



# The Rendezvous

*The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association*

*Volume 7 - Number 3*

## John McGuire Award

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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.*



The National Association of Forest Service Retirees has announced the presentation of their prestigious John R. McGuire Award to the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

The award is to be presented to the District in recognition of the their sustained commitment and dedicated support of the Rocky Mountain Region's Memorial Grove which was established a hundred years ago in 1920 near Monument, Colorado on what was then the Monument Tree Nursery.

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The retiree association presents the McGuire award to current outstanding employees of the Forest Service who exemplify the actions, traditions, and spirit of John R. McGuire, who was the 10th Chief of the agency from 1972-1979.

The District's continuous support of the Region's tradition of honoring employees who have passed away in each successive year is an outstanding example of the dedication of Forest Service employees across the nation.

The award will be presented to the district at an appropriate time in the early spring of 2021.

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### **John R. McGuire Award Information**

“Perhaps the greatest challenge facing forestry today is the calendar namely the arrival of the 21st century. My question is, will American forestry be ready to meet the 21st century?”

— John R. McGuire 10th Chief of the Forest Service, 1972-1979

The quotation above by former Chief John McGuire was quite prophetic as he looked into the future while expressing his concerns about American forestry as the profession prepared to enter the 21st Century. Chief McGuire was a man for his time and his rich legacy of accomplishments is well documented.

His strongest quality was his exceptional leadership. Given this background, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) established the John R. McGuire Award to honor him in recognizing current outstanding employees of the U.S. Forest Service who exemplify the actions, traditions and spirit of John R. McGuire.

The John R. McGuire Award is presented by NAFSR, as former agency employees who lend expertise and experience in the management of national forests by providing non-ideological perspectives.

The Award is intended to recognize Forest Service personnel who have met the challenges facing the profession in the 21st century as envisioned by Chief McGuire. Members of NAFSR clearly understand that those individuals or groups that have found a way through the endless process dilemma faced under 21st Century conditions should be recognized for their excellence. The Award is one of the most prestigious of all Forest Service awards.

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## John R. McGuire Award Winners

### Seven Winners from Region 2

**Seven individuals or units from the Rocky Mountain Region have received the John R. McGuire Award since its establishment by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees in 2003. Those recipients and their recognition are listed below.**

#### **Year: 2003**

Presented to: Floyd Reed and Dave Bradford, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison N.F.

**Citation:** For extraordinary accomplishments in carrying out the statutory mission of the U.S. Forest Service by implementing an educational program for sound range management for multiple use benefits. This cooperative effort, meeting the needs of diverse interest groups has received strong public support and resulted in improved range, forest, wildlife and watershed conditions.

#### **Year: 2005**

Presented to: Richard Bennin, Minerals Specialist, Cimarron National Grassland, Pike-San Isabel N.F.

**Citation:** For outstanding administration of oil and gas leases, including associated roads, pipelines and power facilities; for efficient and accurate conversion of mineral rights from private landowners to the U.S. as officially provided; and for developing innovative technical and administrative methods of detection, mitigation and disposal of large quantities of saline water.

#### **Year: 2005**

Presented to: Joe Hartman, District Ranger, Cimarron National Grassland, Pike-San Isabel N. F.

**Citation:** For outstanding accomplishments in facilitating extraction of oil and gas while providing protection of wildlife habitat, riparian values and cultural resources; for coordinating with surface resources and striking a delicate balance of resource utilization to meet objectives of multiple use and sustained yield.

#### **Year: 2011**

Presented to: Craig Bobzien, Forest Supervisor, Black Hills National Forest

**Citation:** For exceptional managerial and professional skills and extraordinary effort in leading the Black Hills N. F. to exceed expectations and specific multiple use goals, established in concert with diverse partners and the public, and for a unique personal touch and leadership in maintaining high morale and motivation among Forest employees.

#### **Year: 2017**

Presented posthumously to: Brett Beasley, Recreation Specialist, Salida Ranger District, Pike San Isabel National Forests

**Citation:** Brett dedicated his life to getting things done on the ground by working with the public with his special enthusiasm, energy, and purpose. The award is presented for his exceptional professional and public involvement skills and his extraordinary effort in leading the recreation programs.

Brett and his work were greatly appreciated by the community and the people he worked with in the agency. With deep gratitude we honor Brett for his service and dedication to the outfit.

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### Year: 2020

Presented to: Pikes Peak Ranger District, Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

**Citation:** The award is to be presented to the District in recognition of the their sustained commitment and dedicated support of the Rocky Mountain Region's Memorial Grove which was established a hundred years ago in 1920 near Monument, CO on what was then the Monument Tree Nursery.

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The District's continuous support of the Region's tradition of honoring employees who have passed away in each successive year is an outstanding example of the dedication of Forest Service employees across the nation.

## Your Area Representatives

Area Representative

**Jim ThinDenvernes**, Littleton, CO

Northern Front Range and Southeastern

Wyoming Area Representative

**Mike Foley**, Fort Collins, CO

Southern Front Range and Kansas Area  
Representative

**Barb Timock**, Pueblo

Western Colorado Area Representative

**Bob Sieger**, Durango, CO

Wyoming Area Representative

**Bill Bass**, Sheridan, WY

South Dakota/Nebraska

**Craig Bobzien**, Custer, SD

NAFSR Representative

**Tom Thompson**, Littleton, CO

NMFSH Representative

**Tom Thompson**, Littleton, CO

Liaison for Region 2 (not retired yet)

**Jace Ratzlaff**, Golden, CO

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## Hello From Your Chair



*Bob Sprintall - Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers*

First, my thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by natural disasters at this time. The photos and stories shared by the evening news likely fall short of capturing the horror people are experiencing. We are even feeling the effects of those fires in our region with poor air quality from the smoke. The ash and smoke are rather formidable. Like many of you, we have friends and relatives in affected areas and they are letting us know of the damage caused by the fires. I am especially concerned about our first responders to the fires.

Second, it has been the decision of the Board to retain the current Chair, Chair elect, and Past Chair for another year due to the COVID-19 situation since we were not able to implement or attend events in 2020. It has been a challenging year and thank you and the Board for allowing us to hopefully keep this organization moving forward.

Last, I would like to give you my perspective on things to come. Many of us live in areas where we are fortunate to enjoy being outside and engaging in activities such as hiking, biking, boating, or golfing. For many others, such freedom is not easy to find. One thing I have noticed in our limited travels is that there is a newly-discovered demand on our natural resources. The parking lots are full at trailheads, whether it is on National Forests, National Parks or State/Local Parks. More and more people want to get out to avoid large groups. Campgrounds are overflowing and recreation sites are almost overrun. This is putting pressure on managing agencies to maintain these areas so people can enjoy the natural environment. The National Forests are being discovered and valued for what they can provide.

I am so proud to know that we/you played a part in providing those opportunities!

With what these areas can provide, I think we will see a larger demand for outdoor experiences such as hiking, biking, and camping. The public has shown they want these opportunities. This is going to put more pressure on land management agencies to provide and maintain those sites. The question is are they prepared to do so? How can you or we as the Rocky Mountaineers provide assistance where needed? We have a lot of knowledge that can be shared with these agencies along with skills. Let's not be afraid to offer our skill base. I am proud of what was accomplished in the past from our members so let's build on that for our future.

Stay well, and get outside and enjoy those resources which you helped to make available!



*Autumn Grennier with the White River NF speaks with visitors who were waiting in line to get into the Hanging Lake parking lot during the 2016 summer. -- Glenwood Springs Post*



# Membership and Finance Report

- Ellen and Johnny Hodges

**Our membership is currently 444 members. We have yet to reach the 450-member level.**

**Help us recruit a few more members!**

## Our newest members

Sue Kinzer – Florence, CO

John and Jenifer Oien – Grand Junction, CO

Bonnie and Tom Schramel – Whitewood, SD

Mark and Janet Varhus – Salida, CO

We are establishing new categories for donations to our Memorial Grove and Scholarship Funds.

These categories are:

**Friend** - Less than \$50

**Patron** - \$50 to \$199

**Sponsor** - \$200 and above

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

We always appreciate donations to support our funds for Memorial Grove and Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships. You can make a donation at any time during the year.

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

The **Scholarship** fund is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. For the first time, we awarded four \$1,500 scholarships in 2020. Our goal is to continue that level of support next year.

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## Did You Know?

**Each scholarship award is currently \$1,500. We have awarded a total of \$21,000 to deserving students sponsored and supported by our members.**

**2015** – Erin Glankler, Cleves, OH

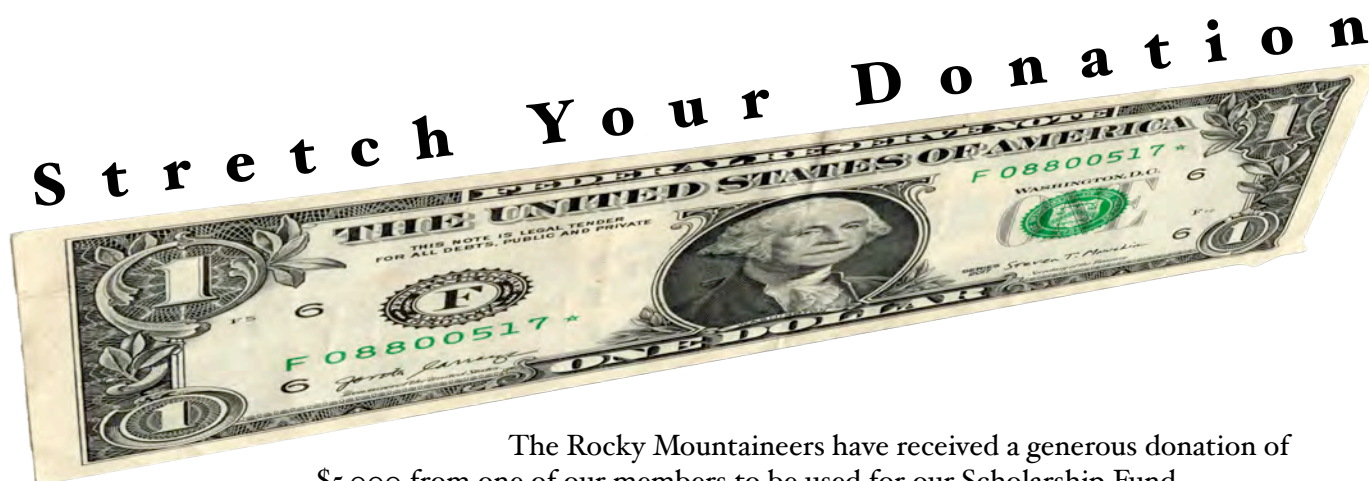
**2016** – Abigail Hogan, Powell, WY  
Anna Huckabee, Boulder, CO

**2017** – Delaney Khung, Pagosa Springs, CO  
Wyatt Clark, Monte Vista, CO

**2018** – Sadie Hogan, Powell, WY  
Zachary Barry, Silt, CO

**2019** – Truman Anarella, Yampa, CO  
Brooke Beasley – Salida, CO  
Taylor Lind – Worland, WY

**2020** – Karlee Nielsen, Meeker, CO  
Dawn Russell, Gypsum, CO  
Matthew Mettler, Colorado Springs, CO  
Casen Allmon – Cortez, CO



The Rocky Mountaineers have received a generous donation of \$5,000 from one of our members to be used for our Scholarship Fund.

