



# The Rendezvous

*The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association*

*Volume 8 - Number 3*

## They Came ~ They Gathered

*Rendezvous Staff Writers*

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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.*



*New Regional Forester Frank Beum told retirees that he was glad to be back in the region and really likes hearing from us.*

The 2021 Rocky Mountaineer Annual Gathering was held in Woodland Park, Colorado from September 9th through the 10th. One hundred and one retirees showed up on a beautiful September day. Sixteen folks played golf on Thursday and and eighty five took advantage of the free luncheon on Friday. There were two tours - one to the Manitou Experimental Forest - and the other was a drive to the top of Pikes Peak for a look at the new summit house. And there was a Friday night dinner and show at the Flying W Ranch.



*The Gathering attracted folks from all over the region and from far away as Florida.*

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*One tour was of the Manitou Experimental Forest, covering over 16,700 acres of the Pike National Forest. Established in 1936 with a focus on range and watershed management, today researchers are studying diverse questions related to meteorology, ecology, and biology. The tour was led by past Scientist-in-Charge, Wayne Shepard.*



*It was a guided trip to the field for learning and fun.*



*Half of the folks headed to the top of Pikes Peak for a tour of the new 38,000 square foot, \$66 million, Summit House. The tour was led by Pikes Peak Management, the engineering firm in charge and Jeff Hovermale, formerly of the Pikes Peak Ranger District.*



*Jeff Hovermale, formerly on the Pikes Peak Ranger District, shows off the new summit sign at the top of Pikes Peak.*

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*Upon closer inspection, it appears as though he “doed” the hole.*

*Brent Botts points to where he birdied the 18th hole at Shining Mountain Golf Course and Resort, one of the best sites for the gathering in Woodland Park Colorado.*



*Our local host was Brent Botts, who arranged for all the lodging and tours and logistics in Woodland Park.*



*Jim Maxwell, Lynn Young, Jane Leche and Tom McFarland - aka the Fiddlin' Foresters - performed two sessions at The Gathering in Woodland Park. Jim and Jane also played at the Memorial Grove ceremony the next day.*



*Bill Nelson and Ellen Hodges and Johnny Hodges gave away scores of door prizes.*

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***Men with matching badges - aka - Redfeather/Poudre Oldtimer Reunion - from left to right: Andy Mason, Mike Foley, Steve Johnson, Paul Peck, Fred Winkler, Bill Shuster, Bob Dettmann, Bernie Weingardt, Nick Greear, Bob Frye, Craig Bobzien.***

## Your Area Representatives

Denver Area Representative  
**Jim Thinnes**, Littleton, CO

Northern Front Range and Southeastern  
 Wyoming Area Representative  
**Steve Johnson**, Ft. Collins, CO

Southern Front Range and Kansas Area  
 Representative  
**Barb Timock**, Pueblo

Western Colorado Area Representative  
**Bob Sieger**, Durango, CO

Wyoming Area Representative  
**Bill Bass**, Sheridan, WY

South Dakota/Nebraska  
**Craig Bobzien**, Custer, SD

NAFSR Representative  
**Sharon Friedman**, Littleton, CO

NMFSH Representative  
**Tom Thompson**, Littleton, CO

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

## ***How To Contact Rocky Mountaineers***

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## Goodbye from the Outgoing Chair



*Outgoing chairman, Bob Sprentall, spoke to the large gathering in Woodland Park and expressed his thanks for the past two years at the helm.*

### Thank You

As we transition from one Chair to the next, I look back on the past two years and the adjustments that were made. Thank you to Tommy Thompson for all the work he did along with the Memorial Grove committee in making the necessary adjustments for a successful ceremony this year. A lot of work went into making this year a memorable one. Also to Brent Botts, your current Chair, for the work that went into the Annual Gathering at Woodland Park. The tours were very successful along with the other events.

This organization however would not be what it is without the work of Johnny and Ellen Hodges, Bill Disbrow, Dave Steinke, Steve Ambrose, Sharon Friedman, Tommy Thompson and Frank Roth. These Board members are the core and make sure we stay on track with our membership, financials, web site and Rendezvous.

The last group that needs to be recognized are the Area Representatives. Thank you to Bill Bass, Craig Bobzien, Steve Johnson, Bob Sieger, Barb Timock, and Jim Thinnies. These individuals promote the organization in your local areas and keep the organization as a whole informed of the local area happenings.

I wish Brent Botts, your new Chair, all the success for future endeavors as I know he has the much needed support from those individuals that also want to move this organization in a positive manner.

One last item has to do with the new Rocky Mountaineers Grant Program. Listed in this edition of the Rendezvous is our latest endeavor. I would encourage everyone to take a look at this new program and visit with local volunteer groups to solicit potential projects that would fit the criteria. I am very excited about this program and hope we receive applications for the 2022 season. Also, if you would like to provide a donation in support of this program you may do so like you would for either the Memorial Grove or Scholarship program

Thank you for asking me and allowing me to serve as your Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers for the past two years. It has been a very rewarding experience and I look forward to be classified as Past Chair in support of this organization.

**Bob**

## Hello from the Incoming Chair



*Brent Botts, right, current chairman of the Rocky Mountaineers and close personal friend, Smokey Bear.*

As I take my turn at the helm of this great organization we call **The Rocky Mountaineers**, I look back on the stormy seas we have just endured and wonder just how important is our organization and our interactions with fellow retirees?

All of us have been living with COVID-19 now for the better part of two years and for most of us it has been a life changing experience. If you are like me, connections to others are my lifeblood. We have had to reduce time spent with friends and even loved ones. Our loved ones are most likely to understand even if we could only make contact occasionally with text messages and Zoom calls, and they are the first ones we want to socialize with when safe to do so. Friends who we only saw occasionally, but still are a big part of our lives, are the ones that were most left out of our social interactions.

For many of us, that includes our fellow retirees and members of The Rocky Mountaineers. As I began to plan the 2020

Gathering, then had to stop and then begin again in 2021, it became very apparent to me that I missed seeing my fellow retirees and the work they did more than I thought. The occasional Zoom meeting was no substitution for the person-to-person interactions I longed to experience through work projects, social conversations, tales of yesteryear and even good-hearted joking.

Health care professionals have shifted their focus to our self-care during these past years, focusing on things such as self-awareness, relationships, exercise, nutrition, relaxation and one important area that I know our organization can provide: Service.

Seth Gillihan, a clinical psychologist from the University of Pennsylvania describes it best. “We need to find ways to serve others, even when we’re just trying to keep our heads above water. A narrowed preoccupation with ourselves is draining in its own way. We quickly grow stagnant when we’re internally focused, like a body of water without an outlet.”

I can relate to Seth’s message. I had been serving on other boards and organizations when COVID hit. Those boards and the services they provided came to a halt or were greatly reduced. I had lost something that I very much needed. Even as the only person to ever serve as President Elect of our organization for two straight years, my ability to serve was greatly reduced.

Now, as I look out across the helm, I see glimmers of sunlight and calming seas. I see great possibilities for service in the year ahead. I thank those who have gone before me and endured the storm, and I encourage each of you to join me in committing to a year of serving others and interacting with those you have missed, including your fellow retirees. The recent Gathering proved a welcome relief from the isolation we have all endured.

Perhaps Mahatma Gandhi said it best, “The best way to find ourselves is to lose ourselves in the service to others.” Here is hoping we all find ourselves and once again enjoy all the benefits of The Rocky Mountaineers.

# Membership and Finance Report

Our current membership is now **456**, the most members ever for the Rocky Mountaineers!  
We are always looking for new members, so help us with our recruiting.

## Our Newest Members

**Chandra and Brent Allred** – Glenwood Springs, CO  
**Pamela and Chad Devore** – Seminole, OK  
**Tim Garvey and Liz Mauch** – Montrose, CO  
**Bill and Liz Hahnenberg** – Grand Junction, CO  
**Pat Hessenflow** – La Junta, CO  
**Jeff and Nancy Hogenson** – Driggs, ID  
**Jeff Hyatt** – Salida, CO

**Rachel and Chris Kline** – Firestone, CO  
**Lynn and Chris Lockwood** – Meeker, CO  
**Sonya Lucatero and Michael Willyoung** – Reno, NV  
**Melissa Martin and Gary Beauvais** – Laramie, WY  
**Ree Rodgers** – La Junta, CO  
**Irma and Sonny Wolf** – Evergreen, CO

## Welcome Back Members

**Martha Delporte** – Lakewood, CO

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## Membership Directory

We sent all members an electronic copy of our updated Membership Directory earlier in September. We update the directory about every 6 months. There are a huge number of changes during the year. Check the directory and make sure your contact information is up to date.

Remember that the Membership Directory is strictly for the use of our members. This information is confidential so please do not share it with any non-members. You will not believe how many people/organizations would like to contact you (and sell you something)!

## Dues and Donations

We will begin collecting 2022 dues in November. Dues will remain \$20 annually per household or \$250 per household for a Lifetime membership. We currently have 144 Lifetime members

You can make a donation at any time throughout the year. We have established 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 recognized our 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.

**The Memorial Grove Fund** is used to support the Memorial Grove site in Monument, Colorado, and our ceremony each year.

**The Scholarship Fund** is used to award scholarships to graduating high school seniors for their first year of college. We awarded four \$1,500 scholarships in 2021. Two of these scholarships were earmarked for natural resource majors.

Beginning in 2022, we will begin to award grants to private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations to assist the Forest Service in completing projects that focus on interpretation and education. See the separate article on the next page. Currently we are not accepting earmarked donations for this program.

**Thanks to our members for your support!**

# The Rocky Mountaineers Grant Program

Draft - 2021

## Overview

The Rocky Mountaineers Forest Service Retiree's Association of the Rocky Mountain Region is accepting applications for grants to help fund projects that further the goals of the Rocky Mountaineers within the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service as noted in the Project Selection Criteria.

Grant applications will be accepted from private, non-profit, or non-governmental organizations and individuals pursuing such goals. Grant awards will not be made directly to the U.S. Forest Service.

Approximately \$2,500 - \$5,000 will be available starting in year 2022 for project grants. The Rocky Mountaineers will make these awards available annually as budgets permit, because they support many U.S. Forest Service heritage and natural resource projects; projects that advance public appreciation and understanding of our nation's National Forests and Grasslands natural resources. Projects that focus on existing interpretive and education sites will be emphasized.

## Project Selection Criteria

Grants will be awarded to individuals or organizations for projects that meet the Special Projects Fund and the Mission or Purpose in the Bylaws adopted by the Rocky Mountaineers Board of Directors on July 9, 2013. This policy specifies, "the Association will establish and maintain a special projects fund or account to help support special projects and other philanthropic needs. This fund will not be used for annual operating expenses and shall be maintained by special donations, contributions, and excess annual dues income. The Board will annually decide what special projects will be funded and only projects approved by the board will be funded, except for those responding to emergency needs"

The following criteria shall be used for project selection:

- The project furthers the mission of the Rocky Mountaineers.
- The project will have a lasting influence on National Forest and Grassland management, natural resource management, and will help educate the public on the importance and significance of these resources.
- The project will reach large numbers of people.
- The funds provided by the Rocky Mountaineers can be leveraged with other funds and in kind contributions by organizations or individuals.
- The project/restoration or improvement project will help sustain and maintain the legacy of the Forest Service.
- The Rocky Mountaineers and the awarded individual or organization will receive visible credit for participation.

Not all of these questions will apply to every project proposal, but utilizing this checklist will help the Rocky Mountaineers get the greatest return for its investment.

Applications for grants, therefore, should reflect these policy specifications and criteria. Before and after photos, in digital format will be required.

## How to Apply

Grant applications should be prepared as letters that describe the proposed project and enumerates how its accomplishment would satisfy the selection criteria.

Please note that grant requests supporting U.S. Forest Service projects also must include an accompanying statement of support for and commitment to the project signed by the responsible line officer (e.g., Forest Supervisor or District Ranger).

*(continued on Page 9)*



*(continued from Page 8)***Due Date for (year) Proposals**

Grant applications shall be submitted electronically to the Past Chair of the Rocky Mountaineers at the Rocky Mountaineers e-mail address, no later than December 31, (year prior to project year).

