



The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 6 - Number 1

Happy New Year from Smokey Bear

by Karen Bergethon

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

I hope 2019 is a great year for you. I think it will be an outstanding year as I turn 75.

Happy Birthday to me!

When I look back to 1944, I think what a great job I have! Preventing wildfires is my mission. Unless a wildfire starts by lightning, people are the culprits. When that spark ignites, I feel like I've failed in my job, somebody didn't listen and was careless. I want to reach every single person and stop that wildfire before it happens.

You're probably wondering what to get me for my birthday. Here's what I want: help me lower the number of careless human-caused fires, and that comes in every size, every color, and never goes out of style!



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I hope you can go to some special events for my birthday, they're shown here:

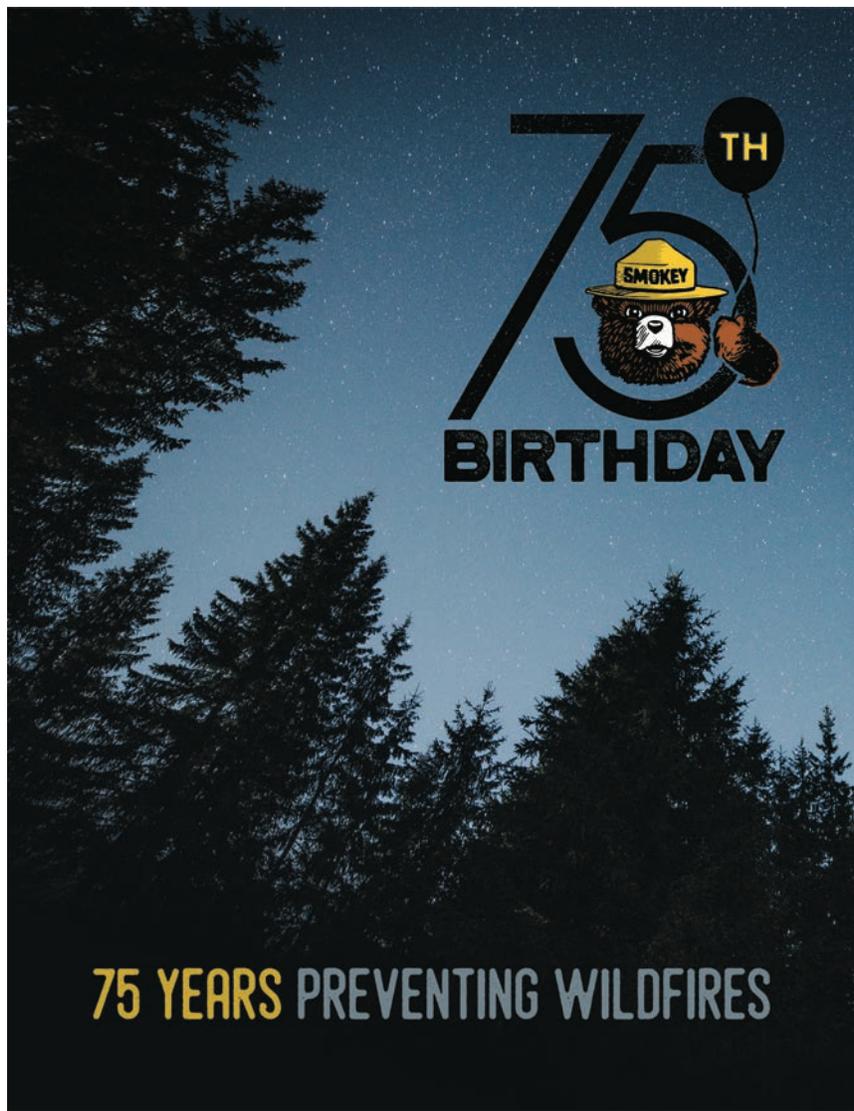
<https://www.smokeybear75th.org>

A display of my artwork is at this website, you can see my image has changed over the years but my message hasn't, I think I've aged pretty well!

<https://smokeybear.com/en/smokeys-history?decade=1940>

Thank you for all your support! You've made me a high-profile, easily recognizable bear for 75 years, and I'm grateful so many people know who I am!

Now if I can just get them all to listen every day for the next 75 years: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!



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Smokey Bear Quick Facts

- One spring day in 1950 in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico, a little cub had been caught in the path of the fire. He had taken refuge in a tree that was now nothing but a charred, smoking snag. His climb had saved his life but left him badly burned on the paws and hind legs. The firefighters removed the little bear cub from the burned tree and a rancher, who had been helping the firefighters, agreed to take the cub home. The cub needed veterinary aid and was flown to Santa Fe where the burns were treated and bandaged.
- The firefighters who rescued the little bear cub call him Hot Foot Teddy but his name quickly was changed to Smokey Bear.
- Bambi was actually the first face of the forest fire prevention message in 1942, Walt Disney agreed to use Bambi for one year..
- "Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires" was first used as a slogan in 1947.
- The first Smokey Bear costume was fabricated in 1951.
- Legislation was passed in 1952, PL 82-359, to take Smokey out of public domain and place him under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture. An amendment to that Act, PL 93-318, passed in 1974, enabled commercial licensing and directed that fees and royalties be used to promote forest fire prevention.
- In 1952, Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins wrote the anthem that would cause a debate among Smokey enthusiasts for the next several decades. In order to maintain the correct rhythm, the writers added a "the" between "Smokey" and "Bear."
- 1965, the volume of mail was so high that Smokey Bear received his own Zip Code – 20252. The President of the US is the only other "person" to have a private zip code.
- Smokey died in 1976 and was returned to Capitan, New Mexico, where he is buried in the State Historical Park.
- In 1984, Smokey was honored with his own postage stamp.
- Smokey's message of "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires" was changed to "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires" in 2001. The term wildfire applies to any uncontrolled, unplanned, unwanted outdoor fire (such as grass fires, range fires, brush fires).

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USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region

Due to a lapse in federal funding, this USDA website will not be actively updated. Once funding has been reestablished, online operations will continue. On-going operational updates will be posted [here](https://www.fs.fed.us/shutdown) (https://www.fs.fed.us/shutdown) as we are able to provide them.

Forest Service Home About the Agency Contact the National Office

Due to the above kerfuffle, there will be no news in this edition of the Rendezvous from the Rocky Mountain Region ...no retirement announcements, no news from the Regional Forester, no look forward to the upcoming field season. Yes, we remember how these furloughs go, and we feel for the working folks of the U.S. Forest Service.



*Mary Ann
Chambers*

Alert retiree, Mary Ann Chambers, a brand new work-graduate from the Pawnee National Grassland noted that we forgot to acknowledge her achievement in the last issue of the Rendezvous. We regret the omission and wish her and her family a happy retirement and a hearty welcome to the Mountaineer Family.

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous

Sheridan, Wyoming - September, 2019

Details for the Annual Gathering are still being formulated....but it's close. Here's what we know right now.

Location: Sheridan, WY area

Dates: Either September 18 or September 25 (both Wednesdays)

- Luncheon with program to follow (1100 to 1530)
- Anticipate a golf outing the afternoon before meeting date (9/17 or 9/24).

Things to do:

- Sheridan proper: Sheridan Museum, Kendrick Mansion (State Parks heritage site), Fort Mackenzie 1899-1918, (currently VA hospital).
- General area: Little Bighorn Battlefield (NPS), Fort Phil Kearney (WY State Parks), Rosebud

Battlefield (NHL), Fetterman Battlefield, Brinton Museum (Big Horn).

Weather:

- If we have "normal" weather Sheridan daytime temps should be comfortable (70's) with evenings requiring a jacket.
- In the Bighorns dispersed camping is still available. But most campgrounds close by Labor Day. Higher elevations can anticipate snow in September.

Stay tuned to the website and messages from the Rocky Mountaineers.

Membership and Finance Report

By Ellen and Johnny Hodges

Our membership is holding steady at 440 members. We always have room for more, so if you know of someone that should be a member of the Rocky Mountaineers, encourage them to join.

- Thanks to everyone that has paid their 2019 dues and made donations so far. For those of you that haven't gotten around to it, the time is NOW!
- Annual dues remain \$20/year per household. Never have to worry about paying dues again with a Lifetime Membership of \$250 per household. We currently have 106 Lifetime Members.
- We always appreciate donations to support our funds for the Memorial Grove and Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships.
- The Memorial Grove fund is used to support the Memorial Grove site in Monument, CO and our ceremony in May of each year.
- The Scholarship fund is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. We have awarded two \$1,500 scholarships in each of the past few years.

We make it easy for you to make a payment. If you would like a receipt or to pay with a credit card, click on this link: <https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Membership/MemberForms/Dues-Donations.php>. This will take you to our Dues and Donation page on our website. Fill out the short form and you will be emailed a receipt.

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

If you don't need a receipt, you can drop a check in the mail to our address -

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

Thanks again for your support!

International Travel

The Rocky Mountaineers have several upcoming international trips. Unfortunately, the Southern Africa trip in May, the Great Britain trip in August, and the Costa Rica trip in February 2020 are sold out. The next trip will be a land and sea trip along the eastern Adriatic and Greece in October 2020.

Information on the latest trip, including how to sign up will be available on the Mountaineers' website soon.

Hail to the Chief

Vicki Christiansen serves as Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, leading a workforce of more than 25,000 permanent employees who steward 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands; support the world's largest forestry research organization; and work with states, tribes and others to sustain all forests so they can benefit all citizens, today and in the future.

Over her 36-year career, she has accumulated a wealth of experience in natural resource and wildland fire management. Her commitment to the core values of the Forest Service, which are conservation, service, interdependence, diversity and safety, is evident in the priorities she sets for the agency. As Chief, Vicki is leading agency efforts to improve the conditions of America's forests and grasslands by modernizing how we do business to increase active forest management and deliver landscape conservation through shared stewardship with local, state and national partners and tribes. Vicki's focus on relationships inside and outside the agency is reflected in the Forest Service's dedication to caring for the land, communities and the people we serve.

Vicki joined the Forest Service in 2010 as the Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation Management. Prior to serving as Chief, she worked as Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry overseeing Forest Service activities in managing wildland fire and working with our partners to sustain the health and productivity of non-federal forest lands.

Prior to joining the Forest Service, she served as the Arizona State Forester and director of the Arizona Division of Forestry, where she was responsible for the protection of 22 million acres of state and private lands in Arizona. She had previously served as the Washington State Forester, the culmination of a 26-year career with Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



Vicki Christiansen, 19th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue administers the Oath of Office to Vicki Christiansen as the 19th Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service at the Yates Building in Washington, D.C., October 11, 2018.

<https://vimeo.com/294791823>

Reflection on Mountaineer Leadership

Some of our former chairs talk about it

We here at the Rendezvous thought it was time to reflect a bit on the last five years of the Rocky Mountaineers. Who better than the former chairpersons to talk a little bit about looking back and the role of leadership.

“Gifford Pinchot is the man to whom the nation owes most for what has been accomplished as regards the preservation of the natural resources of our country. He led, and indeed during its most vital period embodied, the fight for the preservation through use of our forests He was the foremost leader in the great struggle to coordinate all our social and governmental forces in the effort to secure the adoption of a rational and far-seeing policy for securing the conservation of all our national resources. ... I believe it is but just to say that among the many, many public officials who under my administration rendered literally invaluable service to the people of the United States, he, on the whole, stood first.”



