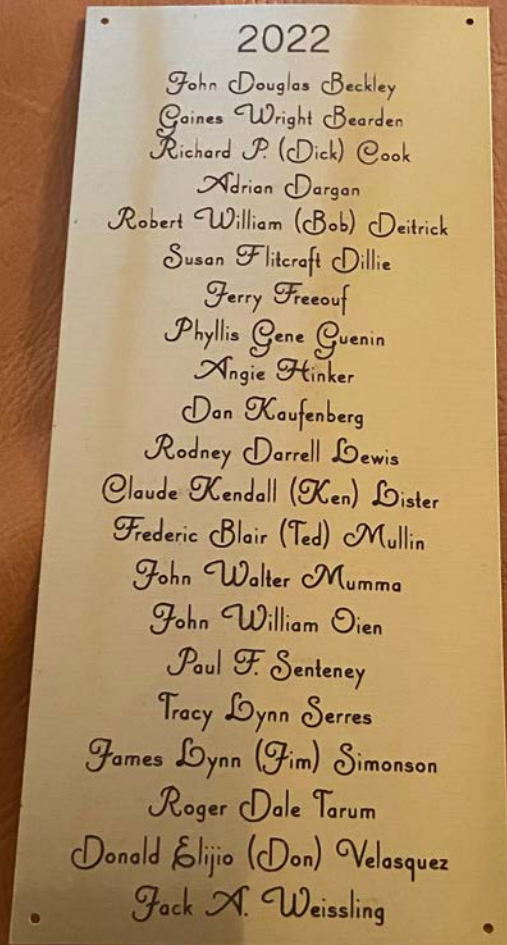


Former Pikes Peak District Ranger Steve Deitemeyer did a little clean up work with the pruners.



Some new wood borders around the ceremony area and some weed barrier and pea gravel needed to be redone this year.

Memorial Grove



Family members of the honorees came from California, Virginia, Texas, Wisconsin, Idaho and Montana.



The newest tree was watered by families.



The Forest Service Honor Guard presented the colors and lowered the flag to half staff.

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Tom Thompson read the names and biographies for the 2022 honorees.



Regional Forester Frank Beum delivered opening remarks to everyone.



Music was provided by bagpiper Ken Giese and musicians Kathy and David Davidson this year.



The newest brass honor plaque is now on display.

On a beautiful - albeit a bit windy - sixty-three degree Saturday morning over 220 people came to the Memorial Grove.

We had 21 of the 27 families come and many of them spoke about their loved ones and their lives in the Forest Service and what the agency meant to them.



Family members had a chance to talk about their loved ones and thank the Forest Service for remembering them.



Early Huie, a law enforcement officer on the PSICC rang the bell.

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Zach Deitrick spoke for his family in memory of his dad, Bob Deitrick, who died on January 16, 2022 in Fort Collins.

"I'd like to thank everyone for coming today and especially thank the Forest Service for putting this on. The Forest Service has provided a great sense of community to my dad and my family over the years. For years into retirement my dad still spoke with his old co-workers...My dad worked for the USFS for over thirty years. He started as a seasonal firefighter in northern California in the early 70s working summers while he taught biology the rest of the year...as a kid I remember how cool I thought it was that my dad worked for the Forest Service and got to drive one of those cool green trucks. I loved that he would take my brother and me hiking and camping - but later realized that it was because he needed volunteers for trail maintenance or help with flagging a boundary."

- Zachary Deitrick



I can't remember he recounted the 1st week it was Sept Cascades + Northern California he always talked about how dry + ugly Colorado was but I think he was impressed with how quickly the weather can change here.

As a kid I remember how cool I thought it was that my dad worked for the Forest Service + got to drive one of those cool green trucks. I loved that he would take my brother hiking + camping ~~some~~ but later realize ~~some~~ of those trips were because he needed volunteers for trail maintenance or help flagging a boundary.

He didn't always "love" working for Uncle Sam, he would grumble about gov't shut downs + say "What's the opposite

"All the kids at my school wondered why I got to have Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl at my birthdays parties and they didn't." - Family member



"Thank you to the Forest Service for having this amazing Memorial for my dad and our family - and it's really nice to see those green uniforms on all the employees today." - Family member

Rocky Mountaineers Meeting

Unofficial southern spring training
site in Carefree, Arizona

By Andy Mason



Carefree, Arizona was the gathering place for sixty two USFS retirees and their spouses on a rainy March 15, 2023 at the home of Andy & Debbie Mason. Rocky Mountain retirees were well represented (we counted 25+). Several days before the event we knew a rainstorm was likely, so thank goodness Tom & Kitty Thompson were able to help the Mason's prepare! Together, they engineered a network of canopies, tarps, ropes, bungee cords, poles, etc. [Rube Goldberg](#) would have been proud.



We enjoyed western music provided by the Ramblin' Rangers (Brad & Bonnie Exton), who were accompanied on some songs by Denny & Cheryl Bschor. As has become the custom

for these events, Cheryl led us singing the Star Spangled Banner and, of course, Smokey the Bear chimed in and few kazoos were heard.



We were also very pleased to have a Tonto National Forest leader join us. Mesa District Ranger, Matthew Lane, provided an excellent update on Tonto NF activities and USFS more generally. Jan & Paul Polasky brought us a delicious BBQ lunch that was prepared by [Big Nates BBQ](#) in Mesa.



The Central Arizona USFS Retirees host three lunch gatherings every year (November, January, and March) in the Phoenix area. If you would like to be on the invitation list, please contact Jan Polasky, centralazusfsretirees@gmail.com.





National Museum's History Corner

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

By Andy Mason

Your Museum is working hard to share our rich conservation history. We appreciate all our members and volunteers. Thank you, R-2/Rocky Mountaineers, for your support to the Museum!

2023 Online Auction Raised over \$41,000

Building on our successful 2021 & 2022 fundraisers, the Museum's 2023 Online Auction was held April 1 – April 17. THANK YOU if you participated! We had many great auction items, including 20 "get-aways" (vacation/stay packages). A BIG THANK YOU to the R-2/Rocky Mountaineers and their great donations: Brad & Bonnie Joe Exton (private concert by Ramblin' Rangers); Pat & Patty Lynch (3-night stay for two in their cabin near Encampment, WY); and Richard Dieckman, Jane Leche, and Tom Thompson (beautiful handcrafted classical guitar and case). You can look forward to another online auction in Spring 2024. This fundraiser is critical to the Museum's operations funding account that supports so many programs and activities!

firefighting aircraft, the aircraft was used by the US Navy for anti-submarine warfare. Neptune Aviation operated a fleet of Lockheed Martin P2V aircraft from 1993 to 2017. Neptune's P2V fleet performed 47,000 firefighting missions and dropped 97 million gallons of fire retardant during this period. "While T12's final "flight" will be less than a couple of miles, the work behind the scenes has been intense," according to **Lisa Tate**, Executive Director of the Museum. "We look forward to sharing the history of wildland fire fighting, and particularly aerial firefighting, with this new exhibit." The plane will be on exhibit along the Museum's Forest Discovery Trail near the soon-to-be built National Conservation Legacy Center, a new interactive and participatory world class museum.