The Past Chair along with two Board members will review the applications and make selections based on the established criteria to be submitted to the Board for approval.

**Reporting**

Approved projects shall be required to submit an annual report by December 31, (year of project) via the Rocky Mountaineers e-mail address. Reports should be brief, demonstrating the project accomplishment, including appropriate before and after pictures. These reports will be linked to the Rocky Mountaineers website and be published in the newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers.

[To download a grant form click on this link!](#)

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## A Few Fire Stories in the News

### **Facing bigger blazes, longer hours, low pay, wildland firefighters ask Congress, agencies for help**

*by Laura Paskus - the Santa Fe Reporter*

The last 24 months have been particularly brutal for wildland firefighters in the western United States. As wildfire season lengthens and fires burn hotter and bigger, firefighters are immersed in emergency situations for weeks and months on end—knowing the years ahead will bring worse.

“It’s a public service that I think a lot of us feel satisfied with at the end of the day,” says Marcus Cornwell, who earned his Red Card, or certification, in 1998. He spent 15 years on interagency hotshot crews and now works on an incident management team. “But the realities that we’re starting to face now with potential climate change...I would say firefighters are in a crisis mode.”

Rising temperatures and drought drive some of the problems. But wildland firefighters face other challenges that have burrowed deep into the fabric of the federal workforce.

The last 24 months have been particularly brutal for wildland firefighters in the western United States. As wildfire season lengthens and fires burn hotter and bigger, firefighters are immersed in emergency situations for weeks and months on end - knowing the years ahead will bring worse.

[More](#)

**California is burning** - on track for the most savage fire year in its history. Drought and scorching temperatures have turbocharged fires that are more extreme than ever. Two of the biggest fires in state history have laid siege to more than a million acres in Northern California, burning dangerously close to Lake Tahoe. Firefighters haven't had a day off in months. Fire chiefs warn there aren't enough aircraft to go around. "It's a war," one told us. A new fleet of hi-tech helicopters will fight wildfires 24/7. And for the first time, the giant Chinook - you've seen them in other war zones - will lead the night assault. It's an \$18 million pilot program the fire chiefs hope will be a game changer.

[More on 60 Minutes](#)

Tweet



The Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, requested a Department of Defense (DoD) activation of approximately 200 active-duty U.S. Army Soldiers to assist with wildfire suppression on the Dixie Fire. Today was a training day for the soldiers. #FireYear2021



3:15 PM · 9/1/21 · Twitter Web App

Tweet your reply

## A Couple of Folks to Know



*Sharon Kyle, nominee for the Chair elect.*

The Board of Directors has recently nominated **Sharon Kyhl** for the Chair-elect position of the Rocky Mountaineers. All Rocky Mountaineer members are eligible to vote on this nomination by voting for Sharon or you may write in another candidate. We will ask members to vote later this month.

Following is Sharon's statement for consideration: Thank you for the honor of being nominated for Chair-elect of the Rocky Mountaineers.

"I spent 30 years of my USFS career in Region 2 (Routt, White River, Pike San Isabel, Black Hills, Center for Design and Interpretation R2 RO, Wyoming Capital City Coordinator) and ended in Region 6.

I started in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and now have a forestry consulting business there with my son. I enjoy my involvement with the Rocky Mountaineers - reunions, travel opportunities, and the scholarship program and treasure the time with old friends and mentors that the Mountaineers provide. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this organization."

Raised in the urban environs of Wichita, KS but with access to nearby family farms, **Steve Johnson** enjoyed hunting, fishing and roaming the rural countryside. Armed with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Wichita State in Social Sciences and Business, he worked at Learjet for 2 years before moving to Colorado and accepting a GS2 trail crew job on the ARNF over a GS5 fire dispatch offer in 1977. This eventually led to appointments with marking crews in Boulder and crew leader in the Fort Collins Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC). Working in forest inventory while he worked to achieve his Masters of Forestry in 1981 at Colorado State University, Steve enjoyed working in the outdoors for as long as he was able. He was primarily employed on the ARNF with a stint on the San Juan and Rio Grande in the late 1980s at Delores/Mancos, then returning to the ARNF. He accepted a position as inventory specialist in the Renewable Resources group in the R2 regional office in 2004. Eventually, this position included responsibilities

for all Vegetation Databases (NRIS, CFI, stage2/ rmstand, FACTS) and Steve was moved into the newly created Resource Information group. He worked in the fire service as crew member/ crew boss and acquired single resource jobs in operations, logistics, planning and aviation over 3 decades. He retired in 2011 and served for 2 summers as a CWN (call when needed) single engine tanker manager with Colorado State Forest Service. He and his wife Michele live a few miles north of Fort Collins on their "ranchita" with dogs, cats, and horses where Steve holds the position of ranch hand.



*Steve Johnson, new area representative for the Northern Colorado/Southern Wyoming area.*

# Stuff To Do When You Retire – The Black Hills Way

by Dave Thom

So, you have a love of the outdoors, a career of public service, and you retire. Now what? Well, you go back to the forest, on your own schedule, without red-tape and pressure, with ample time for enjoyment...and you continue in public service! That's what some hearty retirees and friends in the Black Hills do. A loosely knit group of folks came together to volunteer their time, interests and skills. Dubbed the "Trailbusters" they've cut and cleared 991 beetle-killed trees (with cross-cut saws!) and installed 10 water bars over a cumulative 68 miles of trails racking up 587 person-hours, all in the Black Elk Wilderness. When they're not in the woods? Well, they perform in the Burning Beetle Variety show annually in January. Song-writer, educator and friend of the forest, Hank Fridell, writes a beetle-themed tune and retirees join in song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqYV3cySrw4>.



*Black Elk Wilderness, Sept 2020. L to R: Ed Fischer, Hank Fridell (educator and FS friend), Blaine Cook, Kerry Burns, Dave Thom, Bill Young (educator and long-term seasonal). Not pictured, FS: Dave Mertz, Cindy Hockelberg (R2&R1); Friends: Jan Thom, Ed Hoffman & Sage Fridell. Photo: Beth Doten, USFS-Black Hills NF.*



*Jim and Alice Allen with their mules hauling restoration supplies to the Harney Tower restoration project in the Black Hills NF, South Dakota. Sept 2014*

It is not just human-powered trail work! Alice and Jim Allen, joined Black Hills Backcountry Horsemen of South Dakota in 2010 shortly before they retired. They annually saddle up their mules to help in trail clearing throughout the Black Hills. Occasionally another FS retiree, Craig Bobzien, joins them on the trail. Their favorite project has been doing the heavy lifting to get restoration supplies to the Harney Tower on Black Elk Peak. In the last decade Jim and Alice have cleared over 500 miles of trail, donated over 2,400 hours of their time and made dozens of trips to the peak. When they aren't riding mules, Jim and Alice (and Craig!) enjoy pheasant hunting with their dogs, carriage driving, and maintaining their ranch.

Slow down? No, with a spirit of volunteerism these retirees keep plugging along, getting exercise and enjoying time together in the Black Hills National Forest.



# One Hundred Years

## The Memorial Grove 1921-2021

By Tom Thompson



*Jeff Hovermale, retiree, plants the centennial memorial tree at the ceremony at the Memorial Grove, September 11, 2021 attended by 282 people.*

This marks the hundredth year of planting trees to honor those who were a part of the Forest Service family and cared for the forests and grasslands of the Rocky Mountain Region. As we proceed with this ceremony it is a good time to think of how fortunate we are to be able to come together here during these challenging times and remember the people who were not only important in our own lives but who were also an important part of what makes the Forest Service so special.

As you look at the trees over there in that Grove, just for a moment think about the thirty trees that were planted here on Sunday, May 29, 1921. If those trees could share what they have seen or heard, it would be a story of change, of story of challenges, and a story of people dedicated to making the world better and appreciating the great country we have. When those seedlings were planted here in this Monument Tree Nursery, they had just seen the end of World War I and had seen the country recover from a worldwide pandemic of Spanish Flu. The sounds in this meadow were changing with the whistle of a train in the distance and the sputtering of a few automobiles coming over the rise as Walter Schrader worked to grow seedlings to be planted on burn scars across the region.

On the horizon, the times coming for this region would be tough with the Dust Bowl and the Depression. The trees could probably remember the

voices of many young men who were part of Civilian Conservation Corps camp working here during the thirties. Memories of those men and their work still remain embedded in rock lined ditches and stone buildings and a few of their names are engraved here at this Memorial.

There was a quiet here for the young grove of trees during the forties as many of the CCC men and even Nursery workers went off to fight yet another war. A few that we honor here today were amongst those who were called upon to serve their country. After a few years the quiet in the meadow changed with the hustle and bustle heard from afar. There was much happening as houses and highways and businesses were being built and the Forest Service was in the mix of providing wood, water, recreation, jobs, and of course Smokey Bear all the sudden was front and center.



*Tom*

So much was happening so fast as baby boomers were reshaping the country. There were green and grey dodge trucks coming up and down Nursery Road as the Nursery was back in full production trying to keep up with the demand for trees. There was even the whirl of an occasional helicopter and the sound of more and more planes broke the quiet. There was extra noise in the distance as Girl Scouts and Boy

Scouts both had their national gatherings just across the valley a short ways and then there was a great commotion as the Air Force began to build the Academy.

*(continued on Page 13)*

*(continued from Page 12)*

*The 2021 ceremony was a hot one and families found shade back by the trail. Thirty five honorees had family representatives at the ceremony.*

Each year new trees were being planted in the Grove to honor people. Trees were planted for Colonel Alan Peck whose idea it was to create the Memorial and for Schrader and many others who were there at the first planting.

Then in the early sixties, there again was a quiet as the Monument Nursery was closed down and there was wonder about who would care for this Grove. As the years went by people did care and did not forget the importance of this Rocky Mountain legacy. Special thanks to the people of the Pikes Peak Ranger District because they were a big part of making us remember this Grove and were dedicated to making sure it was not forgotten.



*The four plaques with 71 names were attached and on display.*

This was never clearer for the trees than on a hot and windy day in 1989 when the sounds and heat from a fire that raced up the slope of Mt. Herman and threatened the Grove. There was relief when firefighters were able to save the Grove and only a few trees were lost on the edge. As you can see from the surrounding area, it seemed like a miracle that these special trees were spared.

In recent years, the sounds of the Pikes Peak Hotshot's chainsaw and other sounds could be heard as they trained hard and prepare themselves each year. There also have been the sounds coming from the "helitack" crew

positioned just up over the hill and standing ready to take action when called upon.

Again, if only the trees could share what they have seen and heard it would be a big part of what the Forest Service is and what changes we have seen. On this fateful day just twenty years ago there was yet another unusual quiet here in this meadow as the country was shocked by the 9/11 attack and we would never be the same again. We all remember that quite well.



*The big tent was a favorite spot for families this year to stay out of the sun. 145 family members were in attendance.*

The men and women we honor today were part of the history of many years in this Region. They were foresters,

rangers, clerks, accountants, fire fighters, a forest supervisor or two, biologists, engineers, surveyors, map makers, range conservationists, technicians, and then of course computer and communications people. As members of their families and their friends, we know they all loved the mountains, the forests, and the lands they were charged to take care of.

A century of history is recorded in the many names engraved here at this Memorial and their stories and their lives are a big part of the history of the Forest Service. As we again recover from yet another worldwide pandemic, close the chapter on another war, smell and see smoke from distant "Big Burns", and face new realities, changes, and challenges, let all of us not forget that we are all in one way or another part of the important history of taking care of our nation's forests and grasslands "for the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run."



## Happy Birthday Woodsy



For more than a quarter of a century, Woodsy Owl has been America's original and official environmental icon. Woodsy has been an anti-pollution symbol and taught us to, "Give a hoot; don't pollute!" Since his creation in 1971, Woodsy has been instrumental in helping teachers and parents inspire children to care actively for the environment.