President Theodore Roosevelt in his 1913 autobiography



Tom Thompson

“The leadership reflection for the Rocky Mountaineers is for me really about the amazing team that came together for the 2012 Forest Service Reunion in Vail, Colorado. It is a reflection of their leadership, teamwork, commitment, and dedication. As that committee met for their closeout on the last day of that great Reunion there was agreement by all to stay together and work to establish a Rocky Mountain retiree association of some kind. Over the course of the next months, while I was out of commission preparing for and dealing with a stem cell transplant, the team rolled up their sleeves and went to work in establishing the Rocky Mountaineers. On July 9, 2013, the Bylaws were adopted and Skip agreed to be our first Chair. The first newsletter was published and our website was online by September. The rest is history and with Skip’s leadership we were off and running. However, I must say that it has been the sustained volunteer leadership of Johnny and Ellen Hodges, Bill Disbrow, Dave Steinke, and the subsequent chairs and regional representatives that have made this organization perhaps the most successful Forest Service regional association. In the end, it is a supportive and appreciative membership that makes all the difference and inspires these leaders to continue to bring it together each year.”

"Rendezvous in the Rockies Vail 2012" was the fertile ground that sprouted the Rocky Mountaineers in the fall of 2012. A core group of motivated people saw the value of connecting former co-workers to celebrate and honor a career and commitment to something greater than ourselves. Chairing the inaugural year of the Rocky Mountaineers was fun and easy because it was about "the people" and reconnecting. Leadership motivated by a "personal" cause or objective is limited in potential and success. Building on relationships and shared goals and expectations yields longer term success and commitment. Leaders who feel the pulse and care about the people best serve their position of leadership.”



Skip Underwood

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“My role with the Rocky Mountaineers evolved out of serving on the planning team for the Rendezvous in the Rockies - the 2012 national retirees’ reunion in Vail. With Tom Thompson’s leadership the planning team stayed together following the reunion to develop the groundwork for establishing the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association. Bylaws were approved in July 2013 and the Rocky Mountaineers were formed. I served for several years as the association secretary, recording minutes of the board meetings. In 2015, following a hotly contested election, I was elected to be Chair-elect and then became Chair of the association in 2016. During those first years our focus was on increasing membership. The scholarship program was initiated, international trips and ski days became popular activities, and support to the Memorial Grove was a priority. In 2016 we held the fourth of our annual gatherings (not meetings) in the Black Hills. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to help with the development and growth of the Rocky Mountaineers, and thank the many non-elected board members who provide the continuity from year to year in support of association operations.”



Dan Nolan



Nancy Warren

“I was pleased and privileged to serve on the Board of the Rocky Mountaineers for the past four years. I’ll admit this was not an activity I had anticipated when I drafted my “post-retirement to-do list”. Nevertheless, it was easy to “say yes” and I am grateful to have had this interesting experience. The members of the Board, past and present, are all talented, enthusiastic, and creative people and I appreciated their teamwork. I am confident that the Rocky Mountaineers will continue to thrive and grow, and my plan is to take full advantage of my Lifetime Membership!”

“Leadership is fairly abstract and conceptual for me. I’ve always tried to show leadership in being first to the buffet table, especially around other Forest Service people. I think when I worked in Region 2, I probably led the pack in number of ideas generated that were unfavorably viewed by the Regional Forester. As to the Mountaineers, my goal for my year as Chair was not to interfere in what appeared to me then, and really is, a well-oiled machine. I did suggest doing a survey, and Johnny Hodges and Bill Disbrow did a super job of conducting and analyzing it. And it turns out that Mountaineers like the way we are currently doing things, and see no need to change. I don’t know if it’s because we came from the same organizational culture, or are just a bunch of really swell people or both, but the Mountaineers is the most drama-free and low stress volunteer organization I’ve ever served.”



Sharon Friedman



Bob Sprentall

“To achieve a common goal and to allow those who I work with the flexibility (which relates to creativity) to achieve that goal. To consult with those who have been in the same leadership position to learn how things work (and not work) and what they would have done differently given certain situations. It is also critical to understand and get feedback from those who are given the task to achieve the common goal what their concept is on how to achieve that goal and working with others in a team environment to do so.”

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“I am thrilled about the chance to Chair the Rocky Mountaineers for the coming year. Upon retirement, I joined this “young” organization, and quickly observed what a tremendous foundation had been built by our leaders and cohorts to benefit all of us, now and in the future. In many ways our mission is so directly tied to the public stewardship and service mission of the U.S. Forest Service, yet our work tilts toward important values that we share: staying connected both face-to-face and modern media, honoring those that have served, having fun, exploring new places, helping people and FS families in need and investing in the future of students and blossoming leaders. Being a leader for you all is humbling, it is personal. Where else do I get the chance to lead you and so many others that have likely spent decades, a huge chunk of our lives, committed to taking care of incredible land and serving others? There isn’t another or a better place for me. We take care of the headwaters, we care about those that do the work today. I am here to lead, support and serve. I am honored for this opportunity.”

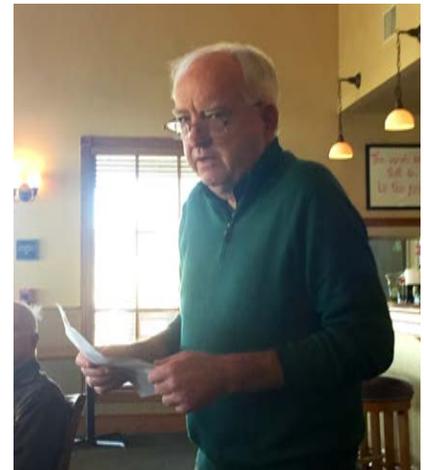


Craig Bobzein

Denver Area Retirees



Tom and Kitty Thompson hosted over 40 Denver area retirees on November 15th at the Homestead Country Club for a Thanksgiving luncheon.



Nancy Warren and Pam Skeels hosted 43 Denver-area retirees at the Lakewood Carrabba’s Italian Grill on January 17. The excellent turnout provided a great opportunity to catch up after the holidays despite the ongoing government shutdown.



Tom Thompson distributed the 75th anniversary Smokey Bear calendars. Tom invited the attendees to the Sixth Annual Rocky Mountaineers Ski Day on February 6. Jim Thinnes shared information on the Rocky Mountaineers scholarship for high school seniors. Jim also shared information on the upcoming international trips with the Rocky Mountaineers.



Rocky Mountaineers Ski Day

6th Annual - February 6th

The Rocky Mountaineers Sixth Annual Ski Day will be held at Winter Park Ski Area on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. As usual our group will meet at the Mary Jane Base Lodge at 9 AM to get together and get tickets! Winter Park is a great place to gather and like many ski areas across the country, it has a rich history of Forest Service roots.



Durward (D.O.) Johnson, shown in photo at left, was a Ranger on the Arapaho National Forest, Horseshoe Ranger Station (Williams Fork Ranger District), Idlewild/Fraser Ranger Station, Sulphur Ranger Station and Kremmling Ranger Station from the mid 1920's to mid 1950's. While at Idlewild/Fraser in the thirties, he was responsible for cutting the first ski runs at Berthoud Pass and West Portal, which is the area known now as Winter Park. After the Moffat Tunnel was finished in 1928 there was continuing interest in developing skiing in the area. By 1937, the Forest Service had built a ski jump with a few trails at Cooper Creek near the railroad.

In 1938, these ski trains from Denver began to bring skiers into the Grand Valley. During the winter of 1939-40 the Winter Park Ski Area officially opened for business. Lift tickets were a dollar. So as we ski this year we will pause to remember Durward and others who had vision

to forge the early interest in skiing. Durward died in 1974 and is honored at the Memorial Grove.

Again, as we have on past ski days, we will ski in the morning for a couple hours and then have lunch together at the Lunch Rock located between Mary Jane and Winter Park. Winter Park will again provide special discounted lift tickets for anyone who doesn't have a season pass of some kind. Hopefully this date works for everyone and we look forward to a good turnout. We had our largest turnout ever last year so we're looking forward to a great day again. Even if you don't want to ski there is a great place to sit and visit at the base and you're welcome to join us at the top for lunch. D. O. Johnson would be proud to know the Rocky Mountaineers are enjoying his dream nearly ninety years later.

Winter Park has already received almost a hundred inches of snow this season and has a base of about four feet as of the first of the year. The snow is getting deeper and deeper on the slopes so this should be a good ski year.

Contact Bjorn Dahl at bdahl@dahlservices.com or Tom Thompson at tommylthompson@comcast.net for more information about the skiing or about carpooling options as well.

Carhart Hiring Marks 100 Years of USFS Professional Recreation Management

by Jim Bedwell, Rocky Mountaineer Member



Jim Bedwell, former director of Recreation, Lands, and Minerals in R-2 and ARP Forest Supervisor and USFS Chief Landscape Architect - Denver Post photo.

As I approached my retirement in the summer of 2017, I was asked by Jason Blevins of the Denver Post where I would like to go on the National Forests for a career retrospective interview. Without hesitation, I replied “Trappers Lake”.

As a landscape architect, my motivation was to “complete the circle” and honor the Forest Service’s first recreation professional, landscape architect Arthur Carhart.

Carhart is best remembered for developing the Wilderness idea at Trappers Lake, but he was a true visionary with many “firsts”, including the first recreation area master plan, the concept of a range of wildland recreation settings, the use of cooperative partnerships in recreation development, and advocating conservation principles among sportsmen.

Prior to 1919, the Forest Service provided recreation largely through the granting of special use permits to individuals and commercial interests for “summer cabins” and lodges. Although hunting, fishing, and horseback riding had occurred for years, there were limited facilities to accommodate the burgeoning public use brought on by the growing use of automobiles. Responding to the demand for use, the need to protect resources, and the challenges of the newly established National Park Service in 1916,

Assistant Forester Edward A. Sherman solicited interest from the “districts” (later “regions”) in hiring recreation planning professionals.

Rocky Mountain District Forester C.J. Stahl was the first to respond to Sherman, and on March 1, 1919 Arthur Carhart, Iowa State University’s first landscape architecture graduate, reported for duty. In April, Carhart laid out a hiking trail on Pikes Peak, and then headed to the San Isabel National Forest to assess the potential for recreation development. His most recognized contribution, however, came from his assignment that summer at Trappers Lake.

Carhart was sent to Trappers Lake on the White River NF to lay out plans for roads and summer cabins around the lake. After weeks of trekking,



Arthur Carhart with his Duluth bag on his back, pictured at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

surveying, and sketching the area, Carhart sat one night by a campfire with a group of outdoorsmen, who enquired about his work. As the story goes, the outdoorsmen could not contain themselves, asking “Do you have to circle every lake with a road? Can’t you bureaucrats keep just one beautiful lake as God made it?”

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Carhart realized that their questions reflected what he had been feeling about the place. He returned to Denver with a new perspective on land and recreation management and passionately presented his recommendation to Stahl that some places should be set aside from development. Impressed, and to Carhart's amazement, Stahl agreed.



Jim Bedwell bikes at Trappers Lake on June 21, 2017 in the White River National Forest in Colorado. - Denver Post photo.

That December, Carhart was visited by Aldo Leopold, then the Assistant District 3 Forester in Albuquerque, who had heard of Carhart's concepts. Following their talks, Carhart wrote a letter to Leopold that became one of the most significant steps in the development of the Wilderness concept. In it, Carhart posited: "There is a limit to the number of lands of shoreline on the lakes; there is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous areas of the world; and ... there are portions of natural scenic beauty which ... by right should be the property of all the people." In a sense, Carhart was echoing Pinchot's "Greatest good ..." ideal, but he was also the first in the Forest Service to outwardly recognize the social values of natural beauty, wilderness, and outdoor recreation. He later wrote: "Perhaps the rebuilding of body and spirit is the greatest value derivable from our forests, for of what worth are material things if we lose the character and quality of people that are the soul of America?" Later, Carhart was asked to assess the recreation potential for the lake region along the Canadian border within the Superior NF, then part of District 2. Again, he

recommended that the area remain largely roadless, accessible only by boat. That area is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Carhart valued outdoor recreation of all types and saw Wilderness as the most undeveloped, natural setting the national forests had to offer, but he also understood the need for more developed places. On the San Isabel NF in 1919-20, spurred on by civic interest in providing escape from the steel mills and industrialization of Pueblo, he developed the 110-page *General Working Plan, Recreational Development of the San Isabel NF*, the first comprehensive recreation plan in the USFS. In it Carhart zoned and integrated the Forest along a spectrum of settings, from developed areas (the Squirrel Creek Lodge, Davenport



Squirrel Creek Campground, San Isabel National Forest.

