



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 3, Issue 1
Winter 2015

In this Issue

Memorial Grove	3
NAFSR News	5
Rally on the Rio	6
Harney Peak Lookout	8
Mark Stiles Profile	11
Ski Day - 1.29.15	15
Galapagos Island	17
Retirees Remember	20
Wilderness	23
Remembrances	25
The Last Word	31

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

Skip Steps Aside

Skip Underwood Hands Leadership to Kim Vogel

From Rendezvous in the Rockies, Vail 2012 to launching the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association—what an adventuresome few years! The enthusiasm and energy of the people who planned and implemented the national reunion in Vail was just unstoppable and was bound to lead to something of lasting value to the Rocky Mountain Region and the retirees who have worked here.

Sometimes it's easy to drift a little in retirement and lose touch with friends and experiences that have been a large part of our lives and have to some extent shaped who we are and what we value. The invitation I received to help plan the Vail reunion certainly re-engaged me in a very positive way that was unexpected and very rewarding. It seemed a natural progression and was certainly a fun task for a few of us to contemplate and decide to

organize a Region-wide association of Forest Service retirees on the heels of the national reunion.

It has been a wonderful experience to work with friends who shared this vision of a Region 2 association to become known as Rocky Mountaineers. The creativity and commitment to build an association to connect individuals and existing groups of retirees was a pleasure to see. It surely reminded me that just because you're retired from the outfit, it doesn't mean you don't have passion and skills to do great things.

It has been an exciting privilege to be part of this first year of organizing and building a solid base of membership of the Rocky Mountaineers. Every member of the initial Board of Directors has played a key role in this successful beginning.

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

We have published four outstanding newsletters called The Rendezvous which set a standard of excellence exceeded by none that I have seen. I am confident our membership will grow as we add current and new retirees who share the pride of service and the pleasure of ongoing relationships of colleagues.

I have enjoyed every opportunity to attend meetings and visit with retirees in Denver, Pueblo,

Fort Collins, Delta and a few places in between. Next year it will be Cody! I look forward to continuing this fun and rewarding experience as "Past Chair" in 2015 and welcome Kim Vogel into the Chair's position on January 1. You're in for a great year, Kim!

Want to be a Famous Writer?

Many folks have asked us how to submit an article to be published in the Rendezvous. The Rendezvous Staff is looking for articles on events in the History of the Region; Special People, News Events, Recognition, and Travel. To submit an article, send your story ideas to: rmountaineers@gmail.com. When sending us your ideas, provide us with your name, email address, and a summary of what the article(s) is about. Your ideas will be carefully reviewed and approved and a response will be sent congratulating you on your prose. If you want help, we'll help you write the article.

How To Contact "Rocky Mountaineers"

Website www.rockymountaineers.us
E-mail rmountaineers@gmail.com

Editor of Newsletter Tom Thompson, tommylthompson@comcast.net, 303-933-2135
Website Manager Bill Disbrow, bdisbrow@aol.com, 303-548-7501
E-Mail Manager Johnny Hodges, rmountaineers@gmail.com, 970-226-6890
Memorial Grove Steve Deitemeyer, sdeitemeyer@msn.com, 303-456-0799
Membership & Others P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527

2015 Memorial Grove Ceremony Planned for May

The 2015 Memorial Grove Ceremony will be held at the historic Monument Work Center on May 2. This year's planting and recognition of honorees will mark the ninety-fifth year of the memorial service. Well over 1100 Forest Service people have been recognized for their service to the agency and the country over that period of time. The planning and conduct of the annual program is a cooperative effort of the Pikes Peak Ranger District, the Pike and San Isabel NFs-Cimarron-Comanche NGs unit, the Regional Office, and the Rocky Mountaineers.

A tentative listing of the individuals who have been identified to honor from 2014 is shown below. If you are aware of a potential honoree that is not listed, please let us know as soon as possible so due consideration and evaluation can be made and proper notifications can be done in a timely manner. To be eligible, an honoree must have either: 1/ retired from the Rocky Mountain Region, 2/ worked in the Rocky Mountain Region and returned to reside in the Region after retirement, 3/ have died while working in the Region, or 4/ be otherwise deemed eligible by the

Committee because of their long-time service to the Region.

Each year we also add names who deserve recognition but who were not recognized in previous years. This "Not Forgotten" category of honorees is included in each year's ceremony. To determine whether an individual has previously been recognized or not and to see a complete listing of all the honorees whose names appear at the Memorial, you can review the listing that is

found on the Rocky Mountaineers website at "rockymountaineers.us" under the "In Memory" tab and then the "Memorial Grove" tab, and finally the "Memorial Grove Honorees" tab. The listing is alphabetized and lists the full name and year the person was honored. Other information is displayed on the website about the history of the Memorial Grove and the most recent honorees.

(continued on Page 4)



*(continued from Page 3)***2014 Memorial Grove Honorees**

Betty Alexander	San Juan N.F.
Julie M. Bagan	Pike and San Isabel N.F.
Herman Edward (Herm) Ball	San Juan, Black Hills, Pike N.F.s and R.O.
David L. (Dave) Branham	White River N.F. and Regional Office Geometronics
Raymond Roy Busby	Regional Office, Administrative Mgmt./Communications
Jacqueline Helen Cables	Pike San Isabel N.F., and R-3
Pete Chidsey	Bighorn, Black Hills, and Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F.'s
John Charles Englebert	Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F.
David Lee Girty	Medicine Bow-Routt N.F.
David V. (Dave) Grove	Pike and San Isabel N.F., Cimarron and Comanche NG
JoAnn F. Hagan	Regional Office
Leslie (Jock) Hendry	White Rv., Harney, Bl. Hills, Pike, Roosevelt NF and R.O
James Everett Jacobson	Black Hills and Grand Mesa N.F.
Lloyd McNeil	San Juan N.F.
Norbert V. (Ski) Milanowski	San Juan, Bighorn, Routt, GMUG N.F.'s, SPF R.O.
David L. Miller	Arapaho Roosevelt N.F.
David W. Molinaro	San Juan and Pike N.F., Regional Office
Jack Ott	Black Hills, San Juan N.F.
Edgar H. (Ed) Palpant	Pike NF and Monument Tree Nursery
Carolyn J. Peterson	Regional Office, Manpower, JCCC, YCC Programs
Robert M. Rankin	Arapaho-Roosevelt N.F.
Stanley F. Versaw	Pike San Isabel N.F.

Not Forgotten List to be Recognized in 2015

William C. Hurd	(2003)	Roosevelt N.F.
Susan T. Moholland	(2012)	Regional Office Lands
Leon O. Nelson	(1995)	Frying Pan and Sopris R.D., White River N.F. Aubrey L.
(Bud) Roach	(2013)	San Juan N.F., Delores R.D. Engineering

For more information or to nominate a potential 2014 honoree or "not forgotten" contact Tom L. Thompson at 303-552-1711 or email: tommylthompson@comcast.net



NAFSR REPORT

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSA representative

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees met in Reno, Nevada the last week of October for a three day Board Meeting. During this meeting a Plan of Work for 2015 was adopted and the Board spent considerable time prioritizing the activities which they deem most important to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Association during the coming year.

Darrel Kenops, former Forest Supervisor on the Black Hills and Willamette N.F.s, has served as the Executive Director of the organization for eight years and this was his last meeting. He was presented with a letter of appreciation from President Jim Golden. Darrel has been very active in keeping NAFSR headed in the right direction and working to establish partnerships and coalitions that continue to work on very important efforts to help the agency, especially in regard to budget issues related to fire funding. Darrel will be missed as he retires from this role, but Corbin Newman, recently retired Regional Forester from the Southwest Region, will be filling in behind Darrel and is looking forward to the challenge.

Nominations are open and being accepted for the John McGuire Award.

Presentation of the prestigious

John McGuire Award is an annual highlight of NAFSR and nominations are being accepted for consideration of next year's award. The award was established twelve years ago by NAFSR and recognizes dedicated and outstanding groups or individuals who have a strong commitment to sound resource management and make significant accomplishments in implementing the mission with the Forest Service.



(Photo of Darrel Kenops (left) and Jim Golden, President of NAFSR)

Forest Service employees or members of NAFSR may nominate candidates for the John R. McGuire Award. The nomination must identify the responsible Forest Service employee(s) or organizational unit and must describe the nature of the accomplishment, how it relates to the Forest Service mission, and why it should be

recognized as outstanding. There is no specific deadline but if you have a worthy nomination you are encouraged to submit it. For more details about how to make a nomination or to submit a nomination, please contact Tom Thompson, the R-2 NAFSR Representative.

Members of NAFSR in Region 2 are proud to have had two John McGuire Awards made since the recognition program was started in 2002, with awards being made in 2003 to Floyd Reed and Dave Bradford on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison N.F.s and again in 2005 with an award to Joe Hartman and Dick Bennin on the Cimarron National Grassland in Kansas.