Museum's Missoula campus is new home for Neptune Aviation's Tanker 12

May 16, 2023. From the joint press release. Neptune Aviation Services and the National Museum of Forest Service History announced a partnership today that will provide Neptune Aviation's Tanker 12 a new home. Neptune's T12 has a unique history – before it served as an aerial

Please Consider Nominating a Friend or Colleague to 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. Anyone can submit a nomination with the \$100 donation or it could be submitted by two or more individuals with the cost shared between them.

For any questions about the Honor Roll please contact **Amanda Wickel** amanda.wickel@forestservicemuseum.org or call the Museum, (406) 541-6374.



Building & Exhibition Design Permitting Move Forward

While we fundraise to close the \$2 million gap for the CLC, work on design, permitting, etc., continues to move ahead so we can break ground and begin construction this fall.

We continue to work closely with Chief Architect Tom Chung and his company [Leers Weinzapfel Associates](#) on the building design and construction plans. Mr. Chung has donated a considerable amount of his time to our project.

The Museum has hired an “owner’s representative,” a key position that supports the Museum throughout the construction of the CLC.

We are working with Missoula County and others to meet permitting requirements.

Our exhibition core team (Board members, other volunteers, Lisa Tate) continues to work closely with the exhibition contractor, [Art Processors](#), and their team of designers on the CLC opening exhibition. We are in the content development phase where we select the stories, artifacts, and audio-visual technologies that will be used to enhance the story telling. There are so many rich stories to choose from!

Museum volunteers and staff are working very hard to close the \$2 million gap

- In early January, the Museum was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant has a matching requirement so the Museum must match a percentage of the funds to receive them. Most/all donations will help us meet this requirement!
- In November 2022, the Museum's established 14 sector teams (e.g., Recreation, Fire, Minerals & Energy, Water, Research & Development, State & Private Forestry) that continue to focus on companies (and individuals) in those sectors that are potential donor-investors.
- In April 2022, the Museum's Sectors Steering Committee began a complementary fundraising effort aimed specifically at 14 “new” companies. Board member Nancy Gibson has created “dossiers” for each company. The committee is looking into who in our networks of friends/family/colleagues might be able to get us an introduction to the leadership of each company. Once we have an introduction, the Museum makes a presentation about our project. Very often, if we can make the presentation, it is very well received; then of course it is up to the company to say “yes” or “no” to the opportunity to become a Museum/CLC donor-investor. For more information about these 14 companies (or other companies you believe are potential donor-investors), please contact the Museum's Executive Director, Lisa Tate, or Development Director Tom Petersen (contact information provided earlier)



Rendering of the “Timeline of Change,” a planned exhibit in the CLC’s opening exhibition.



Announcing the 2023 Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship Recipients

The Rocky Mountaineers are proud to announce the winners of the 2023 Memorial Scholarships! We had 11 applications this year and as usual, it was difficult to decide on the winners.

This was the fourth year we had two scholarships just for those studying in natural resources and the fourth year we offered four scholarships. Each scholarship is the same as last year which is \$1,500.

We had five applicants who were natural resource majors. The natural resource winners were Gracie L. Blagg and Ella Hubert.



Gracie L. Blagg

Gracie is graduating from Meeker High School in Meeker, CO. She is active and has excelled in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She has a successful horticulture and floral business that she started from scratch. She plans to attend Colorado Mesa University to study Sustainable Agriculture.

"As I move towards my future career, I look to our nation's forests not only as a great resource but also for my education. I want to be able to explore and classify different plant species and also gain an understanding as to their complex purposes within our ecosystem. Because of my interest and passion to

pursue a career in the horticultural industry, I will continue to cherish and promote the protection of our National Forests for generations to come. As a child who has grown up in poverty, my family is unable to help pay for my college career. Receiving this scholarship will not only impact me as a student, but as an individual. I demonstrate extreme financial need as well as determination to succeed. I am very excited to experience everything college has to offer to me thank you so much for providing me with this opportunity."

She is sponsored by Martha Moran.



Ella Hubert

Ella Hubert is a senior at Sheridan High School in Sheridan, WY. She will be attending the University of Wyoming where her major is Environmental Systems Science. She mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters. She has interned for the Forest Service and has a position on the trail crew this summer.

"I really appreciate receiving this scholarship and it will allow me to focus on my higher education and aspirations for the future. This past year, I have truly enjoyed my internship with the forest service and have learned valuable information to apply to future experiences. It has also opened doors to pursue a career in the forest service with the connections and information I have learned.

She is sponsored by Bill Bass.

(Continued from page 15)

We had six applicants who had other studies for their majors. The winners were Evan Patrick Morrison and Thomas Kaus.



Evan Patrick Morrison



Thomas Kaus

Evan Patrick Morrison is a senior at Green Mountain High School in Lakewood, CO. He is a competitive distance runner and Nordic skier. He is a tutor through the National Honor Society. He has been active in his church doing mission projects since middle school including working with Easter Seals.

“Thank you so much for awarding me the Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship! I am elated! I plan on attending Colorado Mesa University this fall to study Mechanical Engineering. I will also compete in cross country and track. I have been awarded the Distinguished Scholar scholarship to pay for my tuition. The Rocky Mountaineers scholarship will help pay for my room and board. I am so thankful that my grandpa, John Morrison, Jr., nominated me for this scholarship. I will always remember the time we spent together in the national forest.”

He is sponsored by John Morrison, Jr.

Thomas Kaus is a senior at Chadron High School in Chadron, NE. He is active in his school's student council and serves as a youth advocate for The Congressional Youth Advisory Council. He has a passion for motor sports and is pursuing a dual degree in mechanical engineering and Motorsports engineering at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

“Being granted this scholarship from the Rocky Mountaineers is extremely meaningful because I have a deep desire to preserve our national forests and public lands for future generations. I intend to use this as inspiration while developing new vehicle components and technologies that are more efficient and will reduce environmental impacts. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to put in the work to deepen my knowledge, gain skills and develop a background that will help me take that next step toward where I want to be in the future as an engineer and active citizen in order to create positive change. Your investment in my future will not be forgotten. Thank you again for your generosity and support.”

He is sponsored by Craig Bobzien.

2016 Scholarship Winner Update



Abbie Hogan, 2016 Rocky Mountaineer Scholarship winner.