Campground, and associated picnic areas), roads designed for viewing scenery (the Squirrel Creek Road), to trails for hiking (the Cascade Trail), and views of the nearby undeveloped Wet Mountains. His recreation plan served as a model and he applied it in other areas as well, working with local officials in Summit County CO to zone outdoor recreation from the town centers to the mountain tops. His concept of planning was later endorsed by the presidential Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC) in 1962 and became the precursor for the landmark Recreation Opportunity Spectrum planning system of the early 1980s.

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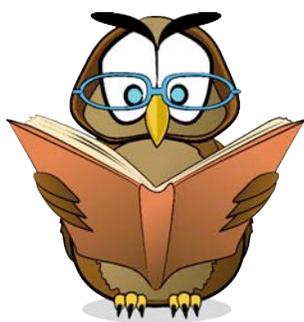
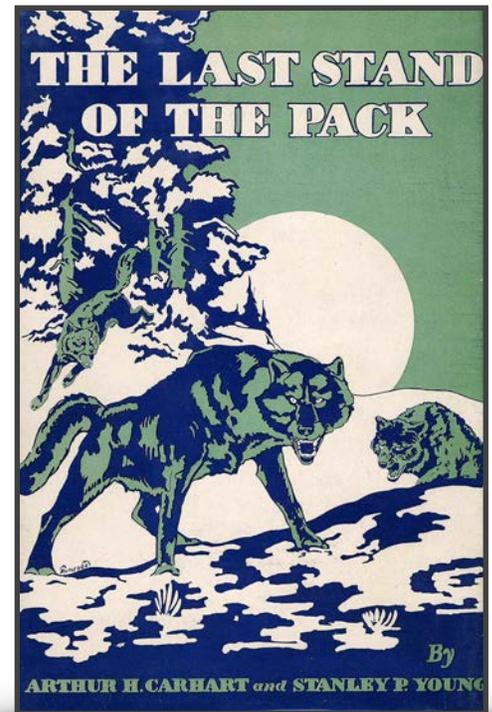
Recognizing the lack of funds in the USFS budget for recreation development, San Isabel Forest Supervisor Al Hamel and Carhart supported the development of the San Isabel Public Recreation Association (SIPRA). SIPRA raised nearly \$6,000, supporting construction of Carhart's plans from 1920-24 and serving as a model of cooperative development of public facilities.

As too often happens with visionaries, Carhart's concepts and uncompromising advocacy rubbed some the wrong way. After several attempts to obtain funding for recreation development in the agency budget went unsupported, he abruptly resigned from the USFS in December 1922 and entered private practice. He then began writing prolifically, including works of fiction, practical articles for sportsmen's magazines like *Field & Stream*, and advocacy pieces, all with consistent themes of conservation and the social value of the outdoors. One book, *The Last Stand of the Pack* written in 1929, details the extermination of wolves in the West and decries the loss of the true frontier. The book predated Leopold's poetic "green fire" reference in the essay *Thinking Like a Mountain* by 20 years.

Arthur Carhart was truly visionary and his concepts have stood the test of time. The interagency Arthur

Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Missoula honors his contributions to Wilderness. He established the Conservation Library in the Denver Public Library because he was concerned about the availability of conservation information to

the average citizen. Carhart's legacy also carries on in the thousands of landscape architects who followed him in the USFS. I am personally in gratitude for that, and for Trappers Lake.



High School Seniors
 WHO is interested in a college scholarship?
 Check out details at the Rocky
 Mountaineers website –
www.rockymountaineers.us
 Click on “scholarships”

National Museum of Forest Service History



During the National Reunion in Asheville, NC in September the Museum presented several awards. Dave Stack was awarded the Gary G. Brown Founders Award for his tireless work for the Museum over the years as Executive Director, on the Board of Directors, and his work with our amazing collection. The Curator's Award was presented to Gary N. Rahm for his work in assembling and annotating the papers of his father, Neal N. Rahm. Historical Restoration Awards were presented to the McKenzie River District and Friends of Fish Lake in Oregon, the Friends of Upper Rock Creek in Montana, the National Smokejumper Association for the Trails Restoration and Maintenance Project Specialists (TRAMPS). The work done by the Grand County Historical Association received honorable mention in this category. As reported earlier, the Leisz Leadership Award was officially recognized at the Reunion as well and this award is cosponsored by the Museum and the NAFSR.

Construction has begun on the James B. Yule Pavilion on our Museum campus in Missoula. This small amphitheater will be used to conduct educational programs and presentations. The Museum again held a week long teachers workshop in September and focused on the relationship between Native American tribes and the Forest Service. The workshop was very successful and was again done in partnership with the Library of Congress.

In November the Museum held its first in a series of a new mission driven event known as "An Evening with Teddy—Teddy Comes Alive". Steve Stark portrayed Teddy Roosevelt. Another very similar event will be held in Phoenix, AZ on April 12, 2019. We are hoping to host several other similar events around the country and hope to have one in the Rocky Mountain region in the next year.



Another addition to our campus in Missoula this coming year will be a Lockheed P-2 Airtanker that is being donated by Neptune Air.

We have added several new board members for the Museum, including: Char Miller (who is a well-known historian from Pomona College in California), Fred Cooper (a former smokejumper, who retired from his FS career in administration to Missoula), John Maclean (author and son of Norman Maclean of "A River Runs Through It") and Charlie Richmond (who is the former Forest Service National Director of Range, Forest Supervisor in the GMUG and the Ozark N.F., and Ranger on Comanche National Grassland). The Board will

meet for an in-person meeting in Phoenix, AZ early in February.

If you are not a member of the Museum, we invite you to show your support for the work we are trying to do and become a member. It is easy to join or make a donation by visiting our website at www.forestservicemuseum.org.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

A Love Letter to a River

By John Sanderson,
Science Director,
The Nature Conservancy in Colorado



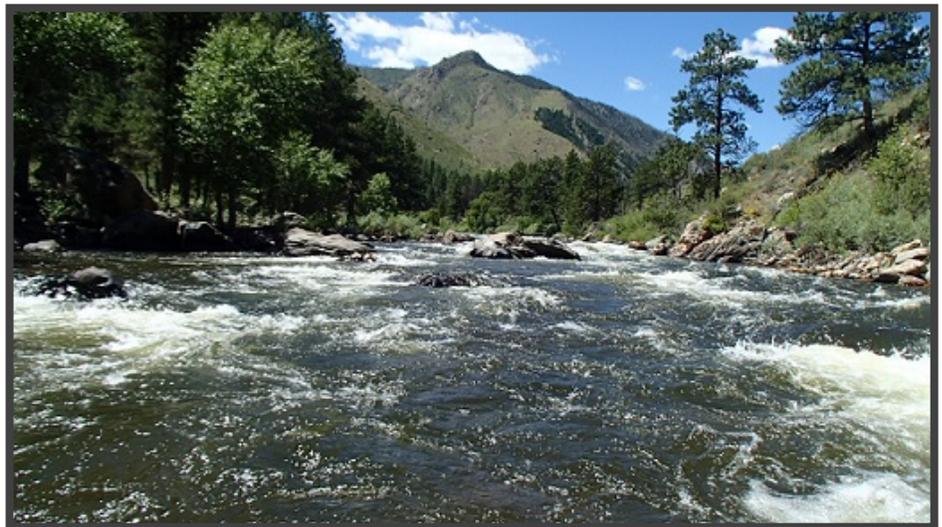
Anticipation builds the moment I turn west at Ted's Place, onto the last mile of straight road before 60 miles of twists and turns along the Cache la Poudre River, Colorado's only federally designated Wild and Scenic River. As I enter the canyon, steep slopes of billion-year-old rock tower above the road. At

I was a toddler when the Act was passed, so I guess at the time I was one of those "future generations." I have so many precious memories thanks to this legislation: during my two and a half decades in Colorado, I've escaped often to the Poudre River to hike, fish, camp, climb and ski. Even though the river is Wild and Scenic, some of my favorite times here have been more mundane than scaling a peak or navigating a rapid. I celebrated my 50th birthday on the Poudre, barbecuing with friends. When my daughter was in first grade, she played her violin on the Poudre's banks, barefoot in a lavender dress. On family picnics, we've caught, admired and then released garter snakes and Woodhouse's toads.

Picnic Rock, just inside the canyon mouth, families spread out under cottonwood trees along the river to share sandwiches and lemonade. It was in this same stretch of river that I executed my first "combat roll" in a kayak, when a rapid got the best of me and tipped me over. With a sweep of my paddle and a snap of my hips I sat upright again.

WILD AND SCENIC

The words evoke images of boundless, rugged, untamed beauty. Rivers that are protected under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, have "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values." Because Wild and Scenic Rivers are so special, the Act says that they "shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."



The Cache la Poudre is Colorado's only nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. Starting high in the peaks of Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park along the Continental Divide, the river flows down a rocky canyon through the Roosevelt National Forest, dropping 7,000 feet in elevation along the way. Many recreational opportunities abound along and on the river, including scenic drives, camping, picnicking, fishing, rafting, hiking, mountain biking and wildlife viewing opportunities.

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WORTH PROTECTING

On this early September day, we are driving up the river for a weekend of camping to celebrate a dear friend's birthday. To our left, crowded forests of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir spread down north-facing slopes. To our right, no trees grow; these slopes bask in the hot sun all day and are covered by shrubs and grasses that need less water. This contrast illustrates a Colorado reality: growing peaches in Palisade, brewing beer in Fort Collins, angling for trout in Fraser, and restoring endangered greenback cutthroat trout in La Poudre Pass Creek all depend on one scarce resource - one worth protecting.

50 YEARS

In this time of national tension over environmental protection, I'm taking time to reflect on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as it celebrates its own 50th anniversary. This Act has protected nearly 13,000 miles of 209 rivers in 40 states. Because of it, I can rest assured that when my daughter is my age, she will still be able to enjoy the yellow blaze of narrowleaf cottonwoods in autumn lining the Poudre. While hiking among those trees, perhaps with her own child, she may hear the buzz of a broad-tailed hummingbird. And if she puts a boat on the river, she may catch a glimpse of an American dipper diving below the surface to feed on a mayfly larva beneath the Poudre's cold, clear, free-flowing water. These are the gifts that every future generation deserves to inherit.



Rogue River - photo by John Brukman

When he signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968, President Johnson said, 'Every individual and every family should get to know at least one river.' Rivers connect us to our past and our future. American Rivers is committed to supporting and growing the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to ensure a rich legacy of wild rivers for generations to come.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was championed by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on October 2, 1968. It is unique in the world and remains the most powerful tool for protecting rivers, by prohibiting dams and other harmful development along the designated reaches.

Today, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System safeguards nearly 13,000 miles along parts of 209 rivers and 3,000,000 acres of riverside land in 40 states and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Frustrations and Friendships of a Career in the U. S. Forest Service

by Myra Mumma, Rocky Mountaineer Member

In 1940, five years after retirement, John Lowell wrote a 30-page account of his career titled: *Early History of the U. S. Forest Service and Events Leading up to the Author's Connection With It*. Mr. Lowell is only one of many hickory stout pioneers who persevered to protect and preserve the land. All Forest Service retirees have stories, some written some unwritten.

John W. Lowell, Jr. was born January 23, 1873. His father, John W. Lowell, Sr., moved the family to Lily Park in northwest Colorado when John Jr. was 11 years old. His first job in early summer of 1884 was wrangling the horse cavy for a Lily Park Company cattle ranch located on the Bear River (Yampa River). In 1889 John became ranch foreman until until the owners sold in 1894. He and his father bought about 300 head of the cattle from this ranch to go into the cattle business for themselves in Routt and later Mesa County. They later sold out after the hard winter of 1889 to 1890 following a dry summer which crippled the cattle industry.