Consider joining in our efforts! You may join NAFSR for the first year with no dues at all and if you care to support the work and “sustain the heritage” of the Forest Service consider joining. Your support of the work that the Association does is critical to our success and increasing our reach and effectiveness. For more information contact Tom Thompson or visit the NAFSR website at fsx.org.

Rally on the Rio

October 11-16, 2015

Program Update

Monday, October 12th, 2015, is Columbus Day, and although as a retiree every day is a holiday, it is your travel day. Monday is the regular registration day and we'll have an All-American Cookout Tailgate Party dinner that evening.

The formal program will begin on **Tuesday**, October 13th at 9:00 am. Breakfast and lunch are included with your registration. Tuesday evening will feature heavy appetizers for you to snack on during the Gathering of the Regions.

Wednesday, October 14th begins with the breakfast at



some of the great restaurants we have in Albuquerque.

7:00 am followed by field trips for the remainder of the day. We have contracted with Destination Southwest for several customized guided tours. These are optional and you will be directed to the company's website to make your reservations. We will also have arrangements for several Do-It-Yourself activities. This might be a great time to car pool and caravan with some old and new friends. That evening after a no-host bar and reception, you are on your own to meet up with friends and take advantage of

Thursday, October 15th we will once again start at 7:00 am with breakfast followed by lots of interesting presentations. Lunch again is included. Thursday night is the Farewell dinner gala where everyone finds out who won on the Silent Auction and gets to bid on items on our Live Auction.

Friday, October 16th we send you on your way with a Vaya Con Dios Breakfast. A chance to bid friends a final farewell before heading off on your way home.

Let's Do Lunch

Denver Group

January 14, 2015, Dino's Italian Restaurant, Lakewood
Marilyn Whalon and
Kari Wardell

February, 2015, Location TBA,
Ann Bodine and
Martha Delporte

March, 2015, Location TBA,
Bryon and Marlene Shark

April, 2015, Location TBA,
Mike and Marge Clinton

San Juan Group

January 13, 2015, Jack and
Janelle's, Cortez, Nona Dale,
gnonadale52@gmail.com,
970-375-6341

March 11, 2015, Christina's,
Durango, Nona Dale

GMUG Group

Summer Get-to-Gather
TBA, Lee Carr,
dlcarr328@earthlink.net
970-261-8609

Shoshone Group

September 2015,
Details TBA, Becky Aus,
beccarae52@gmail.com
307-527-7441

S. Arizona Group

Madera Canyon (Green Valley),
March 2015, Date & Time
TBA, Check website or
contact Bob Newlin,
970-903-7370

News from Around the Region

Pueblo Area

by Karen Bergathon

The Kansas and Southeast Colorado contingent of Forest Service Retirees met for lunch on Tuesday, December 9 in Pueblo. We enjoyed each other's company and told many stories, a few of which were actually true. Our next luncheon will be on February 10 at Angelo's Restaurant on the Riverwalk in Pueblo, followed by a tour of the Center for American Values.



left side of picture from front:
Joe Hartman, Cheryl Klock, Larry Klock
right side of picture from front: Linda Casteel,
Lindy Hartman, Gail Tameler, Karl Tameler,
Al Wasser

Custer Area

by Frank Cross

On October 22 2014; 19 retirees (a class I crew) attended a get together at the Wrangler Restaurant in Custer. It was constant conversation for nearly two hours with just a brief round table sharing time when each attendee shared their winter plans. Attending were Carol Jorgensen, Marge Baldwin, Terry Reetz, Dick and Betty Lou Kessler, Bob and Karen Adams, Janice Harbach, Don Kistler, Lee Schmunk, Dave Thom, Brad and Bonnie Exton, Linda and Bill Young, Lynn Kolund, Pat Hattervig, Frank and Sue Cross.



A portion of the crew with
Brad Exton in the foreground.

Welcome New Retirees

Robert Gall

Bighorn

Clarke McClung

Bighorn

Dean Young

Black Hills

Gary Shellhorn

GMUG

Michael Hood

Med Bow Routt

Elmer Montoya

Rio Grande

Frank Landis

Pike San Isabel

N B Armel

Shoshone

Wayne Ives

White River

Dave Steinke

Regional Office

Melanie Woolever

Regional Office

John Varner

Regional Office

Sam Foster

Rocky Mountain Station

Don Rivers

Regional Office

Gene Baker

Regional Office

John Rehmer

Regional Office

Don Rivers

Regional Office

Eveyn Gross

Regional Office

Harney Peak South Dakota



Harney Peak, rising in the center of the Black Hills, is composed of an ancient [granite](#) core. The granite was deposited in the Harney Peak Granite [Batholith](#), a huge body of molten magma which slowly cooled and solidified beneath the earth's crust. The fine-grained [igneous rock](#) is composed of many minerals, including [feldspar](#), [quartz](#), [biotite](#), and [muscovite](#). As the [magma](#) cooled, large cracks and fractures appeared in the mass, which filled in with more magma, forming coarse-grained [pegmatite](#) dikes. These intrusions are seen today as pink and white dikes in the granite surface. The shape of today's Harney Peak began years ago when [erosive processes](#) began uncovering and sculpting the granite batholith, leaving valleys, sharp ridges, and humped rock formations on the peak.

History

The first [European Americans](#) believed to have reached the summit were a party led by

General [George Armstrong Custer](#) in 1874, during the [Black Hills expedition](#). Custer, along with five other men rode on horseback much of the way, and Custer forced his mount higher after the others in his party had dismounted, which one of the party, engineer W. H. Wood, later described as "cruel."

Named for General William S. Harney

Harney Peak was named for General William S. Harney, a military officer who served in the U.S. Army from 1818 to 1863. Harney fought pirates in the Caribbean, served in the [Seminole](#) and Black Hawk Wars, and commanded the 2nd Dragoons in the [Mexican-American War](#) in the late 1840s. General Harney entered the history of the Black Hills in 1855 when he led troops against the Sioux at the Battle of Ash Hollow, one of the first battles of a 20-year war waged against the Plains Indians. After the battle the Sioux nicknamed him "Woman Killer" because women and children were killed. It's ironic that his name is now attached to one of the sacred mountains of the Sioux.

Harney Peak is the site of the [Sioux Native American Black Elk's](#) "Great Vision" which he received when nine years old

and the site to which he returned as an old man, accompanied by writer [John Neihardt](#), who popularized the [medicine man](#) in his book [Black Elk Speaks](#).

Neihardt recorded Black Elk's words regarding his vision as follows: "I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world," he is quoted as saying in Neihardt's book. "And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being."

First Recorded Ascent

Although many Native Americans, including [Black Elk](#), climbed Harney Peak, its first recorded ascent was by Dr. Valentine McGillicuddy on July 24, 1875. McGillicuddy (1849-1939) was a surveyor with the Newton-Jenney Party, which was looking for gold in the Black Hills, and later was an Army surgeon, who tended [Crazy Horse](#) at his death. He was later mayor of Rapid City and the first Surgeon General of South Dakota. After his death at age 90 in California, McGillicuddy's ashes were interred at Harney Peak.

(continued on Page 9)

(continued from Page 8)

A plaque reading "Valentine McGillicuddy, Wasitu Wacan" marks the spot. Wasitu Wacan means "Holy White Man" in Lakota.

Harney Peak was first used as a [fire lookout tower](#) in 1911, with nothing more than a wood crate placed at the summit. In 1920, a 12'x12' wood structure was built, and it was expanded to 16'x16' the following year.

The Stone Structure Found there today

The Harney Peak Lookout Tower was specifically engineered for the granite summit and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1935 to 1938. Over 7500 Stones were gathered from French Creek and hauled up the mountain on specially built horse-drawn sleds by man and mule to the summit of Harney Peak.

In addition to the Harney Peak Fire Lookout Tower, a dam, pump house and stairway were constructed upon the highpoint. The reservoir created by the dam supplied water to the living quarters where were located in the lower level. The comforts of electricity, flush toilets, and a central heating system were incorporated into the remote Harney Peak Fire Lookout Tower.

Harney Peak Fire Lookout Tower was staffed until 1965 by the U.S. Forest Service, and



then for the following two years by Custer State Park. Airplanes, helicopters and other fire towers throughout the Black Hills National Forest, provided sufficient coverage and the Harney Peak Fire Tower was no longer used as a fire tower after the summer of 1967.

The USFS did repairs at the tower in the early 1990's to make it safe for visitors.

Providing excellent panoramic views of the surrounding pine covered landscape, the Harney Peak Fire Lookout Tower

remains at the summit, and is open to those who hike the Harney Peak trail. The summit and Harney Peak Fire Tower reside in the Black Elk Wilderness Area, and are only accessible on foot or horseback.

Harney Peak Memories by Frank Cross

by Frank Cross - Custer District Ranger 1987-1995

Harney Peak is one of my favorite places in the world as it is with many people. I have hiked to the top many times mostly on trail 9 like most of the rest of the people but I have also hiked there from Cathedral Spires and Iron Creek trailheads.