Like his good friend Smokey bear, Woodsy Owl is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, and a protected symbol under Public Law 93-318. On Earth Day, April 22, 1997, the "new, improved" Woodsy emerged to befriend a new generation of children, motivating them to form healthy, lasting relationships with nature. The USDA Forest Service teamed up with the Children's Television Workshop in revitalizing Woodsy's message and appearance to become more meaningful with today's youth and

teaching environments. The State Foresters, the National Forest Foundation, and other partners are working with the Forest Service to help Woodsy fly into children's lives. Caring, friendly, and wise, Woodsy is a whimsical mentor to youngsters. His new message, "Lend a hand' care for the land!" is positive, easily understood, and generates an interest in the stewardship of natural resources. As Woodsy flies across the land, he invites children to see the world around them and explore their surroundings. Woodsy builds on his original message of, "Give a hoot; don't pollute!" by inviting children to renew, reuse, and recycle. Woodsy's looks have changed to be more identifiable with children in the 1990s. He now sports a backpack, hiking shoes, and field pants -- smart and safe for exploring the "great outdoors." Woodsy appears sportier, ready now to fly across forests and urban areas or lead children on nature hikes. Woodsy provides a new generation with a positive, enlightened introduction to a world in which we all work together to conserve. Woodsy's activities provide the opportunity for young children to appreciate the environment, and stimulate a desire to participate in the stewardship of natural resources.

### It's the Law!

In 1974, Congress passed Public Law 93-318. The so-called Woodsy Owl Act protects the image, declaring: "The term Woodsy Owl means the name and representation of a fanciful owl, who wears slacks (forest green when colored), a belt (brown when colored) and a Robin Hood-style hat (forest green when colored) with a feather (red when colored), and who furthers the slogan 'Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute.'"



Old Woodsy - circa 1971



New Woodsy - circa 1997


*(continued on Page 15)*



(continued from Page 14)

**Woodsy Owl Job Hazard Analysis - FS Form 6700-7 (revised 2/98)**

FS-6700-7 (2/98)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service	1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY <b>Events where you will be wearing the Woodsy Owl Costume</b>	2. LOCATION <b>Multiple Locations</b>	3. UNIT <b>Conservation Education</b>
<b>JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA) References-FSH 6709.11 and -12 (Instructions on Reverse)</b>	4. NAME OF ANALYST <b>Rebecca Robertshaw</b>	5. JOB TITLE <b>Supply Technician /Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	6. DATE PREPARED <b>April 2, 2008</b>
7. TASKS/PROCEDURES		9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS <b>Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls * PPE</b>	
 <p>Join Siuslaw NF field ranger Julia Johanos, in a beautiful Happy Birthday song for Woodsy!</p> <p><a href="https://vimeo.com/604938565">https://vimeo.com/604938565</a></p>		<p><b>Tripping/Falling</b></p> <p>A. Have a dressing assistant or escort to help you get into the costume to avoid tripping and falling. B. Wear lightweight, comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement. Wear good walking shoes for stability.</p> <p><b>Dehydration/Heat Injury and exhaustion</b></p> <p>A. Take breaks hourly or as needed to cool down and hydrate. You should start drinking water prior to getting into the costume, so you start out hydrated. Stay away from carbonated, and caffeinated drinks before or during a performance – caffeine dehydrates your body drastically and carbonation will drain your energy. B. Eat appropriately – eating food that are high in carbohydrates such as pasta and rice prior to a performance will assist you with your energy level. Stay away from high salt and sugar meals because they will drain your energy and dehydrate you.</p> <p><b>Running into Objects or People, Tripping and Falling, Stairs, Escalators, Bleachers</b></p> <p>A. Have someone to act as your escort, to guide you and lead you, THEY MUST STAY WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES. Due to your reduced vision you will need them to walk with you to avoid running into any objects or people. They will guide you and cue you about uneven ground or any other hazard and lead you where you want to go. B. AVOID STAIRS, BLEACHERS, AND ESCALATORS as it is difficult to judge distance from inside a costume. A light push on the stairs with the big feet of the costume can cause you to lose your balance and take a very bad fall.</p> <p><b>In case of emergency</b></p> <p>A. In case of an emergency, the escort would help get the person inside the costume free of the costume.</p> <p><b>Dealing with threatening or obnoxious person/child.</b></p> <p>A. This is one of the primary reasons every person in a costume needs an escort. When dealing with an obnoxious person ignoring them sometimes works. Avoid aggressive behavior inside the costume. Absolutely do not pretend to box with onlookers – it invites trouble. Hard high fives, tight hand shakes and similar behavior may cause onlookers to become aggressive and angry. If a child will not let go of your hand, don't fight them - relax and don't resist. They will let go. Know your audience – with middle school/high school kids, watch your back. Stay clear of unsafe areas. Decide on a hand signal with your escort to call for help. The escort will immediately stop any behavior that is threatening. They will call for back-up if necessary.</p> <p><b>Animals/Deep Water</b></p> <p>A. Avoid swimming pools and deep water. Steer clear of animals at all times.</p> <p><b>Tripping/Falling/Dehydration</b></p> <p>A. Your escort should remove the head of the costume first as this improves your vision. Next sit down and remove the big shoes, this will give you better balance to remove the rest of the costume. Drink some water to rehydrate.</p>	

USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Meryl Harrell wishes Woodsy Owl a very happy birthday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMfvczbFNng>

YouTube link for old school Woodsy PSAs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0oVhiC9NfY>

**Watch Out Woodsy!**

“When dealing with an obnoxious person ignoring them sometimes works. Avoid aggressive behavior inside the costume. Absolutely do not pretend to box with onlookers - it invites trouble. Hard high fives, tight hand shakes and similar behavior may cause onlookers to become aggressive and angry. If a child will not let go of your hand, don't fight them - relax and don't resist. They will let go. Know your audience - with middle school/high school kids, watch your back. Stay clear of unsafe areas. Decide on hand signals with your escort to call for help...Avoid swimming pools and deep water. Stay clear of animals at all times.”

## Around the Region



On a pleasant August 25<sup>th</sup> evening twenty- six retirees and twelve spouses gathered in Delta, Colorado to catch-up on travel experiences, grandkids and other pursuits. The event was the first of this kind in three years for the GMUG NF locality. Joining us was Tony Edwards, Deputy Forest Supervisor on the GMUG NF, who shared current doings with the Forest, including topics such as; Forest Plan revision, CORE Act, national fire news and how the Forest Service has evolved in the world of Covid. Time was then allotted for Q&A. Tony graciously stuck around until the small group and one on one interaction had been satisfied. This was followed by a delicious potluck dinner. In addition money was collected for donation to the National Museum of Forest Service History and several new members were recruited. Recognition was given to the retiree who; traveled the furthest to attend; worked on the most units during their career (fire assignments did not count); the most recent retiree; and the one who had been retired the longest. Each of these special folks received a very cool Smoky Bear handkerchief. Reasonable precautions were observed to keep each other healthy; consequently no staged group picture was taken. While no future gathering was set all attendees were eager to see another event such as this occur next year.



This handsome group of retirees met for a picnic on September 16, at the Elk's Picnic Grounds, north of Durango.

Approximately thirty folks were in attendance, including spouses.

There were also two retirees from the San Juan Mountains Association in attendance.



# National Museum of Forest Service History

*By Lisa Tate and Dave Stack*



Earlier this year, the National Museum of Forest Service History (Museum) received a very generous donation to further our mission by developing a comprehensive

Oral History Program. The donation was to cover expenses to allow the Museum to hire a dedicated Oral Historian for a three year period. After an exhaustive national search, the Museum is proud to announce our new Oral Historian is James B. Wall, PhD.



*James B. Wall*

James Wall is a native of Dallas, Texas. He received his BA in History from the University of North Texas in 2008. He then attended the University of Houston, where he earned his MA in history and began his work as an oral historian, interviewing subjects on behalf of the Culinary Crossroads Project. He

continued his oral

history fieldwork while researching for his dissertation, "Settling Down for the Long Haul: The Black Freedom Movement in Southwest Georgia."

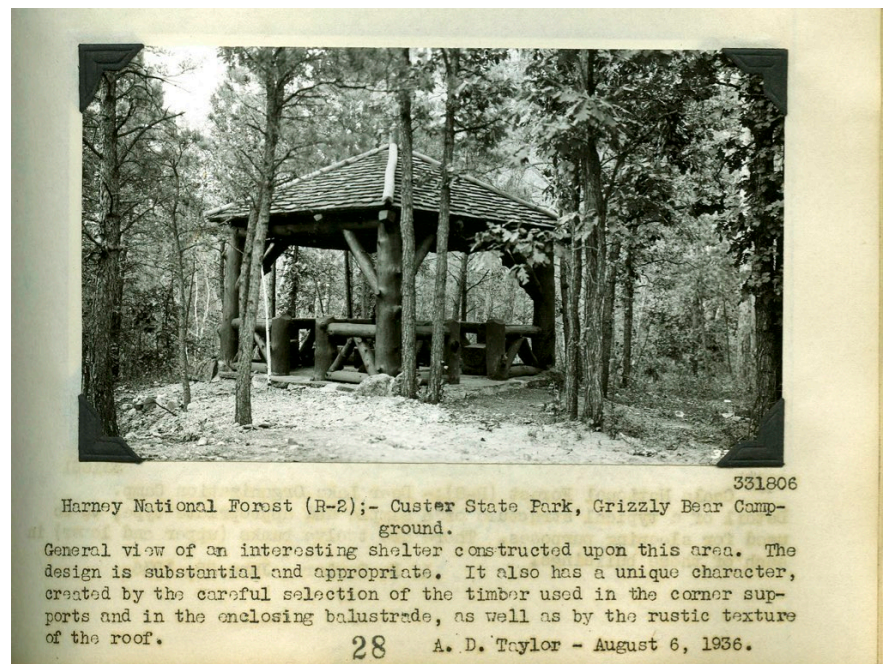
In August 2018, he earned his PhD in American History from the University of Georgia. He has worked on the staff of Civil Rights in Black and Brown, an NEH-funded oral history project and digital humanities website documenting the history of grassroots civil rights activism across the state of Texas. Most recently, while serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Angelo State University, he worked as an Oral Historian for the George

Wesley Ricks Memorial World War II History Archive. When he is not working, James spends as much time hiking and camping as he can, and he is thrilled to call Montana home.

## 1936 National Landscape Inspection Report Received

The National Museum of Forest Service History is pleased to share that the Museum recently received "Problems of Landscape Architecture in the National Forests." According to Dave Stack, vice president of the Museum, this report was prepared for the Chief by A. D. Taylor, USFS Landscape Architect.

The report was the result of an inspection trip to all regions, except R-10, during the summer of 1936. There are over 250 excellent original black/white photographic prints with Taylor's observations. There are 48 pages describing recreation sites, including three national forests in the Rocky Mountain Region: Black Hills, Harney (added to Black Hills NF in 1954) and the Medicine Bow.







## NAFSR Report

*by Sharon Friedman, Rocky Mountain  
Region NAFSR representative*



*Jane Darnell*

The big news out of NAFSR recently is that Jane Darnell has accepted the position of Vice-Chair of NAFSR. Steve Ellis is the new and current Chair. Many of us remember Jane from her work as Forest Supervisor on the Nebraska, and her many other helpful assignments around the Region and elsewhere. She's wonderful and we're pretty excited to have her on board. With this leadership team in

place, we're ready to forge ahead on a variety of fronts.

Another addition to NAFSR is Doug Crandall, whom many of you may remember from his work in the Washington Office in Legislative Affairs and as a kind of Administration-whisperer. Since he retired, he has volunteered to help NAFSR with all things legislative. He will be an enormous asset as



*Doug Crandall*

NAFSR works with Congress on various bills, including the megabucks infrastructure bills. NAFSR folks have been spending a great deal of time this summer making the case for more forest restoration, fuel treatments, and prescribed burning to help deal with increasingly disastrous wildfires.

Steve Ellis recently wrote an excellent op-ed on the topic of "fuel treatments do work" and "we need to get on with it."