I was the recipient of the Rocky Mountaineers Memorial Scholarship 7 years ago. I was about to start my first year of college when I won this award and it helped me have a good foundation to be able to pay for my own college. Still to this day I am so thankful and appreciative of this award because it was a huge part of being able to make it through college without taking out any loans and having any debt!

I received my Associates in Natural Resource Biology from my hometown college, Northwest College in Powell, Wy, and then received my Bachelors in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana in December 2021. During my time in school I worked as a Watershed Technician for the Department of Natural Resources which was an amazing experience getting to learn and explore the Northwest part of Montana.

Last year I was hired by the Bighorn National Forest as a Wildlife Technician. That allowed me to move back close to home and be able to work on one of

the forests I grew up camping and exploring when I was young. During my last summer I got to help out with multiple projects on the forest, but my favorite one would be our beaver dam project where I got to help release beaver into a new area. I am still working for them this summer and am looking forward to more adventures with the Forest Service.



Abbie Hogan, 2022, at work last summer on a beaver dam project on the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming.



Higgins Ridge Documentary



On January 30th, the **Montana PBS documentary about Higgins Ridge** was aired and received critical acclaim. The Forest Service Museum is prominently featured in the credits. Here is a link if you would like to watch this film online.

<https://watch.montanapbs.org/video/higgins-ridge-lqy0wp/>

The U.S. Forest Service sent 20 of its most elite firefighters - smokejumpers - to parachute into the Idaho wilderness to put out a wildfire burning on a mountain ridge. What looked like a routine fire from the air became a different story on the ground, as wind fueled the blaze into a blowup. The smokejumpers pivoted from battling the fire to fighting for their lives as the fire surrounded them.

Early Mountaineers

Hawaii's Civilian Conservation Camp in Koke'e



The goal of the CCC was to provide young men with jobs during a time when many were unemployed, times were hard, and starvation was a concern.

It was estimated that 8 to 10 percent of Hawaii's young men were enrolled by the Civilian Conservation Corps during its tenure from 1934 to 1942. There were CCC camps on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, the island of Hawaii and Molokai.

Each CCC enrollee was paid \$30 a month and was provided with food, clothing, shelter and free medical care. Of that amount, \$25 dollars a month was automatically deducted and sent home to their families.

There were five primary CCC camps built in Hawaii (the CCC Compound at Koke'e State Park, the most intact today; what is now a YMCA camp at Keanae on Maui; a research facility on the Big Island; Hawaiian Homes Property with only two buildings remaining on the Big Island; and part of Schofield Barracks in Wahiawa on O'ahu.) Other temporary campgrounds were spotted in work areas around the Islands.

The young men headed to Koke'e were nicknamed **"The Mountaineers."** The experience instilled a distinct pride in a group of young men that was for the opportunity of work.

Their projects were numerous and included road and building construction, erosion control, masonry, firefighting, trail maintenance, vegetation and insect control among many others. One of the main goals of the CCC was to renew the nation's decimated forests, so lots of tree planting went on.

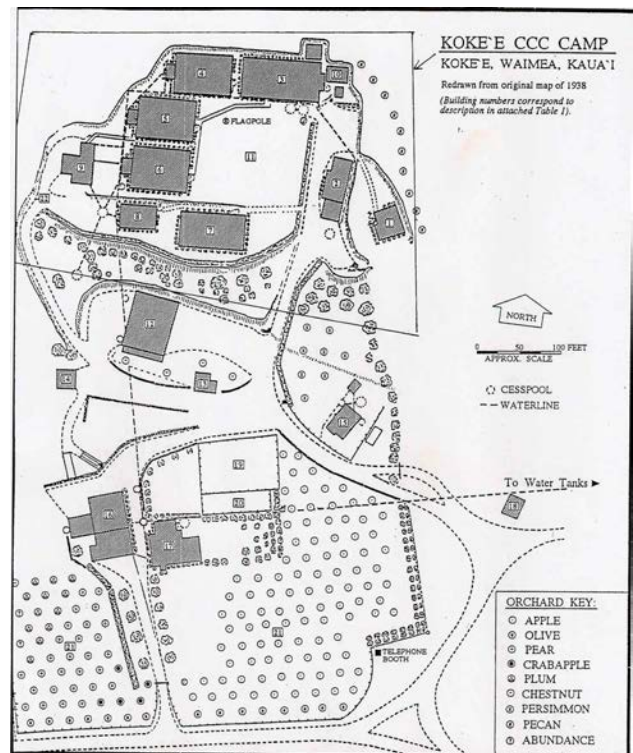


FIG. 2 - Layout of the CCC camp as documented in the 1938 map.



U.S. Survey Finds Loggers & Farmers Happiest worker



A sandy road through pine forest in West End, N.C. Photo for The Washington Post by Jeremy M. Lange

Envy the lumberjacks, for they perform the happiest, most meaningful work on earth. Or at least they think they do. Farmers, too.

Agriculture, logging and forestry have the highest levels of self-reported happiness -- and the lowest levels of self-reported stress -- of any major industry category, according to an analysis of more than 13,000 time journals from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' American Time Use Survey.

The time-use survey typically asks respondents to record what they were doing at any given time during the day. But in four recent surveys, between 2010 and 2021, they also asked a subset of those people -- more than 13,000 of them -- how meaningful those activities were, or how happy, sad, stressed, pained and tired they felt on a six-point scale.

Activities such as playing with grandchildren, for example, tend to be loaded with happiness and meaning, while waiting on hold or commuting produce little of either.

But the two aren't always correlated. Health care and social workers rate themselves as doing the most meaningful work of anybody, apart from the lumberjacks, but they rank lower on the happiness scale. They also rank high on stress.

More - <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/jan/07/us-survey-finds-loggers-farmers-happiest-workers/?business/news/2023/jan/07/us-survey-finds-loggers-farmers-happiest-workers/?business>

Drones Helping Fight Wildfires



A contracted UAS crew with Precision Integrated Programs / Overwatch Aero — Tyler Kock, Daniel Rodriguez, and Cliff Savage — on the Lightning Complex of fires. US Forest Service photo by Andrew Avitt. FVR-90, N170WA.

Drones — also called UAS or unmanned aerial systems — are playing an increasingly important role in fighting wildfires by supporting operations with aerial ignition and gathering intelligence for firefighters. The greatest benefit drones provide is they can take to the sky when manned aircraft are grounded for pilot safety.

Take, for example the FVR-90, a fixed-wing drone with a 14-foot wingspan capable of traveling at speeds up to 46 mph with a flight time of 8 hours. They are sent airborne just at dusk when other manned flights are grounded. The sky is theirs, and the overhead view they have of the fire is detailed and in real time.