A few of my favorite memories of Harney Peak include the year we dedicated the Lookout Tower to be on the Register of National Historic places. We had a small group gather at the Sylvan Lake Lodge for the dedication. It was one of those times when you have to pinch yourself and say "I'm getting paid to do this". A couple of people were there that had staffed the lookout and their stories were incredible. Darrel Kenops was there shown second from left in the front row and June Johnston the last person to staff the lookout next to him and Terry Reetz the Forest Trails staff far left front row, and Gene Singsaas the Forest Recreation staff far right second row. I'm near the center next to an old time ranger and this old time ranger can't remember his name.

The stories that were told that day were great. The competition between the traditional way of locating and fighting fires was the most interesting aspect of those stories. Back then the lookout would spot fires and take initial attack action on the fire.

When I was the ranger on Custer RD we wrote the wilderness implementation plan. A very interesting memory and challenge, we also invested several thousand dollars into making it safe to visit the tower by replacing beams and

roofs and building safe access etc... but more memorable than either of those events was the volunteer cleanup day we had at Harney Peak. As I mentioned Harney Peak is a favorite place for lots of people. So when we advertised a volunteer cleanup day we had a huge turn-out. We signed up anyone who wanted to help as a volunteer. We had over 100 volunteers from 6-80 years old.

The lookout was built on a cliff face and 200 below the cliff was a huge pile of litter that had accumulated from the previous 70 years. Much of the debris was leftover from construction and maintenance crews that didn't want to haul surplus material out. An archeologist was on site recording anything that might have historic value. The 100+ volunteers brought out thousands of pounds of garbage that day and every one of them had a smile on their face. As I think back on it we were so lucky that no one got hurt.

I remember seeing an elderly man carrying out a bag of litter in one hand with a cane in the other and little girls and boys carrying bags of trash. The picnic afterward was great fun with everyone sharing stories about Harney Peak and how they helped clean it up.

So, if you by chance have never hiked Harney Peak to see the tower, you're missing out on an outstanding venture, not to mention a vital piece of our own Black Hills History. Happy Hiking!

The Lynx That Wouldn't Leap and Reflections on a Public Land Career

by Andrew Gulliford

It was freezing in the San Juan National Forest that day on the Upper Piedra when Mark Stiles stood above the cage waiting for



Mark Stiles, former Forest Supervisor, San Juan National Forest

the female cat to jump out. He had the door raised but she wouldn't budge. She was a beautiful long-haired lynx fresh from Quebec and part of a unique attempt to re-introduce Canadian lynx to the southern Rockies. After years of planning, permits, and passports, an endangered species was to be released on the Western Slope to establish a major predator back into alpine ecosystems. But after such a long journey the feline just lay in her cage, her tufted ears twitching.

For field biologist and forest supervisor Mark Stiles, his

whole career stood poised that moment a decade ago. Then in the cold, his nose began to run and dripped down on the cat. Non-plussed, she refused to leap to freedom.

Recently I interviewed Stiles, who just retired after 32 years with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. He began his career trapping mice for an inventory along irrigation ditches near Delta. After many postings and a stint in Washington, D.C., he came to Montrose in 1995 as BLM District Manager and then West Slope Center Manager in charge of fire programs, information technology, and administration. In 2002 he was assigned to Durango to manage the 70,000 acre Missionary Ridge Fire and a year later he became supervisor of the San Juan National Forest in charge of 1.8 million acres, a staff of 160, and a \$15 million budget. Not bad for a biologist who began by looking for mice along Delta ditches.

"I like stuff that's controversial," he told me over breakfast. "I enjoyed the public processes. That's where the edge is, the margin for change." Stiles and his staff wrestled with ATV and snowmobile use versus quiet or

non-motorized uses on public lands. In the northern San Juan Basin, oil and gas well expansion resulted in 68,000 comments. He told me, "Thirty years ago I saw as few as three to seven comment letters on a major EIS or Environmental Impact Statement; now we'll see 20,000 to 70,000 comments. We try not to do tallies. That perpetuates the voting concept," or the notion that land managers will shift their opinions and decision-making based on the preponderance of comments, many of which are emailed. Instead, Stiles explained that the comments they most use when making long-range decisions have detailed analysis showing that respondents have thought through the issues.

We all love our public lands, but how they are managed can result in fierce debate. On oil and gas management Stiles said, "We spent a lot of time listening to people; then we pushed the envelope on air quality for enforcement for conditions of approval on individual wells. That was a new collaborative breakthrough."

(continued on Page 12)

(continued from Page 11)

Other significant public land issues include climate change and the vital role that Colorado forests will play in water retention as patterns shift for earlier snowmelts and pulses of water flow at different times. Stiles explained that we need to think of snowpack like water in a reservoir. When it's gone or greatly diminished, where will we get our water? Hydrology has long been "the purpose of national forests" and in the future it will be even more critical. In his career he dealt with saving habitat for endangered Colorado cutthroat trout in the Hermosa drainage north of Durango.

"Climate change is already real for vegetation. Just look at the impact of bark beetles in dying spruce," he told me. Across Colorado and now increasingly on the Western Slope, we have stands of dead or dying trees that are hard to access for their timber and if they could be cut down, there's no viable economic market for the beetle-killed wood.

Stiles helped to evolve policies to calibrate the risks of fire to resources as well as risks to firefighters prepared to deploy in rugged terrain. The old U.S. Forest Service 10 a.m. rule of having every fire out by 10 a.m. the next morning has resulted in too many trees in the forest. We now understand fire as an

ecological re-set button and an important natural force in how habitats function.

"Recognize that forests will burn," he tells me. "In a lot of cases they need to burn and long term it can be a benefit. Let's quit talking about catastrophic fire. It's just fire." Under Stiles' leadership in October 2012 a small fire started by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad was allowed to burn up to 11,000 feet and did not die out until December. On the 25,000 acre lightning-caused Little Sand Fire, Stiles helped change national policy. "We made a major difference in how we perceive of wildfire," he says.

"We calculated all the values and rather than build an expensive firefighting line we used sophisticated meteorology to calculate the risks, to understand the probability of success, and we let the fire come to us. It's more like a military model where you fight on the high ground." Yes, there was more soot and ash in Pagosa Springs that summer, but the forest is healthier. "Historically we would have fought it, but this time we protected the structures on private property rather than go further in which would have put more firefighters at risk," Stiles states.

Colleges are now graduating fewer students in range management and forestry. Staff hired decades ago are retiring. "Federal systems, statutes, regulations, policies, are very complex and it takes many years to get a handle on them and to learn from your mistakes," Stiles muses. He wonders whether the new work force will be "steeped in the same environmental and natural resource culture America saw in the 1960s and 1970s and whether that will make any difference."

Stiles made a difference. Both in Montrose and in Durango, he led his staff to formulate long range decisions for the betterment of public lands. Always accessible, willing to listen, he knew how to hesitate and pause, and how to balance access, energy, and conservation values. Perhaps he learned from that female feline, the lynx who wouldn't budge. She stayed in her cage, sniffing, looking, testing. Finally she ventured forth.

Andrew Gulliford is a professor of history and Environmental Studies at Fort Lewis College. He can be reached at gulliford_a@fortlewis.edu



National Museum of Forest Service History Continues to Work to Preserve Your History!

The National Museum of Forest Service History held its annual meeting in Salt Lake City on October 7th in conjunction with the National Society of American Foresters convention. The Board continues to work hard at raising funds to get construction of our building underway and is pursuing new leads and opportunities. Even though we still have significant challenges in reaching our overall goal, we continue to make progress and our commitment and dedication to completing this project is as strong as ever. An important factor that influences potential donors is “how many members we have who provide us support?” So we are working to increase our membership and would hope that you might consider becoming a member if you are not already one.

We continue to work at protecting our collection of over fifty thousand items. We partner with others to use our collections to help interpret and tell the story of the Forest Service. Our traveling exhibit program allows us to serve our overall purpose of education and interpretation even without having a central facility yet. We



NMFSH Traveling Exhibit

currently have a traveling exhibit located in Leadville at the National Hall of Fame of Mining. If you are traveling that way for any reason, stop by and take a look at our exhibit. They are open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 AM until 5 PM.

This exhibit is intended to raise people awareness about the connection and importance of minerals in our daily lives and

the important role the Forest Service has in managing this mineral resource while protecting the other important national forest and grassland resources. The exhibit will be in Leadville through the summer of 2015.

To keep current on Museum happenings and enjoy the stories written in our newsletters and publications, simply become a member. We encourage you to be a part of this effort. We certainly do hope you will consider becoming a member of the Museum. The history we are trying to protect is your history and your legacy. For more information, go to the Museum’s web site at:

[http://
www.forestservicemuseum.org/
involved/membership.html](http://www.forestservicemuseum.org/involved/membership.html)



Mining Hall of Fame, Leadville, Colorado

Membership Update December 2014

Membership in the Rocky Mountaineers has now climbed to 371. We have added new members every month for the past 17 months in a row. There are probably still lots of retirees out there that don't know about us, so continue to spread the word.