In early 1904 John looked to the Forest Reserves for employment. He felt because of his experience as a stockman he could be a liaison between the old forest users and the Government. He wanted to be part of protecting resources before they were totally devastated.

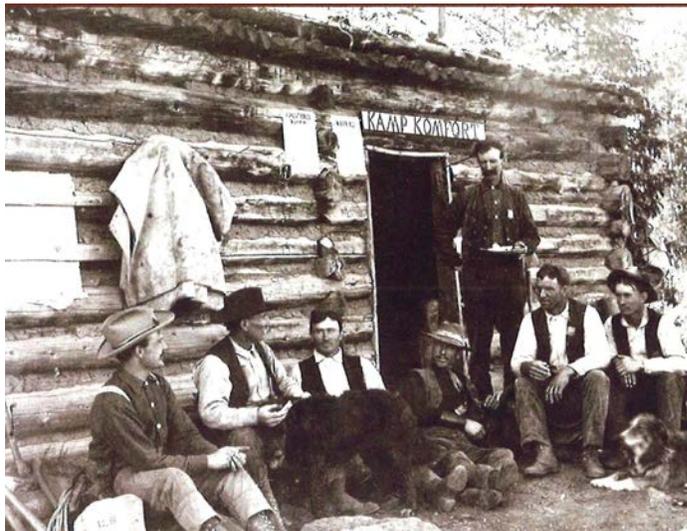
John's father, John W. Lowell, Sr., was politically connected. He was elected to the Colorado Legislature, was State Examiner of Public Institutions and served as Colorado State Auditor. One of his father's friends, John F. Vivian, wrote to a Congressman Brooks who asked the Supervisor of the Battlement Forest Reserve headquartered at Mesa, Colorado, to hire John as an Assistant Ranger.

On June 1, 1904 John reported to Supervisor A. R. Craig, Battlement Reserve, who was a political adversary of his father. John W. Lowell, Sr. belonged to the Free Silver Branch of the Republican party and Supervisor Craig belonged to the Gold faction. Free silver was a major policy issue in late 19th century between politicians who wanted an expansionary monetary policy of unlimited coinage of silver into money on demand as opposed to strict adherence of the more carefully fixed money supply in the gold standard.

As John sat across the desk from Supervisor Craig, he knew the Supervisor was not one bit pleased with his appointment. The conversation was short. John wasn't given information about his duties except that he was to report to

Ranger Dave Anderson, go to the field with him and stay away from towns during summer.

He was to supply his own food and horses for \$60/month. Supervisor Craig gave him a marking hatchet, a Scribner decimal C scale rule, a use book, paper, pencils, envelopes and free use timber application forms.



Kamp Komfort - Mesa Lakes Ranger Station. Photo taken July 1905 - GMUG National Forest Supervisor's Office: Left to Right: W.R. Kreutzer, Dave Anderson, Henry Dingman, John W. Lowell, B.F. Jay, Frank Barnes, James G. Cayton.

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John reported to Dave Anderson who became a dear friend, one of many friends in John's narrative. Dave came to rely on him for record keeping and reports. John had time to go to the field where he got a firsthand look at the overstocking damage in northwestern Colorado rangeland. Cattle driven in from the East and South had obliterated some native grasses, leaving only sagebrush, cactus and greasewood. Soil became compacted and rains caused

It seemed to John Lowell that when the Forest Reserves reverted to the Forest Service, the administration stepped up activities. Timber sale contracts were restructured. Grazing fees were instituted and trespass of stock drifting onto the forest was monitored. All of which caused hostilities. "Stockmen, ranchmen and in fact the general public living adjacent to the Forest were antagonistic to the administration of the Reserves as they called them.

We were rather outcasts."



Battlement National Forest Ranger Meeting Collbran, CO (Date Unknown). Left to Right: Boon Robinson, Jack Hughes, Ben Shelledy, John Lowell, John R. George, A. F. McDuffy, James Cayton and Barney Duffy.

extensive erosion. He decided this was an opportunity to push for more even distribution of grazing and distribution of salt to draw cattle. His ideas on overgrazing, a theme in his career, didn't go far but he felt they put him in good stead later.

It was policy to furlough part of the force in the Fall, November 1 to March 1. Mr. Lowell returned to the Forest in March 1905 after spending the winter working for his father in Denver. His first job was with Ranger Henry Dingman to make a long trip from Mesa to Hotchkiss, up Lareux Creek to the Lyman Rich Ranch located about eight miles south and down Lareux Creek from the southern boundary of the Battlement Reserve. They were to watch for trespass of any forest use. It was during this time that John spent hours with Ranger W. R. Kreutzer. The two shared common interest in forest management.

In June 1905 John was assigned to the Cedaredge District under Ranger Frank Barnes. District headquarters was a log cabin at Carp Lake (now Cobbett Lake).

Assuredly hostility precipitated the Fred Light case: In 1891 the Secretary of Agriculture was given authority to make rules to preserve the Reserves. Several supplements in 1901, 1905 and 1909 followed and included authority to establish grazing districts, limit animal use and require permits for grazing. A rancher named Fred Light owned about 500 head of cattle and a ranch of 540

acres near the Holy Cross Forest Reserve (now White River National Forest). He turned his herd out during spring and summer without a permit.

Light testified he needed his ranch to produce hay for the winter. On April 7, 1908, the US District Attorney filed a bill in the Colorado Circuit Court. On May 1, 1911, the Supreme Court sustained the Forest Service.

There are many scenarios from pioneer Forest Rangers in this era. John Lowell's revered and inspiring friend, Bill Kreutzer, experienced conflict, even to the point of fists and guns. After one such heated stockman conflict, Supervisor Craig transferred Bill to the Gunnison Forest. Later he was made Supervisor of the Gunnison. Employees were then instructed to do their jobs, be fair and cooperative with the public but enforce regulations.

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John W. Lowell, Forest Supervisor,
Bitterroot National Forest.

Gifford Pinchot worked hard and effectively to explain conservation to representatives of the livestock industry. John Lowell attended a Western Slope Stock Growers Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1906. His account of Gifford Pinchot's message: *"There were speeches and resolutions attacking the Forest Service and its officers, and it looked like the meeting would close with still further antagonism to the Forest administration. I never forgot the quiet, convincing*

attitude and speech of Mr. Pinchot. He was a tall, lean, striking figure at that time. His cool logic, complete information with not undue persuasiveness, and evident determination to stand by the policies and regulations of the Service, brought about a tremendous change.

While all the stockmen had regarded him as an arch enemy, before the meeting closed, many, if not a majority of them, changed their attitudes entirely. Some because they realized they would have to comply and some because they were beginning to believe that after all reasonable regulation of stock grazing on the Forests would be in the end to their interest."

John Lowell felt a large percentage of Forest Homesteads listed for entry under the Homestead Act of 1906 had thin soils and a high elevation making them failures as homesteads. The act, according to Mr. Lowell, was "written as the result of many years

later experience in applying this freak act to the National Forests." To sum up, the Forest Homestead Act of June 11, 1906, was implemented to satisfy opponents of Forest Reserves who were concerned that land suitable for agriculture was being withheld from private ownership. The Forest Homestead Act allowed for land within Forest Reserves and National Forests to be acquired under the Homestead Act. The Forest Service reviewed entry applications and had the ability to terminate entries it thought noncompliant with the law.

John married Martha Louise Barnes of Mesa, Colorado in 1907. What a story SHE could tell! The Forest Ranger's home was also the office in early days. Families helped with field work, dispatching, cooking in fire camps, providing meals for visitors while caring for sick children, home schooling, and sewing clothing. No running water, no electricity. These early Forest Service wives adapted and persevered to this bucolic lifestyle. Mattie, as she was called, and John had four children: Louise, Martha, Dorothy and John Wesley.

In 1909, while John was Acting Supervisor of the Battlement Forest, he gives an example of political interference. "Charlie Shidler, Joe Luxen and others of Rifle, Colorado who had been grazing from 500 to 1000 head of cattle each on the Grand River watershed of this Forest, which was already overgrazed, asked for material increases." John refused to allow the increased numbers and also cut the numbers permitted.

He also asked for proper distribution of salt to draw grazing away from waterways to control grazing sites. These men appealed to the District Forester in Denver, Smith Riley. Riley stood behind John's decision. However, the ranchers appealed to Congressman Edward T. Taylor in Denver who asked for an investigation which reached Gifford Pinchot personally. Chief Pinchot advised Congressman Taylor that "the entire matter had been thoroughly investigated and that I was just the kind of man they wanted on the Battlement Forest and that the Service proposed to keep me there."

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While Lowell was Acting Forest Supervisor, Fred Morrell, Chief of Operations, made a detailed inspection of the Forest and of Lowell's performance. He learned some valuable lessons from Mr. Morrell who did not understand why Lowell retained three illiterate old time rangers. Lowell explained that as Acting he didn't know he had the authority to dismiss the three rangers. By the end of the month those three rangers were gone! Another lesson was that being an Assistant to the Forest Supervisor and doing all the book work meant he didn't get to the field much. Morrell told him he should have reported this to the District Forester. Lowell looked back on this inspection as valuable to him and the Forest Service.

John Lowell was upgraded to Supervisor of the Battlement Forest in 1912 with added responsibilities. To summarize, Supervisor Lowell worked with Mesa and Delta counties to determine what road extensions and improvements that should be made during the fiscal year. Roads needed to be improved from wagon road to automobile road from Bonham Reservoir to Cottonwood Lakes and to Alexander Lakes to the forest boundary on the Delta side. Each spring the Forest printed ads in local newspapers calling for grazing permit applications to be received by March 1, for grazing cattle and horses within the Battlement National Forest during grazing season. Applications were to be filed and paid for at Collbran Supervisor's

Office. Supervisor Lowell also made public wildlife reports on elk and deer numbers in the Forest.

When WWI broke out, Supervisor Lowell reports a list of healthy land responsibilities to determine

maximum livestock carrying capacity for wise use of Forest's range program. A few Rangers went with the Engineers to France, so the War provided an opportunity to replace them with new people for the better.

In 1919, Fred Morrell, who John Lowell considered "my oldest and best friend, superior and advisor" asked him to move to the Shoshone

National Forest headquartered in Cody, Wyoming. To improve forest administration he was instructed to get "rid of the old time trapper, cowboy and ignorant ranch hand element."

New challenges on the Shoshone were recreational use and greater cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Lowell found the same problems of land use as on the Battlement NF but with the added activity of fire prevention and timber sales.

In 1921, Fred Morrell asked him to transfer to Region One, Bitterroot National Forest as Supervisor. Early timber sales on the Bitterroot included Lick Creek which Lowell felt was one of the finest examples of timber management at that time.



Forest Supervisors Meeting, Missoula, Montana, March 1925.

Back row, from left to right: W. M. Nagel, M. F. Wolff, C. D. Simpson, K. Wolfe, R. T. Ferguson, Theodore Shoemaker, John W. Lowell, R. A. Phillips, Paul Redington, Lloyd Hornby, Dr. Carl Schenck, F. J. Jefferson, C. K. McHarg, W. J. Derrick, Glen A. Smith, J. C. Whitham, J. E. Ryan.

Middle row, from left to right: John Somers, John B. Taylor, Paul Al Wohlen, E. H. Myrick, A. H. Abbott, Elers Koch, G. E. Martin, Alva Simpson.

Front row, from left to right: W. B. Willey, Arthur M. Baum, Burr Clark, W. W. White, Ernest T. Wolf, Howard Flint, Fred Morrell.

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Before his retirement in 1935, he felt paperwork had multiplied and that funding for administering the National Forests had decreased. But also that as time went on the general public was more supportive and Congress became more liberal with appropriations.

In retirement Mr. Lowell and Mattie moved to a home on Hilda Street near the University of Montana. They were active in the Missoula Baptist Church. John was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of

Elks Club and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In June 1948, John and Mattie returned to Collbran for the 50th anniversary of the IOOF Lodge. At that time he and Ernest Kock of Grand Junction were the only living charter members.