If you have any questions about NAFSR, check on [www.nafsr.org](http://www.nafsr.org) or contact me directly at [terraveritas@gmail.com](mailto:terraveritas@gmail.com). The Board is dedicated to helping the agency, and to represent the collective views of all Forest Service retirees as best we can. I encourage you to become a member if you are not already.



*Steve Ellis at the recent Rocky Mountain Gathering in Woodland Park. Steve was there to award the Pikes Peak Ranger District with the prestigious John R. McGuire Award, given to Forest Service personnel who have met the challenges facing the profession in the 21st Century as envisioned by Chief McGuire.*

# Early Forest Service Women Fire Guards Get Big Surprise

By Art Tiedemann



*Esther Tracy and Eva Cover, fire guards on the Idlewild Ranger Station in Winter Park, CO.*

Early summer, 1944 at The Idlewild Ranger Station in Winter Park, Colorado, my father, District Forest Ranger Henry F.

Tiedemann was in a quandry. The Assistant Ranger, John Mattoon, was in the Pacific theatre of the war flying his fighter plane from the deck

of an aircraft carrier. Most eligible men were also in the war. Dad was exempt, as were most Forest Rangers because lumber, beef, and wool from the National Forests they managed were critical to the war effort. He was in serious need of summer Fire Guards, but there was scant choice of qualified people. Summer was the busiest time on the Ranger District. Trees had to be marked for harvest, grazing lands for sheep and cattle had to be managed to assure that they were not overgrazed, campgrounds had to be maintained, and the forest had to be protected from fire.

Fire Guard duties were mainly finding and fighting fires. When not fighting fires, their duties included helping mark trees to be harvested, campground management, trail maintenance, fence maintenance, and maintenance of the Ranger Station.

As it happened, two middle-aged women in nearby Grand Lake also found themselves in a quandry. Esther Tracy and Eva Cover owned a lodge and motel at Grand Lake. It was their main source of income,

and was a full time job, especially in the summer tourist season. But, with gasoline rationing, scarcity of tires, and tight money, people were not traveling, and their rooms were largely unoccupied. WHAT TO DO? They somehow learned that Ranger Tiedemann was looking for Fire Guards, so they decided to take a trip to Winter Park and find out about these jobs. After all, they were used to the heavy work of maintaining a lodge and motel, and were both in excellent physical condition. Esther was tall with a



*Eva Cover*

short haircut. Eva was shorter with long wavy hair. I remember them being very nice ladies, and very hard workers.

Dad was a very open-minded manager, and a person who did what it took to get the job done, and done well. He was also desperate.

I suppose he

could be considered an "equal opportunity employment" pioneer in the Forest Service.

After interviewing Esther and Eva, he hired them. He later told me that they were two of the best Fire Guards he ever had. Hard working, meticulous in their tasks, and friendly and outgoing to the few tourists that found the campgrounds. He assigned them the vacant Assistant Rangers' quarters—a nice little two bedroom cottage about 50 yards from the Ranger's house.

*(continued on Page 20)*

*(continued from Page 19)**Esther Tracy and Eva Cover, fire guards circa 1944.*

One afternoon Esther and Eva were doing maintenance work at the Idlewild Campground about a half mile from the Ranger Station, when they noticed a smoke plume coming from an area down near the Fraser River. It was only a quarter mile down a trail to the river, so they went to investigate with their fire fighting tools. They were back in a flash, got in their pickup, and headed for the Ranger Station. They charged into Dad's office yelling "HENRY, HENRY, YOU'VE GOT TO COME QUICKLY." I was playing in the pond near the office, so I scurried to go along. Since Dad had no idea what the problem was, he did not forbid my tagging along. We all scrambled down the trail to the river where we saw a large fire on the gravel and rocks right on the edge of the river.

As we approached the fire, we saw something we could not believe - TWO NAKED NATIVE AMERICANS SITTING IN THE FRASER RIVER SWATTING THEMSELVES WITH WILLOW BRANCHES. Then, two more surprised us as they appeared from the willows and trees. Dad asked them what they were doing. They explained that they had built a sweat lodge back in the trees. More came until there were about a dozen. Dad told Esther and Eva to take me home while he stayed behind to explain to the Native Americans about open fires and fire danger, and to make sure they put out the fire and dismantled the sweat lodge.

He was down at the river with them for quite a long time. As it turned out, the Native Americans were on a railroad maintenance crew stationed at the rail yards about a half mile from the Ranger Station near the Moffat Tunnel and Winter Park Ski Area. The railroads suffered a lack of manpower, and had recruited southwestern Native Americans to lay track. For them, the sweat lodge was a ceremonial cleansing in which they participated when they had a few days off. The fire was used to heat large rocks which were then carried between two poles to the sweat lodge. There, they poured water over the rocks and sealed the opening with a blanket.

*Esther Tracy*

They promised to never do this again where they might start a forest fire, and Dad never saw evidence that they broke their promise.

Esther and Eva worked for Dad for at least two years. When the war was over, and business at their lodge and motel got back to normal, they had a good story to

tell their guests. We stayed in contact with them until we left Winter Park in 1951. On a couple of occasions, we went to stay with them in their lodge and fished in Grand Lake from their dock.

**Acknowledgements:** *The author thanks the Grand County Historical Association for providing the photographs of Esther and Eva. These photos are an important part of the story of these memorable, industrious, pioneering women who made their own unique contribution to the war effort.*



# "That's the Way I Remember it"

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

## John and Peggy Morrison



**36 years of  
combined  
Federal  
Service**

### **The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?**

**John:** I was born in Glasgow, Montana, and grew up in small towns in Western Montana and North Idaho. I did then, and still do, avoid the bustle of metropolitan areas to the extent possible.

**Peggy:** Born in Chicago (first child). Parents took a vacation to Northwest Montana to visit my Dad's Air Force flying buddy and Dad decided that's where he wanted to raise me. Back to Illinois, he quit his job as meat manager of a National Tea (I later heard there were some Mafia connections there), sold the brand-new house and car, loaded up a big new truck, and moved to a house by Flathead Lake, without electricity or running water. Certainly not what Mom had envisioned! Dad's first job in Montana was building boats, especially big cabin cruisers for the rich people living on Flathead Lake. On the weekends, he worked as a butcher in Kalispell, and we raised chickens for sale. I started school in the local 2-room schoolhouse, 4 grades per room. My first-grade class was 6 boys and me. We finally got electricity and dug a well for water, but Mom had had enough of the country life, so we moved to town – Kalispell – a week before child #3 was born.

### **Editor's Note:**

*We thought we would try something different in this space and interview a Forest Service couple - both of whom worked for the Forest Service. I think you'll find their story interesting and familiar.*

### **TR: Tell us a little about your respective families.**

**John:** I am the oldest of five children; I have two brothers and two sisters. My father was a forester, a career Forest Service employee, who served as District Ranger on three Ranger Districts, and as Staff Officer on two National Forests, all in Region 1. My mother, who was also a college graduate, kept us kids in line, taught us a lot, prepared dinners for many visiting Supervisor Office and other Ranger District personnel, tolerated many moves, lived in isolated residences, and was very supportive of the whole family.

**Peggy:** I'm the oldest of 4 children, 3 girls and 1 boy, with a 5-year age difference between me and the next child. All of the relatives stayed in the Midwest; we traveled back there on the train about every 4 years. Only Mom's mother came out to visit us (usually to help after a new baby), the others afraid to come out to the high elevation of the mountains in the wild, wild west. Kalispell is only 2956 feet high! Mom loved to cook, but didn't really care about house cleaning. Being the oldest, I did most of the dusting, vacuuming, etc. Other than baking cookies, I didn't cook. When I was in high school, Mom went back to Illinois when her father was dying. I was charged with watching the younger ones and doing the cooking too (In those days, fathers didn't do that "women's work.") What could be hard about that? I had watched my Mom for years – throw this and that in the pans, stir a bit, and ready to serve, right? To this day, my sibs discuss the horrible food they got while Mom was away – especially the tasteless, lumpy gravy they said I MADE them eat!

*(continued on Page 22)*

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

**John:** My grade school years were spent in Big Timber and Gardiner, Montana. In both places at that time, one teacher was in charge of two grades per classroom. In eight years of elementary school I had four excellent teachers. In Gardiner, part of our school playground was actually located within the legal boundary of Yellowstone National Park. I liked to look at the elk from the Park that bedded down on the playground during inclement winter weather.



All of my high school years were in Grangeville, Idaho. I graduated from Grangeville High School in 1959. Go Bulldogs!!

My favorite

subjects were wood shop, math and history. Then it was on to the University of Idaho in Moscow. Initially my goal was a degree in forestry, but after an accident, described below, I decided to change to accounting and business - indoor jobs.

As a side note, during my high school years my parents and the rest of the family would move to Adams Camp, the summer Slate Creek District Office location, an "in and out" District. I stayed in Grangeville and worked in a small grocery store. On my days off I would hitch hike 30 miles to Adams to see the family. Hitch hiking there and then was safe, but I certainly wouldn't do that anywhere today!

**Peggy:** My favorite subject was arithmetic, but I was also a voracious reader, going to the library and bringing home a pile of books every week. I wanted to play the violin, so my parents rented one and I started playing in the 4th grade. The music teacher had told my parents I had no musical aptitude, but my parents didn't tell me what they'd been told. I continued playing and was the high school orchestra's concert mistress all four years!

I was on the math/science track in high school when girls at that time were only supposed to be interested in being a secretary, nurse, or school teacher. I was a

student assistant in the Guidance Office, and one of the counselors suggested I look into the math program at Arizona State University. A stack of Arizona Highways magazines had been left at the house when we moved in, and I had devoured them for years. I knew going to Arizona for college was meant to be, and getting a scholarship there cinched it. Math major - but what was I going to do with that? I didn't want to be a teacher or researcher in that field? I loved my psychology class, and psychological statistics was right up my alley. Both majors were in the College of Liberal Arts, so I could change majors without losing the scholarship. I filled my schedule with electives in the Business College, including a wonderful Personnel Management class.

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

**John:** Growing up in a Forest Service family and being physically in National Forests were a very positive influence in my life. My first job with the Forest Service was a seasonal trail crew position when I was 18.

I worked seasonally (summers) for the Forest Service as I could throughout my college career. In addition to clearing and maintaining National Forest trails, I also enjoyed "smoke chasing" - putting out small lightning-started fires. Two benefits of this firefighting were (1) no charge for meals while on the fire (of course, the eats on fires were C-rations from the military, some including a package of cigarettes); and (2) being paid for all hours worked on the fire, albeit only at the straight time rate. I loved the outdoor summer jobs! When I was about to graduate from college a Forest Service recruiter, Dick Caruso, visited the U of I campus. I had met him before at dinner at my parents' house, and went in to say hello. I had accepted an accounting job with J.C. Penny in California, but Dick told me that the Forest Service was now hiring college graduate business types, including accountants! I jumped at the chance!

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My first professional job with the Forest Service was Nursery Accountant for the Coeur d'Alene and Savenac Nurseries. Duties included maintaining accounting records, computing the cost of seedlings, fund transfers, and inventories.

Later jobs included Budget & Finance and Resource Section heads on three National Forests in Region 1, positions in Fiscal & Accounting Management in Regions 1 and 2, and a period in the Detached Washington Office program development unit in Fort Collins. I retired in Region 2 as Director of Fiscal & Accounting Management.

**Peggy:** Several friends from high school went to work for the Forest Service after graduating. They suggested I apply for a seasonal job. I started working in Administrative Services on the Flathead NF as a GS-3 (temp employee) after my junior year at Arizona State. My supervisor was the mother of one of my high school classmates, and the Forest Supervisor was the father of one of my classmates. I liked the whole atmosphere of the office – it was family.

I went back to AZ for my senior year, and among other interviews, I met recruiters from the Forest Service Southwest Regional Office. I had qualified for a GS-7 position, but was offered only a GS-5 job in Springerville, AZ. I declined, and went home to Kalispell after graduation, returning to my temp job on the Flathead NF. The Administrative Officer and the Fire Staff person knew I'd qualified for a "professional" position, and made a call to the Regional Office in Missoula. Before I knew it, I was in Missoula being interviewed for a Personnel position. Max Peterson, the Chief of the Forest Service, happened to be in Missoula that day, and I was thrilled to be able to meet him and visit a few minutes. Within a couple days of the interview, I was offered the GS-7 Personnel Section Head job on the Beaverhead National Forest in Dillon, MT. I was the first woman hired for a professional position in the Northern Region, so I was under a lot of scrutiny.

