



NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Forest Service Retirees:

In preparation for the 2024 NRMRA Annual Business meeting I reviewed our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. I read the names of friends and acquaintances who have since passed. Many we knew and worked with during our careers, people who served the public, the agency, and our association. The NRMRA Articles of Incorporation were certified on April 5, 1991, by Montana's (then) Secretary of State, Mike Cooney. The Board of Directors who signed the Articles of Incorporation were Ray Karr, Ed Heilman, John Milodragovich, Walt Filmore, Don Durland, Lorin Hearst, Bernie Alt, and Liz Cloniger. We are thankful for their vision and commitment to the

membership, then and now. We exist as an organization because they stepped up to the challenge and were willing to serve. No organization can endure unless people are willing to participate. So, I ask you to consider how you can assist. Here's some ideas: renew your membership, recruit potential new members, write an article for the Newsletter, notify us (NRMRA, PO Box 3215, Missoula, MT 59806) of colleagues (or spouses) who have passed, volunteer to serve as an officer, and finally attend monthly meetings when possible. It is fun and rewarding to be with friends and colleagues. I hope to see you soon.

Tim Love

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION AND NEW WEB PAGE

Our March meeting was the annual business meeting as a requirement of our bylaws. Minutes will be on our web page. Yes, we have a web page in the works! It is still under construction and will provide our membership with meeting minutes and various announcements about what's going on in our area. The site is <https://nrmra.org>

At the March meeting we reviewed the by-laws and found that we are supposed to have 9 directors on our board – contact Tim Love if you are interested in serving, tglove@charter.net

We discussed our budget. Our finances are in a downward trend. Our biggest cost is printing and mailing newsletters. About half of our members

get printed copies, others get theirs by email. Numerous life members get theirs for free. For now, we may go to a black and white newsletter printing rather than the full color ones you have been enjoying. We will also email it to all the members who have email so as to not have to sort mailing lists and so that even those of you who get a paper copy can see it in color and you can mail it on to a friend who may not be a member. This brings us to another topic – recruitment. We have a small membership and the Forest Service is no

longer helpful about retirees’ lists – privacy issues as you know. We welcome ideas on how to recruit new members and balance our budget. Contact one of the officers if you have some ideas.

Catch up on Museum info, the 2025 Reunion, Mann Gulch Event this summer on our web page <https://nrmra.org>



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THAT FIRST FOREST SERVICE JOB

by Bill Fansler

In January 1968, I was a Forestry Major at Steven F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches in the Piney Woods area of East Texas. My roommate, Bill Sandeen, was also a Forestry Major. We were both in our sophomore year and thought we would like to get some practical experience by working for the US Forest Service. So, along with many of our classmates, we begin filling out and submitting applications for a summer job. Back in those days,

you filled out a paper application for each place you thought you wanted to work.

Days turned into weeks, and no one was getting any job offers. The first person to get an offer happened to be an English Major. Why could he, who was only interested in a summer job, get an offer when those of us who wanted a career in forestry couldn't? Sandeen decided to ask! He wrote Edward P. Cliff, Chief of the Forest Service, posing that very question. Two weeks later he got

a call from one of the Deputy Chiefs in the Washington Office asking where he wanted to work. Bill's passion was to work among the giant Sequoias, so he told him the Sequoia NF. About three weeks later he got a job offer for a trail crew position from the Sequoia NF which he quickly accepted. Now he only had to wait for classes to be over so he could go to his dream job.

That was not lost on the rest of us. If you want a good job with the Forest Service, write to the Chief. However, none of the rest of us had the courage to do so.

In the meantime, job offers had started trickling in. One was a placement offer from the Nez Perce NF. In a placement offer, the summer employment opportunity is sent to the school, not an individual. The school gets to select the student who gets the job. The position was on the all-wilderness Moose Creek Ranger District performing fire suppression and other wilderness maintenance activities. The job description clearly stated the employee would be located 25 miles from the nearest road and would be expected to remain at the district with little or no opportunity to get out before the end of the season. Special consideration was to be given to "Brian" who had submitted an application to the district.

Brian would get a second job offer which was more to his liking and which he accepted. That left the Moose Creek job open. I went to the professor holding the offer and told him I was interested in the position. He set a date of about ten days to see if any others might be interested. I waited the allotted time, took the notice off the bulletin board, and carried it back to his office. There had been

very little interest, so he gave me the paperwork which I filled out and sent in.