We have gained several lifetime members over the past couple of months –

Jim Thinnes and Cindy Dean, Littleton, CO
 Roger Tarum, Ft. Collins, CO
 John and Jackie Twiss, Custer, SD
 Greg and Nancy Warren, Golden, CO

We will begin charging dues in 2015. If you have not paid your dues in advance, you will receive an invoice from us in late January. Dues are \$20 per household annually or you can become a lifetime member for \$250 per household. You can pay your dues at any time by dropping a check in the mail to us at –

Rocky Mountaineers
 Box 270462
 Ft. Collins, CO 80527

Denver retirees meet nearly every month of the year!



Skip Underwood, Martha DelPorte and Ann Bodin

Well over forty retirees enjoyed lunch at the Homestead Golf Course Grill in Lakewood, CO on November 20. The group had a fun time and the fireplace and holiday décor provided a great atmosphere for fellowship. There was a drawing of door prizes and it was determined after the drawing that Lloyd Newland and Marti Everett might have been working

together to somehow fix a few of the drawing winners, mainly each other's. Anyway, everyone had a great time and Polly Erskine won a birdhouse especially crafted by Tom Thompson and co-hosts Glen and Tedra Hetzel donated a couple bottles of wine to the cause. Roger and Carolyn Conde won a year's membership to the Rocky Mountaineers and Skip Underwood encouraged folks who were not members of the Mountaineers to join up. Dave Steinke gave an update of things happening in the Regional Office and indicated that there could be lots of changes in the months ahead as far as retirements, including his own.

The next meeting of this Denver group of retirees is



Jim Thinnes visits with Joyce and Paul Momper

slated for January 14 @ Dino's Italian Restaurant on Colfax and Marilyn Whalon will be the host. The group meets every month except for June and July usually, and if you want to be on the mailing list for announcements of times and places, send Wayne Wilkens a note at:

waynewilkens@comcast.net

Second Annual Rocky Mountaineer's Ski Day at Winter Park! January 29th, 2015



Winter Park, 1961

U.S. Forest Service Photo

The Rocky Mountaineers (R-2 FS Association) is planning our **second annual ski day at Winter Park on January 29, 2015**. Last year we had a wonderful day and had about 30 retirees from across the region take to the slopes.

We have made arrangements with Winter Park for the event in January and we would like to invite any Rocky Mountaineer and friends to come spend the day with fresh powder and sunshine. That is what we have ordered for the day.

If you are interested, let Bjorn Dahl know - bdahl@dahlservices.com or 303-526-2822.

Basically, we meet at the Mary Jane base area around 9 am and try to get out to the lift by 9:30 or so. We have lunch at the new Lunch Rock Restaurant at 11:30 am.

Winter Park will be offering us discounted lift tickets for the day and this is a day you don't want to miss if you like to ski and even if you don't, there is always the cozy fireplace in the lodge and other things to do as well.

Doug Laraby from Winter Park will join us for part of the day and update us on the vegetative management they continue to do on the mountain.

We hope you can join us for this great chance to connect with a bunch of folks who still love the Forest Service and also love to enjoy the mountains whenever we can. If you are interested in staying the night, there may be a chance to get discounts on some lodging if there is enough interest.



Some of the skiers at last year's Rocky Mountaineers Ski Day

**KEEP CALM AND WAIT FOR
SNOW...IT'S COMING!**

Home Again Home Again Regional Office Signs Agreement with GSA

Regional Forester Dan Jiron, in a December 1, 2014 letter to all Rocky Mountain Regional employees outlined the future of the Regional Office. He said, "I am pleased to announce that we have made a decision on the future lease for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Job Corps, WO Minerals and Geology Management, CIO, as well as several hosted employees. This decision results in a significant cost savings for the agency as the estimated rent cost and reduced space will allow us to invest more in the Forest Service mission."

He explained that it took lengthy discussions and negotiations with the General Services Administration (GSA) and leadership did an exhaustive review of available properties in the local area. "We have determined that Building 53 on the Denver Federal Center (DFC) will best suit our future needs. This past week we signed draft occupancy agreements with a projected move-in date of Winter 2018, after significant renovations are complete," Jiron explained.

He went on to state that they made careful considerations after analyzing all the options over the past few years. He noted Federal Regulations that rule that federally owned space must be considered first before privately owned properties, and the analysis showed that Building 53 meets the appropriate size, criteria and cost for the current workforce.

The new space will feature more collaborative spaces with an emphasis on new technology, increased mobility within the office, as well as the ability to work remotely. This design will result in smaller personal spaces and will meet and exceed new government mandates for energy, space and cost reductions.

And the location on the DFC offers many amenities such as a light rail station, many bus routes, onsite day care, a wellness facility, several food options, walking and biking trails, as well as social and fitness activities.



Building 85
1952 - 1974



8th and Quail
1974 to 1993



740 Simms Street
1993- 2018

Retirees Traveling the World

Each newsletter we will be featuring a short story about retirees' whereabouts and travel

Galapagos Islands – Wildlife

by Johnny and Ellen Hodges

It was our first full day in the Galapagos Islands. We had spent the morning hiking and looking at the weird and wild designs on the pahoehoe lava fields of Santiago Island, followed by a snorkeling trip in Sullivan Bay. The plan for the afternoon was for our boat to move



Pacific green sea turtle

over to Bartolome Island and complete a long snorkel trip up the west coast to Pinnacle Rock. We had no idea what awaited us.

We hopped in the pangas and motored around to the south side of the island. The guidebooks say there is no snorkeling or swimming on the south coast of Bartolome Island because of the large number of sharks and sting rays. We hoped our guide, Mauricio, knew what he was doing. After all, he had led this trip many times.

We bailed out of the pangas and I barely got my snorkel in my mouth before someone yelled “shark!” I turned on my camera and started looking around. Then a white-tipped reef shark appeared, passing about 10 feet below me. We later estimated

he was about 8 feet long. He disappeared and a minute later he was back and this time he was only about 4 feet below me. He was so close I couldn’t get all of him in my viewfinder.

I have seen a few sharks on various snorkel trips, but this was my closest encounter ever. Ok, it was only a reef shark and they are supposedly harmless, but when they get that close, it is a bit terrifying. A word of advice – don’t watch a rerun of the movie “Jaws” before you go to the Galapagos Islands.

The Galapagos Islands straddle the equator, 600 miles off of the coast of Ecuador. Of the 13 major islands, only 4 are inhabited with a total population of 40,000 residents.

We were visiting in May which is toward the end of the wet/warm season when the ocean temperature is in the upper 70’s, perfect for snorkeling. Other times of the year require wetsuits to comfortably snorkel in these waters.

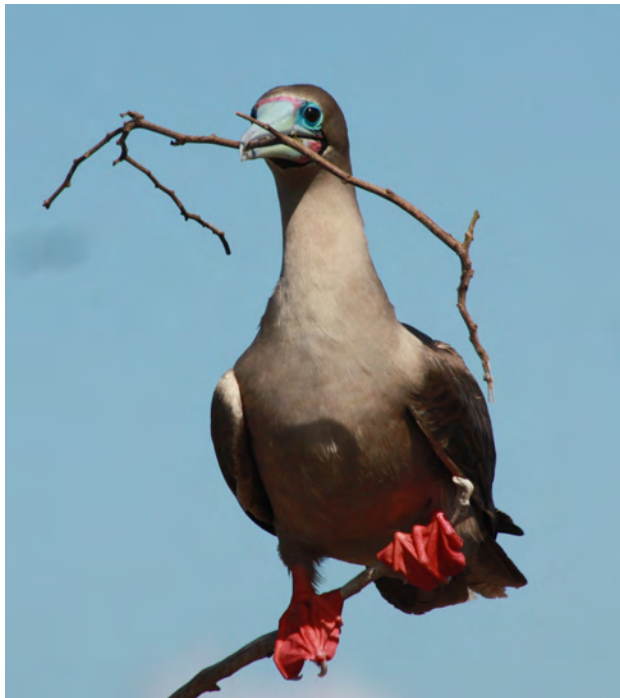
The Galapagos National Park Service manages the Galapagos Islands. A total of 95 boats are authorized to carry tourists and each boat must have a licensed guide. Visits to the islands are strictly controlled by the Park Service with routes and times onshore set in advance. This creates a wonderfully uncrowded experience and we rarely had more than two other boats in the same area as us at any time.

We left Bartolome Island and headed northeast on the 65 mile overnight journey to Genovesa Island. Our boat had 8 cabins for passengers and our group of 13 friends occupied them all. So basically we had our own personal “yacht.”

(continued on Page 18)

(continued from Page 17)

Cruising at 8 knots an hour, the trip would take us 8 hours. At 90 feet long, our boat seemed big, but on the open ocean, it was non-stop rock and roll all night. Just making the trip from the bed to the bathroom, which was only 6 feet away, was an adventure.