Both the AO on the Beaverhead, John Destito, who was a Personnel Section Head before coming to that Forest, and the Personnel Secretary were very supportive of me, so I had wonderful training. Wally Gallaher, who we know now in Region 2, was the Forest Supervisor on the Beaverhead at that time.

## **TR: How did you two meet?**

**John:** Both Peggy and I were young, single career employees with the Forest Service, both transferred to the Beaverhead Forest in Montana within two weeks of each other. I was there as Budget & Finance Officer and Resource Section Head, Peggy as the Personnel Section Head. The AO, John Destito, whom we both worked for on the Beaverhead, and whom I had worked with previously, actually told me

to "... stay away from my Personnel Section Head." You can see how that turned out!

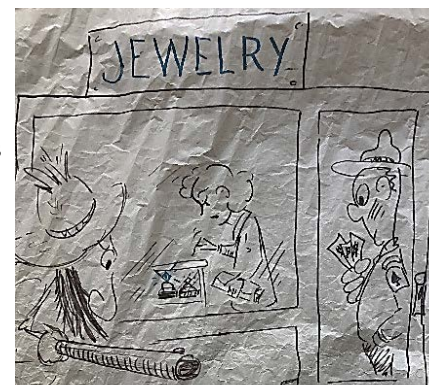


*Wedding Day, 12.67*

We were two new kids in town, no close friends to hang out with, so we just began getting together for occasional meals and sharing activities we both enjoyed, like trout fishing. We had actually crossed paths before.

When I worked seasonally on the Glacier View Ranger District some of us would go to Glacier Park on occasion and stop at Eddie's Café in Apgar. Peggy worked at Eddie's and we knew many of the same people who worked at Eddie's and on the Ranger District. Apparently, at that time, we weren't much impressed with each other.

**Peggy:** Being an accountant, John decided that for income tax purposes we needed to get married before the end of the year. Sooo December it was – knowing each other only 4½ months. The Beaverhead office had an engagement party for us, and the Dillon District Ranger drew this cartoon for the party.



*Shotgun wedding?*

*(continued on Page 24)*

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*(continued from Page 23)***TR: Who was the first one to work for the Forest Service? What was the job?**

**John:** I was the first one to work for the Forest Service, starting seasonally for 3 summers, then to full time. Peggy worked seasonally also when she was going to college, then a professional position after she graduated.

**TR: How'd that work out with both of you working for the USFS?**

**John:** Worked out fine for us, but both working for the Forest Service and for the same Supervisor at that point in time was unacceptable to the agency.

**Peggy:** When we told our supervisor, AO John Destito, and Forest Supervisor Wally Gallaher that we were planning to get married, they said they would have to inform the Regional Office. The Personnel Officer in Missoula decreed that continued employment for both of us would only be approved for 6 months after the wedding. All in all, everything worked out fine for us. No big issues between us in staff meetings or at home either!

**TR: Peggy - you decided to end your career? Tell us about that decision.**

**Peggy:** I worked the approved 6 months, then "retired" from the Forest Service. That year John was transferred to the Clearwater NF, and we moved to Idaho at Thanksgiving. Friends we made on the Clearwater are still our best friends to this day, 53 years later. The Forest Service FAMILY!

Remember that math was my favorite subject in school? Why did no teacher or counselor tell me the practical application for math would be accounting? So after having three children, I went back to school for an advanced degree, and took and passed the CPA exam. I ended up as a professor teaching accounting and computer information systems at Colorado State University for 10 years while John was stationed in Fort Collins. After our move to Lakewood, I worked in health care – for three major health insurance companies, and three large physician groups before retiring for good.

**TR: John – you had an accident in the woods that changed your career path – tell us about that.**

August 26, 1960, working seasonally on the North Fork District of the Flathead NF, I was struck by a falling tree. A crew of us were in an active timber sale logging area gathering cones from fallen trees. The cones would be shipped to Forest Service tree nurseries where the seeds would be extracted and later planted. We were beginning to make our way back to the pickups to head back to camp. It was Friday night after all!

A logger was in the process of falling a large tree that had a huge number of cones toward the top. Two of us were waiting until the tree fell and we could descend onto the downed tree top, access the cones, and quickly fill our collection sacks. Unfortunately, when that tree started to fall, it bounced off another standing tree and on to me. It crushed my pelvis, broke my shoulder, and caused internal injuries. I was taken, sitting up, in a Forest Service pick-up truck to Dr Bennett's office in Columbia Falls. I was then quickly put into an ambulance and taken to Flathead County Hospital in Kalispell. Dr Bennett and Dr Vessie saved my life there that night. I had entered college intending to major in Forestry, but after the accident I concluded that if I was that poor in the woods, I needed to change my major. I did change my major - to accounting. It took me a year to recover from the accident so I could go back to college and work again.

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

**John:** My father was my example as I was growing up and really fostered my interest in the Forest Service. He took me along on some of his jobs in the forest, and I was able to get a real feel for Forest Service work. Others include John Destito, AO on the Beaverhead and Dick Caruso who recruited me from college, passed on good advice, and was very supportive throughout my career.

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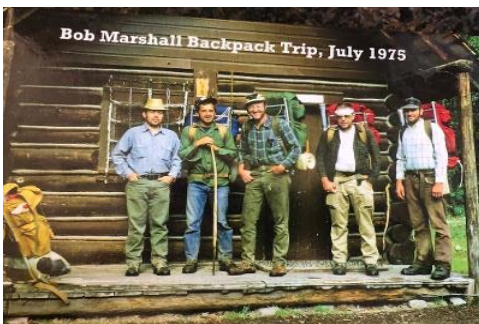
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**Peggy:** How about advice from a Forest Service wife? Wally Gallaher's wife, Shirley, told me a couple of months after John and I were married that while being transferred with the Forest Service meant a lot of good-byes, remember to take advantage of everything to see and do at the new location, make friends right away with the Forest Service families there, and try a new activity or hobby each time you move. I learned to play bridge, made candles, grew herbs, joined a gourmet cooking group, learned to quilt, played violin duets in church . . . I always joined the Forest Service women's groups wherever we were located. At one time I was treasurer, then president of Region 2's Pine Cone Club. I've never forgotten Shirley's wonderful advice!

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

**John:** The most enjoyable parts of the jobs I had throughout my career were the work itself, the innovations I was privileged to participate in, the resulting accomplishments, and discovery of ways to do the job easier and better. I met employees and gathered data in all nine Regions. I learned a lot.

The people I had the privilege of working with were the best! You may have heard about the "Forest Service Family" in the "old days." And it was truly like a family. We still have friends we met in the Forest Service that we are very close to 50 years after living in communities with them, raising our families together, and working and playing together.



*FS Employees taking a week off. Left to right: John Morrison, Bob Wynecoop, Darrell McNenny, Dick Haines, Jim Abernathy. Two of the five have passed away.*

The photo is five Orofino, Idaho, Forest Service friends (3 engineers, 1 forester, 1 accountant) from a backpack trip across the Bob Marshall Wilderness in 1975.

I fondly remember hiking, fishing, hunting, playing poker together. Now we cry at each other's funerals, just like family!! Times have changed, people are living under different circumstances today. On the down side, long-winded meetings were never, ever my favorite.

**Peggy:** The best part of any job I've had have been the people I've worked with. I was fortunate to have many different types of jobs, trying something new every time John was transferred to a new location.

The worst part of several jobs has been limited resources (not enough staff, in particular) available to get the work done appropriately. That usually meant that I spent too much time at work.

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

**Peggy:** When working in health care, I was on a national task force to develop a comprehensive computerized system for medical records, medical billing, and administrative functions/reports to be used in physicians' and hospital practices. This was 25 years ago. I found out just recently that our daughter (a radiologist in Denver) uses this system in her practice! Updated, I'm sure, but I helped develop the initial system!

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

**John:** When the Forest Service was just beginning to implement the Automated Timber Sale Accounting System which replaced the manually produced Statements of Account, I worked closely with Districts making sure that the automated system was understood and provided correct statements. At one District Office I visited, the persons responsible for Timber Sale Accounting told me that their manual statements and the automated statements didn't always agree. I asked if they knew why, and what they did when that happened. The response: "Oh, we go back and see where we made our mistake."

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

**John:** Retirement is really only a change of activities. For nearly 10 years after my retirement from Region 2, I consulted off and on with the Comptroller of the Currency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and even a stint back with the Forest Service in Washington D.C. and Fort Collins. I traveled to a number of Indian Reservations in several states doing physical



*Fishing is great - even when it's snowing.*

walking, yard work, Kiwanis Club projects, traveling and family. I try to go fishing for steelhead trout in Michigan with relatives and friends every year the end of March, and I enjoy fishing for salmon on the Alagnak River in Alaska every few years.

I climbed Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania in 2013. In 2015 we walked part of the Inca trail in Peru, ending at Machu Picchu. We have taken several trips to Europe, South America, Southeast Asia, Scandinavia, Russia, Australia, and New Zealand. We learn much from the people we cross paths with on these sojourns. Keeps us active and busy.



*Chris, Paul, John, Peg, Eric*

inventories for the BIA. Just got to do the job - no lengthy meetings, no benefits, except I was allowed to contribute to an IRA. I was only paid for the hours worked plus travel cost reimbursements.

I still very much enjoy getting outdoors,

spend time at Grand Lake, all seasons of the year.

I volunteer at Denver Botanic Gardens with the Herb Guild, play in the handbell choir at church, coordinate a charity quilting group, and I am currently treasurer of my P.E.O. chapter. I'm on several church committees, and with another friend, plan and coordinate all the receptions at church (lots of cooking!).



*En route to Machu Picchu -2015 at 15,213 feet*

We have taken many international trips with Friendship Force and hosted wonderful visitors at our house. This group has a program of home hospitality - local hosts welcome international visitors, sharing with them meals, conversation, and the best sights and experiences of their region. Exotic travel included joining John in Africa for a

safari in the Serengeti after he climbed Kilimanjaro. Two years later, we spent 6 days hiking 48 miles in Peru, from Cusco to Machu Picchu, partially on the Inca Trail. That trek included a newly installed zipline across the Amazon River to get to our next lodge. My first zipline - Scary! So far, we've been to 36 countries outside the United States, but hope to do a few more when travel restrictions have lifted around the world.

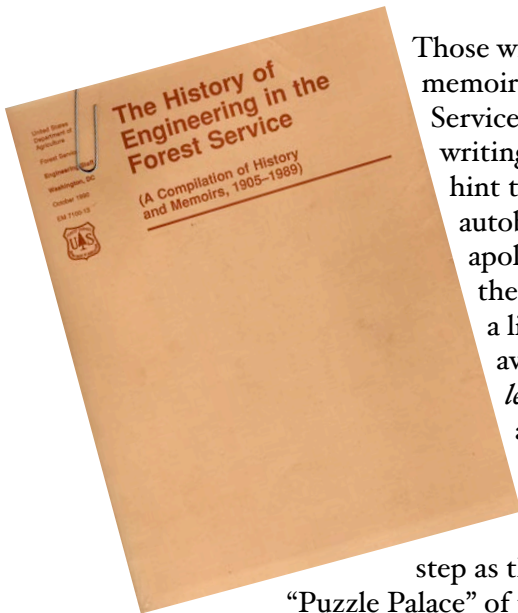
### TR: Any final words of wisdom?

**John:** It was a wonderful career and I've had a wonderful life. Enjoy every minute of your life regardless of what you are doing. Be positive and do the best you can at whatever you attempt.