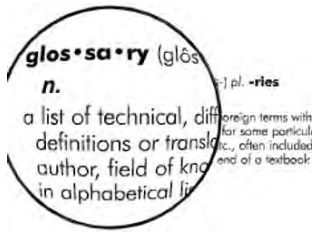
The terms of this donation are that it be used to match future donations from our members on a dollar for dollar basis.

Donations from new donors will be matched dollar for dollar. For example, if you donate \$100 for the first time, with the match, your total donation will be \$200.

Donations from previous donors will be dollar for dollar based on the increase from their previous donation. For example, if you previously donated \$100, and you donate \$200 in 2021, the dollar match will be based on your increased donation of \$100, resulting in a total donation of \$300.

Any Scholarship donations received after October 1, 2020 will be eligible for matching funds.

We always appreciate donations to support our funds for Memorial Grove and Rocky Mountaineer Scholarships. You can make a donation at any time during the year.



# A Glossary

## Both New and Old School

**Editor's Note:** This is part three of a "real" U.S. Forest Service Employee's Glossary. The genesis of this little project was over cocktails with Mike daLuz in a bar overlooking Washington, D.C. a number of years ago. He believed this would be a way to transfer that "old-timer" knowledge to the youngsters in the outfit and shortcut their transition time. Please

take a peek and send suggestions to the Rendezvous about acronyms and jargon you used during your time in the outfit. We gladly accept edits, comments, corrections and even notes to us on a speed memo. When we're done, we'll share Mikey's vision with the workin' folks at the USFS.

## K.

### Kicker:

As in "cargo kicker." Airplanes loaded with cargo are flown into areas accessible only by air, and cargo is then "kicked" out the door and dropped or parachuted to locations on the ground.

### Kiosk:

A small, open or glass enclosed booth or building such as the fee-collection and information booth at a forest entrance station.

### Knot bumper:

Slang for a sawyer

### KSA:

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

### KV:

Knutsen-Vandenburg (Act)

### Logs Chief:

The person in charge of Logistics on an incident.

### Lookout:

A person designated to detect and report fires from a vantage point. Or the building - a lookout station.

### LT:

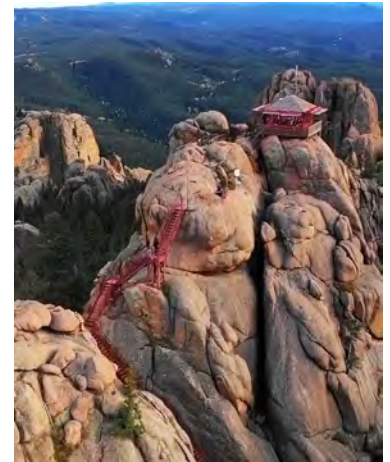
Leadership Team

### LWCF:

Land and Water Conservation Fund

### LWOP:

Leave With Out Pay



Devil's Head Lookout Tower - Pike National Forest.

## L.

### Ladder Fuel:

Vegetation located below the crown level of forest trees, which can carry fire from the forest floor to tree crowns. Ladder fuels may be low growing tree branches, shrubs, or smaller trees.

### LSC:

Lakewood Service Center

### LEI:

Law Enforcement and Investigation Staff Unit

### LEO:

Law Enforcement Officer

### Litter:

The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface, which is essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetation material such as stems, leaves, twigs, and fruits. Also according to Woodsy Owl - trash.

## M.

### M:

Thousand

### Manual:

The Forest Service Manual and Handbooks are internal agency guidance designed to assist employees in carrying out their duties under the laws and regulations.

### M&IE:

Meals and Incidental Expenses

### MBF:

Thousand Board Feet

### Med-Bow Routt:

The Medicine Bow and Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland

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*(continued from Page 8)***Glossary continued****Meetings:**

Where minutes are taken and hours are lost.

**MIST:**

Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics. A set of guidelines prescribing safety, fire line procedures, tools, and equipment that has the least impact on the environment during suppression and mop-up phases of fire

**MUSYA:**

Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act

**MVA:**

Motor Vehicle Accident

**N.****NEPA:**

National Environmental Policy Act

**NF:**

National Forest

**NFC:**

National Finance Center

**NFMA:**

National Forest Management Act

**NFS:**

National Forest System

**NICHE:**

A place or activity for which a thing is best fitted.

**NIFC:**

National Interagency Fire Center (old school) – formerly BIFC – Boise Interagency Fire Center

**NICC:**

The National Interagency Coordination Center is the focal point for coordinating the mobilization of resources for wildland fire and other incidents throughout the United States.

**NLT:**

National Leadership Team

**NOAA:**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NPS:**

National Park Service – Interior Department

**NWCG:**

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group

**O.****OGC:**

Office of General Counsel

**Old Growth:**

Refers to a patch or stand condition, not individual trees. However, old trees can occur in smaller or larger spatial configurations, namely tree groups or patches, and forests or landscapes that may also be termed old growth....or a disparaging term for employees who stay too long in their job.

**OPM:**

Office of Personnel Management

**P.****Parkie:**

A loving term for National Park Service employees.

**P-Code:**

Fire accounting slang

**Pebble Count:**

A method that hydrologists use to study streams. They reach down and pick up the first grain touched.

Diameter is measured for the average dimension and recorded.

**PEER:**

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

**Permittee:**

Any holder of a permit from the U.S. Forest Service. The term "permittee" is seldom if ever applied to the holder of a motor vehicle or trailer permit, who is more aptly termed a "visitor."



*Performing a pebble count - Gallatin River Task Force.*

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## Glossary continued

**Pickle Suit:**

Humorous name for the Forest Service uniform

**Piker Bell:**

The Pike and San Isabel National Forests

**PII:**

Personally Identifiable Information


**Pine Cone Club:**

The Forest Service wives club in the 70s and 80s in Denver, CO.

**PR:**

Physical Resources Staff Unit

**Prescribed Fire:**

Prescribed fire is any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. Prescribed fire is intended to mimic natural fire regimes.

**Primitive Area**

Any of a number of tracts within the National Forests, set aside for preservation in natural condition; no alteration or development, beyond measures for fire prevention, being permitted.

**PSICC:**

Pike and San Isabel and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands

**Pulaksi:**

The firefighter tool of choice named after Big Ed



Pulaski. He is widely credited for the invention of the Pulaski in 1911. A combination hand tool with a mattock for digging or grubbing on one side and an axe for chopping on the other.



*Ed Pulaski outside the tunnel where he led his men to safety during the Big Burn in August of 1910 near Wallace, Idaho.*

**Pumpkin:**

A big orange colored water container that helicopters dip water out of on a fire.



*A Pumpkin Tank is the standard in helicopter bucketing operations. The Pumpkin Tank also serves as a portable water reservoir for fire departments and forest fire control agencies.*

**Public Relations:**

Arguably the most important part of the Forest Service. The state of mutual esteem, interest, cooperation, and friendship existing between the public and the Forest Service.

## Q.

**Quad:**

A "quadrangle" is a topographic map produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) covering the United States. The maps are usually named after local physiographic features.

**Quality Class:**

Annual change in volume of live sawtimber trees plus total volume of trees reaching sawtimber size, minus volume losses resulting from natural causes.

**Quality of Life:**

Refers to the satisfaction people feel for the places where they live (or may visit) and for the places they occupy as part of that experience.

**Quartersawn Lumber:**

Another term for edge-grained lumber.

**QSI:**

Quality Step Increase

*(continued in the next edition of the Rendezvous)*

## Wildlife in Middle Park, Colorado

by Dan Nolan

*"He spent the winter of 1867-68 in Middle Park, Colorado ... and succeeded in killing three grizzlies, two mountain lions, and a large number of elk, deer, sheep, wolves, beavers and many other animals."*

The above is one of the earliest reports of wildlife in Middle Park Colorado. It comes from John Wesley Powell in his book ***The Exploration of the Colorado River and its Canyons*** where he describes Hot Sulphur Springs trading post owner Jack Sumner who accompanied him on their 1869 trip through the Grand Canyon.

Forest Service wildlife reports for Middle Park date back at least to 1913. At the end of each year, rangers and forest supervisors of the Arapaho National Forest were required to submit a report on the status of wildlife in their districts and forests. Thanks to the diligence of Sulphur Ranger District wildlife biologist Doreen Sumerlin and her predecessors, those original reports dating from 1913 to 1939 have been retained and protected. They were scanned by the Grand County Historical Association and added to the permanent collection of historic documents in the Pioneer Village Museum in Hot Sulphur Springs.

These reports provide fascinating insight into the perceived issues and approach to wildlife management practiced by wildlife managers in previous decades as contrasted with wildlife management today.

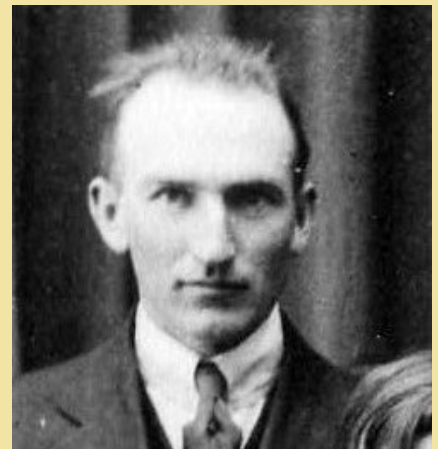
In the early days of the Forest Service and state wildlife agencies the focus was on providing game for hunters – elk, deer, grouse – and removing any predators perceived to be a threat to those species and to ranchers' livestock. The following excerpts from these reports exemplify this approach, as well as the personalities of some of the authors.

### **Wolves** - October 29, 1913

"Only three wolves have been reported on the Forest .... An especial effort will be made by the Forest Hunter to exterminate these three and it is hoped that losses to the stockmen in North Park from this source will cease. Wolves are on the decrease and it is felt that the total extermination will occur within a few years."

- October 23, 1914

"Only one wolf is now reported – the famous "Three Toes" upon whose head an enormous bounty is placed. Being a male, no increase will result unless he finds a mate. The loss from this one wolf is enormous, one cattleman losing last winter eleven head of blooded stock valued at \$1,000 or more. Although very wise, the end will come and it will be a pleasure to report his death."



*Alva Simpson, Forest Supervisor*

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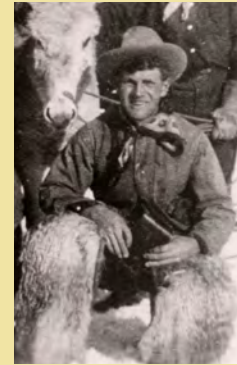
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**Lynx** - October 12, 1914 Horseshoe Ranger Station Scholl, Colorado

"There are a few lynx on the district. Gus Champier told me that he trapped three last winter. One was seen this fall near the head of Lost Creek and I also saw tracks in the snow last week where three had gone along the Williams Peak trail where it crosses Lost Creek."