Red-footed boobie

During the night we made our first crossing of the equator, which is usually a cause for celebration. We didn't make a big deal about it because we were all in bed trying to stay horizontal and not roll onto the floor of our cabins.

Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island is a flooded caldera about 2 miles across. After setting anchor, we took off in our

pangas, docked at some rocks, and climbed up a natural stairway named Prince Philip's Steps after the Duke of Edinburgh visited here in the 1960's.

We hiked through a scrub forest of palo santo and croton with birds everywhere - Nazca

boobies, both Great and Magnificent frigatebirds, Galapagos mockingbirds, swallow-tailed gulls, finches, and the most famous of all - the red-footed boobies.

Blue-footed boobies are found on several islands and we had seen a large flock of them attacking a

school of fish the day before. But the red-footed boobies are rarer and Genovesa Island is the only place we found them.

A couple of days later, after crossing the equator three more times, we woke up to find our ship anchored at Vicente Roca Point, on the northwest corner of Isabela Island. This is the

largest island in the Galapagos and is formed by six volcanoes.

We hit the water for our morning snorkel trip working our way into Banks Bay. The water was beautifully blue, clear and very deep as we were swimming along the edge of the Ecuador Volcano.

We began to see huge numbers of Pacific green sea turtles swimming all around us. As we swam further into the bay, the water became shallower and we saw giant sea turtles lying on the ocean floor. Their shells looked to be 4 and 5 feet across and they looked as though they were dead. Most of them were covered with a thin layer of sand and were not moving. They can actually hold their breath for an hour or more and they were just sleeping.

Along the rocky shore we saw our first flightless cormorants and lots of penguins. The Galapagos penguin must be the most unique bird in the islands. Why would penguins live on the equator?

We saw them on several different islands, but only in small numbers, perched on the rocks along the shoreline. They arrived here via the Humboldt Current which flows from Antarctica during the dry/cool season from July to December.

(continued on Page 19)

(continued from Page 18)

The penguins loved to swim with us. They would bob around with us on the surface, but once they went underwater, they were like rockets. All of my underwater penguin pictures were a blur.

Another swimming companion was the Galapagos sea lion. They are very graceful underwater and not the least bit shy. There were many times I thought we were going to have a head-on collision, but they would always glide by totally in control.

In the afternoon we headed across the channel to Fernandina Island, geologically the youngest of the islands and home to La Cumbre volcano. It



Marine Iguanas

is the most active volcano and last erupted in 2009.

We stopped to visit the marine iguanas at Punta Espinosa, a finger of volcanic rock along the northeast coast. There are an estimated 300,000 marine iguanas in the Galapagos Islands

and I think 299,000 of them live on Punta Espinosa.

Marine iguanas are black and scary looking and some of them were 4 feet long. They were packed head to tail on every square inch of rock. All of them seemed to be staring at us as we passed by, ready to attack us by the thousands and eat us alive. Actually they barely moved, but they were probably dreaming of their next meal.

A couple of days later we reached Puerto Villamil on the south end of Isabela Island.

We decided to snorkel nearby in the bay. The water was choppy and visibility was only about 3 feet, but we continued to follow

Mauricio, wondering where he was taking us.

Soon I found myself in another "shark alley." The alley began to narrow and it was almost impossible to turn around, so I kept swimming, with thoughts of hammerhead sharks

dancing through my head. I kept peering through the murky water and all of a sudden something appeared in front of me and all I could think about was shark! But it turned out to be a sea lion and it passed just

underneath me as my heart attack slowly subsided.

On our last morning in the Galapagos Islands we awoke to find ourselves anchored in Puerto Ayora on the south side of Santa Cruz Island. To reach the airport on Baltra Island we had to drive north which led us through the highlands, where there is excellent habitat for the giant land tortoise.

We turned off the paved road and drove a couple of miles through forest and farmland and encountered our first giant tortoise sitting in the middle of the road. These creatures can live over 100 years and grow to over 500 pounds.

Some of the local farmers have discovered it is more financially beneficial to manage tortoise habitat than to raise cattle and crops. They now mow their fields of lush grass so the tortoises are easier to spot and charge the tourists to come visit. We hiked marked trails and found many tortoises. They would allow us to approach fairly closely, but if we got too close for comfort, they would hiss at us.

Giant tortoises are found nowhere else on earth. It was a great way to end our trip to the Galapagos Islands.

“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Jackie Parks

Retiree Class of 2011 – 29 Years of Service

The Rendezvous: Summarize your career in a paragraph or so.

Jackie Parks: My career was anything but “normal”. I first began in the field of community-based mental retardation. I began my Forest Service career in 1982 as the Driver’s Ed Teacher at Pine Ridge Job Corps Center, Chadron, NE. I was promoted twice at that Center; to Assistant Works Program Officer and then to Center Administrative Officer. In 1992, I was promoted to the position of Administrative Officer on the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands and served in that capacity for 12 years. From 1995 to 1997, I served as the Administrative Officer for both the Nebraska NF and the Black Hills NF. In 2004, I accepted the position of Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. In 2010, I coordinated the Rocky Mountain’s Regional Bark Beetle Team until I retired in 2011.

TR: Where were you born and raised?

JP: I was born and raised in central Nebraska, in a little town called Ansley. The town’s population was 730, so it was the kind of town where you couldn’t get away with anything without your parents finding out - especially when your Dad was the town’s banker and

worked on Main Street! I do remember the town’s sheriff visiting with me after giving the track boys rides on the running boards of my VW bug so they didn’t have to run all the way to the track. He assured me my Dad would never know IF I stopped. Alas, all good things must come to an end!

TR: Tell us about your first job with the Forest Service.

JP: I was finishing my Master’s Degree in Career/Vocational Guidance and heard about a job opening at the local Job Corps Center for a Driver’s Ed and World of Work teacher. Luckily, I had minored in Driver’s Ed during college, so I applied and was hired into a temporary position. I was the first female Driver’s Ed teacher in the Job Corps Program. I was also the first female Assistant Works Program Officer in the Job Corps system, and I remain very proud of both positions. As Driver’s Ed teacher, I taught inner city kids who had never even ridden a bike to drive in order to better prepare them for employment. I used to complain to my supervisor that I needed “hazard pay” as quizzes out on the highway could be perilous to one’s health!

(continued on Page 21)

(continued from Page 20)

TR: What kind of fire experience did you have? Do you have a favorite fire story?

JP: I started on a 20-person hand crew while working in the Job Corps program. Then, 3 back surgeries ended that experience. It was only years later, that I “stumbled” into fire information. We had a fire on the Nebraska and the forest’s public affairs officer went out on initial attack! The Forest Supervisor enlisted me as the spokesperson until the IMT arrived. I found that I liked that type of work, helping to tell the story of the fire suppression efforts in “plain speak”. I have continued to keep my fire quals as Information Officer and Liaison Officer current and continue to accept a couple of assignments each summer since I’ve retired.

TR: Did your family move for your job or your husband’s?

JP: My husband, Mike, and I have five



children. Thankfully, I was able to take positions in Chadron while they were young, both with Job Corps and the National Forest/Grasslands. We moved for my job when we moved to Fort Collins. Mike, a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for nearly 20 years, could not make a transfer happen. So as my career took its next step forward, his current career ended. I have always admired his



courage in seeking out a new path so I could continue to advance.

TR: What was it like moving up and getting more responsibilities in this organization?

JP: For me, the moves were about having the courage to try new things, learn new pieces and parts of the organization that I’d only had a bit of exposure to, and to find mentors along the way to help me become and remain a strong member of each organizational unit. I had wonderful mentors who gave me opportunities to expand my horizons, gave me good and honest advice, and pushed me to move in directions I could never have imagined. I pledged that I would always be willing to make “interesting mistakes” that would help me grow and that I would keep my sense of humor. I learned that the biggest responsibilities include learning how to really actively listen to everyone and to ask the right questions at the right time. Sometimes, I hit the mark.... Then there were other days...

(continued on Page 22)

(continued from Page 21)

TR: Where are you living now...and why?

JP: Mike and I live in Fort Collins, CO. Our five children and nine grandchildren are spread from Phoenix, AZ to Omaha, NE; and Fort Collins seems to be a good central location to our family. We also love the outdoor recreation opportunities that are right outside our back door.

TR: What's in the future for you?

JP: In general, my goal in this chapter of my life is to give back to my family and to attend to my own health. To that end, I have become addicted to "pickleball" and play 3 to 4 times a week. If you haven't heard of this fast growing sport, check it out! It's fun, fast, and a great way to meet a wide variety of people.

TR: Do you have any advice to other retirees?

JP: None. I would never think of giving advice to others as I am learning it's a very personal journey. However, I do realize that I have adopted a "live every day to its fullest" attitude as NONE of us are getting any younger!

TR: Do you have any hidden talents?