**Peggy:** Don't discuss politics with friends. Don't believe everything you read on social media!



# Remembering Chuck Dwyer



Those who have preceded me in preparing their memoirs regarding Engineering in the Forest Service have established a format for their writings. They begin with an apology for any hint that their effort might smack of an autobiography, when that is not intended. They apologize profusely for the inevitable use of the pronoun in the first person singular, after a lifetime where in the pronoun “I” was avoided in writing, as though it was a *four-letter-word*. They include a tongue-in-cheek apology for the fact that their shaggy-dog stories, particularly those involving an engineering specialty in an already narrow field, might not have wide and lasting reader appeal. They begin their narratives with a date for filing their original Form 57s and proceed step-by-step as they climb the career ladder through District, Forest, Region, and finally, the “Puzzle Palace” of the Washington Office. My effort, which follows, will not break with this tried-and-true, traditional format.

*Editor's Note : A little light research discovered fun reading in Chuck Dwyer's own words from the "History of Engineering in the Forest Service." He was not your typical engineer. Chuck's Remembrance is in the Winter 2020 Rendezvous. <https://www.rockymountaineers.us/Newsletters/2020/2020-Winter-R2Rendezvous.pdf>*

My autobiography, limited to a period of approximately 20 years, beginning in 1966, is an excellent backdrop for the chapter **“The History of Ski Lift Engineering in the Forest Service.”** Boastful? Hardly! A lament? Perhaps.

But nonetheless, my tenure in the Forest Service spanned the period when ski lift engineering ranked well in the organizational structure of Forest Service Engineering. I saw the rise from a shadowed beginning, the apex of recognition stature, and then the decline and fall of Ski Lift Engineering in a changing world of Forest Service involvement. This autobiographical sketch is a framework on which others may hang their accounts of that which preceded by tenure, that which accompanied it, and that which followed. We can record our shortfalls along with our accomplishments.

My Standard Form 57, Application for Federal employment, was tendered May 3, 1966. It was submitted almost in jest and definitely with tongue-in-cheek, since I had no concept of what government engineers did for the Forest Service. Regarding the Forest Service itself, I knew only that they dealt with trees and that I didn't know a pine tree from a pussy willow.



What, precisely, did Forest Service Engineers do with aerial tramways, ski lifts, and tows? A fair question, when it is generally known that our permittees were responsible for providing engineered facilities. Generally, the work of our “hardcore” members epitomized what the engineering specialist did in Forest Service Engineering. They found their work challenging, varied, stimulating, important, and satisfying. Their work directly served public health and safety; it helped preserve the environment, wildlife, and watersheds. Professionally, as specialists in a unique field of engineering, our group was encouraged to obtain professional registration and licensing, to become members in professional organizations, to both subscribe to and contribute to professional journals, and to seek membership at national and international aerial tramway organizations. They found satisfaction in being part of a group recognized and respected for its professionalism.

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They accomplished difficult engineering tasks in rugged terrain and often under extremely adverse working conditions.

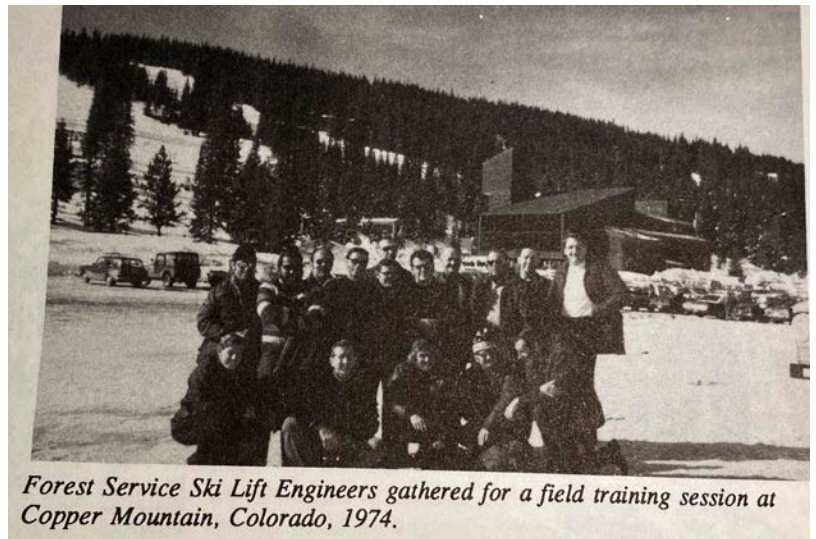
Specifically, our ski lift engineers assisted in lift selection and location, approved design, supervised construction, performed load tests, and concurred in the approval of lifts for public operation. They established the codes and standards applicable to design and set the procedures for load testing, periodic inspections, and requirements for area maintenance and operating plans.

### Load Testing

With their “on hands” direct involvement, our engineers became knowledgeable and proficient regarding the equipment they were load testing. I recall at Breckenridge, Colorado on their first chair in the Peak 10 area when, in the absence of a manufacturer’s representative, Dick Kasel directed the adjustment of brakes in the drive system so load testing could be completed. The urgency to complete load testing often involved working after dark and under extremely miserable conditions. Because of the potential danger to personnel and equipment, this practice was discouraged and sometimes stopped at the insistence of the Forest Service. My article, *Danger- Load Test in Progress*, in **Ski Area Management Magazine** followed a load test involving an accident at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The load test experience had its unique and positive moments as well. For example, at Breckenridge, barrels of Coors beer were used as test weight in the carriers on a new chairlift. Traditionally, following successful load testing, the owner held a party for all hands involved; the occasion frequently became “memorable.”

### My most memorable experiences

My job provided the opportunity to travel and to meet literally hundreds of Forest Service employees - largely those involved in engineering or administration associated with ski lifts in ski areas - and perhaps that added to my impressions of them as outstanding individuals. I traveled from Gorham, New Hampshire to San Diego, California and from Anchorage, Alaska to Atlanta, Georgia in the course of assisting Regional programs. Special assignments carried me to more select and distant areas. My most memorable special assignment involved a feasibility study for a passenger tramway on El Yungue in Puerto Rico. Helicoptering over this tropical paradise was exceptional “duty”, but



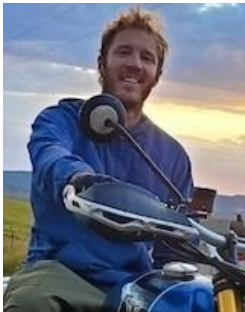
*Forest Service Ski Lift Engineers gathered for a field training session at Copper Mountain, Colorado, 1974.*

the passenger tramway never materialized. My helicoptering over the Mendenhall Glacier and the mountains near Juneau and Douglas Island, in search of a new ski area, was equally thrilling and spectacular. This effort was fruitful, and the ski area on Douglas Island serves Juneau today.

Regrettably, assisting an aerial tramway accident investigation was a part of my duties as well. The experience, however unpleasant, does qualify as “interesting or memorable.” ...The only compensation for this type of work was the hope that your investigation would reveal a cause that could be remedied and made known to others to prevent a recurrence.



## Remembrances



### **Evan S. Batson**

**Evan Batson** died while on fire assignment to the Mississippi National Forests. He had a strong handshake; a broad smile; and was a good man. If you had the privilege to know Evan, you appreciated how he brought lightness and laughter as soon as

he was in your presence. Evan had a knack for getting the most out of everything; and, he was not shy to tell you what he thought.

Evan was taken from us way too soon at the young age of 34. He was raised in Springfield, MO, until he moved to Colorado to go to college. Evan grew up loving the outdoors; camping, hiking, and canoeing in the Ozarks. Evan was a Boy Scout and started with traditional sports, but quickly educated us he was far more talented; mountain bikes, motorcycles, rock climbing, snowboarding, white water rafting, better suited his life. To follow those passions, he made the move to Colorado.

Evan earned his bachelor's degree at Colorado State University with a degree in Natural Resource Management, and a minor in Forestry. While earning his degree he drilled oil in California, was a white water rafting guide, a ski instructor and worked at the Jacob Center. It was at the Jacob Center, Evan worked with at-risk youth and mentored young children. Through Evan, many children received personal attention and love, that they otherwise may not have received. After graduation, he began his work with

forestry in 2014, as a Forestry Technician. His current rank is Squad Leader, as a member of the San Juan National Forest's Columbine Fire Module. Evan was on assignment in Mississippi at the time of his death.

Evan was the ultimate big brother and was proud to hold that title. If there was a dispute, he tackled it head on, with logic and reason. He was known as the goofiest member in our family. He could quote any Jim Carrey movie line by line, in impersonation. He loved to watch the movie Elf with his sisters, and never missed a chance of reenacting the escalator split scene. He and his brother Ryan could banter and quote any scene from Slingblade; enacting the parts of Maxi and Sunny D. If we needed obsessive research on any topic, he was our man. He enjoyed Bluegrass music with every chore he tackled. Oh, did you ever ask him about his Landcruiser? If you did, you would know what we mean. In summary, the moments he left us are timeless.

Evan is survived by his mother, Paige Tuck, (husband Brad), and father, Ken Batson. The love of his life, Katie Lundvall, who lives in Durango, Colorado. Brothers, Ryan Batson (fiancé Mozelle DeLong), Chace Tuck, (wife Brittany) and Wes Batson. Sisters, Claire Tuck, Aubrey Tuck and Katie Batson. Grandmothers, Louise Pumphrey, Jean Ann Needham, (husband Randy), Fran Tuck and Grandfather Gerald Batson. Uncle, Terry Pumphrey, (wife Lori), cousins Cooper and Anna, Jeff Batson (wife Kim) and their children.



### **Alfred Braddock**

**Al Braddock** passed away on June 18, 2021. He was born December 24, 1935 to Alfred Sr. and Doris (Luebbert) Braddock in Phillipsburg, MT. During his growing up years his parents lived in many states as his father was a

civil engineer. When he was 13 years of age, his parents settled in Boulder, CO and Alfred graduated from high school there in 1954. Following graduation he entered college at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO and graduated in 1961 with a degree in Forestry.

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## Remembrances

After college he was hired by the US Forest Service and worked on the Black Hill National Forest in Hill City, Custer (as Fire Staff Officer) and Deadwood, SD (as Ranger) and the Medicine Bow National Forest in Centennial and Laramie, WY. He retired from the US Forest Service in 1993.

Alfred married Gwendolyn Petersen on January 14, 1967 in Cresbard, SD. They raised four children and in 1993 moved from Rapid City, SD to Cresbard, SD following his retirement.

Alfred attended church at Concordia Lutheran Church in Cresbard, SD and served as congregational treasurer

for several years. He also was involved with the American Legion and served as Adjutant for a few years.

Grateful for having shared his life are two daughters, Lori (Lanny) McConnell of Huntsville, AR and Lynne (Zyeair) Smith of Omaha, NE; two sons, Fred (Kathy) Braddock of Rapid City, SD and Corey (Jennifer) Braddock of San Carlos, CA; nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and one sister, Doris Sanders of Eufaula, OK.



**Donna B. (Tommie) Gull**

**Donna Gull**, age 89, of Austin, Colorado passed way on Saturday, August 14, 2021. Tommie was born March 13, 1932



**Mary Waynella Gonzalez**

**Waynella Gonzalez** passed away Monday, September 6, 2021, at her residence.

Waynella was born on November 3, 1937, to Ella M (Bothwell) and Arthur Wayne Conkey in Los Angeles, CA.

Waynella Graduated from George Washington High School in Los Angeles, CA in 1956. Shortly after graduation on June 24, 1956 she married her sweetheart, and love of her life, Jack Gonzalez in Redondo Beach California. They just celebrated 65 years together. They moved to the Delta area in 1971,

making Cedaredge their home for 50 years. She worked in the GMUG Supervisors Office in Delta.

Waynella was very active in the community. She was part of the United Methodist Women, The ESA Sorority, Eastern Star, Gardening Club, and the Book-Literary Club. She enjoyed playing piano, painting, reading, gardening and her animals.