*Mountain Lion Hunter*



*Lewis G. Davis  
Assistant Forest Ranger*

**Magpies** - November 13, 1917 - Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado

"Another menace to them [grouse] and to all song birds is the magpie. In June of this year I noticed four magpies drive a grouse hen from her nest then peck and eat the eggs. If the coyotes and magpies could be exterminated it would help to increase game birds of all kinds. Magpies, hawks, and eagles should be killed whenever the chance comes."

— *Forest Ranger, (No name listed)*

**Bears** - October 13, 1915 - School, Colorado

"The bear are getting to be quite a common thing in this part of the country. I have seen four myself this year, 1 black and 3 brown, besides those trapped by Almirall and his hired help. They got 2, 1 black and 1 brown. Will Darling also trapped a silver tip last spring in Darling Creek. Henry Wilson roped a small brown bear last week and he has seen several on the Muddy while riding for cattle this summer."

— *Lewis G. Davis, Asst. Forest Ranger*

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**Coyotes** - October 15, 1915 - Hot Sulphur Springs, Colorado

"A substantial bounty should be placed on coyotes. As it is now, everyone kills them when the opportunity occurs, but a substantial bounty would make it worthwhile for a man to carry a gun on his saddle always, thus being prepared to kill them at all times. The extermination of this, our most destructive predatory animal, would soon result in a great increase of game."

— Bertram A. Goodman, Asst. Forest Ranger



*Coyote Hunters*



*Successful fishermen, Monarch Lake, 1909*

**Fish** - October 23, 1914

"All the streams have been stocked in the past but even with the heavy stocking most of the streams are fished out. This is the direct result of the tourist industry and the continuance of the industry requires the constant stocking of the streams."

— Alva Simpson, Forest Supervisor

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## Game Wardens

As is the case today, the State of Colorado is responsible for managing the wildlife while the Forest Service is responsible for managing the habitat on national forests. Apparently, there were issues!

- October 29, 1913

"Effective game protection cannot be had under the present system of enforcement of the law. ...The average settler is in favor of game protection, but will not exert himself to see that protection is given when the men paid by the State to protect the game show no other interest than to draw their salaries: I understand that in the City of Denver there are five paid, year-long game wardens. It is obvious that game animals will not be found in the City unless they appear on the table at a banquet."

— *Alva Simpson, Forest Supervisor*

- October 15, 1913

"The present game laws in my opinion do not protect the game. A person can go in almost any portion of the state and ask for the game warden either deputy or special, and nine cases out of ten if you should ask him the road to some place off the main travelled road, he does not know, he has never been off the main road."

— *W. M. Leaby, Asst. Forest Ranger*

- October 23, 1914

"A yearlong Game Warden has been appointed but his effectiveness is in doubt. Take fifty years, 200 pounds and a 650-pound buckskin pony and you have our representative of the Game Laws. What is needed is a young live man used to the trails and forest byways—endured to the hardships—and with Civil Service standing and a chance for promotion ahead of him. Then our law would be respected, not as a bound volume for winter reading but through the arm as typified by its successful enforcement."

— *Alva Simpson, Forest Supervisor*



*Forest Service wildlife biologist Brock McCormick and Doreen Sumerlin examine endangered boreal toads.*

Today, due to requirements of important laws such as the 1973 Endangered Species Act and the 1976 National Forest Management Act, the Forest Service and other land management agencies recognize the value of all wildlife, fish and plant species and work cooperatively to carry out management practices to sustain them.

# NAFSR Report

*by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSR representative*



It has been a busy summer for NAFSR as we continue to work on a number of issues nationally involving workforce capacity, environmental analysis and decision making, regulation reform, and reforestation. We worked behind the scenes to do all we could to ensure the Forest Service was included in the funding provided by passage of The Great American Outdoors Act in early August. Our “fire committee” continues to work closely with the agency in offering our counsel and addressing concerns. We have participated in several virtual meetings with the Chief and her staff to discuss and follow-up on issues of concern. Our focus is on national issues and do all we can to ensure that we are working in a positive way to recognize emerging and troublesome issues facing the agency where we believe our involvement can help.

In August NAFSR announced the presentation of a John R. McGuire Award to the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the Pike San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron Comanche National Grasslands for their sustained support of the Rocky Mountain Region’s Memorial Grove over the last hundred years. We have decided to wait until spring to present the award. At present Jim Caswell, Chair of the NAFSR Board, and Acting Regional Forester, Jennifer Eberlien plan to present the Award to the District at the Memorial Grove as part of the Annual Work Day in April. This is the seventh time that a Region 2 unit or individual has been recognized with this prestigious award since its creation in 2003.

## Some Legislation that NAFSR is currently working on

The [Great American Outdoors Act](#) was signed by the President on August 4, 2020. It fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Forest Service will share 15% of the funding. The FS share is estimated at \$285 million annually. The current FS infrastructure backlog is \$5.2 billion.

The [REPLANT Act](#) would remove the cap on the Reforestation Trust Fund. The Forest Service currently receives \$30 million annually from this fund which has remained the same for the last 40 years. Monies are generated from imported wood products and lumber tariffs. The 10-year annual average amount of tariffs collected on those products is nearly \$124 million per year (\$309 million in 2019). The funds would be used for reforestation which has a backlog of \$1.8 billion. This bill has bi-partisan support.

The [H.R. 5859, the Trillion Trees Act](#) was introduced by Congressman Westerman on February 12, 2020. Its goal is to plant 1 trillion trees world wide.

# National Museum of Forest Service History



There is a lot happening with the Museum. We continue to work aggressively on our capital campaign even though the pandemic has certainly impacted or complicated fund raising. Since last fall we have received donations totaling nearly \$3 million so we are moving very close to being in a position to begin work on our Conservation Legacy Center in Missoula. In total we have raised over \$7 million and still need to raise another \$2.5 to \$3 million. We now have momentum that hopefully will carry us through. We are planning to conduct an on-line auction as a fundraiser this coming spring and will be sharing more about that later. We also have put a lot of emphasis on increasing our membership and outreach and now have about 850 members and hope to reach a thousand by year's end. We continue to offer a special membership rate of \$20.20 for new members through the end of the year. Many of you are members now but if you are not, please consider supporting the Museum with your membership. Your support really makes a difference. Our collection continues to grow and about three quarters of our 50 thousand items are catalogued on line.



*William Kreutzer. The first United States Forest Ranger ever appointed. Started work with the General Land Office on August 8, 1898.*

The focus of the summer edition of the Museum newsletter was a historic look at the Ranger position and featured several Rocky Mountain Region former Rangers, including William Kreutzer (first ranger), Wendy Milner Herrett (first woman ranger), Abigail Kimbell (first woman Chief) who was Forest Supervisor on both the Bighorn and PSICC, and also Terry Baker (the CEO of the Society of American Foresters but most recently was Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Arapahoe-Roosevelt and also worked on the Nebraska National Forest earlier in his career).

The next newsletter focus coming out this fall is on "Rangers and Ranchers" and is authored by Charlie Richmond who was Supervisor on the GMUG and a ranger on the Comanche National Grassland. Charlie retired as Director of Range in the Washington Office. Charlie is on the Museum Board.

We have expanded our cadre of Regional Directors (individuals who work to support and provide outreach for the Museum in each region). Bjorn Dahl is the R-2 Regional Director, but just recently Dan Nolan in Hot Sulphur Springs, CO; Brad Exton on the Black Hills; and Jim

Free in Montrose have all agreed to help broaden the understanding and appreciation for the work of the Museum in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Work on the site in Missoula this summer includes renovation and relocation of the fire lookout and work is being done to have our donated air tanker on site by next summer. The site has been open this summer but obviously the visitation has been low due to the pandemic.

Again, if you want more information about the Museum and the great work we are doing to "share the rich history and story of America's conservation legacy" check out our website at [www.forestservicemuseum.org](http://www.forestservicemuseum.org) and remember you can become a member for just \$20.20 right now.

# Memorial Grove Update

**Memorial Grove update:** As you all know we twice postponed the 2020 ceremony to honor 2019 folks and now plan to do it next May assuming things circle back to some level of normalcy by then. The preparatory work on the 2019 honorees (listed in spring newsletter) is all done. We have been in contact with all the families that indicated plans to attend and all are appreciative that we are waiting. In total for the 2019 listing we have thirty-seven honorees, including six “not forgotten”. At present we have nineteen potential honorees on the 2020 list and the remembrances for most of these have been or will be included in editions of the Rendezvous. (See list below)



## 2020 Potential Memorial Grove Honorees

Marcus Arnold	PSICC Administration
David Edward Barth	Arapaho-Roosevelt N. F.
Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger	White River and Black Hills N. F.
Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer	Regional Office
Johnnie Gayle Flaget	Rio Grande N. F.
Ernest LeRoy (Ernie) Hoffman	Black Hills N. F.
Kenneth Efton (Ken) Marler	Medicine Bow, Rio Grande, and PSICC
Alfonso (Al) Martinez	Medicine Bow-Routt N. F.
Ronald William Mertens Sr.	Black Hills N. F.
Pat Mitchell	PSICC, San Carlos District
Bruce Harold Morgan	R. O., San Juan, Grand Mesa Uncompahgre, Gunnison, PSICC
Steve Mosier	PSICC, Helitack Foreman
Gerald W. Nyborg	Medicine Bow, Shoshone, and Routt N. F. s
Ronald L. Paris	Shoshone N.F.
Vincent (Vince) Parrino	Regional Office
Arthur (Leigh) Reeves	Black Hills N. F.
Walter Wright (Walt) Rule	Uncompahgre N. F., Roosevelt, Black Hills, R-8
Charles Lee (Chuck) Simon	Bighorn N. F., Medicine Bow, Gunnison, and R. O.
William Carroll (Bill) Starr, Jr.	Regional Office

The first planting at the Memorial Grove was done in the spring of 1921 even though the decision to do so was made in 1920 by District Forester Colonel Alan Peck. So we are hoping to make special efforts to acknowledge this hundred year milestone at the ceremony next spring which will be to recognize both the 2019 and the 2020 honorees. A special video tribute about Memorial Grove will soon be posted on our website in recognition of this year's honorees and the 100th Anniversary of Memorial Grove.



# It's the Little Things

## A new species of millipedes named in her honor



Kay Hopkins, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
White River NF in Glenwood Springs, CO.

Kay Hopkins, outdoor recreation planner for the White River National Forest, has had a millipede named for her to honor her dedication to cave conservation and preservation. *C. hopkinsae* was found in several caves on national forest land, including Groaning Cave near the Deep Creek overlook on the Flat Tops.

The millipedes live deep underground in total darkness. And, in case you're wondering, they are harmless to humans. They're also very tiny. Researchers say these albino millipede species evolved underground for millions of years. Because they are eyeless, they sense their surroundings using antennae and small hairs called setae. Researchers say they don't have 1,000 legs like "milli" implies — these millipedes have just 17 pairs of legs.