That Moose Creek job turned out to be the best job I ever had with the Forest Service. I later classified it as a paid vacation. I would not make a lot of money that summer, but the experience and joy I had was enough to seal it for me that I wanted a career in forestry. It would carry me the next 41 years of my life.

It also turned out to be my only opportunity for summer employment with the Forest Service as I never heard back on any of the applications I had submitted.

As for Sandeen, he had not looked at a map of the Sequoia NF. He did not realize that the forest also contained dry, desert land which is where his trail crew job took him. Instead of working among the giant sequoias he worked among the giant saguaro cacti. He had no personal transportation that summer, so he never got to see a redwood much less work beneath them. So went his short and dismal Forest Service career; he never worked for the agency again.

Writing to the Chief of the Forest Service hadn't been such a great idea after all.

Bill Fansler graduated from Steven F Austin State University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with a Wildlife Option and a Minor in Biology. He started his career as a seasonal on the Nez Perce Forest in 1968, retiring from the Kootenai Forest in 2008. He worked on the Nez Perce, Bitterroot, Kaniksu, Lolo, and Kootenai National Forests. He lives in Libby Montana.



NEWSPAPER DELIVERIES

by Wayne Knipping



Big Hole Peak Lookout.

I began my Forest Service career in January 1968 on the Lolo NF in Missoula as an Administrative Trainee, having graduated from U of M Forestry School the previous year. I had lost my leg above the knee in a hunting accident with a friend late in November 1966 and I wasn't sure how I would be able to continue in forestry with my first prosthesis which did not fit well, thus my thought to apply for one of the 18 Admin trainee slots in the Region.

I was asked by the District Ranger at Nine Mile, first name Bert, to do an Administrative Study of the District. He really didn't explain all that would encompass, and as a new recruit, I wasn't sure either. Talking with the Administrative Officer, I had a somewhat better idea of what to do.

That summer Bert scheduled me to go up on a fire

detection flight to view the district from the air. The flight included a pilot, aerial observer, and me. I sat in the rear seat, and upon entering the plane at the Missoula Airport, I saw a stack of Sunday newspapers on the seat beside me. My thought was perhaps we were going to land at one of the other Districts to drop them off.

As the flight ensued, the observer rolled up a paper, and much to my surprise, we dropped altitude, and approached a fire tower. The towerman stood outside on the catwalk (I'll call it) and the pilot came in low and tossed the paper to the lookout - a very accurate delivery! We did this at a number of towers, but the most daring delivery was at Plains, the tower sited at the top of a very steep cliff. The pilot approached this tower from below, soaring up and coming closer to the tower than he could have managed from above.

These were some of the most hair-raising events I have ever experienced, but fun. As we continued on our flight path, all papers delivered, we spotted a smoke and gave directions to a ground crew over the radio, circled coming in lower, and the pilot tossed out a roll of toilet paper to give the crew a better idea of the smoke location. The pilot then pulled back on the stick, gaining altitude quickly, producing the first g - forces I had ever experienced. Yes, I prepared a report, but I was not sure how much it helped Bert.

*While tracking down more info about the Lolo newspaper deliveries your editor heard from Ellen Childress who was the lookout at Pat's Knob during this era.

She remembers the newspaper deliveries and that the pilot once dropped her a can of pop which split

open on impact. The unnamed patrol pilot also once arrived unannounced with dinner – a big watermelon, salad, and steaks. Presumably interested in impressing the young college lookout, he was surprised that a friend was visiting her, and he had to share the dinner with two young ladies.

Wayne's first duty station was on the Lolo in Missoula. In 1970 he was accepted as the Budget and Accounting Analyst on the Helena, and from there applied for the Budget and Accounting Officer on the White Mountain NF in New Hampshire, where he worked until retiring at the end of 1997 during the buy-out days. After retirement Wayne worked as a substitute teacher and was involved in dispatch for the state of New Hampshire. He lives in Auburn, New Hampshire.

BOOK REVIEW

by Vicky MacLean



The Wolverine Way by Douglas Chadwick and **Path of The Puma** by Jim Williams.

Extreme cabin fever has set in even before the end of January, so I have been reading a lot. A retired marine biologist friend left me with a grocery bag of wildlife books before she wisely headed south for the winter. As she moved east from the Washington coast, she embraced her new home in Mission Valley and been reading up on our large predators. Both these books are by western Montana authors and cover our somewhat less studied or well- known predators.