Waynella is survived by her husband Jack Gonzalez of Cedaredge; son Kenneth David Gonzalez of Colorado Springs; daughter Pamela Sue (Joe) Berger of Cedaredge; sister Linda (Leroy) Black of Cedaredge; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

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## Remembrances



### **Sidney Hubert (Sid) Hanks**

**Sid Hanks** passed away on June 21, 2021. He was born on September 21, 1932 in Thedford, NE to Firman and Pauline Hanks. He grew up in Thedford and had an older brother Floyd and an older sister Caroline. He got his

undergraduate degree at Doane College in Crete, NE and then served his country in the U. S. Army. After his service he got his Master of Forestry from Duke University and began work at Bessey Nursery in the late fifties. He married Wonda Banker who was also from Thedford on June 1, 1962. After their marriage they moved to the Mt. Sopris Nursery in Basalt, CO where Sid was the Nursery Manager. He was there until 1968 when he went to the Northeastern Area in Upper Darby, PA in Cooperative Forest Management. In 1973 he and

Wonda moved to Washington D.C. where he worked in Cooperative Forestry until 1974 when he moved back to Colorado as the Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private Forestry. In 1975 he took over the Region's Resource Deputy position and in 1982 became the single deputy and stayed in that position until his retirement in 1989.

After retirement he and Wonda enjoyed winters in Rockport, TX, visits to Nebraska, and family. Sid was a huge supporter of Memorial Grove and did all he could to help keep this tradition as an important part of R-2's legacy. Every year up until 2020 Sid was always there at the ceremony and ensured that each brass plate with honoree names was attached to the Memorial just right.

He is survived by his wife Wonda.



### **Bobbi Ann King**

**Bobbi King** of Idaho Springs passed away on Feb. 24, 2020, in Windsor, CO. Bobbi was born in Ainsworth, Neb., to Robert and Beverly Moody on April 4, 1954. She was one of eight children. The family

moved to Colorado in 1958, and they settled in Idaho Springs in 1961.

She attended Carlson Elementary and graduated from Clear Creek Secondary School in 1972. She worked for the Forest Service for 28 years and weekends at the Chicago Creek Clinic.

Bobbi was an incredible mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, daughter and friend. Her laugh and smile were contagious! Her love for her family was deep, unconditional and without end. She truly brought joy and happiness with her wherever she went.

Her love for purple, puppies, long drives, swimming, reading, Coke, pickles, cheeseburgers and chocolate never wavered, and will always make us think of her. We were so blessed to have her in our lives. She will be missed every second of every day!

Bobbi is survived by her sons Cory King (Kelly) and Andy King (Bethany); her siblings Jerrie Schurr, Sheila McAuliffe, Susan Sharpe, Becky Moody (Pete Albrecht), Dona New and Michael

Moody (Debbie); her grandchildren Wyatt, Cody, Cooper, Nathan, Norah and Kyle King; nine nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and nephews.

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## Remembrances



### **Linda Lee Knowlton**

**Linda Knowlton** died on April 19, 2021, after a valiant two-year fight with breast cancer. She spent her final days at her long-time home in Fort Collins, CO, surrounded by those who love her. Linda was

a wonderful mother and best friend to her daughter, Natalie. She inspired her daughter to think for herself, to be her best in this life, and to make a meaningful impact on her community. Natalie is dedicated to carrying forward Linda's legacy and commitment to our environment and the creatures that live in it.

Linda was born in Pennsylvania Dutch County. She and her younger sister Annette ("Annie") were small town girls, a feeling she identified with throughout her life and that eventually inspired her to make Fort Collins her home.

She was a life-long learner and a fiercely independent thinker, always in search of what was just and truthful. As her high school's valedictorian, she went on to graduate from Pennsylvania State University with a BA in Foreign Service and a concentration in the Soviet Union. She then received her Masters of Liberal Studies from Georgetown University. Throughout her life she continued to seek out opportunities to learn, studying languages (French, German, and Latin) and taking countless courses in history and the arts. Linda was a regular at Colorado State University's Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning programs on world affairs, and she spent a semester there facilitating an international current

events roundtable. All her life she was a voracious and intellectual reader.

Linda was a dedicated civil servant. Out of college, she went to work for the US Census Bureau as the first non-industrial engineer ever hired by the Bureau to do performance standards for employees in repetitive jobs. She worked for the Navy's Officer in Charge of Construction, Army Financial Management Command, and Army Information Systems Engineering Command before joining the US Forest Service (USDA), where she stayed for more than 20 years and which brought her to Fort Collins in 1994.

Linda was a leader in her community, was an advocate for animals and the environment, and influenced her friends and others to make a difference. She served on the Larimer County Library Board, the Larimer County Parks Advisory Board (including as chair for several years), and the City of Fort Collins' Land Conservation and Stewardship Board. She was also a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Linda was an early and enthusiastic member of Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, becoming the first woman to chair the organization. During winter months she was a dedicated Cameron Pass Nordic Ranger for the US Forest Service. More recently she was a volunteer with the Behavior and Enrichment Volunteer Program at the Larimer Humane Society. She loved cats, big and small, and made it her mission to support the Larimer Humane Society and the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

She is survived by her daughter Natalie.

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## Remembrances

### Sandy Wiser Marquis

**Sandy Marquis (Wiser)**, 61 of Pahrump Nevada passed away Sunday September 12, 2021. Sandy was the steadfast Administrative Officer (AO) on the Bighorn National Forest (2000-2015) until retiring with over 33 years with the USFS. Sandy was second generation Forest Service, proudly following in her Dad's (Don Wiser, R1) career path, also an AO. Her career track included numerous assignments in Region 1, starting out as a Clerk Typist on the Deerlodge National Forest, Butte, Montana. Sandy achieved unique qualification as a Timber Sale Contracting Officer while serving on the Mt Hood National Forest, Region 6, during the spotted owl (timber sale contract buy-back) years. While in Region 6 Dave Marquis and Sandy Wiser married in Vancouver, Washington on June 10, 1989. They returned to the Region 1, Regional Office in the mid 1990's, followed by an assignment to the newly formed Dakota Prairie National Grassland to oversee grants and agreements as their Partnership Coordinator. This move included the addition of their young son Max (born January 28, 1995).

As AO for the Bighorn National Forest Sandy also took on the administrative responsibilities for the Shoshone National Forest for an extended time. She frequently commented, the commute between Sheridan and Cody (Wyoming) could be hair-raising in the winter! Her administrative duties (in support of line officers) often required a stern hand. But Sandy was also one of the first in line to compassionately help an employee in need – professionally or personally.

Always family oriented, Sandy proudly kept tabs on her siblings and their families too. Preceding family deaths included a brother, her parents, and a sister. Sandy is survived by her loving Husband Dave and son, Max (In his PhD music studies at UNLV). Her all too short retirement was enjoyed by touring around in their RV and spending most the winter(s) near Max (son) – in support of his education and savoring his saxophone talent. Dave and Sandy had just re-established a new permanent residence in Pahrump, NV prior to her passing. Sandy will always hold a special place in the heart(s) of our Bighorn NF family. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



### Charles Edwin Medina

After a lifetime of laughter, grace and service, **Charles Medina** entered fully into the presence of his Lord and Savior on August 20, 2021. He died of cancer at home surrounded by his wife and daughters.

Charlie was born December 3, 1946 in Alamosa, Colorado to Doris and José Medina. He spent his early years roaming the mountains surrounding the San Luis Valley and enjoying summers at the Presbyterian church camp along Chalk Creek. The vanilla smell of Ponderosa Pine inspired him to become a forester.

After graduating from Alamosa High School in 1965, Charlie attended Colorado State University where he

graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management.

Charlie began his career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1971, working on the Big Horn, Gunnison and Routt National Forests. He met Libby Brewster in Steamboat Springs at an environmental education workshop, and they were married August 6, 1977 at Seedhouse Guard Station. They enjoyed 44 years together. Charlie transferred to the San Juan National Forest in 1977, stationed in Bayfield, Colorado. Their oldest daughter Katie was born in Durango.

Charlie returned to the Big Horn mountains as the District Ranger for the Tensleep Ranger District in 1984. Charlie and Libby welcomed their daughters Rebecca and Kristen while living in Worland, Wyoming.

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## Remembrances

When the Salida Ranger District district ranger position on the Pike and San Isabel National Forest opened up, Charlie jumped at the chance to return to the Upper Arkansas Valley. He became the Salida District Ranger in October of 1989 and filled that position until May of 2006.

Charlie worked to uphold the Forest Service motto of “caring for the land and serving people.” He was instrumental in championing equal hiring practices for minorities. During his tenure as District Ranger he helped facilitate the creation of the Banana Belt mountain bike races in Salida, the Midland Bike Trail in Buena Vista and the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association. He worked with the Colorado State Forest Service to build partnerships between the national forest and private landowners to maintain forest health.

He enjoyed fishing, gardening and woodworking. He had a great sense of humor and invented memorable characters that have become a part of family lore. His greatest passion was to tell people about Jesus.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers-in-law Eldon Moore, Erik Swensen and his good friend Sam Schroeder.

He is survived by his wife Libby, his daughters Katie (Mark) Siemens, Rebecca (Ryan) Keefer, Kristen (Mark) Lanning and his grandchildren Abbie, Clara, Levi Siemens and Josephine Lanning, who was born in time to meet her grandpa. He is also survived by his brother Mark (Judy) Medina, sisters Olivia Moore, Pat Swensen, sister-in-law Carolyn Derusseau, brother-in-law Bob Brewster and numerous nieces and nephews.



**John Cortland McCarthy Jr.**

**John McCarthy** died July 12, 2021, at the age of 81, with his wife of more than 60 years by his side. A longtime Glenwood Springs resident and retired forester, John was born on Oct. 15, 1939, in Clear

Creek, Utah, to John Cortland McCarthy Sr. and Wilma Rebecca Jones McCarthy.

He spent his childhood playing in the mountainsides of Clear Creek, growing a lifelong love of adventure and the outdoors. In order to attend high school, John left Clear Creek, which only had schools up to eighth grade, and moved to Orem, Utah, to live with his grandparents. He was part of the first class to graduate from Orem High School.

John went on to earn a bachelor's degree in forestry from Utah State University. It was while working for the U.S. Forest Service over a summer in Idaho that he met his wife, Lorraine Robison McCarthy. Lorraine was vacationing in the Sawtooth Valley with girlfriends when she was introduced to John. The pair began dating and waited for Lorraine to graduate high school before marrying on Sept. 23, 1960. Together, they raised four children. The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

John's decades in the forest service brought his family to Logan, Utah, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Durango, Colorado, Newcastle, Wyoming and finally to Glenwood Springs in 1980. John loved working outdoors, doing field work for the forest service and being on the management team fighting forest fires of all sizes. He especially enjoyed his time working as a district ranger in Wyoming.

John loved skiing, fly fishing, hunting, getting firewood, woodworking and strategizing with his investment club. After he retired, he would meet his friends at Sunlight and spend the day skiing. He meticulously cared for his home — a beloved summer and Christmas destination for his extended family. John imparted his love of the outdoors on his family and led them on hiking, skiing and rafting adventures.

He is survived by his wife Lorraine and children, Dennis McCarthy (Cherie McCarthy), Mark Daniel McCarthy (Satomi McCarthy), Kelly Ivie (James Ivie) and Laura Kandare (Greg Kandare) along with 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and his sister Marlene Murdock.

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## Remembrances



### **Mary Morfitt**

**Mary Morfitt** was born to Grace Marie (Pease) and Herschel Edward Thorp in Sutherland, Nebraska. She went to school in Paxton, NE and graduated in 1942. She attended business college in Denver, where she lived and worked until 1945. During World War II, she volunteered as a

Red Cross nurse's aide at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. She married Delmar Eugene (Red) Morfitt on October 5, 1947. They were married for 52 years and had four children. They lived in Nebraska until they moved to the San Luis Valley in January 1962. Mary worked for the Forest Service for ten years. After retirement, Red and Mary were "winter Texans", spending several months each winter at their second home in Harlingen, Texas.

Mary was an excellent cook and was well known for her homemade bread. She enjoyed sewing, painting,

reading and crafting and seldom missed a night of Jeopardy.

Mary traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and to Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, China, Mongolia, Africa and England. She was very active with her family, the Saguache Methodist Church, and in the community. She volunteered many years at the Saguache Museum, and belonged to Friends of the Library, American Legion Auxiliary, Study Club, Red Hat, Sagebrush Quilters and the Scrabble club.