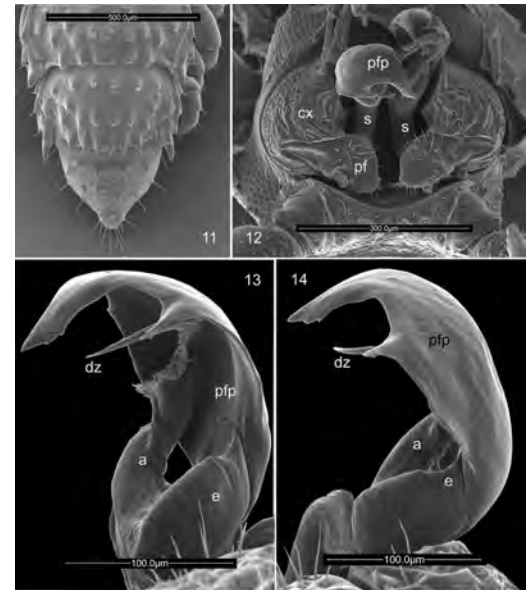
"She's just been so helpful to me with getting permits and assisting me over the years and doing my collections in the caves, and also she's been such an advocate for cave protection within the U.S. Forest Service system. She's been a real asset to the community as well," said David Steinmann, a research associate in the zoology department at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

Hopkins is both amused and honored.

"I'm really honored because working with people like David Steinmann and others over the years ... they're an amazing group of conservationists and scientists that really have taught me a lot, so I'm very honored. It is cool. We all laugh and everybody grins, but it is an honor," Hopkins said.

The millipede is about 4 mm long and as thin as dental floss, according to a press release. Steinmann said he found it in 1999, but it wasn't until 2019 that it was identified and named. "It took two decades. It was very complicated to make the determination with the millipede expert," Steinmann said.

These newly identified millipedes are part of a new genus named *Coloradesmus* because they are only known from Colorado. "We found some about 5 miles from the Wyoming border, so I could easily see them being in Wyoming. Actually, no one's hardly ever looked for cave life in Montana or Wyoming or South Dakota. Who knows what's up there," he said. Steinmann said they eat organic matter, pieces of old wood, bacteria and animal scat. "Nothing else eats them," he said.



*Coloradesmus hopkinsae* male. **11** Telson, dorsal view **12** gonopods, ventral view **13** right gonopod, mesal view **14** right gonopod, medioposterior view.

— Thanks to Charlie Wertheim at the Post Independent in Glenwood Springs



## Le and Hobaugh Receive National Awards

Vinh Le and Ed Hobaugh of the Rocky Mountain Region were recently recognized for their commitment to safety with an AIRWARD award. The award was established to give recognition to individuals who demonstrate positive behavior in aerial safety. This award given to Mr. Le truly speaks to his record of safety and attention to detail. Vinh received his award by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Colorado Senator Cory Gardner presented the honor on June 19, 2020 at the JeffCo Airtanker Base in Broomfield, CO, while they attended a fire briefing and an outdoor recreation panel discussion.



*U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue with U.S. Senator Cory Gardner present an Airward to Vinh Le in recognition of professional performance during a hazardous aviation event of significant contribution to aviation mishap prevention at the USDA Forest Service (FS) Jeffco Airtanker Base, in Broomfield, Co., on June 19, 2020. Award recipient Ed Hobaugh is not pictured.*

On April 30 during the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems annual training Vinh and ramp manager Ed Hobaugh noticed a liquid spot on the ramp. Seeing this, they confirmed that the liquid was an amber-colored oil and came from underneath an aircraft that would soon be in use. The tanker base crews informed the pilot of the spill. The pilot and crew assessed the spill area and determined to abort the mission. This was crucial as the aircraft was being prepared for takeoff. After running system tests, the aircrew determined it was not safe to depart. After further investigation, the flight crew concluded that the oil was coming from a leak in the plane's right main landing gear, in the primary hydraulic braking system. The leaking hydraulic fluid could have easily lead to a potential fire, loss of flight control or worse, plane failure.

Vinh Le has been a part of the Forest Service for over 30 years, serving in several roles, including roles with an emphasis in computer and hardware support. Vinh now serves as the management analyst for the external affairs staff in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office. With his knowledge in aviation support operations, he is an invaluable resource to air tanker bases regionally and nationally.

Undoubtedly Vinh Le and other ramp personnel exemplified a core value of the Forest Service, safety. The initiative he showed should remind us that if we see something, we should say something. Ultimately we have a responsibility to one another, because we are a team.

*(continued on Page 20)*

*(continued from Page 19)*

*Senator Garner and Secretary Purdue at Mizpah Campground.*

“We visited Mizpah Campground at the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, which has been closed for ten years because the bridge was wiped out and hasn’t been repaired. **The Great American Outdoors Act** gives us a chance to make this repair, to get this bridge open, and to get the campground open so people can enjoy it,” said Senator Gardner. “At Minton Park and Ballfield in Empire, Secretary Perdue and I spoke with local officials to discuss fire treatment efforts and met with brave firefighters who work around the clock to protect the local community,” said Senator



*Secretary Purdue and Senator Gardner at Jeff Airtanker base.*

Gardner. “Later in Broomfield we met with the crew at Jeffco Airtanker Base to discuss their firefighting efforts and ensure they had the opportunity to share with the Secretary any resources they needed to keep Coloradans safe. We also held a productive roundtable with the Forest Service and members of the outdoor recreation industry in Broomfield,” said Senator Gardner. “There we heard widespread excitement for the Great American Outdoors Act and how it will benefit our lands and the people who enjoy them.”

## The Great American Outdoors Act

“This week, both chambers of Congress have passed out of their chambers the America's Great Outdoors Act, and it's just awaiting in the coming days signature by the president to become law, and it's really historical and profound on what it will do. It does two major things: it permanently provides funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund - these are the resources that we use to acquire private lands that are critical for the management of the national forests, usually those inholdings or those critical parcels that will provide important access to the national forests. It also supports the Forest Legacy Program out of State and Private Forestry, where it acquires or purchases conservation easements to keep forests working where they are at risk of conversion to developed uses. So that's number one, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The second part of America's Great Outdoors Act is that it establishes a new fund: it's called the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund, and this will provide really important resources for all public lands where we all have a significant backlog in maintenance of our infrastructure.

For the Forest Service, we have a \$5.2-billion backlog of maintenance of our infrastructure; \$3.7 billion for our transportation systems, that's our roads and our trails. The national forests and our roads and our trails are really a critical piece of the fabric of rural America that connects rural America, and we want to and need to improve the conditions of those trails and those roads. This will give us an opportunity to do that. We also have a \$1.5-billion backlog in our facilities, campgrounds and other recreation facilities. So, what this new fund will do is it will provide up to \$280 million per year for the next five years for the Forest Service alone. That's a really important jumpstart to get after this backlog, and we really thank so many of our partners that expressed the need of what we were dealing with in this infrastructure and for the members of Congress coming together in bipartisan support for this legislation.”

— Chief Vicki Christiansen, July 24, 2020

# Regional Forester Update

— September 11, 2020



*Jennifer Eberlein*  
*Acting Regional*  
*Forester*

On this day of remembrance, Patriot Day, let's take a pause in reflection on the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It was on this day, 19

years ago, that nearly 3,000 people perished, another 10,000 were injured, and many more continue to suffer from the effects and the fallout of the horrific acts of terrorism executed on our nation. Let's never forget and always honor those lost and affected by these events, and also remember all those who were dedicated in the relief efforts, many from within our own agency.

Also, today, across our agency, so many response and relief efforts are underway due to the unprecedented and alarming wildfire activity. Here, in Colorado, we continue our fire fight on the Cameron Peak Fire, the Williams Fork Fire, the Grizzly Creek Fire and the Middle Fork Fire. The Cameron Peak Fire showed extreme fire growth early this week prior to our snow event, and among the fire personnel, we unfortunately have seen some cases of COVID-19. There is no better reminder than with this grim reality to reinforce the need for safety while we perform our work

during this ongoing pandemic. Please be certain that we are implementing all the recommended safety and health protocols and precautions across fire camps and in all of our operations.

Across the west in the Pacific Southwest Region (R5), Pacific Northwest Region (R6), and Northern Region (R1), we are seeing the sobering news of the serious issues they are facing involving accidents, burnovers, evacuations, and loss of life. In California, the region has taken ultimate precautions by closing all 18 forests in the region. Region 6 has also closed units. These are the most difficult of times for fire personnel on the ground, our air assets, our employees, and our communities.

As we support these efforts, I also emphasize the need for employees to tend to their own self-care. As a team, we are only as strong as each individual, and that's why we must continue to tend to our own health and resiliency while we also lift each other up as needed. Additionally, with this being National Suicide Prevention Week, the Forest Service has shared many messages with employees informing them of the resources available to them. We must remove the stigma related to mental health disorders so more and more people feel comfortable talking about their mental health and reaching out for help.

In state relations, I am happy to relay that on August 25, we signed a Shared Stewardship agreement with the state of Wyoming and on September 4, we signed a Shared Stewardship agreement with the state of Nebraska. The purpose of the agreements is to establish a Shared Stewardship Strategy framework to allow the partners to work collaboratively to accomplish mutual goals, further common interests and effectively respond to the increasing suite of challenges facing the communities, landscapes, natural resources and cultural resources of the states.

These are a priority of the Secretary and he attended both signings in person. These two agreements in our region are in addition to the Colorado agreement signed last October.

I am pleased to keep this connection with our retirees and I really do hope for a day to see you all in person. Until then, keep safe and healthy, and if you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Jace Ratzlaff, Retiree Liaison at 719-469-1254 or [jace.ratzlaff@usda.gov](mailto:jace.ratzlaff@usda.gov).

Please keep all those involved in our fire response in your hearts and minds.

Thank you,  
Jennifer



## 2021 National FS Reunion Postponed

— Incident Commander/Chair Nancy Gibson



I am greatly looking forward to the next National Forest Service Retirees Reunion, but due to concerns surrounding large group gatherings amidst a pandemic, I am pleased to announce that we have reached agreement with Harrah's Lake Tahoe to postpone the Reunion for one year, to August 29 - September 2, 2022.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our survey and let us know how concerned you were about the Coronavirus continuing to affect travel plans until we have an effective vaccine. This reinforced the Planning Team's concerns about the uncertainty related to the virus.

The health and safety of Reunion participants is paramount. We heard you, through the recent survey and other contacts, and have rescheduled the National Forest Service Retirees Reunion to 2022.

We were not sure that we could hold a reunion that would be both safe and enjoyable as soon as next September, with registration set to open in January. In light of the pandemic, Harrah's has been very helpful in allowing us to change dates without incurring any penalties or fee increases.

Some respondents to the survey were surprised at the decision to hold the Reunion in a casino. After an extensive search for locations at Lake Tahoe that could accommodate a large group with both lodging and meeting facilities, Harrah's was the only venue that met our needs at a reasonable cost. It is possible to access the hotel and meeting rooms without walking through the casino area.

Harrah's is in a great location just a few blocks from the south shore of Lake Tahoe, within walking distance of an array of shops, restaurants, art galleries, and entertainment.