“The way we use UAS now is very much a supplement,” said Justin Baxter, the Forest Service National UAS Operations Specialist. “There are certain times that it’s just not safe for us to utilize manned helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, like nighttime operations or in thick smoke or high winds.”

The drones that Baxter and his team fly are equipped with cameras that are not your normal cameras. They have multiple types of sensors, including infrared, that allow the team to see through smoke and, at night, see heat signatures, or thermal-based imaging.

More - <https://wildfiretoday.com/2022/10/05/drones-are-playing-an-increasingly-important-role-in-fighting-wildfires/>

A CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF RANDY MOORE



*At **Evergreen Magazine**. Author Jim Petersen is a co-founder of the non-profit Evergreen Foundation, and publisher of Evergreen, the Foundation's periodic journal. Evergreen Foundation was established in Medford, Oregon in 1986 to help advance public understanding and support for science based forestry and forest policy.*

One of my best friends has known Randy Moore for decades. To my pleasant surprise, they are alike in ways I suspect neither is aware of.

Chief Moore and my friend have enjoyed long and successful Forest Service careers. They are both dedicated professionals with exceptional analytical skills. Both of them know the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] inside and out, though I suspect my friend is more effective in the trenches where the Act is procedurally applied.

Moore is far more diplomatic and articulate than my friend, who is fearless and about as plainspoken as it gets. They will both smile when they read this sentence.

Moore is besieged by big city newspaper reporters armed with trick questions, but I believe the interview you are about to read is the first he has intentionally given since he was named Chief in July of 2021.

I have my friend to thank for convincing him to visit with me via Microsoft TEAMS for close to an hour on Friday, April 14. Talking with Moore is a bit like drinking from a fully charged fire hose. Once he gets rolling it's hard to keep up with him.

I admire Moore's decision to accept the Biden Administration's invitation to become Chief at a time when he could have just as easily retired. Forty-five years in a fish bowl would be more than enough for most of us.

Moore joined the Forest Service in 1981 following a three year stint with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a solid launching pad for a young man from Louisiana with a Southern University degree in Plant and Soil Science.

Congress ratified the National Forest Management Act five years before Moore signed up. It restricted the size of clearcuts, constrained annual harvest, mandated prompt reforestation and, most notably, required the Forest Service to develop the first ever 10-year forest plans for all 154 national forests.

Evergreen's baptism under fire began with the draft forest plan public comment periods for the Six Rivers, Rogue, Siskiyou, Umpqua, Winema and Klamath national forests. It was a whirlwind learning experience.

NFMA was one of seven major environmental laws enacted by Congress between 1963 and 1976. The laws in chronological order: the Clean Air Act, 1963; the Wilderness Act, 1964; the National Environmental Policy Act, 1970; Clean Water Act, 1972; Endangered Species Act, 1973; Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, 1974; and the aforementioned National Forest Management Act, 1976.

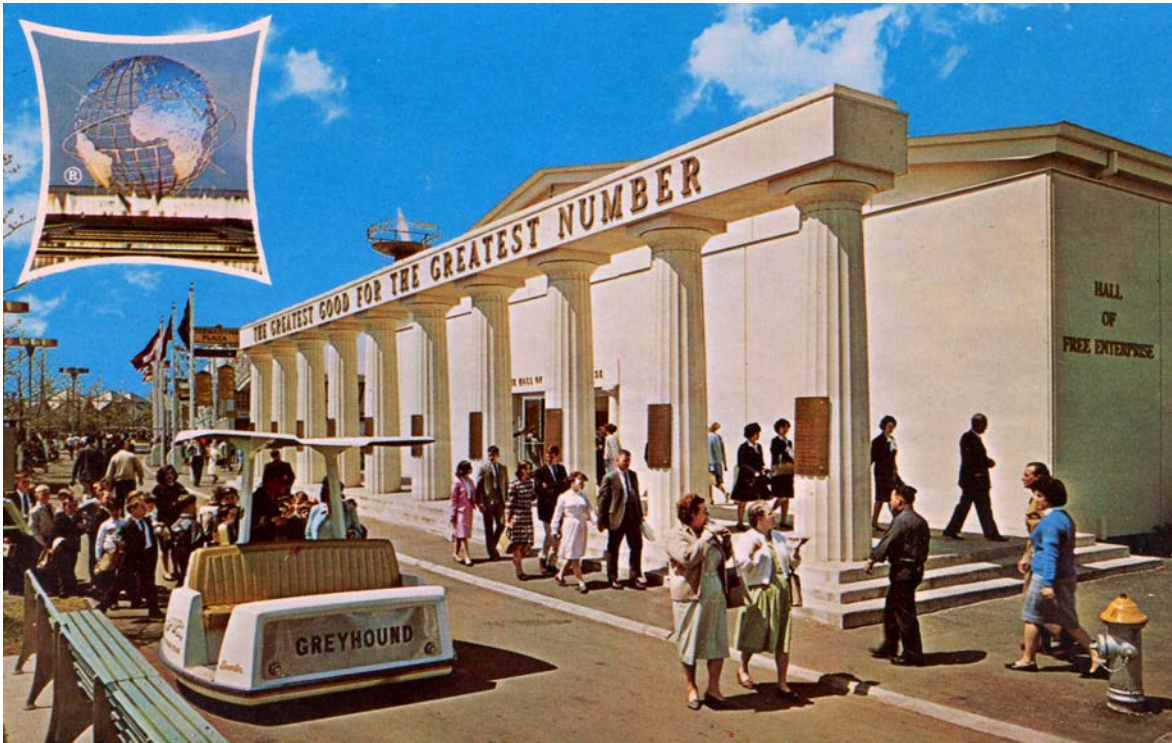
Years later, the late Jack Ward Thomas, the Forest Service's thirteenth Chief, described these acts and the regulatory maze they spawned as the "Gordian Knot," meaning that their conflicting mandates made it impossible for the agency to abide by all of them without getting sued.

This is the world Chief Moore attempts to navigate every day. It's a good thing he is good humored and laughs easily.

More:

<https://www.evergreenmagazine.com/conversation-with-randy-moore/>

New York World's Fair - 1964



Throw forward to the 2005 film, **The Greatest Good**, A Forest Service Centennial Film

"...he's adopting Jeremy Bentham's language from the eighteenth century: The greatest good for the greatest number. What Pinchot adds is 'in the long run.' That's what foresters do. They think out across time. Whose greatest good is it now? Whose greatest good will it be later?"

Char Miller, Biographer of Gifford Pinchot/History Professor, Trinity University, 2005

The principles and benefits of "free competitive enterprise, properly regulated, unhampered by unwarranted interference" are explained in a variety of ways in this one-story steel and concrete building, sponsored by the American Economic Foundation. A theater in the round has a show on "bread and butter issues" and, for those who can spend the time, there is even an accredited graduate seminar in economics, given in two-week sessions, at the pavilion.