The author of **The Wolverine Way** was a volunteer with the Glacier Wolverine Project in Glacier National Park in the early 2000s when this 5-year study was underway. He is a wildlife biologist by training and a conservation writer. This book is an easy read for both the wildlife biologist and those of us who are not. Packed full of information and great photographs, it highlights the issues of connectivity and how climate change is and will affect this species. Wolverines have very specific habitat requirements which are currently being affected in part by the diminishing snowpack. Perhaps because wolverines are not eating peoples' pets or livestock, and because of their more preferred northern range, they are not generally making news headlines. The average reader will find information in this book about the travels and behaviors of this reclusive predator as well as the difficult logistics of studying these animals in remote mountain regions.



The author of **Path of the Puma** is a wildlife biologist from the Flathead Valley who has worked at Montana's Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks. This book covers the needs and habitats of mountain lions. In addition, it covers the issues of interactions with humans and livestock, hunting regulations, and the long running effort to eliminate them. As an apex predator we hear more about this species than the reclusive wolverine. Our local Facebook safety awareness page occasionally has warnings such as "mountain lion spotted near the transfer station" or "mountain lion in our backyard where children were playing earlier." While lion reports are not as common as "bear headed down main street in Polson," these lion postings elicit fear for the safety of peoples' children, pets, and livestock. As a result, these sightings stir up the well- entrenched and long running hatred of predators in Montana. The author has worked on hunting regulations where the hounds' men are actually some of the big proponents of mountain lion conservation. Unfortunately, many of our Montana neighbors want to see unlimited hunting that would result in the total demise of the species. Elimination of this top predator would be to the detriment of other species which are all interconnected in some ways. Both books are an easy read for the layman and for anyone who enjoys wildlife, particularly if they live in Montana and are familiar with some of these study sites.

CLOSING OF THE BUNGALOW

The last Bungalow Gazette was published April 1, 1971. There were some great reflections collected by employees who were working there when it closed, as well as past employees who had been there in the early days – back in the 1920s. They almost all expressed sadness at its closing. Following are some of those reflections from old timers upon hearing that the Bungalow station area was to be consolidated with other districts in the North Fork of the Clearwater.

Districts, like people, have a soul; they live in the memories of all that have been closely associated with them. I feel remorse as I would for the loss of a close friend.

I first saw the Bungalow in mid-August 1912. It was a beautiful place to see. A small cabin built by E. N. Brown, a timber operator of Lewiston, Orofino and Weippe. That is where he took his bride on their honeymoon.

From 1921 to 1934, I was ranger at Fish Lake then moved to Kelly Creek and in 1933 the old Chamberlain Meadows or Cedars District was added to Kelly Creek – but during this period in the late fall – winter and early spring I was detailed to Bungalow and helped with the construction of all the buildings except the blacksmith shop. We also had a sawmill and cut all, but the finish lumber used in the buildings.

I have visited and driven past many times each year and admired the beauty of the well-kept Bungalow Ranger Station, not only me but to everyone that visits that area would be at a loss without seeing it as we pass by there. I cannot stand the thought of it standing there idle and deteriorate or to be destroyed.

Prior to the 1919 fire, the Bungalow site was very attractive. When the station is abandoned, it will mean the end of my various former homes on the Clearwater.

On a more humorous note, a Last Will and Testament of the Bungalow, almost four pages long, left a lot of items and ideas to the neighboring districts at Kelly Creek (mostly) and Canyon. Among them are the following:

We leave the coffee pot to Kelly Creek. They drank as much coffee from it as we did. They felt welcome enough to horn in on every one of our wintertime coffee breaks... and they were welcome.

We leave our Christmas tree decorations to Kelly Creek. They will need to decorate a tree of their own next year. They felt welcome enough to horn in on our Christmas tree every year.... And they were welcome.



Other districts as viewed when hearing of Bungalow property division.

We leave the Canyon District to Kelly Creek. They need someone to pick on down the river. They will have to go out of their way, but then they have been known to do that before.

We leave all our chlorinators to the S.O. They never worked anyway.

We leave the 6100 and 6500 manuals to the S.O. They are dirty, dog eared and full of markers. Nothing worked there either.