John W. Lowell died August 22, 1951, at age 78. His grave is in the Missoula Cemetery. His wife, Mattie Louise, who died June 6, 1968, is buried next to him.

Note: John Lowell dedicated his story to: My best of friends, Elizabeth Flint and my old friend and chief, Gifford Pinchot. Gifford Pinchot is a legend in the Forest Service. The name Elizabeth Canfield Flint is more obscure. Her husband, Howard R. Flint, had a career in the Forest Service. He is known for his early work in establishing the Forest Service aerial depot. Elizabeth wrote a fictional book about his career, The Pine Tree Shield. Assumedly she helped John Lowell write his story.

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Connections

by Dave Steinke and Donna Ripley

Editor's note: This story of connections came to us from retiree Donna Ripley who saved a set of pine baskets that was given to her husband Bill Ripley when he was the Ranger on the Buckhorn-Poudre District. He was befriended by Helen and Alice Dickerson, sisters who lived their whole lives in Masonville, Colorado.

Aldo Leopold said: "There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other, and the relation of people to the land." Helen and Alice Dickerson would have interested Leopold.

Author and historian, Barbara Fleming, wrote extensively about local legends Alice and Helen Dickerson. The following is from an article she wrote in the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

They were sisters born at the beginning of the 20th century, who lived in a rustic and isolated cabin together for eighty years. The cabin was located between the Buckhorn Canyon and the Mummy mountain range, just northwest of Masonville and a few miles below Pennock Pass. The sisters lived in their cabin through the death of their grandparents, parents, and few surrounding neighbors. They rarely argued, never wanted to marry, and scoffed at those who wanted to modernize the canyon. "Living with nature means a lot of hard work," said Alice. "This is hard land to try to make a living from." But these women did. They sewed their own clothes, trapped animals, hauled logs down the mountains, survived snowstorms, ran cattle, and churned butter. Although Alice and Helen received minimal schooling they were very clever and creative women. Both of them spent the winters making crafts inside the cabin by gaslight. Helen weaved beautiful pine needle baskets, carved wood, designed jewelry, and created several other craft items

using the natural elements she found on the family homestead. Alice especially enjoyed painting; Helen sold her art and crafts at a store she started in the canyon.

They were born about a year apart, in 1910 and 1911, into the mountain life, and by choice they never left it. At age 4, Helen led a horse working to clear land for planting. This was no hardship to her; it was a normal part of both girls' childhood. Always, there was hard work to do, and they did it.

Their grandfather Sam Dickerson had come to Eaton at the urging of his uncle, Benjamin Eaton, former governor of Colorado, where Sam's son, Earl, was born. In Eaton Earl met Stella Foster, in Colorado seeking relief from asthma, and the two married.

Not long after their first child, Helen, was born, they moved to Buckhorn Canyon. The log cabin they lived in housed extended family - and the two sisters for all their long lives.

Since the cabin had no electricity or running water and was heated by a wood stove, mere survival took considerable time - chopping wood, drawing water, caring for livestock and more. The sisters knew no other way of life; only late in life did they acquire running water.



*From the Fort Collins Triangle Review November 14, 1991.
Alice 83 and Helen 81.*

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Just making a living was equally daunting. The family logged wood and sold fenceposts and poles made at their sawmill. After their father's death in 1942, the two women had a large order of bridge planks to fill for the Forest Service. Though small in stature, the sisters were large in courage and determination. They filled the order.

As children, they had attended school off and on in Masonville, but a massive flood in 1923 trapped the family in the canyon for two years while roads were rebuilt - at times they had only turnips to eat - so the rest of their education was in the school of hard knocks, as they liked to say. As adults, to make ends meet they sold crafts at a small stand: woven baskets, bolo ties, paintings and rag rugs.

Their long, lively lives were filled with much more than can be recounted here. After Helen's death in 1992, at age 82, Alice went on an African safari. She died in 1997, at age 86. Though their cabin is gone both women are canyon legends, well loved and long remembered.

For more information, contact history author Barbara Fleming at fcwriter@frii.com.

Bill Ripley corresponded with the Dickerson sisters for a long time after he retired and up to the death of both sisters.

The pine needle baskets were sold by Helen - many at the Golden Eagle gift store her father built just beyond the road. A quick internet search found a few "Dickerson Baskets" for sale and some on display in museums and small craft collections.

There is additional information on the internet about the Dickerson sisters and their remarkable life and in a great book by Elyse Deffke Bliss; "*Apples of the Mummy's Eye: The Dickerson Sisters.*"



This image is from the Fort Collins Archive (#H08376) and shows the store before it was moved. The building at left is where the Dickerson sisters and their mother would stay during the school year, since the Masonville school was the closest to their home, but too far to travel to each day. The middle building is the Masonville store. The Kitchens lived in the house on the far side.



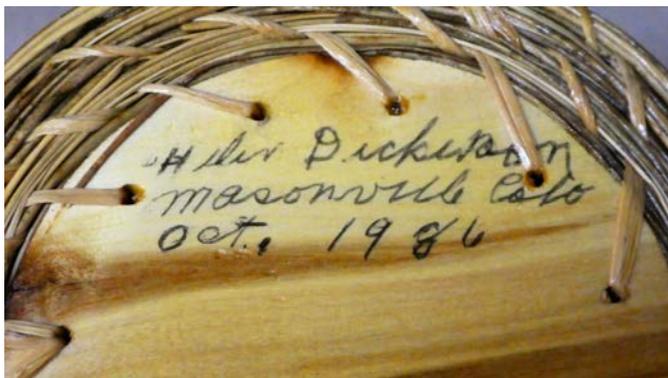
A 1991 note to Bill Ripley from Alice and Helen Dickerson.

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The five piece pine needle collection given to Bill Ripley by the Dickerson sisters.



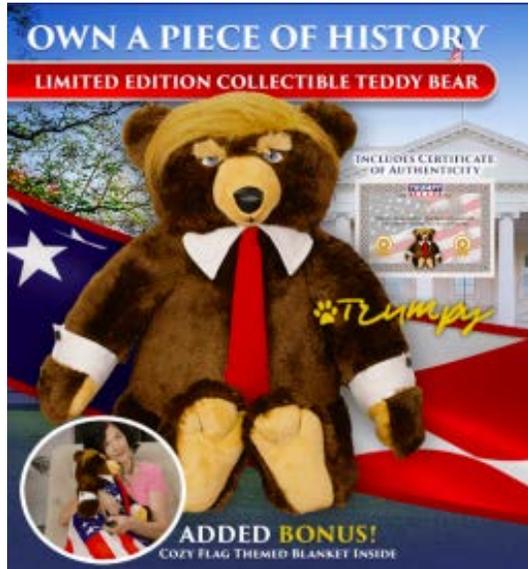
Helen Dickerson's signature, location and date written on the bottom of one of the pine needle baskets.

The five piece set of pine needle baskets, letters and notes from the Dickerson sisters and newspaper clippings and stories saved by Bill and Donna Ripley will be sent to the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula to be archived there. They will be catalogued, preserved and stored until featured in a display in the future.



Detail of the small basket with lid. Note the craftsmanship and attention to detail.

What's Funny?



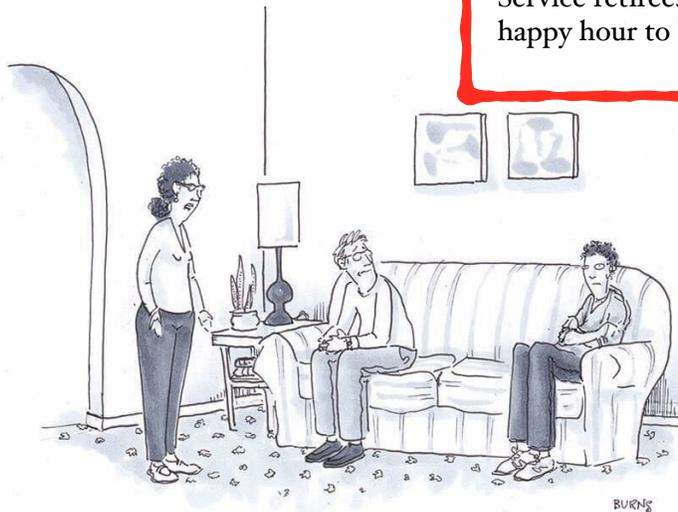
Does Smokey know about this?

“Happy Hour”

A lucky fellow named Frank from New York City won millions in a recent Powerball drawing and made a quick decision to abandon the city life for that of sun and sand in Florida.

Since money was no longer an issue, he wanted to do something nice for the people in the area. His plan was to build a bar, provide quality live entertainment, and charge just 10 cents for a drink or a beer. Needless to say the townspeople loved it and the place was packed every night. Frank spent most every afternoon and evening at the bar chatting with the patrons.

On one occasion a customer approached Frank and inquired about a large party in the back gathered around a big round table that did not appear to be drinking. Frank quickly pointed out to the person that the group he was referring to was a bunch of U.S. Forest Service retirees and they were just waiting for happy hour to begin.



“Listen, we KNOW your dream is to be a federal government employee, we’re just asking you to consider a career with more job security, like a street performer, or a poet.”

WRITER & ARTIST
TERESA BURNS PARKHURST



“That’s the Way I Remember it”

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



Sig Palm

Retired in 1999 after 38 years of federal service - followed by 20 more years supporting fire - 58 years of service

The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?

Sig Palm: I was born on Thanksgiving Day in 1942 in Denver, Colorado. When I was 2 weeks old, my Dad who was a Colorado Game Warden for 44 years was transferred to Fort Collins. That is where I lived until age 20. I grew up in a Colorado Game and Fish pickup which contributed to my interest in a natural resource career. My mom was a stay-at-home mom - she and my dad both grew up on ranches south of Hayden, Colorado - and I have one younger brother Stan, who lives with his wife in southern California.

TR: Where did you go to school and what did you study?

SP: I graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1960. I enrolled at Colorado State University for the fall quarter in 1960 intending to major in Wildlife Management. Two years later, I transferred to Utah State University. I returned to Colorado and Utah after military active duty stints, and USFS seasonal appointments. I graduated in 1970 with a B.S. in Forestry and Range Management and was converted to a forester position.

TR: Is Sig Palm really your name or just the one you use in Hollywood?

SP: I prefer to be called “Sig” which is short for Sigfrid George Palm. My first name is Norwegian and my last name is Swedish. The name Palm in Sweden is as common as Smith and Jones in America.

TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service?

SP: Early Rangers/Forest Supervisors I remember vividly were: Howard Stagelman, Joe O’Rourke, Bob Sullivan, Ed Mason, and Jim Wenban. These men

projected a very positive image of the Forest Service and encouraged me to pursue a career with this agency.

TR: Did you have a seasonal job with the Forest Service?

SP: My first summer job was on the Poudre District, Roosevelt NF. H.R. “Shorty” Hughes was the Ranger with Lee Shannon and Chuck Williams as Assistant Rangers. Jake Lowery was the General District Assistant. These men were all outstanding, exposing me to most functions of the Forest Service. I learned a lot that summer and really enjoyed it. The next two summers I was a member of the Roosevelt Hotshot Crew. After serving on that crew for 2 seasons, I wanted to broaden my experience. I moved into a recreational manager/timber sale administrator position on the Laramie River District, Roosevelt NF for the next three years.

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

SP: In 1967, I returned from US Army Active Duty, was newlywed and looking for a job. I hadn’t yet completed my college degree and decided to apply for the GS-5 Forestry Technician Roster. I was asked if I would be willing to come into the RO (R-2) to meet with John Watt in the R-2 Personnel section. He walked in with Bob Ridings, Supervisor of the Bighorn N.F. Bob told me about a Crew Leader job he needed to fill on the Forest to get the new Hot Shot Crew up and running. I accepted the job and was instructed to first report to the Forest Supervisor’s Office in Sheridan to meet the Forest Staff and then proceed over to ‘beautiful down town’ Greybull where I found the Paintrock District Office. Ranger Hank Bond told me how glad he was that I was there and I thought that kind of greeting was a good sign.