ECONOMICS ON STAGE. The seats in an oval theater slowly swivel to follow a show called "Mr. Both Comes to Town," staged on sets that encircle the audience. An animated wire figure represents man's dilemma: as producer he wants higher wages for his work; as consumer he wants to buy goods at lower prices.

MONEY IN MOTION. In a three-dimensional, animated wall panel America's corporate economy comes to life. Polarized light makes money appear to flow through transparent tubes, to show how it is

channeled into purchases, payrolls, taxes and profits, until the books are balanced.

TREE OF ECONOMIC LIFE. A symbolic revolving "tree" standing 12 feet high is designed to demonstrate the factors of economic growth: the natural resources that man taps, the jobs at which he works, the tools he uses and the goods he produces and buys.

THE ANSWER MACHINE. On giant panels, 120 basic economic questions are printed. When the visitor punches a numbered button on the wall panel, a machine prints out the answer.

ENTERPRISE ECONOMICS, B.A. 204-0. This is the title of a graduate seminar offered by Adelphi University's Business Institute and accredited by the State University of New York. Adelphi faculty members and distinguished outside economists lecture. Two or three credits toward an M.A. degree can be earned in the seminar, which is given in two-week periods of 30 classroom hours.

Smokey Bear Droppings

He's everywhere!



The Stories Behind 8 Iconic Brand Mascots. https://www.interestingfacts.com/brand-mascot-stories/YrZTA55YwAH_MBh?liu=b3fd08c059b1999795a0f9039eb38db3&utm_source=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1769507471

<https://youtu.be/OEx5t508A0Q>

Part of the new "Do Colorado Right Campaign" for the state of Colorado. Quin Gable talks to us about what to do when it comes to fire.



EVERYBODY wants to be like Smokey!
Even rock stars and restaurants.



Yup! Only You - even in Hawaii!

Pop Culture Icon
Smokey Bear!

PSICC Rocky Mountaineers Dining Out



A small but fun PSICC retiree group gathered in February, 2023 for lunch and stories. We were happy to welcome Mark Hooper who worked on the PSICC beginning in 1992. Next, he went to the White River from 1997 to 2000 then returned to the PSICC. Eventually, Mark transferred to the Denver Federal Center then to the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins about 2015. He retired in 2018. L to R: Larry and Cheryl Klock, Mark Hooper, Tom Healy, Brent Botts, Karl and Gail Tamler, Darlene Mattson, Lori Haug and Barb Timock



Denver Rocky Mountaineers Break Bread



On May 16, 2023 the Denver area Rocky Mountaineers met for lunch at Cafe Jordano in Lakewood for some Italian food. The restaurant hosts us in a small private back room where folks can gather at small tables and catch up with one another. About 30 retirees showed up at this May luncheon.





The Hole Story

By Jim Thinnes



Jim Thinnes



A recent 3-week trip of the ancient kingdoms of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam began in Bangkok, Thailand. Much of the region had been part of Siam from

the 13th through the 19th centuries. Today, Thailand and Cambodia are constitutional monarchies; however, the King of Thailand wields considerable power and Cambodia essentially has one-party rule. Laos and Vietnam are communist states with market economies.

The Mekong River and its tributaries are a critical component in the region's mix of bustling cities and rural farming communities. The weather in February was hot but not stifling as it would be during the March-May hot season and the June-October wet season.

Buddhism is the primary religion and its dominance over time has provided an abundance of old and contemporary temples. We learned about monastic life and had an opportunity to ask questions of an ordained monk. We even participated in the early morning almsgiving in Luang Prabang, Laos where hundreds of monks silently file through the downtown streets collecting food offerings.

Our travels took us to Ayutthaya, Thailand, the ancient capital of Siam, and Cambodia's Angkor Wat, the largest religious structure in the world. We visited the Bayon Temple, with its large faces carved into stone walls and Ta Prohm Temple, which is eerily being swallowed by the jungle.

We saw the enduring effects of the American War (Vietnam War). Laos wasn't an active participant in the war, but its border was heavily bombed along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Unexploded ordinance still occasionally maims Laotian farmers. While in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, we visited a killing field from the Khmer Rouge's brutal regime.

Fish and rice are food staples, but we also tried fried crickets and tarantulas and snake wine as well as more appealing brown sugar products made from coconut flower juice. We traveled by plane, bullet-train, bus, boat, tuk tuk, jumbo, remork, scooter, and even elephant and ox cart. Shopping included a floating market, a market on an active railroad track as well as more traditional handicraft and produce markets.



We finished in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) near the Mekong River Delta. The city is the economic engine of Vietnam with over 10 million people and millions of scooters. One evening, we experienced the orderly chaos of street traffic from the back of a scooter.

And this brings me to the hole story and the Cu Chi tunnel network that once consisted of over 100 miles of tunnels at the southern end of the Ho Chi Minh trail and north of Saigon. The tunnels provided the Viet Cong protection and movement during the American bombing. Some of the 3-foot-high, 2-foot-wide tunnels remain, including their tiny access holes. I could barely fit through the hole as shown in the photo with the camouflaged covering in front of me.

It was a great trip, including going down the rabbit hole.



Linda Carol Drake Bell

Linda Bell, age 74, passed away March 15, 2023. She leaves behind her husband, Spencer Bell; son, Richard Jensen (Kelli); sister, Donna Molello (Dan); brother, Jim Rector (Lorraine); granddaughter, Makenzie Jensen; grandson, Mason Jensen. Also survived by bonus children Douglas Bell, J. Scott

Bell, Christopher M. Bell (Jill), Penni West (Mike) and Grandchildren Autumn West, Kayla West, Ben West, Noah Bell, and Cameron Bell. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews and their wonderful spouses and children as well as many friends.

Linda was born July 14, 1948, in La Junta, Colorado to Pettis and Norma Rector. She was a graduate of

South High School in 1966 and later went on to pursue her college degree in business as a single mother at the University of Southern Colorado. She retired after many years of faithful service at the United States Forest Service where she worked in Human Resources. One thing she enjoyed the most was going to the National Forest fire sites and helping the firefighters and other personnel.

Linda was an avid traveler and enjoyed going to places near and far with her husband, sister and children. She loved her family and lived vicariously through all their adventures and successes. Raising her son and seeing him become a husband and father was her pride and joy. Linda thought being a grandma was the best thing ever and the second was being a great aunt.