We leave our bulletin board collection of "questionable" cartoons to the S.O. We've got quite a collection saved up since someone down there lost their sense of humor about strange cartoons showing up on the S.O. bulletin board.

We leave our hand carved totem pole to the S.O. in the hopes it will provide them with some sense of history.

We leave to Canyon and Kelly Creek, the undivided attention of the S.O.

Most of the Bungalow personnel went to Kelly Creek and Pierce, with one person headed to Canyon. These transfers were also humorously documented in the same vein as the disposition of the physical assets of the Bungalow station.

We leave (Ranger) Earl Reinsel to Kelly Creek. He goes equipped with most of the former Bungalow crew. You can tell which ones are the "brownies."

We leave Irvie Willis to Kelly Creek. Irvie has been on the Bungalow longer than anyone else. He is the only one privileged to take his own bunk with him.

We leave Walt Braach to Pierce. He comes with one bad habit broken. It's been almost a year since he stopped smoking and about two years since he quit eating cream pie. Clark Fuller broke Walt of eating cream by using shaving cream. Guess he quit smoking cause he believes everything the Surgeon General tells us.

We leave Virginia Hirsch to Kelly Creek along with one well used monogrammed broom. She had to retrieve it from the bunkhouse so many times that she finally put her name

on it and hid it in the office. Virginia does not go without talent. She became quite proficient at killing bats in the office. The broom had 20 notches in it at last count.

Your newspaper editor drove by the Bungalow location one summer in the 20teens. It was occupied by a large number of RVs crammed onto the little terrace above the North Fork of the Clearwater. That is where the little ranger's residence, now at the site of the National Conservation Legacy Center, in Missoula, used to sit.



We leave Pierce R.D. all the cedar on the Orogrande.

Throughout Forest Service history, ranger stations have closed, employees or a family member have passed away at a remote location. Following are several stories from tragedy in the early days. The following tragedies took place at the remote Powell Ranger Station in Idaho, a few miles west of Lolo Pass and the Montana state line and at the Big Prairie Ranger Station in the Bob Marshal Wilderness.

WIFE OF FOREST RANGER DIES AMID SOLITUDE OF BITTER ROOT MOUNTAINS

From the Daily Missoulian June 5, 1920

24 Miles from Help, Mrs. T.R. Hodson Succumbs to Pneumonia, Husband Watches Alone, Heart Rending Story is told when Body is brought to Missoula.

At a lonely ranger station in the heart of the Bitter Root mountains, 24 miles from the nearest neighbor, four days and four nights of interminable length, T.R. Hodson watched at the bedside of his wife, ministering to her as best he could, until death released her from her sufferings. Death resulting Thursday from pneumonia.

The telephone to the station was out of order and was not repaired until too late to secure the services of a physician.

"My God! Why did we ever go there" wailed Hodson, who heart broken, dry-eyed, suffering

that deep grief which does not express itself in tears, lives over and over again that lonely vigil. "I never want to see a pine or spruce tree again" he said "You cannot realize or understand how everything changed after she was gone. I love the mountains, but I am going east for things would never seem the same again here – without her."

Wandered Through Forest

"She died at 1:30 in the morning. I do not remember a thing after I closed her eyes and prepared her as best I could. God knows I would not have left her there alone. I must have wandered away because the first I remember was when the men found me seated on a log in the forest, 4 miles from the cabin. My little dog was with me. He must have followed me. I remember going to the phone and telling them Lenore had died and of what

happened from that time until they found me, I remember nothing.”

“I can never forget that morning when the sun rose. The mountains that were once so beautiful were changed; everything was changed.”

Hodson is almost a nervous wreck. Then the men came, friends of Hodson, trappers and men of the forests and the sad journey from the Powell ranger station to Lolo Hot Springs was begun. There were six men in the party besides Mr. Hodson. The little form was placed on a rough, handmade litter and each of the friends took his turn in carrying the body down the rough mountain trail. Through snow for many miles two feet in depth and over, they tramped along. The trail at times was obstructed by fallen trees. Over and around the drifts they plodded.

Trappers Go for Body

(here part of the copy of the news article is cut off which mentioned the names of several trappers)

George Nickols a forest service man; Jack Rice a Missoula young man and George Lockman and Ole Hanson. The latter being in the employ of Herman Gerber at the (Lolo Hot Springs) springs.