We are looking forward to seeing you in 2022! Any questions? Let us know via Facebook (National Forest Service Retirees Reunion) or by email to [PSW2021FSReunion@gmail.com](mailto:PSW2021FSReunion@gmail.com) or website <https://2021fsreunions.org>

# Stuff to do When You Retire

## Visit a Lookout Tower - Maybe?

by Mary Ann Chambers

Everything has changed this year. The Coronavirus has meant less travel for all, but there is always next year. Hopefully, we will get back to some kind of normal.

After my husband Carl and I retired, we visited family. More importantly, they visited us. My brother Jim and his wife Theresa came to Colorado. They live in the east and though Jim likes being outside, Theresa told me, "Jim thinks I like to camp, but I don't." I really looked forward to this visit. My family never camped, or hiked. I wanted to show my brother some things about the Forest Service.

We went to the Deadman Lookout Tower on the Canyon Lakes District of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. This particular tower is an interpretive site. Staffed by volunteers, it allows the public a glimpse of the old Forest Service. The view was fantastic. The volunteer guide, a young professor from Colorado State University, gave us a great tour. He showed us how they mapped fires in



*Deadman Lookout*

saw a hazardous tree removal project that led to discussions of what I did for the Bark Beetle Incident and Carl told them what he did on such projects to protect the watershed.

When we told Jim that in Wyoming, there were towers that you could spend the night in, he decided he needed to bring his grandkids to do that. As we talked about future visits, no one could have envisioned what would happen six months later. On April 7, 2020, the acting Regional Forester for the Rocky Mountain Region issued a Temporary Closure of Recreation Sites. They were still allowing reservations; however,

things could change with the current pandemic. I checked at this writing and all the lookout towers were unavailable, so there will be no sleepovers in a lookout tower for us this year. Maybe next year, but we will not know until January when the first reservations become available on recreation.gov.

Prior to the "Big Burn" of 1910, there were some lookout towers, but they were far and few between. The 1910 fires consumed about three million acres in Idaho and Montana and killed 85 people. It dramatically changed how fires were detected and managed. By the 1930s, there were over 5,000 lookout towers. The Civilian Conservation Corps built 611 of them (USDA .FS.gov Northern Region). There is now only one actively staffed Lookout Tower that I know of in Colorado on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. You can visit a few other lookout towers. Check with your local forest for more information. Aerial surveys of the Forests detect most fires now.



*Dhruba Naug, Forest Service Volunteer*

the old days and told us about the pleasure and limitations of living in a steel structure on top of the world with a 360 view. As he was explaining how the Osborne Fire Finder worked, we actually spotted a fire. We had read on the Forest Facebook page about a controlled burn the day before and sure enough, we found it. On our way out, we

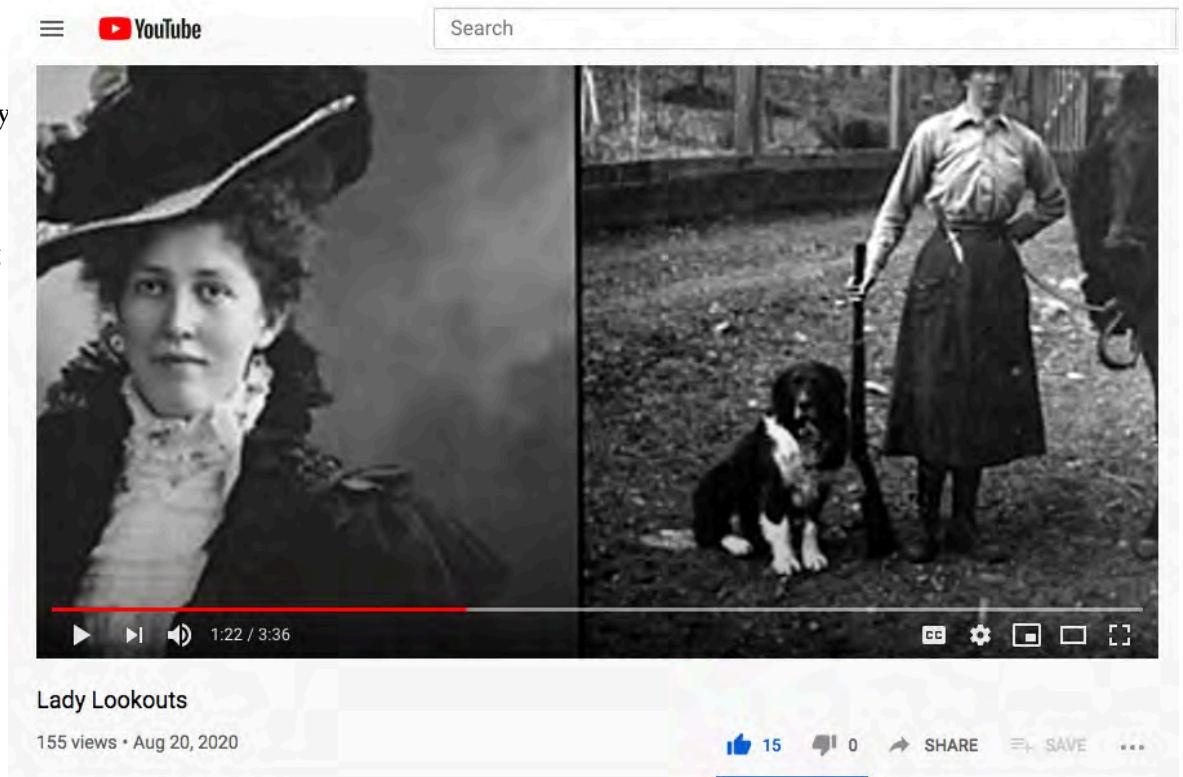


## Tired of Netflix?

The history and background of "Lady Lookouts," women who staffed fire lookouts during World War II, using historic photos.

*August, 2020 - Forest Service You Tube Channel*

[https://youtu.be/0Ag2U9gu4\\_k](https://youtu.be/0Ag2U9gu4_k)



This silent educational film from the USDA's Federal Extension Service demonstrates the dangers of fast-moving prairie fires and how they are fought. Ranchers restrict the progress of a raging prairie fire by plowing furrows in its path, back firing, and shoveling dirt on the blaze. The film also depicts the consequences of allowing a prairie fire to ignite timberland. It was shot by George R. Goergens.

*1923 - National Archives at College Park - Motion Pictures*

<https://youtu.be/Bb00Q2Y2Lw8>

## What's Funny?



I need a fun caption. Send in a winning entry and you will get a wonderful prize sent to your home. [dave.steinke@gmail.com](mailto:dave.steinke@gmail.com).



Lisa Engler is an illustrator and designer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She makes things for brands, products, and people - often with wit and always with heart...and appears to have a soft spot for the Forest Service.

<https://lisaeatsa.pizza/>

## The Bear is Everywhere!





# "That's the Way I Remember it"

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

## Pete Clark

*Retired in 2007 with 31 years of service*



*Pete with one of their tamest cows Wendy, and their wiener dog, Nathan. - 2020*

### **TheRendezvous:** **Where were you born and raised?**

**Pete Clark:** I was born and raised in Gilroy California.

### **TR: Tell us more about Gilroy.**

**PG:** Their claim to fame is the garlic capitol of the world. Gilroy is in the southern Santa Clara Valley, south of the San Francisco Bay Area. It is/was extremely productive agricultural land. Many different crops were grown in the valley. The surrounding mountains, the Diablo Range on the east supported ranching and the Santa Cruz Mountains on the west side had timber production, primarily redwoods. When I was young there were enough orchards to keep the Sunsweet dehydrators busy in Gilroy, Hollister and Morgan Hill. These towns are only a few miles apart but there were prune and apricot orchards to keep all three supplied. Gilroy also had a cannery that processed tomatoes and two garlic processing plants. Gilroy's proximity to



*Here is the first house I lived in. Built on the home place by my Great grandfather, John Fellom.*

Silicon Valley has greatly changed the character of the area. The Santa Clara Valley was once called "The Valley of Hearts Delight." I'm thinking a different nickname would be more appropriate these days.

### **TR: Tell us a little about your family.**

**PC:** Both sides of my family were pioneers in the Gilroy area. My paternal grandfather, Jonas Clark, was very well known in Gilroy. He was originally from Massachusetts, his family dating back to the revolution (the first one). He was a graduate of MIT and the Harvard Medical School, class of 1875. He moved to California as a young man and eventually started the first hospital in Gilroy, called Gilroy Private Hospital. He married my paternal grandmother after his first wife was killed in a buggy accident. She was the daughter of an Irish immigrant named Michael Casey.

Casey was a saloon and brewery owner, served as Mayor of Gilroy and the Fire Chief. My grandmother, was much younger than Jonas which explains how I could have a grandfather born in 1852.

My mother's family was in the area long before Jonas Clark or Michael Casey showed up. My maternal great, great grandfather was Matthew Fellom. He was a Dane who landed in Northern California in 1822

on a whaling ship. He traveled to the future Gilroy area shortly after John Gilroy arrived and worked with him. They were the first Anglos to settle in the area and were absorbed into the Spanish culture. Matthew married a local girl named Manuela Briones. One of their children, John Fellom, was my great grandfather. He married a girl named Blandina Ortega. John and Blandina had many children, including my grandmother. All were raised speaking Spanish, including my mother, since they all lived on the ranch.

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*Only known photo of me, my sister and my parents. Taken in Montana at a horse show around 1955.*

**TR: Your ranch was part of the original land grant in California?**

**PC:** It was part of one of many land grants. Blandina Ortega, mentioned before, was the great granddaughter of the original grantee for the San Ysidro grant. If you google Blandina

Ortega and fish around a bit, you will see a picture of John (Juan) and Blandina with my great uncle William, as well as the first house I ever lived in, taken from a book called East of the Gabilans. It's a book written about the early land grants in Santa Clara and San Benito counties. You could say some of my ancestors were citizens of Spain, Mexico, the California Republic and the USA without ever leaving the area.

**TR: How did that affect your family and growing up there?**

**PC:** I was able to witness some of the last days of the old Californio culture as practiced by my older family members. There was an annual BBQ where my great uncles cooked a bull's head wrapped in burlap in a pit. There were a lot of beverages consumed while the adults jabbered away in Spanish, talking about the old days. I'm glad I got to experience some of that tradition. It's a culture largely gone. Fortunately some folks are keeping alive some of the traditions, such as the unique Californio horsemanship and the painstaking development of a true California bridle horse.

The two sides of my family were polar opposites and did not get along. That was troubling for me. I always wanted to know more about both and have always

been intrigued by the early days in Gilroy, Old California and that early culture, especially the ranching.

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

**PC:** I went to a Saint Marys' Catholic grammar school in Gilroy, (and yes, it's "s" apostrophe) and Gilroy Union High School. I also went to Gavilan Junior College in Gilroy, twice. First time didn't stick. I matured the second time around and my favorites then were the life sciences, botany, biology, etc. If you want to know what it was like for me in high school, watch "American Graffiti".

**TR: You went to Humboldt State in 1974? That must have been a wild time up there?**

**PC:** I graduated in December of 1974. I suppose it was a wild time for some. I worked at the school, worked at a sporting goods store and studied. The campus was divided into a Natural Resources side and a Liberal Arts side. On the NR side we dressed according to major, i.e., Range Mgt. – cowboy hat, wranglers, cowboy boots; Forestry – logger's world suspenders, Frisco jeans and White's; Wildlife Biology – earth mama outfit or hunter outfit (sexually determined). On the liberal arts side, they smoked pot on the lawn, girls and boys appeared to eschew undergarments and generally reeked of patchouli.