Roderick Walter Hancock

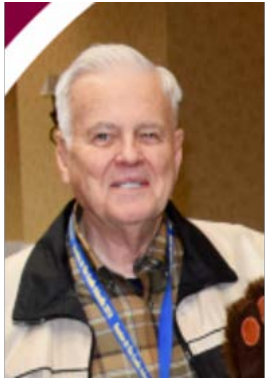
Rod Hancock, 85, of Pine Haven, WY, formerly of Spearfish, SD, passed away on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the Crook County Memorial Hospital in Sundance, WY. Rod was born on June 28, 1937, to

Walter and Ruth (Davis) Hancock in Twin Bridges, MT, and graduated from high school there in 1955. On August 9, 1959, Rod was united in marriage to Mary Margareth Kaatz. In August of 1961, Rod joined the US Army and served until July of 1963. Following his service in the Army, Rod and Mary resided in Dillon, MT where their three daughters were born.

He was an Engineering Technician there in R-1 in Dillon, MT and in 1972 Rod and Mary transferred to Spearfish, SD with the US Forest Service where Rod worked with the North Engineering Zone until retiring in 1984. Retirement was not for Rod, so he went to work for Lawrence County for another 15 years and retired completely and decided it was time to move to Pine Haven.

Rod is survived by his wife, Mary of Sundance; two daughters, Christi (Dan) Haggberg of Spearfish and Cheryl (Jim) Wolff.

Remembrances



Sigfrid George (Sig) Palm

Sig Palm passed away March 13, 2023, in Sheridan, WY. He was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1942, in Denver, CO to Sigfrid S. and Cecilia Palm. His father was a game warden for the Colorado Game and Fish Dept. so he was raised close to the outdoors. Graduated from high

school in Fort Collins and studies Wildlife Management at Colorado State University and Utah State University and after time in the Army, he graduated with a degree in Forestry and Range Management. He had seasonal positions on the Roosevelt N. F. and served on the Roosevelt Hot Shot crew. He met his wife Judi, who was the district clerk, on the Laramie River District on the Roosevelt and they were married in 1968. They moved twelve times.

His first permanent job was as crew leader of the newly formed hot shot crew in Greybull on the

Bighorn N. F. which later was moved to the Pike National Forest. He worked on five National Forests (Prescott, Gila as District Ranger, Tonto as District Ranger, Roosevelt, Bighorn), three Regions (R-2, R-3, and R-9 at Northeastern Area in Cooperative Fire Protection), and the Washington Office (details and San Dimas). He served in many roles in fire including Type 1 incident commander, and multi-agency coordination group leader in the 1988 Yellowstone time period. He had a total involvement in fire for 58 seasons and assignments in 22 states.

He was involved in Boy Scouts, loved the outdoors especially fishing, and he and Judi traveled to Scandinavia, Panama, New Zealand, Australia, and Alaska.

He is survived by his wife Judi, daughters Diane and Andrea and their families including 12 grandchildren, and a brother Stan.



Lloyd Clifford Newland

Lloyd Newland passed away on February 22, 2023. He was born in Bayfield, CO on April 30, 1932, in Bayfield, CO to Ellis Walter and Twila Ida Newland. Lloyd graduated from Colorado

A&M (CSU) in 1955 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. During his college years he was very active in the ROTC and had he been commissioned would have been a pilot in the Korean Conflict.

During his lifetime Lloyd lived in several places including Bayfield, Grand Lake, Ft Collins, Lakewood and Littleton. As well as a brief stint in Wyoming early in his career. The majority of his life he worked for the US Forest Service starting in 1961 and retiring in 1982. His career included many varied assignments in engineering and special projects such as early development work on 3-point seat belts for federal vehicles, green houses to germinate pine seedlings to reforest burn areas.

He also ran the A1 fire-fighting crew for the Region 5 of the Forest Service and worked on many major fires including several at Yellowstone Park.

He was also an active member in many organizations including the Masonic Lodge and El Jebel Shriners, Sons of Norway, Forest Service retirees, as well as his church. He and Donna traveled on to many places around the world including a mission trip to Kenya to help build a church, and many others with their Sons of Norway group. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, gardener, and always had a range of animals on their property for the grandkids to help with and enjoy.

He is survived by his wife Donna, his children Janice, Lloyd, and Donna, his sister Dorothy and his step-children Jim, Dian, Michael, Ileen, and Dan. He is also blessed to have sixteen grandchildren and twenty-four great grandchildren.

(Continued from page 26)

Remembrances



Joseph Junior (Joe) Newton

Joe Newton, 88, passed away at the Hopewest Hospice Care Center in Grand Junction, Colorado on January 24, 2023. Better known as Joe, he was born in Leadville, Co on April 14, 1934 to Joseph Frank Newton and Zelma Newton. He grew up and resided in Gunnison County

until entering the Air Force in 1952 after graduating from Gunnison High School. While in the Air Force he served in Germany and France. After being discharged in 1956, Joe entered the Forest Service beginning in Gunnison and then Walden Colorado where he met and married Gaye LaVon Huston in 1959. The couple was married for 63 years and raised two children, Corey Randall (Beverly) Newton of Dallas, Texas and JaVona Annett (Ed) Wilcox of Grand Junction, Colorado.

Joe's education then consisted of graduating from Colorado State University in 1963 and then was

employed by the U.S. Forest Service, serving in Douglas and Centennial Wyoming, Deadwood, South Dakota, Pueblo, Monte Vista, and finally Delta Colorado where he retired after 35 years in civil service.

Joe was an avid crossword solver and enjoyed many years of RV traveling along with the Grand Mesa Campers and other friends. He excelled in the sport of bowling being a member of the American Bowling Congress and carrying the outstanding average of 194.

He is survived by: his children, Corey Randall Newton (Beverly) of Dallas and JaVona Annett Wilcox (Ed) of Grand Junction, Colorado.; his wife Gaye LaVon Huston of Delta; and his siblings, Leslie Irish of Denver, CO and Kenneth Dean Newton of Boulder City, Nevada. He is also survived by great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Alex J. Rodney

Alex Rudney died on March 31, 2023. Alex was born on July 1, 1970, to Christine and Edward Rudney in Bridgeport, Connecticut and moved directly to New York City where he grew up. He spent many summers at Christine's childhood home in Stratford, Connecticut with his beloved grandparents, John and Helen Popp. Alex greatly admired and

respected his mom and gained a father-figure when Christine and Joseph Yuskaitis married in 1980. Alex and his brother, Christopher, were always close. They shared a bedroom in the family's West Side apartment, shared a love for baseball and rock and roll, shared many of the same friends, and the same stunning blue eyes. Uniquely his own was Alex's bright red, wild, curly hair. With his signature head of hair, his clever wit, and his huge smile, he was clearly a fun character. He was also a humble intellectual, whose test scores earned him admission to the prestigious Bronx High School of

Science. After graduating in 1988, he headed West. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Natural Resource Management and took his first seasonal Forest Service job with the Stanislaus National Forest in California in 1991. He worked several summers as a timber sale technician for the White River National Forest in Minturn, Colorado and worked winter night shifts for Vail Ski Resorts before being hired by the Forest Service permanently. He married Dionne Wegele in 1998 and they had two sons, Zane and Wyatt. The boys truly were his pride and joy. The family moved to Salida, Colorado and bought a house where the boys grew up, spending countless hours playing catch with their dad. Alex was actively involved in his children's ever-changing interests, including Boy Scouts and team sports, and he made life-long friends with other parents he met through these activities. Alex enjoyed fishing with Wyatt and Wyatt's girlfriend, Maddie, and taking cross-country road trips with Zane.