With great effort Hodson last night spoke of the friends who had been of so great assistance to him. He could not find words to express his appreciation. The party was met by undertaker Charles Marsh, who brought the body to Missoula yesterday and prepared it for shipment to Lowell, Ind. Over the Milwaukee today.

Suffer Terrible Hardships

“The men that went after Mrs. Hodson’s body deserve a great deal of credit for the way in which they handled the case,” said Charles Marsh. “The service was purely voluntary, and they certainly endured untold hardships in bringing the body out. I met them part way up the trail. There is a lot of snow over a portion of the trail covered by them.”

Mr. and Mrs. Hodson had been married five years. Practically all that time they had been together, and the last year they spent alone at the ranger station.

The news article continued on to say she was 38 years old, mentioned her surviving relatives and that she loved the mountains and was contented and happy at the ranger station and often accompanied her husband as he went about his duties on the forest.

ROUSH GRAVE AT BIG PRAIRIE

From The Flathead Story by Charlie Shaw as relayed to him by Ranger Henry Thol in 1940

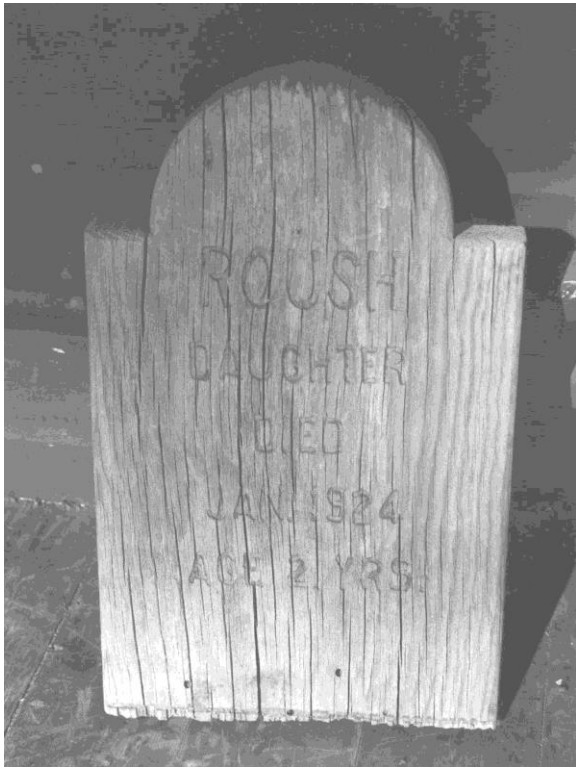
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Roush and their two-year-old daughter spent the winter of 1923-1924 at Big Prairie. Roush was looking after the Flathead National Forest stock wintered there. In January, the daughter became very ill.

Roush snowshoed out to Missoula to get medical advice and medicines. This is a distance of about 100 miles, much of it over forest trails. The trip was

made in the least time possible under these conditions, but when he returned to Big Prairie, he learned the sad news that his daughter had died just a few days after he left. The grief-stricken parents buried their only child on the small knoll that overlooks the Big Prairie Ranger Station site and the South Fork of the Flathead River. Flathead

Forest personnel plan to put up a permanent marker in the near future.

There are two Indian graves on the hill back of the powder house west of Big Prairie. They are just north of the present trail bridge across the South Fork, near the north end of this ridge. They have been there for many years and are unmarked. Local folklore is that the graves are of an Indian woman and a small boy who died while an Indian party was camping in the Big Prairie meadow.



*The grave marker for Roush child at Big Prairie.
From the Flathead National Forest Collection.*

Neither your editor nor retired Flathead archaeologist Tim Light could find any information about the Roush family on Ancestry or county records. There were no death records or name for the little girl in any of the surrounding counties. It is not known if Clayton Roush was even a Forest Service employee. The grave is marked and is located on the trail from the rangers' house to the river, next to the fence at the base of the small knoll.

Over the years several other toddlers died in accidents at ranger stations in Montana. In 1926 two-year-old Jackie Mizner, son of Ranger Mel Mizner of Elliston (Helena National Forest) drowned in the Little Blackfoot River behind the ranger station. He is buried at the Elliston cemetery along with his parents.

In 1935 the son of Ranger Dudley Hayden of Glacier National Park drowned when he went through the ice on a pond at the Lubec Ranger Station which had originally been administered by the Lewi and Clark Forest.