I just studied and did well.

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

**PC:** I started as a student trainee Range Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Flagstaff, AZ. I worked there full time after I graduated but it wasn't hands on enough for me. SCS customers were primarily private land owners and there is little private land in AZ. This meant I had minimal opportunity to directly manage rangeland. I transferred to Springerville, AZ, still with SCS, but it was the same with very little private land. I believed the USFS guys (and they were all guys back then) were having all the fun. I saw more opportunity to "physically manage" in the Forest Service so I started looking for an opening as a Range Conservationist with the USFS, and I found one.

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

**PC:** My first Forest Service job was as a GS-9 Range Conservationist on the Carson NF at Tres Piedras, NM, about an hour from where I live now. Some people considered TP a tough duty station but I liked it. I liked the culture and I liked the people.

**TR: Tell us a little about your career and the different jobs you've held.**

**PC:** I started as a GS-7 Range Conservationist with SCS. I worked for that agency initially in Flagstaff, Arizona and later in Springerville, AZ. While in Flagstaff I also provided range assistance to the Kingman and Fredonia, AZ field offices, a story in itself. I transferred to the Forest Service in 1976. I began in R3 on the Carson NF and later moved to the Coconino, NF on the Beaver Creek RD. I left the

government for a time and worked ranching, still in AZ. I rejoined the FS in 1980 on the Nebraska NF, Bessey RD in R2. I spent 5 years there and transferred to the Bighorn NF, Medicine Wheel RD, still in R2. From there I went to the R5 Regional Office in San Francisco as assistant Range Program Leader and later became Program Leader. It was very interesting working for the USFS in "The City".



*Leah and me while hunting at the Forest Service goose lease in Maryland while we both worked in the WO. - circa 1993.*

Next thing I know I'm in Washington DC as Budget and Program Coordinator for the Range Management staff. By now I'm wondering how did this happen? I'm a GS-454 Range Conservationist and working in the WO after 3 years in the R5 RO? It's a long story.

I spent six years in Washington, holy cow! While there I did a LEGIS Assignment on Capitol Hill and a temporary assignment as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Florida. That was different!

While there I also met and married Leah, my wife of 27 years.

Leah and I escaped Washington in 1997 when Tom Thompson and Elizabeth Estill decided to give me a try as Forest Supervisor for the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland. In December of 1999 I was given the opportunity to serve as Forest Supervisor of the Rio Grande NF where I remained until my retirement in 2007. I had come full circle ending my USFS career a mere 60 miles from where it started.

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

**PC:** My first day on the job as a Student Trainee with SCS, my supervisor told me if I did my job all would be well and if I didn't, it would only take the stroke of a pen and I'd be history. I paid attention to that. In the 1970's my supervisors didn't give me much good advice. I got good advice later in my career, especially after moving to R2. R3, not so much.

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

**PC:** The field time as a range con was especially rewarding. I often thought, "I can't believe I'm getting paid to do this." Seeing many different parts of the country, pack trips, great coworkers; all those things are what made it a great job. The worst parts of my job? Dealing with personnel issues and NEPA. If you are lucky you can advance to the point where somebody else will do the NEPA, but you can't outrun the personnel issues.

**TR: You are a member of the Rocky Mountaineers. Why did you join and do you think it's important for folks to join?**

**PC:** I joined because I'm always interested to know what folks I worked with are doing and the newsletter keeps me up on that. The scholarships are also a great idea. Our son Wyatt won one but that isn't why I say that. It's an opportunity for folks to give back and support the future.

Joining the Rocky Mountaineers is an individual decision. For me, R2 is the Forest Service and where I had the best years of my career.

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*On our place we do many things horseback, notice reproduction FS cantina like we used in R3.*

**TR: How much time did you spend in R-2, and why did you decide to stay here after retirement?**

**PC:** I'm not going to drag out my personnel folder (OPF), but I spent close to 18 years of my career in R2, more than half.

Tom Thompson helped with our decision to stay here by reassigning me to the Rio Grande.

We were looking for a location where we could retire and buy some property. We felt the San Luis Valley was worth considering. From my experience in the 70s I knew I liked the area and the people. Once we were here we knew we had made the right choice.

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

**PC:** This may sound odd, but while in the WO I managed to change the reporting system for the Range Management Program to something I considered meaningful. Previously reports were based on the number of AUMs grazed, AUM's permitted, etc. and the number of widgets accomplished for range improvements. It had nothing to do with resource conditions on the ground. I developed and implemented a reporting system that measures management accomplishments relative to meeting forest plan objectives. I believe that was a better method of measuring success.

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

**PC:** Steve Currey knows this one from our days on the Medicine Wheel District. Steve and I were with a permittee laying out the location for a new fence. It was drizzling rain and I heard a strange buzzing sound

(I'm also pretty deaf). I asked, "What the heck is making that noise?" The permittee replied, "Chickens." He meant, of course, blue grouse which are abundant in the Big Horns. Indeed there was a brood of nearly grown grouse standing in a circle making the noise. The season was open and in Wyoming, at least then, you could kill a grouse by whatever means you chose to employ.

I fished around the back of our truck and came up with a broom. I tried swatting one - missing repeatedly. I then tried holding one down with the broom and grabbing it, but they would always slip out as I grabbed for them. I did this several times.

Meanwhile, Currey and the permittee were about rolling on the ground laughing at me. Finally, I took off my Carhartt jacket and tossed it over an unlucky one, reached under, pulled it out and wrung its neck. We took it back to the ranger station, cooked and ate it. It just so happened the local game warden was at the station. We were good friends so I asked him if my manner of take was legal since I wanted to be sure I hadn't broken any laws. He looked me over and replied, "Yeah, but it isn't ethical."



*Sometimes we are in a hurry.*

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

**PC:** I don't stay super involved with current USFS issues. All I know I read in The Rendezvous. I will say I was heartened to see that the agency has implemented the ACES program. I actually participated in ACES as a range management consultant with NRCS. I could do that since we were sister agencies in USDA. It was fun because I supervised no one, spent most of my time in the field and didn't have to do NEPA. It's a great program.

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*Here are Leab and me at a place we lease after checking cows.*

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

**PC:** Always balance your emphasis between the resources. The Forest Service is a multiple use agency and some folks depend on national forests for their livelihood. When you work with an individual on some permitted activity you might actually be working with many people that will ultimately use that person's product. Remember what Gifford said.

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

**PC:** Seriously? We raise and sell hay and between land we own and land we lease and we run both commercial and registered SimAngus cattle on about 2500 acres. Once a year I shoot a cow elk in our hay field and go pick it up with my tractor's bale forks. That's about it for free time.

You can get someone to feed your dog but it's not so easy to get them to feed your cows.

**TR: Tell us about your property and the conservation easement you put on it. Why is that important?**

**PC:** We are proud of our place. When we bought it, it was pretty run down and there was nothing here but the sprinkler. The fences were bad and there were no

buildings. Where our house is now was a stack yard. Everything that's here we put here. We get compliments on our place all the time which really makes us proud, and that includes compliments from the Amish!



*Many of our friends remember our son Wyatt who attended many RLTs. Leab homeschooled him and frequently brought him along and they went to museums and other fun places. Here they are last Christmas when Wyatt was home from college. Collecting our Christmas trees on the Conejos Peak District.*

Conservation easements are especially important because they can help keep a farm or ranch in a family. Many farmers and ranchers are land rich and cash poor. It's a tough business with a lot of opportunity to sell out to developers or wealthy folks that want a place away from the city. It has become nearly impossible for young folks to get into farming or ranching if they don't come from money or inherit the land. A conservation

easement can both preserve a piece of property from development and help level the playing field for those wanting to either stay in the business or get into it.

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

**PC:** It's easier to hunt grouse with a firearm than a broom.

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

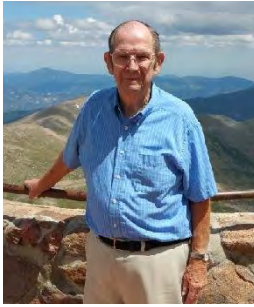
**PC:** Nothing that I care to answer.

Note from the Editor

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

[Dave.steinke@gmail.com](mailto:Dave.steinke@gmail.com)

## Remembrances



### Al Buerger

**Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger** of Arvada, CO passed away on July 10th, 2020 just shy of his 85th birthday. Al was born in Ponca City, OK, on August 5, 1935 to Fritz and Emma Buerger. He graduated High School at South High in Denver, Colorado and

served in the U.S. Army. He then married Betty Siminoe from Palisade, CO. They celebrated their 60 year anniversary on July 1, 2020. He graduated from CSU in 1962 with a degree in Civil Engineering and later earned a Professional Engineering License.

Al and Betty had three children: a son David Dean Buerger (Dave) born in 1962 in Fort Collins, a second son Steven Lee Buerger (Steve) born in 1964 in Wheat Ridge, and a daughter Katherine Ann Shoop (Kathy) born in 1967 in Colorado Springs. As a Civil Engineer after 1962, Al and his Family lived in several Colorado

cities where he worked for the U. S. Forest Service on the White River, the Routt, the Pike National Forests, and the Regional Office in Colorado. In 1965 he worked at constructing the Pine Ridge Job Corps facility in Chadron, NE. In 1972 he transferred to Deadwood, SD not long before that office moved to Spearfish where he and his family lived. While working in Spearfish, Al oversaw timber sales for the Black Hills, designing roads and bridges, and the constructing and removal of access road for the timber. He was active with his Lutheran churches and Boy Scouts. After retirement from the Forest Service, he spent ten years with FEMA.

Al is survived by his wife, Betty; three children; David (Michelle), Steven (Karen) and Katherine (Allen) Shoop. He had four grandchildren; Elizabeth (Samson) Blea, Justin (Ashley) Shoop, Autumn Shoop and Elijah Buerger; and two great grandchildren; Samuel and Zoey Blea.

### Johnnie Flaget

**Johnnie Gayle Flaget** of Surprise, Ariz. passed away on June 10, 2020 after a 4 week, hardfought, battle with COVID-19. Johnnie was born in Great Falls, MT July 8, 1943. He moved with his parents and younger brother from Cutbank, MT to Frenchtown, MT in 1956.

The summer before his senior year he became employed with the US Forest Service, little did he know it would become his career. He graduated from Frenchtown High School in 1961. He served during the Vietnam War (1964-69) as a helicopter maintenance mechanic. At the age of 29, Johnnie married Vera Fryday on July 8, 1972 (his birthday) and instantly became a father to Suzette and Bob. A year later John was born and completed their family.

Johnnie retired from the US Forest Service after working for more than 40 years. He loved being

outdoors and took pride in the work he did protecting public lands, forests and mountain country. His final assignment was with San Dimas Technology and Development in California. He produced training videos and developed/tested forestry products. After living in Montana, Colorado and California he and his wife Vera settled in Surprise, AZ. They quickly made Happy Trails Retirement Community their home, where they made new friends and enjoyed nearby family.