Remembrances

Zane, having inherited Alex's love of the big city, is currently living in Manhattan and working with his Uncle Chris before starting graduate school in the fall. Wyatt, having inherited Alex's love of the outdoors, is currently working on a ranch in Salida. Alex lives on through both of his sons. In addition to being a dedicated father,

Alex was a dedicated employee of the U.S. Forest Service. He took to heart the agency's mission of "caring for the land and serving people." He served as a forester/silviculturist for the San Isabel National Forest since 2003. He also maintained fire qualifications throughout his career and responded to local and national wildfires. Alex was a solid, genuine guy and he walked his talk. He faithfully brought his reusable coffee mug for his regular lattes at Cafe Dawn. He was always picking up trash in the woods, inspiring others to do the same. Alex was a lot of things, but materialistic was something he was not. He practiced reducing, reusing, and recycling to some extremes. His friends found it endearing that he wore shirts with holes, and that he athletically competed with them

using outdated or duct-taped ski, bike and golf equipment. He cared deeply about the state of the world and social injustices, yet laughed easily and found pleasure in everyday things. He enjoyed watching sunsets from his front porch and seeing his apple tree bloom in the spring. A neighbor recently described Alex as "one-of-a-kind and always kind." Alex met Jen Swacina at the Salida Ranger District office and they declared June 7, 2019, as the date to be celebrated as the beginning of their relationship. Alex would light up when sharing stories about fun times with Jen, especially about seeing The Who in concert and taking the Amtrak train to visit friends in California. They created many memories - even through a pandemic - and had a lifetime of future adventures planned. A tragic car accident took Alex too soon. He will be dearly missed by many, his sons, Jen, his mother Christine Rudney, his uncle Ken Popp, his aunt and uncle Janet and Gregory Baxter, cousins Brian Popp, Michael Popp, Michelle Cook, Nicole Santamauro, Daniel Baxter and Rachel Baxter-Brown.



Gerald John (Jerry) Ryszka

Jerry Ryszka passed away on Thursday evening, January 5th, 2023. He was 69 years of age. He and his wife, Davina lived up Cokedale Road for the last 10 years on the family ranch, near Livingston, Montana. Jerry was on the ranch working outdoors when

his heart gave out suddenly and without warning.

Gerald John Ryszka was born April 13, 1953, in Detroit, Michigan to wonderful parents, Regina and Walter Ryszka. They had 4 children, 3 boys and a girl, Leonard, Jerry, Carol and Tom. Jerry's parents were hard working, loving, and dedicated parents. Jerry grew up learning from them the value of hard work, being responsible and practical in life, and to have good principles such as honesty and high moral character. He excelled in school and enjoyed being a part of various sports, such as football, basketball, wrestling, and hockey. He was a part of a boy scout troop, accomplishing a good number of goals and awards.

After high school Jerry went to college at Michigan Tech, located in the upper peninsula of northern Michigan. He majored in Forestry/Timber Management and earned his bachelor's degree. He was a resident assistant at the various dorms where he lived and had some memorable and humorous experiences interacting with his rowdy co-eds. One of his first positions he took after graduating was a seasonal position with the Forest Service in Gardiner, Montana on the Gallatin National Forest. His next couple of positions put him right in Livingston. This is when he met Davina Gray. They began dating and soon had a wonderful relationship. Their courtship was put on hold when Jerry took a position out in Oregon working for Weyerhaeuser. This was a large logging and lumber company, where he worked on an assembly line pulling and stacking different grades of lumber. While he was there, he investigated the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and was baptized into the Church on Oct. 14, 1978. He then was able to marry his best friend and love of his life, Davina, on May 19, 1979.

Remembrances

Shortly after they were married, Jerry adopted Wendy, Davina's little daughter from a previous marriage, when she was 4 years old. They moved from Livingston to Pierce, Idaho where Jerry worked as a Scaler for the Forest Service. This is where their second daughter, Jennifer, was born. Shortly thereafter, the family moved back to the Gray ranch for two years during which time their son John was born. They then moved to Custer, South Dakota where Jerry worked for the Forest Service in the Black Hills. Jerry had an opportunity to further his education at Oregon State University and earned a master's degree in Forest Measurements. During their time in South Dakota two more children were born, their son Robert and daughter Gerri.

In 1995 the family moved to Delta, Colorado where Jerry worked as a traveling Regional Timber Measurement Specialist. They lived in Colorado for 16 years, where they finished raising their four children. After a rewarding career, Jerry was able

to retire in 2011. His time with the Forest Service allowed him to teach and mentor many aspiring foresters and developed lasting friendships with colleagues. He loved his work.

After his retirement, Jerry and Davina moved back to Livingston to be near Davina's parents. In 2019, Jerry and Davina celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with many family and friends. Today they have been married 44 years.

He loved gardening, music, woodworking, hunting, cooking, preserving garden produce, spending time outdoors, being with family, and watching a good show on TV with Davina in the evenings.

Jerry is survived by his wife Davina Ryszka, who loves him with all her heart; his children Wendy Bournazian (Mike), Jennifer Alexander, John Ryszka (Kim), Robert Ryszka (Cheryl), Gerri Ryszka (Jarrod), His siblings, Leonard Ryszka, Carol Ross, Tom Ryszka (Bonnie), 14 grandchildren, and other extended family.



Robert L. Vaught, Jr.

Bob Vaught died on March 19, 2023 at the age of 71 of stomach cancer. He was born to Robert Lee Vaught, Sr. and Ruby Lee Vaught, the first of six children, on April 26, 1951.

Upon graduating high school in 1969, he joined the Army as an infantry soldier. He served in Vietnam in 1969-70 as a combat soldier in the 198th Light Infantry Brigade under Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. At the time, this was Lieutenant Colonel Schwarzkopf's first combat assignment out of West Point. The men he served with were some of the best and bravest he would ever know.