She is survived by children Dell (Yvonne) Morfitt, Susan Buscaglia, and Elizabeth Coleman, eight grandchildren (Joel Farrell, Aminah Coleman, Noah Morfitt, Andrew Morfitt, Rachael Morfitt Sanchez, Sarah Morfitt, Ethan Morfitt, Laura Morfitt), four great-grandchildren (Liam Farrell, Hannah Morfitt, Andrew Morfitt, Antora Sanchez), and numerous nieces and nephews.



### **Homer David Morris**

**David Morris**, 76, of Powell, Wyoming passed away Sunday, August 15, 2021 at the St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, MT. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at [gardencityfh.com](http://gardencityfh.com). Homer

David Morris, son of John and Helen (Parkins) Morris, was born August 2, 1945 in Belle Fourche, SD. Dave graduated from Hulett High in 1963. Dave joined the Marines and served honorably in the Vietnam Conflict. When he returned, he continued his education and graduated from the University of Wyoming. He was united in marriage with Judy Bruce on December 21, 1968 in Evanston, WY.

Dave spent most of all his working career with the US Forest Service working as a Range Conservationist, which started in Laramie, WY and then went to Collbran, Co and finished in Greybull, WY. Dave

wasn't afraid to stand up for what he thought was the right thing to do, and he lived by this his entire life. Dave was a member of the Society for Range Management, VFW in Collbran, Co, and the Board of the Big Horn County Weed & Pest. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed birdwatching and woodworking, especially making birdhouses.

Dave had a large garden and loved sharing his produce with family and friends. Most of all, he loved his family which he showed with generosity, always a concern for safety, and sharing as much time as possible.

Dave was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend who will be greatly missed. Dave is survived by his two sons, Kane (Tracy) Morris; Bart (Wendy) Morris; grandchildren, Sierra Morris and Garrett Morris; sisters, Joy Morris; Anita Goodell; and Gail (Leon) Jadowski.

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## Remembrances



### George Arthur Morris

**George Morris** of Centennial, Colorado and formerly Glenwood Springs—died peacefully on July 28, 2021 of natural causes. George was born on July 27, 1939. He earned a

Master of Forestry degree from Duke University and a Master of Science degree in Systems Analysis from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. George worked for the US Forest Service for 32 years. He worked in R-8 on Job Corps Centers on the Daniel Boone and Ouachita N. F.s and was on the White River N. F. for 15 years as staff office and had his final assignment as the Forest Supervisor of the Manti-La

Sal National Forest in Utah from 1988 to 1994. George was introduced to Native American art at age ten. In retirement he started the Morris Trading Company which dealt in art from the Hopi, Navajo and other Indigenous peoples of the Southwest. George was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. George lived a vigorous life with his spirit of adventure living on in his grandchildren.

George is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ginny, his son Doug and wife Mary and their children Ella and Joe, his son Jeff and wife Tina and their children Mac, Molli and Marty. George is preceded in death by his brother John Alfred Morris.



### Eloise Elaine Pepin

**Eloise Pepin** has chosen to take her game playing skills to a higher place. She passed away December 4, 2017.

Eloise enjoyed a good conversation and was never too busy to put the coffee on. She spent countless hours playing cards with family and friends, creating many memories. One of her recent favorite pastimes was sitting on her deck waving at familiar faces.

Eloise was born on September 13, 1928. She was raised with 11 siblings at Four Mile. She married Ernie Pepin on June 29th, 1946. In 1952, she was elected Custer County Sheriff, defeating five male opponents. She worked at City Hall, Four Mile Post and Pole and the US Forest Service until her retirement at the age of 76. She was quick with a prank and did it with a twinkle in her eye.

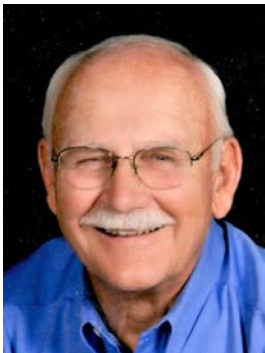
As her children, we recall a very secure and carefree childhood. She didn't bat an eye as we drug blankets to the clothesline for another fort or used her kitchen utensils to make mud pies. She made the best fried chicken and potato salad and on Saturday night we would look forward to her cast iron fried hamburgers and homemade fries. She took pride in crisp white laundry and a large stack of firewood.

She is survived by four children, Linda (Tom) Nelson of Custer, SD; Valerie (Bob) Pulscher of Rock Island IL; Steve Pepin and Denise (Marshall) Burtzloff of Hot Springs, SD; her grandchildren Sundae (Sean) Morgan, Dallas (Lesley) Wilkinson, Miranda (Adam) Boggs, Jeremy (Angela) Pepin, Matthew Pepin, Shawn (Maureen) Pulscher, Sara (Pete) Schaich, and Cheyenne (Jeff) Lawrence. 6 step grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 4 great, great grandchildren. sisters, Evelyn Fischer, Derelle Wynia, Leola Thomsen, along with many nieces, nephews, & cousins.

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## Remembrances



### Donald Dean Rogers

**Don Rogers**, age 85, beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle and Friend passed peacefully from this world, June 28th, 2021, in Fort Collins, Colorado.. Don was born Easter Sunday, April 12th 1936 to Joseph James Rogers and Verna May (Hagermann) Rogers of

Muscatine, Iowa. His sister JoAnn Rogers died at birth. Growing up in the adjacent family home behind his Grandparent's house, Don was fortunate to have a large extended family nearby who played an important role in his youth and community. He told stories of the Hawkeye Pearl Button Company, which his grandfather built from the ground up and the delicious German pies his grandmother lovingly prepared for him. A graduate of Muscatine High School, Don loved all sports including football, basketball, and track & field. He was also active in the Boy Scouts of America, earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Don continued his academic and athletic pursuits at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He played football and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry.

Don began working for the US Forest Service and met his wife of 57 years, Karen Ann Kimball, in Denver, Colorado. His focus on timber management took him to Walden, Colorado then Del Norte, Colorado and on to the Black Hills of Custer, South Dakota. The Mountains of Colorado always called him back, so in

1979 he put in a transfer to Leadville, Colorado and eventually settled and retired in Fort Collins, Colorado. During the summer Don helped fight wildfires across the US as part of the US Forest Service. In addition to the role of firefighter, the last few years Don served as "Camp Boss" on several fires making sure the crews had all they needed to sustain the energy to fight the wildfires successfully.

His three children grew up with a father with a passion for all things outdoors and shared his love of the land, forest, rivers and maps. One of Don's (greatest accomplishments) and favorite hobbies was skiing. He served on the National Ski Patrol at both Steamboat Springs Ski Area and Wolf Creek Ski Area, later volunteering as a Ski Ranger in Summit County. His love of skiing was passed on to his children and Don attended many ski trips with the Senior Center of Fort Collins well past his retirement from the Forest Service. Don's grandchildren have been fortunate to have his support in attending their many activities throughout the years. He was always eager to cheer them on and share his knowledge of the outdoors with them. They loved him very much! At request, his body has been cremated and in the months to come, there will be a gathering in Fort Collins, Colorado. Details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, and in his honor, in lieu of flowers, please be kind to one another, be good to one another, and support causes which do the same. He is survived by his three children and their families.

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## Remembrances



### **Larry Simmons**

**Larry Simmons** born on December 12, 1941, in Iowa and passed away on September 16, 2021. Larry had a great life from his 25 years working for the Forest Service to his countless trips to the Sturgis, South Dakota motorcycle rally. Larry spent his Forest Service career in the Regional Office as an illustrator designing publications, posters, exhibits and a myriad of other artistic requests from National Forests and Districts. During all his trips in his motorhome, he always had his best friend Charlie the cat by his side. He was a member of the Nomad Club, an automotive restoration group for mid 1950s Chevrolets, winning multiple awards over the years. He is survived by his sister Lorelei, brother David, niece Crystal, and nephew Todd.

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### **Cloetta Jane Schroeder**

**Cloetta Schroeder** was born on June 22, 1961 in Williston, ND and passed away on April 23, 2021.

# The Last Word

## A Pleasant Quiet this Fall

by Tom L. Thompson

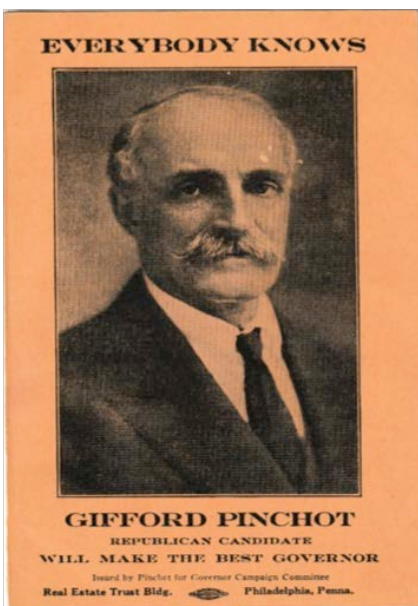
The season has predictably shifted, and the fall colors and crisper weather is a welcome change as we have all felt the heat and smelled the smoke of the summer of 2021 for plenty long enough. Another welcome change is that it is a fall without the bother of incessant political campaign advertising.

Sometimes to enjoy the moment and appreciate what you have you need to think back at what you are missing. Even though some years are worse than others, it seems there is only one year every four years that there isn't a barrage of campaign propaganda flooding our mailboxes, ringing on our phones, and hogging the commercial space on the television screen when fall rolls around. We have come to just expect and tolerate it. But the most disturbing and annoying part of it is that it is so negative. Few if any candidates campaign anymore about what they can do or who they really are...they mostly go to great lengths to say how horrible their opponent is, which too often turns out to be mostly true. Yet this negative tone seems to then permeate on to others and before long it becomes the foundation of division in our lives.

The text of his campaign statement which is shown below in a larger size leaves no doubt as to who he was, what he stood for, and what his qualifications were. It was a very positive and straight forth approach to reaching out to folks in Pennsylvanian and saying I want your vote. He got those votes and was a two term governor.

### GIFFORD PINCHOT

- A vigorous, capable, steady, reasonable, experienced man of fifty-six
- Forester, farmer, hunter, fisherman, organizer, good neighbor, good friend. Works well and gets on well with other people.
- A great public servant and for thirty years a fearless fighter for the rights of people. Roosevelt's friend, adviser, and right-hand man.
- Volunteered and was accepted by Theodore Roosevelt for division in the World War.
- Known and respected throughout the nation and the world as a forester and father of the movement to develop and protect the natural resources for all the people.



A hundred years ago, Gifford Pinchot ran the kind of campaign that ought to be the standard for anyone aspiring for public office. He was running for Governor of Pennsylvania, and I have a little postcard sized campaign brochure (left) that was the centerpiece of his successful campaign.

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- Fought and defeated Ballinger's attempt to turn Alaska over to the Guggenheim interests.
- Organized the United States Forest Service and made it admittedly the best managed and most efficient organization in the United States Government.
- In two years put Pennsylvania at the head of all the States in Forestry.
- Has done for the Department of Forestry exactly what needs to be done for the whole State Government.
- Has had a wider experience in Government work than any other man in Pennsylvania.
- Beyond all question the best man in the State to straighten out the middle of Harrisburg.
- Was for Women Suffrage and against the liquor traffic when it was politically dangerous to be so.
- Knows Pennsylvania as few men do and is known in every corner of the State.
- Everybody concedes his strength with the women, the farmers, the working people, the soldiers, the sportsmen, and all Republicans who control their own votes.

**HE CAN WIN NEXT FALL**

As we enjoy the pleasant quiet this fall and relief from the campaign slogans, bumper stickers, and promises and winks, let us hope that perhaps someday politicians will again relearn that the bulk of the people in this country want to have leaders who they can trust to do the right thing for the whole public and for the good of our country. Across the country we need to all try to be more positive and politicians need to work harder than everyone else to make this change.

Pinchot was a very successful Governor, a great leader, a great Chief, and even in tough times he didn't stoop to be critical or blame others. He was always positive in his approach and his legacy has been an inspiration for so many of us.

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