He kept the magic of Santa alive for his grandchildren one year by dressing up as Santa and pretending to fall from the rooftop. The family will never forget the excited eyes of the kids as they witnessed Santa, with his bag of toys, picking himself up off ground and yelling at Rudolph! For those who knew Johnnie, no one will ever forget his sense of humor (he loved pranks) and his contagious laugh.

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## Remembrances

### **Johnnie Flaget** *(continued)*

He was a man of God, a loving husband, an involved father, a fun grandpa and a dedicated friend with many friendships spanning more than 50 years. He leaves behind his wife of 47 years, Vera Flaget his daughter Suzette Dufresne and her husband Paul, his, two sons Bob Fryday and John Flaget and his wife Brandie; nine grandchildren, Karissa, Dean, Wyatt and Grace

Dufresne, Taylor Crusch, Jordan Fryday, Kennady Steele, Kassedy Flaget and Maddie Braun; and four great-grandchildren, Joey, Leelynd, Emma and Bentley due in December 2020.



### **Ernie Hoffman**

**Ernest (Ernie) LeRoy Hoffman** passed away on August 21, 2020. He was born on October 19, 1931 in Lead, South Dakota, the son of Lafayette (Fay) and Evalina Hoffman, and

younger brother of Lewis Hoffman his half-brother. He spent his childhood years in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Shortly after his father died in 1948, he quit school and took a job to support the family. On January 6, 1951, he joined the U.S. Army and proudly served three years, including 10-1/2 months in Korea during the Korean War conflict.

In 1953, he married Joanne Groshong in Lead, South Dakota, and they were married for 33 years. After his discharge from the Army, he joined the U.S. Forest Service, where he worked for 29 years as a fire lookout, file clerk, fleet mechanic, heavy equipment operator, and heavy truck driver. Rising to the level of Equipment Specialist, he purchased all the trucks and heavy equipment for the Rocky Mountain Region of

the Forest Service, retiring as Fleet Equipment Manager for the Black Hills National Forest. For several years during his Forest Service career, he served as an instructor at the Job Corps facility in the Black Hills, teaching auto mechanics and body repair. He was always known as the man who could solve any problem and would always take care of those around him.

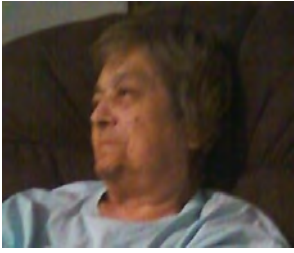
Ernie is lovingly remembered by his wife of 27 years, Sandy Kroger. They were married in 1993 and moved to Sheridan, Wyoming where they enjoyed a very happy and blessed life together. His later years were spent in his shop, perfecting his woodworking skills and building keepsakes, while dispensing advice and solving the world's problems. He loved western movies and books and assembling jigsaw puzzles.

He is survived by his wife Sandy; children David Hoffman and Sharon Tolar; step-children Traci Christensen and Todd Kroger; grandchildren Jeanette Tolar, Nicole Paugh, Travis Tolar, and Stephanie Hoffman; and five great grandchildren.

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## Remembrances



### Pat Mitchell

#### **Patricia (Pat) Mitchell**

passed away on May 11, 2020. Pat was born on December 14, 1940 to Micheal and Veronica Semachko in Uniontown, PA. She moved to

Pueblo, CO in 1960 when she married Marvin Mitchell in Washington, DC. Pat worked for the Forest Service on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest for 25 years as the District Administrative Assistance / Support Service Specialist, along with working various projects and areas on the forest. She touched the lives of many who worked with her and she was referred to as Moma Pat by many. She brought laughter and smiles to the

office. Pat did several fire details in her career, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, to name a few, retiring in 1994.

Pat enjoyed visiting her family and children across the United States after retirement. Pat also worked at Hobbs Carpeting and Target in Pueblo after retiring. Her hobby was sewing.

Pat is survived by her daughters, Debbie (Florence, CO) and Karen Semachko (Farmville, NC), and sons Mark (Penrose, CO) and David (Houston, TX); 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren; sister Jean Potkul (Uniontown, PA) and brother Vincent Semachko (Lemont Furnace, PA).



### Brian Kent

**Brian Mather Kent** passed away on May 19, 2020 after unexpectedly being diagnosed with cancer less than a week earlier. Brian was born in 1941 to Edward and Dorothy Kent.

He was the middle child and had two sisters Jean and Beth. Brian grew up in Wexford, Pennsylvania where he spent his time outdoors, tormenting his mother with snakes and other critters that he caught. He attended Shadyside Academy. Brian earned his B.S. (1967) from Purdue University. He went on to earn a Master's (1970) and PhD (1977) in Forestry Biometrics from Pennsylvania State University.

After meeting his future wife on a blind date in January of 1966, Brian and Theresa (Terri) married in 1967 and celebrated their 52nd anniversary in June. Brian and Terri raised four daughters together. Brian encouraged them to do whatever they wanted in life and to get a good education. He often added fun and jokes to the daunting task of raising four girls by doing things like giving them nicknames such as "SR" for the youngest two meaning "spoiled rotten".

After earning his PhD, Brian accepted a job as a professor of forestry at Colorado State University. In 1981, he left CSU and transferred to the US Forest Service where he worked until he retired in 2010. While at the Forest Service, Brian worked on many projects including wildfire risk mitigation and climate change.

Brian enjoyed making friends wherever he went and was like a brother to many. Some of his favorite times included traveling to different collectors' events with his buddies. Even long after retirement, he enjoyed regular lunches and happy hours with his former colleagues. He often spent hours on the phone catching up with both new and old friends. He is remembered for his boisterous laugh, no-nonsense attitude, love of Mexican food, intellect, bear hugs, and most of all his big heart.

Brian is survived by his daughters Mary Kent, Suzanne Kent, Roberta Kent and Megan Van Kent; his sons-in-law Brad Hanson, Brian Loner, and Jeffrey Van Kent; his grandchild Roland Van Kent; and niece Dorothy Keener.

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## Remembrances



### Steve Mosier

**Steve Wayne Mosier** died unexpectedly on July 23, 2020 at the age of 55. He was a retired helitack foreman on the PSICC and also Jefferson County, Colorado helitack crews.

Steve was born in Pueblo, Colorado to Ross E. and Mary L. Mosier on March 17, 1965. He joined his sister Karen E. and brother David R. The whole family loved outdoor activities and spent many vacations camping, fishing and exploring many parts of Colorado and surrounding states. After high school Steve enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves where he served for twenty years and was a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/ Operation Desert Storm.

Steve worked for the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Wildland Fire crew and was on many forest fires with his father and brother. He then went to work for the U.S. Forest Service on the Helitack crew based in Monument, CO. Steve returned to Fort Collins and was employed by the City of Fort Collins.

Steve's hobbies included camping, hiking, other outdoor activities and beekeeping. He also enjoyed spending many hours with his nephews.

Steve is survived by his mother Mary Mosier of Fort Collins, sister Karen Mosier (Phillip Freeman) of Edgewood, NM, and brother David Mosier (Jennifer Nolte) of Bellvue, CO. He also leaves behind two beloved nephews, Sean Freeman and Daniel Mosier.



### Gerald Nyborg

**Gerald W. Nyborg**, of Rexburg passed away February 14 at the age of 91. He was born April 18, 1928 in Ashton, Idaho to Andrew Percy Nyborg and Rhoda Ann Foote

Nyborg. He grew up on the family ranch/farm on Conant Creek East of Drummond and attended grade school in a one-room log schoolhouse. Gerald was a graduate of Ashton High School.

He served in the U.S. Air Force for four years during the Korean War as a radar operator. Following his military service he married Juanita in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple on May 4, 1956. He later enrolled at Ricks College and in 1961 he graduated from Utah State University with a forestry degree. At this time with a young family of three children they moved to Colorado to accept employment with the U.S. Forest

Service. He worked as a forest ranger and staff officer on national forests in both Colorado and Wyoming, on the Routt, Shoshone, and Medicine Bow forests. Following retirement he and his wife moved to Rexburg where he worked for five years at ARTCO as a printer and later part of 8 summers for the Hamilton Stores.

He was a great lover of the outdoors and the mountains of the west and took every opportunity to be in their presence by hiking, horseback riding, skiing, bicycling or via whatever means. He also loved to be with his family.

Surviving are his wife, Juanita, and their three children - Debra (Paul) Tikalsky of St. George, Utah, Linda (Jed) Wayment of Burley and Ronald (Julie) of Seattle, Washington, 9 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

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## Remembrances

### Al Martinez

**Alfonzo (Al) Martinez** passed away on March 18, 2020 in Cheyenne, WY. Al was born on August 18, 1934 to Adolph Martinez Sr. and Beatrice Gonzales. He was foreman of the road crew on the Medicine

Bow National Forest for many years. He is survived by his wife Joyce Vialpando.



### Walt Rule

**Walt (Walter) Wright Rule, Jr.** passed away on April 18 at his home in Montrose, with wife Nancy and son Walter III by his side. Walt was born May 30, 1931 in Plainfield, New Jersey to Walter W.

Rule and Maud Renshaw and grew up in New Jersey, and Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Upper Darby (PA) High School and St. James Episcopal School, Hagerstown, Maryland, graduating in 1950. He received his commission in the U.S. Army as 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from the University of Maine in June of 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. After their wedding in Maryland in April 1955, he and Nancy traveled to Columbus, Georgia where Walt completed basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia in September. He was posted to South Korea, where he served at first in the north on the DMZ with the 24th Infantry Division. After six months he was promoted to First Lieutenant and became a company commander at Inchon Harbor.

He returned to the states in April of 1957, and after a trip to Europe the couple headed west to begin his forestry career, first serving in positions on three different districts in the Black Hills, and as District Ranger on the Larimer River District, Roosevelt NF. He became the District Ranger of the Ouray District on the GMUG in June 1968 and served until they moved to Asheville, NC in January 1977 where he was the Public Information Officer for the four National Forests of North Carolina. They returned to Colorado to retire in Ouray in September of 1986, to the 1880 home which they had purchased and begun rehab in 1972. In 2015 They moved permanently to Montrose.

Walt is survived by his wife Nancy of 65 years (April 16), his brother, Bruce (Jane) Rule, his son Walter III, four daughters, Linda R. (David) Lunsford, Karen and Melanie Rule and Julia R. (Fernando) Pinheiro, all in the Carolinas, along with grandchildren Sarah Lunsford, Andrea Blankenship (Garry Shackleford), Erika P. Sutton and Christina Pinheiro, D.J. and Breana Ward, and great-granddaughter Payton Shackleford. Bruce's children Jeffrey and Kristin, and their children (three nieces and two nephews in Maryland and Virginia).

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## Remembrances



### Ron Paris

**Ronald Lee Paris**, age 76, died Thursday, July 9, 2020 in Overton, Nevada. He was born November 22, 1943 in Sinclair, Wyoming to Walter Howard and Clara Edith Barnes Paris.