After the army he went to Alaska, where he attended college and worked for the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the United States Forest Service. For the next 30 years he worked for the Forest Service: in Mountain City, Nevada; as District Ranger in Austin, Nevada; as Deputy Forest Supervisor in Ketchikan, Alaska on the Tongass National Forest; as Forest Supervisor on the

Colville National Forest in Washington state; as Forest Supervisor on the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest; as Chief of Staff for the Deputy Chief in Washington DC; and as Director of Natural Resources in the Rocky Mountain Region based in Denver, Colorado. Bob worked on some of the most important issues in national forest management of the day, including timber management, clear-cut logging in Alaska, grazing management in Nevada, anti-government protests like the shovel brigade in northern Nevada, threatened and endangered species management, including northern lynx, black-footed ferret, bighorn sheep, and others, as well as bark beetle infestation in Colorado. Working on the national forest was an amazing experience as well as knowing, meeting and working with many amazing people also dedicated to natural resource management in the national forest. One of his biggest regrets was not keeping up with many of these wonderful people and he hopes they retain at least some good memories from their time working together.

He is survived by his children, Jeremy Vaught and Bethan Kykman, three brothers and one sister, and seven grandchildren.

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Remembrances



Marilyn Whalon

Marilyn Whalon of Lakewood, Colorado, passed away in Denver at age 78 and is remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, parishioner, and dedicated professional. She was born to Grant and Helen Flink in Joliet, Illinois. Marilyn was raised and educated as a devout

Catholic with her twin sister, Madelyn, and brothers James and Lawrence (both deceased). She graduated from Saint Francis Academy High School, in Joliet. She married Clifford J. Whalon in 1972, and they built a home in Plainfield, Illinois, where they nurtured their combined family of three children, Greg (57), John (54), and Karen (52). Marilyn was active in her community and served in the Plainfield Women's Civic Organization.

In 1979, the family moved to Lakewood, Colorado where Marilyn worked for Nicor Exploration, and then the couple moved their empty nest to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1987 where Marilyn started her career with the federal government. She transferred back to the Denver area in 1992 and retired in 2011 after a 21-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. She earned several merit awards for outstanding performance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Marilyn was an active member of Christ on the Mountain Catholic parish where she sang and also served as the choir librarian. Marilyn skied, fly-fished, loved dogs, and enjoyed golf – playing on several leagues. She had many friends who filled her social calendar. Fashion was important to Marilyn, and she rarely left the house without looking fabulous.

Marilyn crossed over to eternal peace with her family at her bedside, after a tenacious battle with cardiopulmonary disease. She is survived by her husband, three children, five grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and her sister.



The Last Word

By Tom Thompson

The Last Word - "Please leave a message...the mailbox is full."

The first phones used by the Forest Service were in Wyoming in 1906. Over the next couple decades across the forests in the west, phone wire with white insulators was strung in trees from lookouts to ranger stations. Early phones were relatively simple and didn't come in different colors, but they provided an important communications link for rangers to fire lookouts and other important locations. We all know that the next hundred years after those first phones, there were tremendous technological changes and improvements.

By the fifties most every home had "a" phone...in fact I remember our black dial phone and our number which was 815-J. We were on a party line and when mom or dad wanted to use the phone, they sometimes had to wait a few minutes for the neighbors to finish up their call. The operator at Mountain Bell played a significant role in making sure calls got through to the right place and telephone operators knew a lot about what was going on in the community. Using any phone can sometimes test one's patience and persistence, especially back then if you were on a party line or making any kind of a long-distance call, which was very seldom just because of the cost. Those long-distance calls had to be done through the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, but the operator took care of that for you.

The phones we have in our back pockets, or in our clutches today, are amazing. We can talk to most anyone in the world and you don't even have to remember the number...they are precision cameras of all kinds, encyclopedias, phone books, yellow pages, newspapers, updated road atlases with narration, checkbooks, calendars, movie and tv screens, file cabinets, calculators and computers, radios and record players, weather stations, clocks

and every kind of watch; our tickets, our identification, our itinerary, the weatherman, we can shop on them, get a coffee with them, they talk to you, they know what we want and they remind us that if we are driving we shouldn't be talking; they remind us of what we are supposed to be doing, they can even help us find someone who is lost, and if you're interested they can locate a constellation in the night sky. Wow...when you stop and think about all they do for us, it is almost scary that so much is packed in such a small little package and almost everyone has one. Some are wondering if they know too much.

In the last 60+ years, we have come a long way, but patience is still required at times. In this new improved technological world that we live in today, sometimes the only thing my amazing phone can't do is make a simple call, not because of the technology but because of how we use it.

First, where did I leave my phone, it could be just about any place. Assuming I have my phone in my hand and have the right number, then too often, when I make a call, I get a recording of what seems to be an endless menu of "press # 1 2, 3, 4, etc." options, none of which apply to what my reason was for my making the call. After listening to the long list of options that don't apply, out of frustration, I resort to poking "0" for an operator and not surprisingly, I miraculously am returned to the menu and the recording with the same options again. Where did those wonderful operators go...cast aside by technology. Making a call not too many yesterdays ago in retrospect seemed to be a simple task. "One ringy dingy...two ringy dingy...three ringy dingy...four ringy dingy..." and then "Have I reached the party to whom I am speaking."



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It seems we take so much pride today in having instant communication and super connectivity, but there are days when I yearn for the time when I could make a call and if I didn't reach the person I intended to talk to, at least I was able to connect with someone who would take my call...a real person. Now I most often find myself in a "queue" listening to "rap music" with a reminder every thirty seconds that "your call is important to us, please stay on the line and we will be with you in a few moments"... "but your wait time is 51 minutes." We seem to be so busy in today's world, but I wonder how many people across our country are just busy listening and waiting because their call is indeed important as well...if you haven't experienced this, just make a call to a supposed service company and check to see if they are in fact service. Unfortunately, I must sadly say that the Forest Service is not immune from the situation I describe.

The "pandemic" certainly complicated the situation with many organizations, companies, and institutions, like the Forest Service. So many people began working from home and if you could find a "valid" number for someone, the recorded message

often is..."Hi, this is Jane Doe and I can't take your message right now, please leave a message I will get back to you very soon." Then there will be the inviting beep and then, "Sorry... this mailbox is full! Goodbye!"

The only ones who seem to have found their niche into today's telephone maze are the telemarketers and spam callers. They know how to use the telephone to the ultimate and seemly know exactly when the warranty on my seventeen-year-old 4-runner is due to expire 14 years ago, but luckily my phone at least does try to alert me when "Jennifer" from the warranty company calls.

We are blessed to have the technology we have, and I guess we should just be patient when things seem to leave you hanging on the line or number 17 in the queue. I know there might be some of us Rocky Mountaineers who have not experienced any of these "fun" times on the phone and if you truly haven't, please give me a call at 815-J. Looking forward to your "ringy dinky," but if you get a busy signal, just leave a message, and hopefully my "mailbox will not be full."



(Pennsylvania Capital-Star editorial cartoon by Tim Hartman)