BEAR MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT CABIN RESTORATION PROJECT

Bear Mountain, originally known as Beargrass Mountain, is in the Lochsa drainage southwest of the Powell Ranger Station (Idaho). It has had three generations of lookouts on top starting in 1919 when it was a tent camp with a crow's nest

lookout. In 1921 and 1922 the log cabin dwelling was built. In 1924 a 40' log tower was built to replace the crow's nest. The existing L-4 lookout was built in 1951 and the cabin was then used for storage. It originally had Bear MT painted on its

shake roof. This remote location is accessed by trail up Warm Springs Creek. This lookout is one of about fifteen lookouts on the Clearwater-Nez Perce Forest that is still staffed during fire season.



Bear Mountain Cabin and Lookout, 1990

Bear Mountain cabin and lookout, 1990.

The 100+ year old cabin, built of logs, sits atop a stacked stone wall foundation. The log walls were in poor condition and in the summer of 2022 the Region One Historic Preservation team, headed by Cathy Bickenheuser, started work on what will be a 5-phase restoration project. In 2022, concrete piers were poured under the corners of the cabin, the cabin was leveled, and the rock foundation was rebuilt.



The cabin before preservation work started.

In the summer of 2023, the tedious work of replacing logs began with the help of several volunteers. After all the log work is done, the floor, roof, door, and windows will be restored or replaced. It is likely that almost all of the original logs will have to be replaced.



New logs at the end of the cabin.

The Historic Preservation Team always has projects underway as do some of the Forests. Between these projects and PIT (Passport in Time) Projects there are ample opportunities for volunteering. The preservation team's office is at the FS facility on Catlin Street, in Missoula. Information provided by Cathy Bickenheuser and recently retired Clearwater Nez Perce archaeologist Cindy Schacher Bartholf. Contact the archaeologist on your nearby forest to see what projects are in the works for this summer if you are interested in participating in a restoration project.



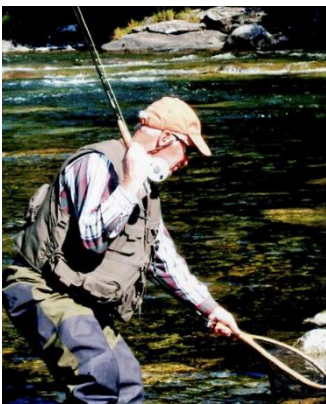


WE REMEMBER



Jeanne Pearl (Nelson) Brown – age 91 of Clearwater Idaho passed away at home on February 18, 2024. She was born in Grangeville Idaho on January 31, 1933. Jeanne grew up on the family ranch outside of Kooskia Idaho living the life of a rural ranch child; riding to her rural school on horseback, helping with the milking, picnicking, and helping her grandfather with his logging operation.

Jeanne was married to Ralph Brown in 1951 and together they enjoyed fishing, picking huckleberries and square dancing. She worked in the northwest for various state and federal fish hatcheries marking fish and later, on the Nez Perce in the Seniors Program and doing contract janitorial work at the FS offices in Kooskia and Kamiah. She is survived by seven surviving children, 17 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.



John Robert Case – age 83 of Boise, Idaho passed away July 28, 2023. John was born October 25, 1939, in Oak Park, Illinois. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Forestry, setting the stage for a remarkable career in the great outdoors. John completed Officer Candidate School and served in Viet Nam as a second lieutenant in the Navy. Following his honorable discharge, he joined the Forest Service where he served for over 35 years.

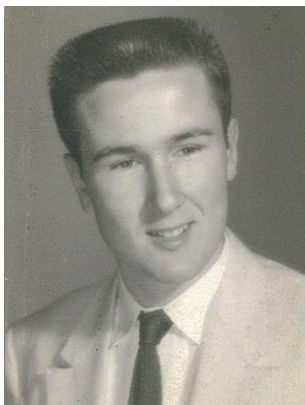
In his early years at the Fernan Ranger Station in Coeur d’Alene Idaho he met and married the love of his life Patricia Rheams. John went on to work at Bonners Ferry and Kelly Creek in Idaho where he worked in timber. In these remote areas he indulged his passion for fly fishing and began crafting exquisite flies that he shared with friends and family. After 35 years with the Forest Service, he continued his love and dedication to the outdoors as a contract fire fighter and manager. John supported his children in their athletic pursuits and was involved in community affairs serving his church and the Urban Forest of Orofino. He also visited prisoners at the state prison in Orofino. He was known for his kindness, friendly demeanor, and quick wit.