JP: So lots of people have heard of the "Fiddlin' Foresters", but not many have heard of the Infamous "Grassland Girls". Linda Lovegrass (aka Mary Peterson) and Bertha Bluestem (me) performed on numerous occasions at forest service parties and festivities. We accepted no payment for our original songs about our co-workers as music was our gift to others. We retired the group when we moved apart... that and AFTER being asked to quit by our co-workers!!!



TR: How about a funny story to leave with?

JP: In 2012, I served as an information officer on the Hewlett fire, near Fort Collins. I was on the Denver TV stations doing a press conference - the same stations that are seen in Chadron, NE where my daughter and family live. My then 3 year-old granddaughter, Emmerson, heard a familiar voice on the TV and whirled around to see me in "Technicolor yellow & green", speaking about retardant. She stood for a minute before stating "Well, what's my Grami doing in MY TV!" When I wouldn't answer her, she stomped off to play - she was totally unimpressed! (My 9 little cherubs keep me humble!)

Life in the Colorado Wilderness: Journal Entry Reflects Rangers' Experiences in Retracing Arthur Carhart's First Journey to Trappers Lake



Posted by [Kate Jerman, White River National Forest, U.S. Forest Service,](#)

A group of U.S. Forest Service employees gathers together in the Flat Tops Wilderness to reflect upon the idea of preserving wilderness that led to the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Flat Tops Wilderness is in what is known as the Cradle of Wilderness, the area that inspired Forest Service landscape architect Aldo Leopold to recommend designating permanent wilderness areas that could be enjoyed by future generations.

In 1919, landscape architect Arthur Carhart made his first journey to Colorado's [Trappers Lake](#) and the Flat Top Wilderness. His idea of keeping natural areas of beauty free from development inspired the Forest Service to be the first natural resource agency to push for designated wilderness areas.

The grandeur of the area recently inspired Forest Service employees from the [White River National Forest](#) to retrace Carhart's 25-mile hike through the wilderness across trails with names like [Wall Lake](#) and [Trappers Lake](#) to the Cradle of Wilderness on their way to the lake. Like many a hiker who visits wilderness areas, they were inspired by the variety of experiences they encountered during their pilgrimage.

In celebration of the [50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964](#), they recorded their thoughts and experiences to share with others. Wilderness rangers from the forest's [Eagle – Holy Cross](#) and [Blanco](#) Ranger Districts saw, did, and felt:

“We walked the braided trails across the open meadows to Shepard Lake, circled around Shingle Peak, camped at Wall Lake, and viewed Trappers Lake from the Amphitheater,” said Maggie Vest. “During our journey, we crosscut trees, re-naturalized campsites, and played chicken with the rain – because the rain will always stop if you put your raingear on. We crossed through two districts, which allowed us to see familiar and new areas. The familiar areas brought back memories of coyotes yipping and echoing back on Shepard Lake as the super moon was rising.”

Similarly, Arthur Carhart wrote, “a coyote choir yapped crazily, suddenly hushed their chorus as though echoes of their own yammering flung back, and scared them, then started again their wild, blood stirring chant of backcountry, of wilderness.”

(continued on Page 24)

(continued from Page 23)

The rangers wrote about their gratitude, to be able to enjoy the experience that inspired Carhart. They recorded many memories of their own while working in the woods:

“... found king bolete mushrooms bigger than our faces and proceeded to eat them.”

“... eyed beautiful geodes scattered about as we walked the ridgeline towards the summit of Flat Top Mountain.”



“... got sidetracked by a bear sighting and completely missed our turn, and ended up two miles off trail.” Often the experience of being in wilderness inspires a treasured perspective.

“Our summer in the Flat Tops has brought a sense of place to all of us, a home away from home where we have all felt deep connections to the small moments and big landscapes we traverse every week,” Vest said. “The wilderness is meant to be a place where man is only a visitor, although as seasonal [workers] we sometimes feel like we are a permanent piece of the landscape.”

“We spend more nights in a tent than a bed, more time off trail than on, and see more sunrises than sunsets,” said Priscilla Williams. “Backpacking may not always be glamorous, but we love our jobs and are so thankful to be wilderness rangers during this time of celebration of our public lands.” Arthur Carhart believed that Trappers Lake should be a place for everyone. His reluctance to develop this area helped to bring about the idea of what we know as wilderness today.

“As we approached Trappers Lake for the first time, we hadn’t yet understood why the lake within itself held the cradle of wilderness,” said Williams. “But as we sat and viewed the lake from the top of the Amphitheater, we began to fully grasp why Carhart was so profoundly moved to protect this place and primitive areas as a whole.”

(continued on Page 25)

(continued from Page 24)



The rangers expressed hope that all can find passion to help preserve the special places where we can connect with nature and find the courage that Carhart manifested as he stood up to the pressures of the modern day.

Despite all the challenges of wilderness, we look forward to another 50 years of preservation and upholding one of the greatest acts in American history.

Find the live version of the wilderness rangers' memorial trek posted on the [White River National Forest Facebook](#).

Remembrances

Ruth Jeanette Ginter Shields



Ruth Jeanette Ginter Shields was born May 1, 1925, in Custer, South Dakota, to Paul L. Ginter and Cora M.

(Baske) Ginter. The family moved to Colorado in 1929.

She attended Colorado A&M in Fort Collins, graduating with a degree in forestry. She worked driving cattle, on a hay crew and was proud to have run a stacker and dump rake and to have finished a green broke horse.

On Nov. 21, 1948, she married Chester A. Shields, a forestry student from Durango. They moved to Happy Jack, Arizona

where Chester began his career with the U.S. Forest Service. Later, they moved to New Mexico, living in Mountainair, Taos, and Peñasco. After a year in Boston, the family moved to Durango, then the Denver area in 1959.

The family then moved to Springfield, Virginia, in 1963.

Retiring to Durango in 1978, they joined the San Juan Basin Archaeology Club. She also volunteered at the Durango Arts Center.

She played sports, was an avid alpine and Nordic skier, enjoyed fly fishing and beekeeping.

After the death of her husband in 2000, she sailed with Elderhostel adventures in the Puget Sound. She pursued silversmithing, wood carving, Native American pottery and watercolor painting classes in New Mexico, houseboating and canoeing.

She is survived by her two sons, Patrick Shields, of Cañon City, and Paul Shields, of Durango; her daughter, Diane Cassidy, of Durango; sisters Eileen Lorraine Holden, of Fair Oaks, California, and Fay March, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; three granddaughters and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances

Jacqueline Helen Cables



Jacqueline Helen Cables, 83, a Canon City, Colorado native, died October 25, 2014. Jackie

was born June 2, 1931 to Chester and Hazel Bundy. Pre-deceased by her husband of 48 years, Val Jean Cables and survived by her five children: sons, Kelly Cables (Patricia), Michael Cables (Jennifer), Rick Cables (Cynthia), Andy Cables (Trude) and daughter, Candy Hazen (Jeff); 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren with a 16th due to arrive shortly. Her son Rick was Forest Supervisor of the Pike-San Isabel-Cimarron-and Comanche in the late 90's and R-2 Regional Forester from 2000 to 2011.

After high school Jackie Cables started her Forest Service career

in 1955, as a GS-1 clerk. She worked at the Post Office in downtown Pueblo, Colorado at the time and the Supervisor's office for the San Isabel National Forest was across the hall. When the clerical position in the SO opened up, Jackie "transferred" to the U.S. Forest Service and began her career with the "outfit". Rick Cables, retired Forest Service, remembers that at the Forest Service's 100th anniversary in 2005, his mom reminisced that she remembered the 50th anniversary – in her first year as an employee.

Her career took her to positions such as resource clerk (Region 2 RO), personnel officer (Coronado NF), Job Corps asst. Center Director (Heber Job Corps Center), administrative officer (AO) (Lincoln NF), Region 3 Regional Director of Civil Rights (the very first Regional Civil Rights Director in

the agency), Special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Research in Washington, Deputy Station Director at the Rocky Mountain station in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and finally back to Pueblo, Co., as administrative officer on the Pike/San Isabel NFs and the Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands. She retired from the AO job in 1986: and promptly became the "AO" at Candy's tortilla factory in Pueblo. They loved her there because she could do anything.

Chief Max Peterson once gave Rick this advice, "Rick, you will do alright if you have as much common sense as Jackie." Jackie wanted all of her Forest Service friends how much she appreciated the friendships, work relationships, and support over the years. She lived and loved the Forest Service and often talked about the wonderful opportunities that the agency provided.

Loretta Fern Erwin McCorkle



Loretta McCorkle, of Redding, CA, died on May 11, 2014, in Sanger,

CA. She was born in 1946 in Gridley, CA to Jack and Ruth Erwin. Her family worked as

migrant agricultural workers. Loretta graduated from high school in Stockton, California and college in Longview, Washington.

She worked with the federal government in several different locations. She was a

secretary in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C for the Carter administration. She worked in Missoula, MT and at Mt. St. Helens with the Forest Service in Sacramento as a writer/editor for the Fish and Wildlife Service;

(continued on Page 27)

Remembrances

(continued from Page 26)

on the PSICC in Leadville on the District from 2005 until 2009; and then retired from the Shasta Lake Ranger District in Redding, CA in Region 5 effective 4/21/2012 and remained in Redding.