Ron was raised and educated in Sinclair and Rawlins, and later he attended college at BYU. He held various jobs throughout his life including Union Pacific Railroad, Cream O' Weber Dairy, Teleprompter (reporting the weather and sports events on local TV), Arch Minerals. For a time he ran his own electrical business in Dubois, Wyoming. He later worked for the Dubois School District and finally for the US Forest

Service where he retired in 2009. Always service oriented, he served two terms as the Dubois Mayor.

Ron was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved camping with family and friends and riding ATV's. He enjoyed many hobbies like woodworking and rock hounding. He was a member of the Elk's Lodge for 56 years. Ron always valued his relationship with "The Sinclair Kids" and enjoyed their reunions.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Murle of Overton, NV; two step sons and one step daughter: Mike (Barbara) Clegg; Jamie (Galen) Hooker both of Rawlins, WY; Jeff (Marcie) Clegg of Saratoga, WY; six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.



### Chuck Simon

**Charles Lee "Chuck" Simon**, 88, passed away on April 21, 2020.

Known as "Skeeter" in his youth, Chuck was born in Colorado Springs on August 9, 1931 to

Margaret (Kimzey) and Judge Charles Joseph Simon. He had happy memories in his early years of living on the same block as his beloved grandparents. Chuck spent 7 summers on Vancouver Island with his uncle Jim who he considered to be a second father. After graduating from Lakewood High School, he attended Colorado A&M where he met and married the love of his life, June Morgan. He graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management. After serving active duty in the Air Force for 3 years, Chuck returned to CSU where he completed his Master's degree in 1959.

Chuck began a 25 year career with the Forest Service with stations in Gunnison, CO, Encampment, WY, Denver, and Sheridan. His positions included: ranger, timber and fire staff, fire boss, plans chief, and air service officer. He fought wildland fires for 30 years in 15 states. Chuck loved Sheridan and rather than take a

transfer to Colorado, he chose early retirement and began his career in ranch real estate. Chuck also served in the Air Force Reserves for 25 years as an intelligence staff officer with duties at Air Defense Command, NORAD, and Pacific Air Command. He retired as a Lt Col. He was the area Air Force Academy liaison officer for 40 years and proudly helped place many local standouts into the service academies.

He kept his sense of humor to the end. A highlight in his last years was meeting his good friends at the Flagstaff Cafe on Wednesday mornings.

Chuck was proud of his family. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, June; children Gerry (Mary) Simon of Woodland Park, CO, Sandy (Joe) Ramunno of Grand Junction, CO, Debbie (David) Williams of Sheridan; grandchildren Amanda (Connor) Simon, Phil Simon, Niko Ramunno, Calli Ramunno, Allison Williams; sisters Lois Winkler of Denver and Mary Vigal of Bremerton, WA. He is also survived by Maggie the cat, the hundreds of birds he fed, and the thousands of trees he planted throughout Colorado and Wyoming. He will be greatly missed.

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## Remembrances



### Bob Severson

On Saturday, June 6, **R.G. "Bob" Severson**, loving husband, father and grandfather passed away at the age of 68. Born on May 16, 1952, to Robert and Norma Severson in Minneapolis, Minn. He met his wife,

Quincey Joanne Lowing, his senior year at Elk Grove High School and they married on June 17, 1973. He had four sons: Colby Jac, Kassidy Andrew, Quirt O'Brien and Jace Delaney.

R.G. spent 47 winters as a ski instructor, spread out across the Playboy Club in Lake Geneva Wisc., Keystone and Crested Butte in Colo. Sliding down a mountain on two planks, carving GS turns, and teaching others how to do the same always brought a smile to his face.

He spent 32 summers riding range for the United States Forest Service throughout the beautiful

Gunnison backcountry. Whether it was riding range for the Forest Service or roping steers in the arena he was never sad while he was in the saddle.

Graduating from Western State College in 1987, he spent eight seasons as a defensive coach for the Mountaineers. The players and coaches that were his family meant the world to him, and there was nothing that he would not do for them.

He lived a full and happy life, doing what he loved — skiing, coaching and being a cowboy.

He is survived by his wife Quincey, two sons Colby (Annette), Kassidy (Kelli), and four grandchildren Kailey, Brenna, Cash and Saylor. He was preceded in death by his sons Quirt and Jace. As much as he loved his chosen professions, his true love was spending time with his children and grandchildren ... and college football.



### Bruce Morgan

**Bruce Harold Morgan** passed away at his home in Montana on August 28, 2020. He was born on August 1, 1931 in Eckley, CO to Earl and Rema Morgan. He grew up in northeast Colorado and

graduated from Colorado A & M in Fort Collins with a degree in engineering.

He first worked in the Rocky Mountain Region in the Regional Office in Engineering in the 60's. In 1967 he went to the San Juan N. F. as Forest Engineer. In 1972 he transferred to Region 6 on the Umatilla N. F. as Forest Engineer but returned to Region 2 in 1976 on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison N. F.s as Staff Officer. In 1978, Bruce became the Deputy

Forest Supervisor on the Apache Sitgreaves N. F. in R-3 at Springerville, AZ. In 1980 he came back to R-2 as Forest Supervisor on the Pike San Isabel NFs and Cimarron Comanche NGs.

After retirement in 1982 he and his wife Iola moved to a ranch near Montrose. They loved horses. Bruce rode with the Roundup Riders of the Rockies for many years. In 2017 they moved to Arlee, Montana to support the family of their daughter Michel who was critically injured in an automobile accident. Michel died in 2018.

He is survived by his wife Iola Aleen (Ole) and daughters Teresa in Oregon, Debra in Michigan, and Tracy in West Virginia.

# The Last Word

## "I Blame Myself"

by Tom L. Thompson

To say that these last few months have been strange would be a complete understatement. Usually I can find something that seems to be appropriate to write about, but for several weeks I have been befuddled and I pondered about what to write in the Last Word



for this edition of the Rendezvous. As I finally began to write a few thoughts my computer began to act up unexplainably. It's only eight years old and even though it is Windows 7 it has worked very reliably. Last January I was advised that it

needed to either be upgraded or replaced as it would no longer be supported by Microsoft. So some of my problem is probably that I still have Windows 7, but some also could be my internet provider. I was not sure who to blame, but knowing it has been eight months since I was advised to upgrade it, that narrowed it down considerably. So I continued to think long and hard about what to write about.

I first thought about trying to offer an observation about the "pandemic" and how it has changed our lives, but that seemed very unnecessary as Rocky Mountaineers don't need to be told what they already know. It also seems that most of the dialogue recently has been about who to blame for the consequences that we have faced even though we are constantly reminded that "we are all in this together." Still if only this and if only that. It's the Chinese, it's a conspiracy, it's Dr. Fauci's fault, and on and on. Who's to blame? So I decided not to write about "who's to blame?" for the unprecedented crisis we have faced these past seven months and the toll and hardship it has caused on our world of yesterday. For sure we should all be thankful that the "front liners" and "essential workers" who have risen to the challenges, and it is clear they haven't had much time to worry about who to blame.

Still thinking about impacts we've experienced, I thought perhaps I should consider a few words about our weakened economy especially since so many small businesses that are the fabric of our communities have been forced to close. If only Congress could do more to ensure they can continue to make ends meet... meanwhile Amazon and the big providers seem to be expanding exponentially into every possible niche to keep up with the demand and increase their profits. As we send in our Amazon prime order in for three new lightbulbs to be delivered overnight, even though the lights burned out several months ago....who's to blame??

As the protests shook the core of many of our cities across the country it was a time for reflection. Most all of us fully understand the importance of the ongoing discussion and the intent to rid our country of racism. However, how this has evolved gave me reason to consider offering an opinion about the fine line between "peaceful demonstrations and destructive rioting." After some thought, I chose not



to write about this because I seemed to be aligning myself into an uncomfortable position influenced greatly by a drive past the grounds of the State Capitol Building in downtown Denver with windows broken and graffiti on the white granite stone that has stood there for 130 years.

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I decided that sharing my reaction to the damage caused by rioting and looting would serve no purpose nor influence anyone to view the situation any differently than they already do. In fact I found myself wondering who was to blame when looking at how all this has continued on and on, especially in places like Portland and Seattle. When will enough be enough? That didn't seem to be something for the Last Word, because it was again just a reflection on how we blame others.

So what to write about? Well, certainly the fires that have been ongoing for weeks now and especially since they have intensified so catastrophically in the recent days in California and the Pacific Northwest, I seriously considered devoting a few paragraphs to put in perspective what we are experiencing but then it was difficult to decide what aspect of this all too common reality to focus on. We seem to fairly convincingly blame climate change, but others point to the condition of our forests and even Smokey as the culprit. Blame has been placed on the power suppliers and on occasion a railroad 'takes the blame.' Others say if we would just not build in places we shouldn't, while others blame the Forest Service and sister agencies just not being prepared or not attacking fire aggressively enough today. With the great impact of the fires this past couple weeks much could be written, but since the editor only wants a relatively short article and even briefly tackling the fire dilemma could dominate many, many of our pages I chose to not get into trying to focus on the "blame" of this issue. It is indeed difficult to express the extreme sadness that we feel for what has happened to those impacted or lessen the heartbreak caused by



the 2020 fires and unfortunately there is likely more to come.

Four years ago I wrote a piece in this newsletter that I titled "Neither Left or Right" which provided a perspective of the upcoming 2016 election and the role and impact of politics on the Forest Service. In that article I talked about the partisan world we found ourselves in four years

ago. The polarization and finger pointing that is going on in this year's election is without question much more intense or perhaps strange would be a better way to describe it that I really didn't feel I should vent my frustrations in this forum. Many suggest it is probably the Russians to blame for the state of our political mess or others point the finger at the Chinese. Almost nightly you can tune in to MSNBC, CNN, or Fox News, depending upon your leaning, and find out who is the latest to blame for our sad political situation. It certainly couldn't just be due to our own lack of leadership on all sides of the political world.

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Then I thought about just kicking back and optimistically and hopefully focusing on some Rocky Mountain sports. Well, the Avalanche lost in game 7



of the second round the Stanley Cup playoffs (so close), the Nuggets have been setting records for comeback wins in the NBA playoffs, and the Rockies have found themselves at the bottom of the heap and many games behind the Dodgers in the shortened 2020 Major League Baseball season. It is still too early to tell about the Broncos with two disappointing losses already as they begin their quest in this unusual season. There are always lots of places to put the blame in sports...it is the defense, the pitching, the goalie, the quarterback, the umpire or referee, just bad luck, or of course there is always the coach. Now we can also blame the "cutout" figures sitting in the stands because they aren't cheering loud enough on the speakers piped into the stadium. The good news is you can now place a wager on whose is going to lose and if you don't know how to do this just watch the incessant commercials advertising this new vice. Who voted to allow this anyway?

So I finally decided I didn't really have anything to write about in this edition and can only blame myself. I decided to just include a couple quotes that seem to fit the times we are in. Many years ago a very thoughtful President named John F. Kennedy said:

**"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."**

Helen Keller was not one to blame anyone for her condition. Her philosophy was that

**"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement and nothing can be done without hope and confidence."**

I am hopeful and optimistic that for the next Last Word article I will not struggle so much for something to write. If I do I will just "blame myself".