TR: Which other Forest/Regions did you work in during your career?

SP: I worked on five National Forests, three Regions, the Washington Office and lived in six states for a total of twelve moves over thirty six years.

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The Prescott, Gila, Tonto NF's and the R-3 Regional Office in Albuquerque, NM. - 1978 to 1986.

The Northeastern Area (State and Private Forestry – Cooperative Fire Protection) – 1986 to 1992.

I had several details to the National Headquarters in Washington Office (National Prevention Officer for 6 months, National Fire Training Officer and Emergency Planning with FEMA in development of the Federal Response Plan) – 1991 & 1992.

My last assignment in a National Headquarters Detached Unit at the San Dimas (CA) Technology and Development Center as Program Manager for Fire, Aviation and Fuels – 1992 to 1999.



Sig Palm - 1964. First USFS uniform.

TR: Tell us more about your career and the different jobs you held.

SP: I was a District Ranger on two Districts (Gila and Tonto NF's, R-3).

One Regional Office assignment (R-3) was in the Timber Management shop.

The State and Private Forestry assignment was in the Northeastern Area, as

Group Leader for Fire Prevention, Training, Safety, and Emergency Planning.

When I went to the

National Technology and Development Center in San Dimas, I thoroughly enjoyed this job and thinking back ... it has to be one of the best kept secrets in the Forest Service. I was not hired to be an inventor but rather to keep the inventors focused, on budget and on time. Many foreign countries (Canada, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan) utilized our specifications and standards as their specifications and merely attached our document to their procurement requisitions.

TR: Who were your early mentors that gave you good advice in your career?

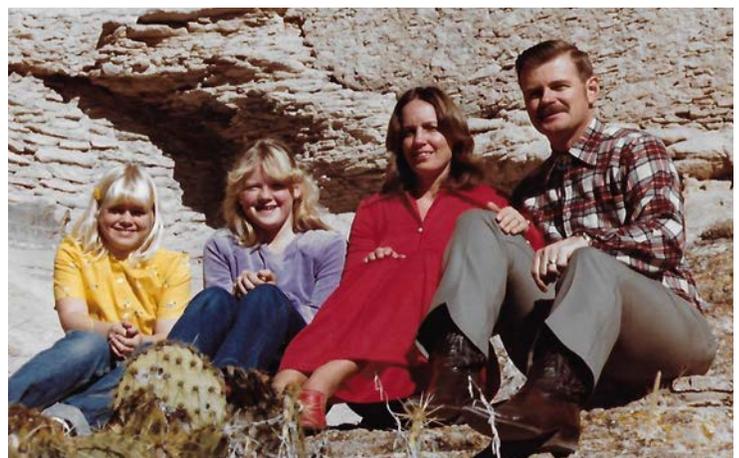
SP: There were many, but I need to mention these individuals – Jack Cameron, Hank Bond, Richard Greffenius, Bob Ridings, Ed Littlehales, Fred Fichtner, Chuck Simon and Tom Quinn.

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

SP: I can't say there were any negatives. I had the opportunity to work with many outstanding people as well work in many functional areas ... some unique ones like – Environmental Education Team Leader, and Liaison Officer to Girl Scout National Center West and their National Headquarters in NYC, Regional Cadre (R-2) for various fire training courses and civil rights. As District Ranger on the Gila NF, I concurrently managed the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument whereby 30% of my salary was paid by the National Park Service. I believe that this was the only agreement of its kind in either the Forest Service or the National Park Service. During my time in the Cooperative Fire Protection job, a new national prevention twist "Smokey and Sports" was building up as I was starting this job. Experiences happened here that I would have never dreamed of when I started my career ... I threw the "ceremonial first pitch" at several major league baseball games at places like Shea Stadium in New York, Fenway Park in Boston, and Camden Yard in Baltimore.

In addition to supporting fire management for 19 years after retirement, I worked part time for the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Parks and Wildlife) in their big game habitat partnership program.

Concurrently with a rewarding and enjoyable FS career, I spent 28 years in the US Army / Army National Guard / Army Reserve.



Daughters Diane, and Andrea, Judi and Sig at Gila Cliff Dwellings. Christmas picture, 1980.

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District Ranger Sig Palm - 1980.

TR: You had a long and amazing fire career. Tell us about it.

SP: My fire experience spans a wide array of levels and experiences from initial attack, weekend lookout duty, Fire Prevention Technician, Hotshot Crew Superintendent, District Fire Management Officer on up to Regional and National responsibilities.

While in R-2, I served in some key positions at the Type 1 & 2 levels under the leadership of Herm Ball, Tom Quinn and Chuck Simon.

While in R-3, I was on a Type 1 Incident Management Team as Planning Section Chief 1 under Incident Commander Don Webb.

When I was first employed, we were all expected to support fire needs in one way or another.

I worked my way up thru the the fire/incident management ranks beginning on the end of a Pulaski and rising upward to Crew Leader, Sector Boss, Division Boss, Operations Section Chief Type I (Line Boss), Planning Section Chief Type I, Type I Incident Commander, Area Commander, and Multi-Agency Coordination Group Leader (1989-Yellowstone era and Northern Rockies for 100 days, and again in 1990 in southern Arizona for about 26 days). Prior to retirement, I was assigned to more than 100 major fires.

I retired 1999 and figured I was done supporting any major fire activities.

That notion lasted until the coming spring when fire season was going in the Southwest, the Great Basin, and Northern Rockies. I spent another 19 years chasing fire all over the west in a variety of positions ranging from Public Affairs to Planning to Fire Prevention. In total, I had fire assignments in 22 states (within all 9 geographic areas) spanning 58 seasons.

TR: You were on the original Roosevelt Hot Shot Crew. When was that and what was it like?

SP: I was a "charter member" of the original Roosevelt crew working the 1962 and 1963 seasons. This was the original inter-regional (IR) crew stationed on the Roosevelt NF and was the first IR crew in Region 2. This crew moved to the Pike NF and became the Pike Hotshots.

I was an Assistant Squad Leader and Crew Safety Officer. We worked on fires in R-2 (Roosevelt, Medicine Bow, Routt, Arapaho, Shoshone and Pike



Fifty years later, Sig met up with the Wyoming Hotshots on a fire assignment less than 40 miles from where we were on our first out-of-region fire (Lolo NF).

NF's), R-4 (Boise and Bridger NF's), and R-5 (Cleveland, Angeles, and Sierra NF's). Glenn Scott was the Crew Foreman and I enjoyed working for him. His vocabulary could peel the paint off the wall, but he was a solid fireman and I learned a lot.

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

SP: The two most rewarding assignments were my first District Ranger job on the Gila NF (1979 to 1982) and the Program Manager at the National Technology and Development Center in San Dimas, CA (1992 to 1999) where I had the opportunity to serve as Center Manager for 6 months.

TR: You have an amazing voice. Have you ever been paid for narration or telephone answering machines?

SP: No, but I've been told that a few times. I have done radio and TV interviews as a fire PIO many times and was asked once if I'd be willing to narrate a video project.

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TR: Do you have a funny story or two you can share with us?

SP: One night, a few of the Gila heli-tack crew went to the circus in Las Cruces. When leaving they came past the elephant pens and observed a vast supply of the daily deposit. These were the size of mature cantalope. I imagine the crew gathered up a large washtub full of these. On the way back to the District, these lads left a pile of about four on the Forest Range Staff's front lawn. When I awoke, I was greeted with a like deposit on my front lawn. When I went down to the office, at the back door were a couple of piles. Our maintenance chief had previously worked for an agricultural research lab in eastern NM. When he saw this, he really got excited and mentioned to the Wilderness Supervisor that Rojo the mule must be sick and we better get a vet out there quick. Rojo was a great animal, but when anything happened it always seemed to happen to him. Our interpreter for the Cliff Dwellings came in the back door all decked out in her Class A uniform and high heels. She went over to one of the piles and kicked it with her foot and just shook her head. After a while, one of the Heli-Tack Crew came clean with the scam, we cancelled the vet, and we all had a great laugh!!!!

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

SP: It certainly isn't the same outfit that I joined almost 60 years ago, but I am still proud of my contribution to the mission of the agency. Currently, there are a lot of very outstanding folks in the agency who are motivated to do good things, but when the forester and range conservationist series seems to have diminished to achieve the new focused recruitment criteria, I believe we've missed something along the way.

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

SP: It is a different organization than when I began in 1961 but it is still a good outfit.

Firstly, loyalty means everything – RIDE FOR THE BRAND!

Keep Your Options Open, Work Hard, and Learn All You Can! Be flexible and consider mobility as it won't hurt either.

We moved twelve times over thirty-six plus years. At every location and experience we made many strong friendships and had wonderful experiences. It is always great to receive a card or letter or phone call from friends all around the country.

It isn't always a perfect world out there but roll with the occasional punches and you'll be better for it.

TR: What do you fill your free time with in retirement? Family/friends/hobbies.

SP: I would be remiss if I didn't mention my wife Judi Anne whom I've known for 54 years. We didn't get interested in each other until about a year after we first met but was a great courtship that started in the Laramie River Valley while I was managing the recreation program along with timber sale administration and Judi was the District Clerk. That engagement ring hadn't been on Judi's finger 24-hours before both the Ranger and the Forest Administrative Officer said

very directly "which one of you is going to resign" without even offering some options. Judi resigned

from her position a pay period ahead of our wedding. (This was long before the dual-career households which became vogue some 15 to 20 years later). I am ever grateful to her resilience with all the times I was gone on fire assignments and a dozen moves.



Sig and Smokey and Judi Palm in Asheville, NC at the National Reunion in 2018.

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Judi has been a genuine Forest Service wife thru thick and thin, and we've been married 51 ½ years. We raised two daughters who have college degrees and are successful in their lives even though they endured many moves with us up thru their high school years. They married good guys.

After retirement, we were able to spend almost twelve quality years with my Dad in Colorado before he passed away in 2012.

We have twelve Grand Children ranging in age from age 12 to 23 years. Their development is different for each one but a total joy. We have four Eagle Scouts so far and the remaining two boys are Life Scouts and well on their way up the Eagle Trail. Naturally Grandpa has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster, mentor, logistics support for their long-term

adventures and role model along the way. The six girls are well on their way too!

We enjoy fishing the streams in the Big Horn mountains a lot and have made it to Alaska several times.

We are working at spending our kid's inheritance by catching up on travel. About four years ago we were on a cruise to the Panama Canal. For our 50th, we went to Scandinavia last year, and in February we are headed to New Zealand and Australia.



A Cobo catch on the Tsiu River in southeast AK 2017.

NAFSR Report

by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative



As an organization, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees had a very productive and active year. Many of our goals and objectives for the year were accomplished. We worked with partners in making progress on the “fire transfer or borrowing” issue. We were involved and provided advice and input on the Farm Bill, process reform, and several other issues. We participated with multiple partners in support of numerous initiatives and legislative efforts. Most importantly, we had opportunity to work directly with the Secretary and Chief on

several issue and occasions. NAFSR provided the Secretary with a report that outlines a number of actions, initiatives, changes, and suggestions aimed at reducing the impact of unnecessary process and administrative requirements.

In addition, we provided input to the Administration following the most recent catastrophic fires in California that led to the recent Executive Order aimed at taking immediate action to reduce fuel loading in the urban interface. The E.O. signed December 21, 2018 entitled “Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk” provides great hope and should make a significant difference in the future of the National Forests.

The Board will be meeting in early February to outline our priorities and program of work for this year. If you are not a supporting member of NAFSR, we hope you will consider showing your support for the work we are doing by becoming a member. For more information about NAFSR or to see copies of our positions and reports, visit our website at www.nafsr.org.