John is survived by Patricia, his wife of 56 years, a son and a daughter, a brother and three grandsons. There will be a memorial service in Boise Saturday June 22, 2024, at the Eyrie at Kathryn Albertson Park, 1001 American Blvd.



Sharlene La Rance – of Helena passed away March 14, 2024. She was born May 9, 1943, and grew up on the family ranch in Arlee Montana. She spent her whole career with the Forest Service working in Lands (Realty Specialist). She received many awards for her work and dedication. Sharlene was particularly proud of her involvement in the Forest Service’s purchase of Crow Creek Falls in the Elkhorn Mountains which sat in the middle of a 20-acre mining claim and now is accessible for the public to enjoy.

Sharlene retired from the Helena Forest in 2004 after 35 years with the Forest Service. Before and after retirement she enjoyed many activities including golf, fishing, camping, riding, and a bit of skiing. She painted and did beautiful beadwork, selling it at local craft fairs. She loved working in her yard and garden. Family was important to her, and she loved spending time with them.



Robert (Bob) Moore of Libby, Montana passed away of natural causes on May 1, 2023. He was 82. Bob was born in Long Beach California September 25, 1940, to Robert L. Moore Sr. and Alma Provost Moore. He grew up in California and served in the Navy following high school.

Bob started his Forest Service career as an Engineering Technician on the Shasta Trinity Forest, then transferred to the Modoc Forest in 1970. Bob and his family moved to Libby to work on the Canoe Gulch district. Kootenai National Forest in 1976. He retired in the mid-1990s.

Bob was predeceased by his wife Beverly. He is survived by his children Wendy Moore, son Robert Moore, and two grandchildren.



Alva “Ozzie” Osborn – of Coeur d’Alene Idaho died February 13, 2024, at age 91. He was born November 13, 1932, in Kahoka Missouri to Earl and Zola Osborn. He graduated from Toluca Illinois High School in 1950 then went on to study forestry, at the University of Illinois and then Colorado A & M, graduating in 1955.

He served in the Army as a lieutenant at Aberdeen Proving Ground Maryland. There he met and courted Kate Eldridge and they were married in Dillon Montana where he was working for the Forest Service. Later they lived in Wisdom Montana where he worked for the Beaverhead National Forest. They had their children, Kari, and Andy, while living in Wisdom. The family

moved to Coeur d’Alene in 1963 and retired from the forest service after 31 years as a forester.

After retirement Ozzie managed his private forest land and was active on the board of directors for the Idaho Forest Owners Association. He was active in his church and sang in the choir for over 50 years. He loved barbershop music and sang with several area groups. Ozzie is survived by his daughter and son, eight grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Richard Raymond Reiss (Dick) - of East Helena MT died December 23, 2023, at the age of 84. He was born in Canton, Ohio on September 11, 1939, to Richard Sr. and Edith May Reiss. He was raised in Ohio



and the Imperial Valley of California. After high school Dick spent five years in the Navy then attended college in North Carolina, studying business administration.

During his college years he got his start with the federal government, working for the Job Corp in the Great Smoky Mountains. He then went to work at Glacier National Park and the Custer Battlefield (now the Little Big Horn National Monument) as an administrative officer. He married Jeanine in 1974 and they became a family of six with his two boys and her two girls. His work with the Department of Interior continued in property management in Virginia and Washington DC followed by time at Yellowstone National Park as a contracting officer.

Dick resigned from the federal government in 1984 to pursue various entrepreneurial opportunities. He moved to Helena with Jeanine in 1997 and hired on to the Helena National Forest as a seasonal, working in developed recreation, retiring in 2011 to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.

Dick is survived by his wife Jeanine, his sons, a daughter, seven grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and a niece.



From your newsletter editor

Stories and information are always welcomed by your editor. One to three pages are perfect, photos are a great addition. Please honor your deceased co-workers by sending their name and what paper their obituary is in. Book reviews are always needed – books by Forest Service authors or of a subject that FS folks might be interested in – please write up something about the book and why you enjoyed it. Your editor doesn't have time to read all the suggested books as her bookshelves are overflowing and her life is way over committed and totally crazy. Newsletters are scheduled to go out in April and October – not that they always do. Vicky's contact info can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



Mann Gulch 75th Memorial Tribute

**August 3-5, 2024
Helena, MT**

On August 5th, 1949, Mann Gulch was the site of one of the most well-known forest fire incidents in history. Thirteen young men lost their lives, most of whom were part of an elite group of firefighters known as smokejumpers. Another life was lost when a U.S. Forest Service employee died while investigating the fire.