Loretta was an avid artist and writer. She also enjoyed making jewelry, sewing, genealogy research, and computer games. She had a quick wit and a great sense of humor. She is survived by her daughter Autumn Bell of Sanger,

California and her brothers Charles "Bud" Erwin of Redding, CA and Thomas Erwin of Sumner, WA. She was predeceased by her daughter Amber, as well as her three sisters: Muriel, Christine, and Jackie.

John H. (Jack) Ott



John H. Ott died on November 18, 2014. Of all of Jack Ott's wonderful

accomplishments, his family is most grateful for his stewardship of his land on Mancos Hill and for marrying their mother Mary Ann, a young widow with five small children in 1959. Jack was born December 3, 1929 to Viola and Herman J. Ott in Grand Haven, MI. on December 3, 1929 in Grand Haven, Michigan. He enjoyed a free childhood exploring the Grand River and Lake Michigan with his two little brothers and sister in tow. He graduated from high school in 1947, and from Michigan State University School of Forestry in '52. Upon graduation he hired on with the U.S. Forest Service, heading a spruce bark beetle survey crew near Kremmling and in the Black Hills. He was drafted in 1953 and

served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps as a high speed radio operator during the Korean War. Returning to Colorado in 1955, he worked out of the Dunton Guard Station, then the Animas Ranger District as assistant ranger. He transferred to the Mancos District in 1957. He purchased his land on Mancos Hill in the spring of 1959 with winnings from poker games he'd saved over the years and immediately began reclaiming the soil and oak woods. He began building a house with the help of his little brother Pat in June. On December 24, 1959 he married Mary Ann Rawlings whose husband Bill Rawlings, a Forest Service colleague, had been killed in a line-of-duty horse accident near Stoner earlier that year. The Rawlings' children are Bill, Jeannie, Woody, Larry and Mark. Jack adopted these children and had two more children with Mary Ann, John, b. 1961 and Grace, 1964. Jack retired in 1981 after 30 years of federal service. He went right to work on his place, helping his son Woody who owns Ott's Mill and Logging, and

helping out his other children. He made up for the honeymoon he and Mary Ann never had with winter travels, eventually buying a beach condo in Hilo, Hawaii where they have spent the last 27 winters. In 2004 his name was read into the Congressional Record in honor of his service to the Forest and his community. Jack volunteered with 4-H, the Boy Scouts; he was a member of the Society of American Foresters, the Masonic Order and the VFW. He served the Mancos United Methodist Church over the last 55 years in many capacities including Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Board of Trustees and perpetual handyman. He loved to work, especially on his land and on his children's homes, he was an avid fisherman, hunter and old fashioned outdoorsman. On November 18, Jack passed peacefully after a short illness in his own bed, in the house he built on the land he loved surrounded by his wife and grown children. He was two weeks shy of his 85th birthday. True to form he met his death with dignity and no fuss.

Remembrances

Edgar H. Palpant



Edgar H. Palpant was born October 19th, 1925 in Ypsilanti, Michigan and died October 4th, 2014 in Buena Vista, Colorado. His parents, Pierre and

Elise, were French immigrants and he grew up on the family farm in Michigan called "Terre Haven Farms" where he raised turkeys and milked cows most mornings before school. He went to a one room school for much of grade school.

Ed joined the Army Air Corp from 1943-46 at the end of WWII. In 1946, he began his degree in Forestry at Michigan State, and fell in love with Jeanne Crusinberry, from Adrian, Michigan. Ed flew a small plane and once took Jeanne on a flight with engine failure, ending up in the middle of a pasture with the cowling against a barb wire fence. Still she decided to marry him and the two were wed on June 14th, 1947.

After graduation, Ed joined the US Forest Service and spent most of his career from 1950-65 in the New Mexico and Colorado region. He worked in rural land management, as a forest ranger on the

Pikes Peak district, and then as a reforestation nurseryman in Monument, CO. In 1966 he joined the Forestry Department at Penn State University where he did research, growing Christmas trees on the side and subsequently serving as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association. He ran his own nursery outside of State College, PA and international tree seed business with many connections in Europe.

Ed was the founder of WTLR (Way, Truth, Life Radio), a Christian radio station in State College, PA that went on the air January 1, 1978. It continues to the present day. He obtained the FCC license, and constructed the radio station and 109 foot mountain top transmission tower. He was a mean hand with the chainsaw, until he fell from a tree and broke his neck in 2007. After refusing an ambulance, his daughter and wife drove him to the hospital, where he amazingly recovered without any paralysis. Ed and Jeanne subsequently moved to Buena Vista, Colorado where Ed built lamps on his lathe during his later years. His favorite Bible verse was Proverbs 3:5-6. He is survived by his wife Jeanne, 6 children, 18 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Betty Grace Alexander



Betty Grace Beers Alexander, 90, passed away on December 29, 2014 in Cortez. She was born on

May 23, 1924 in Mancos, to Clarence Roy Beers and Hattie Ann Lucas Beers.

Betty grew up in Mancos where she graduated from Mancos High School in 1942. After high school, she attended Colorado Woman's College in Denver, Colo. where she received a

degree in Secretarial Science. In 1966 she began working as a clerk with the U.S. Forest Service until her retirement in 1987. Betty was the District Clerk (later Support Services Supervisor) on the Mancos District from 1966 to 1987. She was one of those iconic District Clerks that you found in that era throughout the Forest Service. Betty married Noland Alexander in 1946 in Greeley, Colo. They were happily married for 68 years. Betty was a member of the Mancos United Methodist

Church, Chapter BD, P.E.O., Cowbells, and V.F.W. Auxiliary. Betty is survived by her husband, Noland of Mancos; her children, Gwen Hawkins, Brent Alexander and Gail Moore; six grandchildren; and four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, C.R. and Hattie Beers; siblings, Helen Neeley, Robert Beers and Mary McClellan; a child, Kent Alexander and great grandchildren Chance Hawkins and Jace Alexander.

Remembrances

Stanley Francis Versaw



Stanley Francis Versaw, an active member of the Canon City community, died on Friday, September 26th, at his home in Canon City, surrounded by family. Stan was 75.

Stan was born at Del Norte, CO, on October 4, 1938 to Herbert Earl Versaw and Florence Lenora Holland. He met Donna R. (Stoddard) and was privileged to marry her on December 19, 1959 in Lakewood, CO. They were blessed with four sons, 10 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Stan is survived by Donna and their family: Randall F. (Karen), Jacob and Julianna; Douglas W. (Margaret), Levi, Kodi, (Maggie), Aeris; Todd M. (Myla), William, Marcus; Grant L. (Anette), Larissa (Jacob) Blackwell, Lindsay, Spencer and Sawyer. Stan and Donna served together in the Gideons International Ministry for 47 years

Stan graduated from Hooper H.S. in 1956 and then attended the Colorado School of Mines where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering and a commission in the US Army Corp of Engineers in 1960. Stan also earned a Master of Science in Natural Resources in 1988 from Colorado State University. He had the honor of serving on active duty for two years as the Commanding Officer of the 697th Engineer Company (Pipeline). After serving in the Army, Stan had a 28 year career with the USDA Forest Service.

Stan had four God-honoring siblings who welcomed him into their home and remained supportive of Stan throughout his life: Raymond (Naomi); Dorothy (George) Kirkpatrick; Ardell (Estalita); and Lorene (Ed) Byrd. Stan had many nephews and nieces, as well as grandnieces and grandnephews.

LeRoy Leonard Manley



LeRoy Leonard Manley, 86, of Fort Collins, CO, died November 12, 2014. Lee Manley, son of Leonard and Mabel Manley, loving husband of Joan Manley, passed away at Pathways Hospice at McKee Medical Center in Loveland, CO. Lee was first married to Lois Mortensen for 33 years and she preceded him in death. He remarried and is survived by his wife, Joan; a daughter, Sheralyn Dudley (Robert); a son, Tim; a step-daughter, Dixie Sanchez (George); and two step-sons, Paris Powell and Pat Powell (Lana). He is also survived by eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Lee worked for the U.S. Forest Service as Director of Personnel for the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station until his

retirement in 1988. He loved photography, the outdoors, working on genealogy, and spending time with his family. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Remembrances

Robert M. Bob Rankin



Robert (Bob) M. Rankin, age 81, passed away on December 19, 2014 after a lengthy illness. Bob was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma on December 27, 1932 to Sam Rankin and Eulene (Edwards) Rankin, and

moved to Colorado when he was 11. He graduated from Englewood High School, then served in the U.S. Navy at Buckley Naval Air Station. After working at a couple of positions after the Navy, Bob opened his own business in Glenwood Springs. In 1961, Bob joined the U.S. Forest Service in Buffalo Creek and then in 1963, moved to Fort Collins so he could complete his degree in forestry at CSU, which he did in 1967. His Forest Service career took the family to Colorado Springs, Aspen, and then back to Fort Collins in 1976. He retired from government service in 1989, then worked for RSVP as the Handyman Program Volunteer Coordinator, a true passion. Bob enjoyed being in the woods, especially camping, fishing and

skiing. He took great pleasure in do-it-yourself projects for the family and others in the community. He was a member of Golden K Kiwanis and Plymouth Congregational UCC Church, where he has been deeply involved. Also, he had been active in the Jaycees, Elks Club, and Habitat for Humanity. Bob will be remembered as a good, caring, special man who will be dearly missed (particularly his sense of humor.)