Memorial Grove

May 4, 2019

by Tom Thompson



Memorial Grove in 1946

This year marks the 99th year that a tree will be planted at the Monument Memorial Grove site in honor of individuals who passed away this past year. We presently have twenty four potential honorees (see list below) and continue to check across the Region to make sure that we have not missed anyone who should be honored. This year's honor ceremony at Memorial Grove will be on Saturday May 4th and more details about this year's event at Monument will be sent out to families and Rocky Mountaineers in the next few weeks. If you know of any individual who is not listed who you believe should be considered as an honoree, please advise Tom Thompson as soon as possible.

This Rocky Mountain Region tradition gives us the opportunity to remember those who helped take care of the National Forests and Grasslands of this Region. The ceremony continues to be a very special time for family and friends to pause and reflect as we honor those who have left us this past year.

We will have a Memorial Grove workday a week before the Ceremony on April 26 to do maintenance and cleanup of the site. If you want to join in to help, mark that day on your calendar and more information and details will be shared later.

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2018 Potential Memorial Grove Honorees

Victor B. Atencio	San Juan N. F.
Ransom Burtis (Randy) Ball	San Juan N. F. Fleet and Shop
Rosemary Ann Bailey	Regional Office, Watershed
Frank Aubrey Bryant	Black Hills N. F., Surveying
Edward D. (Ted) Day	Routt, Roosevelt N. F.
Wayne J. Dunn, Jr.	Med. Bow, San Juan and Rio Grande N. F.s
Margaret M. (Meg) Esplin	Regional Office/Albuquerque Service Center
Arthur Frederick (Art) Fisher	Black Hills N. F. Radio Communications
Don Rossiter Fritch	San Juan, Black Hills, and R-4 on BT
Robert John (RB) Gallant	Arapaho-Roosevelt Sulphur R.D.
Richard Hill	Arapaho-Roosevelt Pawnee N.G.
Robert Paul (Jigger) Janes	Regional Office
A. J. (Jim) Lively	Pike San Isabel Cimarron Comanche Engineering
Robert O. (Bob) Moore	Black Hills N. F.
Larry Duane Mullen	Regional Office, Wildlife
William (Rip) Ripley III	R. O., White River., Roosevelt, Bl. Hills N.F.
Samuel Arthur (Sam) Scanga	San Juan, GMUG, Routt N. F.s
Thomas E. (Tom) Schessler	Regional Office, Minerals
Lee Ray Sutton, Sr.	Black Hills N. F.
Raymond Carl (Ray) Urbom	Routt, Arapaho, GMUG, Med. Bow N. F.
Joseph I. (Joe) Vanatta, Jr.	Bighorn N. F.
Marv VanderKolk	Pike San Isabel Cimarron Comanche N. F.s& N. Gs
E. C. (Chuck) Waggoner	White River N. F., PSICC/Salida
David Lee Wheeler	Regional Office, Black Hills

Remembering President Bush



July 3, 1991

President Bush visited Mount Rushmore to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the monument, which had never been officially dedicated. His visit kicked off a \$40 million fund drive to refurbish the monument. About 3,500 people attended the speech at the monument after Bush landed at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Actor Jimmy Stewart and other celebrities also attended. After a hike around Mount Rushmore, Bush fished at Horse Thief Lake before returning to the base and going to Missouri.

Left to right: Art Richardson, Paul Ruder, Denny Bschor, Steve Pischke, Phil James, Gene Charles, RF Gary Cargill, President Bush, Barbara Bush, Chief Dale Robertson, Ed Nesselroad, Frank Cross, Dean Burger, Doug Alexander, Linda Beckert, Gary Qualls, Stan Silva, Dave Steinke.

From Frank Cross, Custer District Ranger

I have many fond memories of that day but the most striking insight into the personality of President Bush and Barbara for me was their down to earth friendly nature. This is best exemplified by how they spent time that afternoon. They spent a lot of one-on-one time visiting with Art Richardson a seasonal tech on the Custer RD who was their fishing guide.

While all the bigger (political) fish were milling around Barbara and George were fishing and visiting with Art for the majority of the time that they were at Horsethief Lake.

After fishing and it was time to eat a burger the President chose to spend time and converse with the only two young families at the event. The Bushes had requested that a few families be allowed to attend the picnic at Horsethief Lake. President Bush must have spent 20 minutes with my wife Susan and my three kids talking about baseball, tennis and family. He chose to spend time with two young families even though the likes of George Michelson; Governor of SD, Tom Daschle; a US Senator, Dale Robertson; the USFS Chief, Manuel Lujan; the Secretary of Interior, Gary Cargill, the Regional Forester and other very important people were anxiously waiting for a minute of the Presidents' time. There is no doubt in my mind that President Bush and Barbara were really trying to make a connection with families and local South Dakotans.

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My family and I will never forget that day. I could go on about the security, how the campers at the Lake reacted to the visit, how many times the Lake was stocked with fish, how decisions were made regarding who was to attend the event, the hiking route, the fishing success, picture taking antics of Barbara Bush etc...

Even though it was a wonderful, awesome and unforgettable opportunity I was relieved when all the fanfare subsided and I could go back to work.



*From Dave Steinke,
Regional Office Public
Affairs*

They were so open and approachable and friendly. My favorite moment with the First Lady was when I complimented on her patriotic shoes, she thanked me for noticing and quickly told me that she had an identical pair of them back at home.



The Prez and Mrs. Bush were affable, engaging, and genuinely interested to interact with the Forest Service crew. One thing stands out for me. Look at the photo closely and you will see Mrs. Bush has chosen different colored shoes to celebrate Independence Day. It's a red, white, and blue thing! How cool!

*From Ed Nesselroad,
Regional Office Public
Affairs*

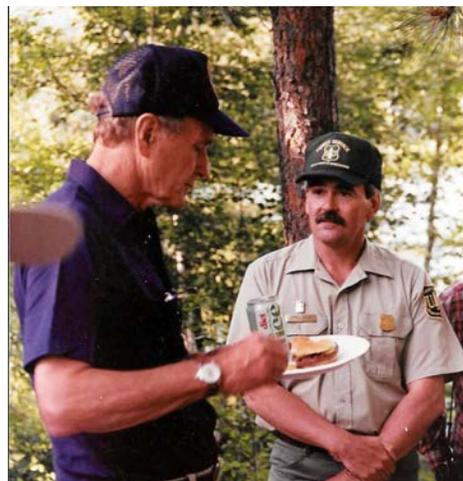
Our region was in charge of two national celebrations of the 100 year anniversary of the National Forest Reserves. The first was event was occurring on the Shoshone National Forest the same week as the presidential visit. I left Cody early to get to the Black Hills.

As soon as I arrived at Horse Thief Lake, Derrick Crandall met me with a book of South Dakota state fishing licenses. He said, "The President already has a license, but we need to make sure the others who want to fish have one. Would you sell them?" I hesitatingly said, "Yeah, never done it before but I guess so ." My first customer was Marlon Fitzwater, President Reagan and President Bush's press secretary. (There's more to that story, but I'll save that for later).

I also had the opportunity, unescorted, to take some of the centennial memorabilia to the presidential motor home. It was awesome.

I also reiterate what others have said about how personal and down-to-earth the Bushes were. That day was truly one of highlights in the public affairs chapter of my career.

*From Denny
Bschor,
Director,
Regional Office
Public Affairs*



President Bush dined with Denny Bschor.

Remembrances



Edward Douglas (Ted) Day

Edward Day died on June 29, 2018. He was born in Racine, Wisconsin to Jennings Bryan and Estella Day on December 6, 1930. He spent much of his early years in Missouri and attended University City High. After high school he worked on a ranch in Wyoming and his father's farm in Kentucky

before enlisting in the Navy. He served from 1950-1954 and sailed the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas aboard the USS Waccamaw and the USS Noxubee.

After returning home from service he met and married Sherlene Austin. They moved to Fort Collins in 1954 where Ted earned a BS in Forest Management from Colorado State University. He spent 25 years working for the Forest Service in Colorado on the Routt and Roosevelt N. F.s. Through those years he was blessed with four children Faith, Douglas, Michael and Diana. In 1973 his marriage ended. He met and married Susan Brown in 1983 and they later divorced in 1994. Ted retired from the Forest Service and returned to school.

After earning an MA in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, he spent many years researching and cooperating with Jeffrey L. Eighmy on the Southwestern Lore publication. In his later years and with the help of family and friends he built a cabin home in Cimarron, Colorado. Ted loved everything to do with nature and the forest, but he hated porcupines. He spent time writing and has self published many of his works. He was truly gifted in story-telling and his writings reflected his talent. Colorado wasn't his only love, for he divided his time between the mountains of Colorado and the deserts of Arizona during the winter months.

As his health began to fail, he returned home to Fort Collins to be near family. He is survived by three children Faith (Bob) Cofone of Arvada, Douglas Day, and Diana (Dan) Audette of Fort Collins. His three siblings survive him, Janet Lee of Indiana, Jay (Mary Dan) Day of Ohio, and Donna Jackson of Kentucky. He leaves behind six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



David Lee Wheeler

David Wheeler, 62, passed away Sunday, November 25, 2018 at Lincolnshire Place, Decatur, IL. He was born May 23, 1956 in Bloomington, IL to Charles L. & Dotty J. (Robertson) Wheeler and they survive.

David was a graduate of Macomb High School. He received his bachelor's degree in Forestry from the University of Illinois and then received his master's degree in Forestry from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

From there, he worked 33 years for the US Forest Service in forest and rangeland management and

thoroughly loved his job. He retired in 2012. David was a member of the New Hope Baptist Church, Tower Hill, IL. He was also an Eagle Scout and loved the outdoors, mountains, trees and camping.

He married Barbara Ruffner in 1985 and they later divorced.

Besides his parents, David is survived by his brothers: Richard (Deborah) Wheeler, Ramsey, IL and Michael (Ann) Wheeler, Cochabamba, Bolivia, South America; nieces & nephews: Nathanael (Grace) Wheeler, Anna (Joe) Hang, Caleb (Elizabeth) Wheeler and their daughter, Caralyn, Aubrie Wheeler, Christyanne Wheeler, and Amanda (Tim) Zimmerman.

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Remembrances

Arthur Frederick (Art) Fisher

Arthur Fisher died May 4, 2018, in Phoenix, Ariz. He was 96. Arthur was born on a farm near Storla, S.D., April 21, 1922, to Ida Luella (Fisher) Townsend and Frederick Holbrook Fisher. He lived and grew up in Keystone, S.D., and Monterrey, Calif. He was a big kid with a soft heart. He loved reading and sharing ideas. He especially liked the poems of Robert Service. He enjoyed many types of music, but especially country, Irish ballads and the Hawaiian steel guitar music of Marty Robins and Larry Byrd. He had a way with language and remained fascinated by non-English languages and clever turns of phrase and puns. His eyes twinkled with the promise of a big smile, a hearty laugh or a fun joke. He worked many jobs, including highway-aqueduct-ammunition depot-airbase construction, policeman, business owner and consultant. Two-way radio was Art's fun and work since he was a boy.

When he joined the Army, he wanted to work with radios. And he did, in the Signal Corps, which took

him to the island of Leyte, in the Philippines and to Halandia (now known as Papua), New Guinea. He most enjoyed owning and running a radio shop in Custer, S.D., and working 30 years for the Forest Service as a communication technician on the Medicine Bow N. F. and the Tonto N. F.

He met and married the love of his life, Evelyn Luella Hendrickson, in 1947, and they were happy and loving partners for almost 71 years. They began their life in Custer then migrated to Laramie, Wyo., for 19 years and Phoenix, Ariz., for 50 more.