Seventy-five years later we have not forgotten the sacrifice of these men and the lesson learned from this tragedy. We have gained a better understanding of fire behavior and have developed enhanced safety precautions, equipment, and wildland firefighter training.

Please join us in honoring this transformational tragedy for the families and wildland firefighters across the country.

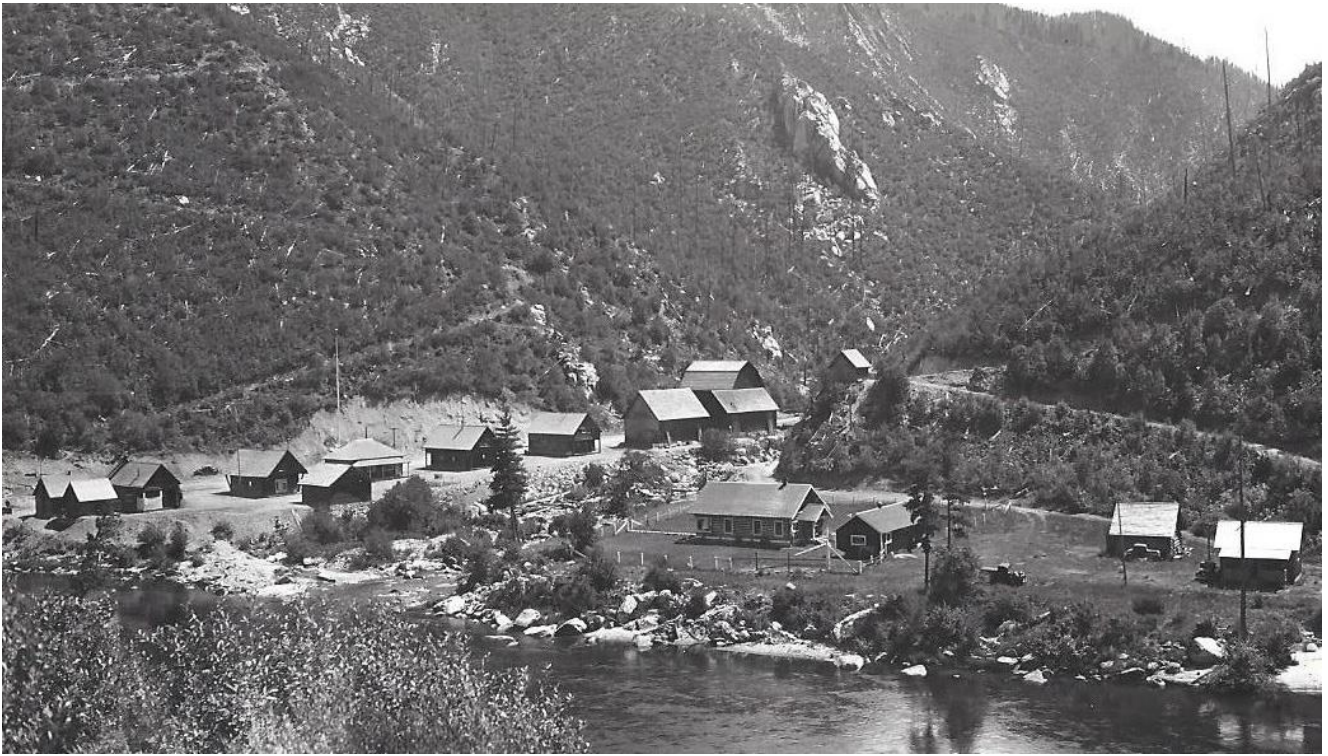
To learn more about the Mann Gulch Fire, complete schedule of events, sponsorship information and more, please visit:
montanadiscoveryfoundation.org/manngulch75

In partnership with



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The Bungalow Ranger Station, 1935. The Ranger's residence in the center of the photo is now the visitor center at the National Conservation Legacy Site in Missoula.

Northern Rocky Mountain Retiree Association

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