He is survived by his wife and loved best friend of 62 years, Jodie and children Robb (wife Molly and children Ben and Nick); Darrell (children Rachel, Ashley and Jake); and Jeralyn (husband Drew Davis and daughter Kalli).

The family invites you to a Celebration of Life at Plymouth Congregational Church on January 10, 2015 at 10:00 am, followed by a reception. Those wishing to make memorial gifts can contribute to the Plymouth Congregational Church Endowment Fund at 916 W. Prospect, Fort Collins, CO.

JoAnn F. Hagan



JoAnn F. Hagan died on December 30, 2014 in Lakewood, CO. JoAnn was born in 1943 to Joe and Juanita French. She grew up in Louisiana on a cotton farm with her seven siblings. She attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe, LA,

graduating with B.S. degree in accounting. JoAnn, in her career as an accountant, was employed by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI) - Minerals Management Service and the Office of Surface Management. JoAnn retired in 2002, working 36 1/2 years. She opened doors for women in professional positions in the federal government. She was the

first woman hired by the Forest Service in Region 2 in a professional position in 1965. JoAnn was awarded the Distinguished Service Award, the highest award an employee of DOI can receive. She also received the Meritorious Award from the Department of the Interior.

She is survived by husband of 51 years, John; and her daughter, Lori (Brian) Wardlow of Nebraska, and a son, Todd Hagan (Liz) of Colorado and four grandchildren, Madeline, Natalie, Grant and Blake.

A memorial service will be held at 10am on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at Southern Gables Church, 4001 S. Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80123.

The Last Word

“Be Thankful”

by Tom Thompson

As this article is written, it is the week before Thanksgiving and I muse about all the things that I am thankful for: my wonderful family, my health, a very satisfying career, a beautiful place to live in the Rocky Mountains, and many friends who add richness to Kitty and my senior years. But for some reason I find myself thinking about and thanking those “heroes” in my life that truly made a difference in what I did and what I became. Visiting with others about the turning points in their lives, it is obvious to me that we all have had associations, connections, or relationships with certain folks who we look back at and are amazed at what a difference they made in what we did and what we became.

Obviously for most of us, our parents and grandparents were at the head of the list, but there were those few others who we now recognize as having given us the advice, support, or a helping hand that we needed to make the right choice or to head down the trail in the right direction. Perhaps a teacher or coach, an uncle or aunt, or a scout leader would be others on



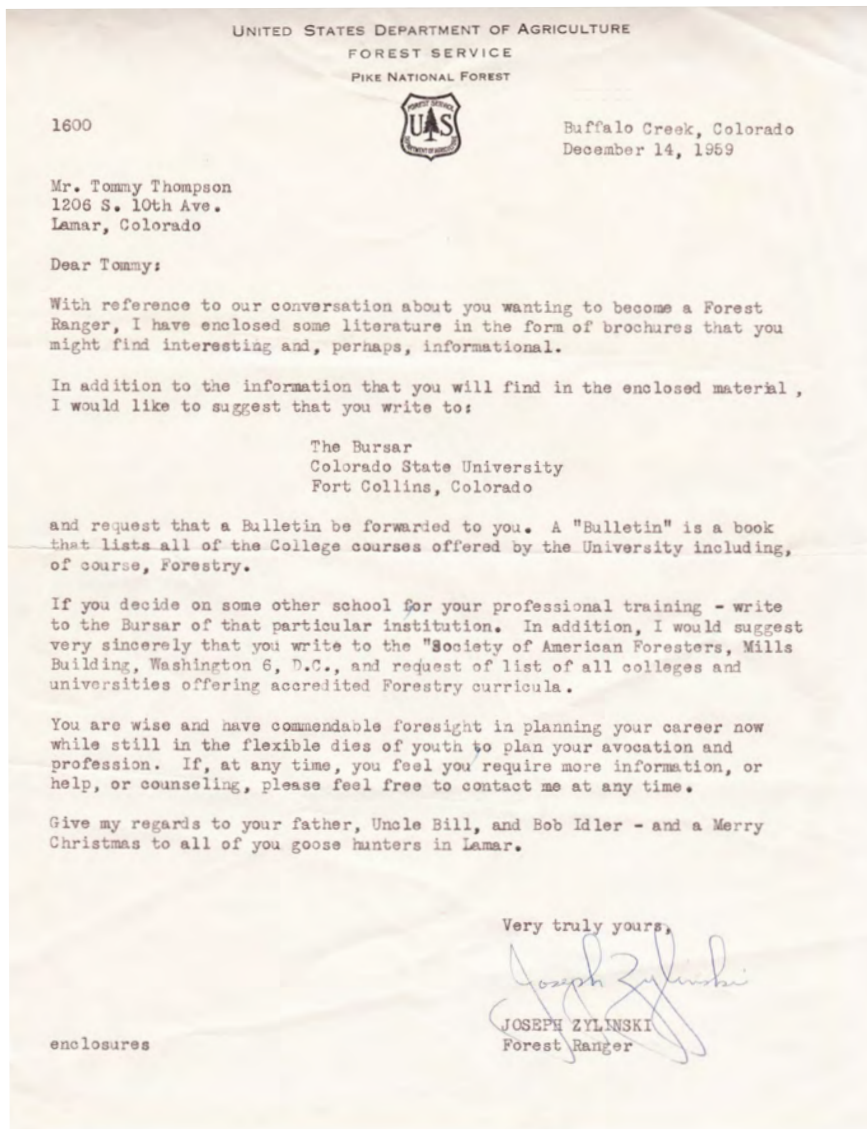
the top of many of our short lists.

In December, 1959, I was in the 7th grade and had occasion to accompany my dad and uncle on a weekend goose and duck hunt near my hometown of Lamar, Colorado. What was unusual about that weekend was that we had a couple of guest hunters joining us and they were two Forest Rangers from the Pike National Forest. My uncle was acquainted with one of the rangers who was married to a cousin of my uncle and dad. His name was Bob Lake and he was the Ranger at the Bailey District. His fellow ranger who was coming for the hunt was named, Joe Zylinski and he was the ranger from the Buffalo Creek District.

This weekend was all that a 13 year old could ever hope for. Spending time with real “Forest Rangers” not just watching the fussy black and white TV images of Lassie and Ranger Corey Stuart, but actually having the chance to meet and talk with a Ranger from the United States Forest Service in person. Well, that encounter cemented my dream of becoming “one of those” and Joe Zylinski took a special interest in telling me all about what he did and what I should do if I really wanted to become a ranger. I still have the letter dated, December 14, 1959, on my wall that Joe sent to me a week or two after the hunt and I read it occasionally just to remember that fork in the road fifty-five years ago. I am amazed today, as I was at the time, that he took the time to connect with a young boy and stated in his letter to me that I was “wise and have commendable foresight in planning your career now while still in the flexible dies of youth to plan your avocation and profession”. I don’t think I had any idea what “flexible dies of youth” meant and “avocation” was a new word for me too.

(continued on Page 32)

(continued from Page 31)



Years later, in the early 70's, I was able to work with Joe in Alaska, where he became the Director of Watershed and then in 1985 was fortunate to have him as a roommate at the first Forest Supervisor Meeting in Snowbird, Utah. I was then 39 and he about twenty years my elder. Joe's about 85 now, but to me he will always be that young ranger from the Buffalo Creek District on the Pike National

Forest who took the time to connect with a "young kid."

There were a number of others who I could mention and certainly on my list would be Gary Cargill, who was Regional Forester when I came to Region 2 in 1989. Gary, to me, was one of the finest leaders and gentleman that I have ever known. He stood for all that was right and good about the

Forest Service. He didn't let his position change who he was and what he stood for. His credibility, his trustworthiness, his principles of fairness and simplicity, his dedication in supporting his people, and unbelievable commitment to the outfit were all characteristics that I admired and truly appreciated. Those qualities made him a leader who influenced many and are remembered now almost twenty years after he has been gone.

Who would be on your short list of special folks that helped and influenced you in your career or your life opportunities? I am sure most of the folks we might put on these lists never once thought that what they were doing at the time was navigating a future for someone or changing the course of a person's life and most certainly never thought twice about whether it was worthwhile to do it or not, they were just being themselves. Especially in the Forest Service I think there are so many examples of people who go out of their way to lend their support to others. Most of you might be surprised to find that you are on many folk's short lists.