Art is survived by his wife, Evelyn Hendrickson Fisher; children, Roy (Mari) Hendrickson and Diane (Greg) Walter; grandchildren, Jason (Erin) Hendrickson, Brenden Hendrickson, Rhea (Clint) Plaisted, Kate (Eric Velez) Acosta, and Kelly (Ryan Bren) McCleary; great-grandchildren, Justine (Austin) Wagner and Jiselle Plaisted; and great-great grandchildren, Zaiden Wagner and Aisley Wagner.



Raymond Carl (Ray) Urbom

Raymond Urbom, 92, of Laramie passed away December 30, 2018 in Laramie, WY. Ray was born in 1926 in Rockford, Illinois to Carl W. Urbom and Alberta I. (Mefford) Urbom, Ray served in the U.S. Navy During World War II from 1944 to 1946. He graduated from Utah State University in 1949

with a degree in Forest Management. He worked with the Forest Service for 35 years in Steamboat Springs, Idaho Springs, and Montrose, Colorado, retiring in July 1981 in Laramie, Wyoming with the Medicine Bow National Forest. He received numerous awards during

his time in forestry and taught his children much with frequent trips fishing, hiking and skiing in the mountains.

Ray was a member of the St. Matthews Episcopal Cathedral in Laramie, the Laramie Lions Club, Moose Lodge #390, Garden Club of Laramie, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

He is survived by his very close friend, Joyce Stoner, his six children Karen McLean, Barbara Zinkhan, Steven Urbom, David Urbom, Nancy Arnold and Beverly Toelle as well as three stepchildren Dee Gipson, Toby Bricker and Jami Roberts, multiple grandchildren and step grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly.

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Remembrances



Joseph I (Joe) Vanatta, Jr.

Joseph Vanatta, Jr. passed away November 20, 2018 at the age of 88 at his home on Ash Creek. He was born to Joseph I Vanatta, Sr. and Lillian Cook Vanatta in Newcastle, Wyoming on January 5, 1930.

At the age of three the family moved to Sheridan, Wyoming. Joe attended Custer, Central, Coffeen and Taylor schools. In 1941 when World War II started, the family loaded up an old International truck and headed to Spokane, WA, where Joe's dad was employed by the US Government at the Galena Air Force Base. Joe attended several schools during the war ending up at the John Rogers High School in the 9th Grade.

Joe returned to Wyoming in 1945 and helped a friend move to the Rice Ranch in Lodge Grass, MT, where he worked for John Rice until 1947. Once John Rice had purchased the Wrench Ranch in Sheridan, Joe continued to work for him during the summer until he graduated from Sheridan High School in 1949. He enlisted in the Air Force in September 1950. He was sent overseas to England for two years. While in the military he traveled to many countries, but in 1952 he was shipped back to the States and was stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, AZ, until discharged in 1954.

After military service, Joe returned to Sheridan and worked for the VA Hospital as a clerk, checking valuables. He was later transferred to the Bighorn

National Forest Service as a voucher clerk and from there went into engineering as an Engineering Technician. Joe married Phyllis Yvonne (Phillips) in Sheridan on March 1, 1956. They had three sons and later divorced. Joe left employment with the Big Horn National Forest Service in 1974.

On December 28, 1974, Joe married Linda (Buszkiewicz) in Sheridan. Together they went into the private business sector, first moving to Oregon, but ultimately returning to Sheridan. They eventually started their own business of selling and repairing RV's. In 1980 they moved to their home on Ash Creek, north of Sheridan. After many successful years, Joe retired in 1997, sold the business, and purchased some farm land near Parkman, WY, where he farmed hay and raised American Paint Horses.

Joe enjoyed being in the Big Horn Mountains; he hunted for elk and stream fished for trout. His other passions included going to auctions and collecting antiques. Joe was an animal lover and in his remaining years, had his faithful companion border collie, Tye, by his side. Joe was a life time member of both the Elks and American Legion.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Linda of 43 years; a sister, Phyllis Iddings of Sheridan; three sons: Joe, III (Sandra) of Phoenix, AZ; Hal of Bay Point, CA and Bret (Catalina) of Tucson, AZ; a niece, Tyra Williamson of Sheridan and three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Robert John (Bob) Gallant

Robert Gallant of Fraser, CO died on July 27, 2018. He was born on April 8, 1946 in Jackson County (Kansas City) Missouri to Pauline E. Wenger Gallant and Clair B. Gallant. He was active in church and Boy Scouts achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned multiple degrees

from Kansas State University and Missouri University.

Bob worked on the Sulphur Ranger District on the Arapaho Roosevelt N. F. for most all his Forest Service career. He was a member of the Society of American Foresters and was an avid Rockies fan. He enjoyed hiking and spending time in the forests of Grand County.

He is survived by his 100 yr. old mother, Pauline, of Sabetha, KS, his sister Patty McLaren of Houston, TX, and his brother William Gallant of Lotus, CA.

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Remembrances



Richard Hill

Richard Hill passed away in June of 2018 at the age of 67. Richard was a long-term seasonal (25 years) with the Forest Service, working in grassland ecosystems. Most all of his career was dedicated to service on the Pawnee National

Grassland. Richard was born in Waterloo, Ontario. He moved to Pennsylvania in 1978. He resided in Fort Collins, Colorado since 1986. With a degree from Colorado State University in Wildlife Biology, Richard pursued his passion for grassland ecosystem issues and the associated wildlife requiring these specialized habitats. Richard worked on the Pawnee for over 24 years. He also worked on the PSICC for one year and the Thunder Basin NG for three years. Richard said he thought the best part of the Grassland was the challenge of change.

“It is never the same year to year or even hour to hour – weather, people, infrastructure, are all in a constant state of flux.” Richard also loved the “allure of wanting to know what lies over the next hill or around the next bend – and standing on a ridge top and seeing forever in all directions with nothing overhead but blue sky. Looking up to watch a raptor soaring effortless overhead, a sudden lighting flash and clap of thunder, or even fog rolling across the prairie and

wind ruffling the grass.” Richard enjoyed working with the public. He was a great ambassador for the Grassland sharing his knowledge of the ecosystem, multiple resource uses, and mission of the Forest Service on this specialized landscape.

On the Pawnee NG, Richard primarily conducted surveys to monitor and determine status of sensitive species and species of special interest on the Grassland. Richard organized the logistics of conducting surveys, analyzed data and prepared summary reports. These annual surveys included raptor nesting, swift fox, leopard frog, burrowing owl, mountain plover, and mapping of prairie dog towns, among others. Some have provided unique long-term data sets for interpreting base lines and trends within the short-grass ecosystem. Richard also installed and maintained wildlife habitat improvements to mitigate resource issues, conserving important wildlife habitat. These include enclosures, tree cribs, guzzlers, raptor nesting platforms, prairie dog barriers, etc.

Richard’s other interests included hunting, fishing, photography, traveling, and enjoying the pleasures of life.

He is survived by his wife Maggie and their six children Heather, Lachlan, Robin, Katharine, Travis and Wyatt.



A. J. (Jim) Lively

Jim Lively died August 13, 2018, in Pueblo, CO. Jim was born in Halsey, NE on August 18, 1930. He attended the University of Nebraska and was in the U. S. Navy before coming to the Forest Service. He had various positions and assignments in his

forty years with the Forest Service, mostly on the Pike

San Isabel N. F. s and Cimarron Comanche N. G.s unit.

He loved animals, nature, organizing, and details. He was a member of the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Posse and served as a volunteer on the Pueblo Police Department. The family has many special memories of him. He was a kind, calm, and well grounded and on so many people’s favorite people list.

The Last Word

The Boots of Life

by Tom L. Thompson

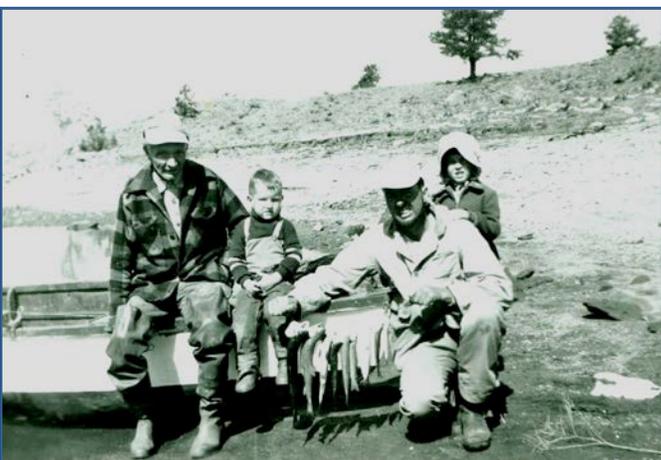
Much of our time with the Forest Service was spent outdoors on forests and grasslands, on trails, working on habitat and watershed improvements, doing

construction and maintenance of roads and campgrounds, building fire lines, or cruising timber stands. I am sure if you are like me, over the years you owned several pair of boots and there were a few that may have been very special to you.



Not too long ago as my two sisters and I were going through my mother's old cedar chest and came upon a

pair of my first boots. As you can see from the photo above, the toes are a bit worn. The leather has stiffened up over the last 70 years, but having them has softened my memory and caused me to think about what some of the adventures we must have had together when I was probably three or four. I know they were my first pair of boots and I know I spent a lot of time outside because that is where boots belong. As you can see from the photo below, I always



seemed to have a pair of boots on just like my granddad and my dad did when we were fishing at DeWeese Reservoir near Westcliffe, Colorado.



Over the years there have been many pairs of boots. As I have thought about the boots I have had, it has occurred to me that my boots have done much of all the real exciting stuff I've ever done. Collectively they have been pretty much gone everywhere I have been, with the exception of maybe Capitol Hill and church.

During my years at Colorado State University I wore a pair of Danner hiking boots and used them for work at the Hidden Valley Ski area in Rocky Mountain Park, for field trips, field events, snowshoeing, and for just about everything I did. As my career with the Forest Service began in Alaska it didn't take long for a pair of traditional XtraTuf red rubber boots to become the

daily footwear. As you can see in the photo to the left, Kitty also had to have a pair as she adjusted to the weather of SE Alaska.



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Boots are much like good friends. If you treat them well and take good care of them they will be there for you. Don't ask them to do things that they shouldn't, like jump too far from that log or rock to another, or keep your feet dry when crossing a stream three or four inches deeper than your boots are tall. Boots

are made for different reasons and my life was enriched by having the opportunity to benefit from the utility, craftsmanship, and quality of many different pairs of boots.

The red rubber boots in Alaska didn't do well on climbs or trips to the Juneau icefield with "crampons" so I by chance was able to purchase a pair of German Hockland leather mountaineering



boots that I also used for many years. After moving to Oregon and the big timber country, I had a very special pair of Westco logger boots that helped me in my "work in the woods". I spent a fair amount of

time as a scout leader for the boy's troop and so I had a couple pair of Vasque hiking boots that helped me keep up with the troop.

Then came my move to the Rocky Mountain Region when it



was apparent that in addition to hiking boots it was time to transition back to the western country lifestyle, the grasslands, the wilderness horse trips, so Tony Lamas became my brand for much of my boot time.



Oh yes, there were various kinds of other shoes, sandals, and even slippers, but I don't have the same feelings for them ...they didn't share the same experiences as the boots. They had rather mundane times....classes, meetings, walks around the block, days in the office, trips to the store, and such.

Whereas, the boots had been with me on slopes of the Rockies, the coastline and ice fields of Alaska,

the forests of Oregon, on my first and last fourteener, all my elk hunts, treks over places like the Chilkoot pass, rides in places like the South San Juans, the Flattops, and the North Fork of the Shoshone, hikes, in the woods, on the fire line, on the trout stream, and on the ski slope.



So what about now... well, my favorite boots now are a pair of Merrell's that are super cushy and give support to my ankles as I sit at my computer or work in the garden or crank up the snow blower when we're lucky enough to get a bit of snow.

I hope that my musings about "the boots of my life" may cause you to reflect a bit about not only the special boots of your life, but more importantly some of the experiences that they were a part of with you. For our next edition please consider sharing a memory or two of your favorite pair of boots.