Grand Opening
Visitors Center & Forest Discovery Trail
July 20, 2017

You’re invited!

Thursday
July 20, 2017
10:00 AM
Cake and coffee to follow ribbon cutting ceremony
6305 Hwy 10 West
Missoula, Mt
(One mile west of the Airport)
Dear Friends,

Sometimes it is the oddest thing that gets you excited. For me it was the day the excavators came, the day the parking lot was striped, and the day Knife River crews poured the sidewalks. You see, for me this means an exciting day is coming...the day we can open our Missoula campus and allow visitors from near and far to learn about America’s Conservation Legacy.

That day is coming and you are invited!

While the Capital Campaign to build our Smithsonian-affiliate National Conservation Legacy and Education Center continues, we’ve made tremendous strides and will be opening our Museum Campus in July!

**Featured in this initial phase will be:**

- A beautifully restored, historic Ranger’s Cabin. The Cabin, from the Bungalow Ranger District in the Clearwater National Forest, Idaho, was home to Forest Service Rangers and their families. It will now serve as a Visitor Center hosting a series of interactive exhibits.


- A winding, landscaped Forest Discovery Trail and signage that will also feature special activities for K-12 students as part of our Conservation Education Program.

- Roads have been paved, sidewalks built, and other visitor amenities installed to make the visitor experience comfortable.

I hope you can join us!

**Lisa Tate**

Executive Director
The Museum’s initial teacher education workshop, May 8 to 11, 2017, brought 17 educators from across the country to the beautiful Montana mountains just north of Yellowstone National Park. Montana and six out-of-state teachers attended from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, New York and Texas. The facilities for the workshop were donated by the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Two instructors from the Library of Congress provided outstanding instruction. The workshop was supported by grants from the Library of Congress, ERM Foundation and Dreyfus Foundation.

Our goal was to provide instruction on how to find and use primary source historical documents in development of K-12 lessons plans. Primary sources help students relate in a personal way to events of the past and promote a deeper understanding of history as a series of human events. The teachers will be our “ambassadors” to spread awareness of the Museum and education opportunities for forest and grassland conservation history with their professional colleagues. We asked teachers to provide a draft lesson plan by June 1.
In September, we plan to host the Montana teachers, during the Montana Historical Society Meeting in Helena, to peer review and discussed prepared lesson plans. Each teacher received a Museum DVD disk filled with a sampling of primary source photographs and documents in the Museum’s repository.

The workshop provided an opportunity for networking and sharing information. Hard work during the day turned to relaxing over the evening meal and campfire with S’Mores.

Guest speakers added to learning. Professor Mary Murphy, Montana State University, discussed how she used primary sources to write about food service at logging and Forest Service camps; Joni Packard, Region 1 Educator Coordinator, showed a video on youth learning about wilderness; Mike Jetty, Montana Office of Indian Education, discussed Pre-History of this Land and Place, and Ellen Baumler, Montana Historical Society, discussed Chinese archaeological evidence on Montana National Forests.

After a wonderfully catered meal Wednesday, Museum President Tom Thompson, dressed in a replica 1908 Ranger’s uniform, presented an illustrative history of the Forest Service and conservation in our nation. Also, he discussed the importance of the National Museum of Forest Service History’s work in preserving this rich history and sharing the stories from many years and of the many people who shaped that history.

Additional Participant Comments

The workshop in May was unforgettable. I was able to make professional connections and explore the Library of Congress website in great detail.

It’s a rare workshop that inspires a teacher to reach out to district and state folks before even leaving the workshop. While at Basecamp, I contacted the North Carolina Middle School Association and said "Here is a great idea for next year's conference!" Chuck, the president, responded, "You're right! Let's do it!"

Teaching with Primary Sources presented by Michelle Pearson and Keith Patterson for the Library of Congress gave infinite resources to use for teaching. The wide background of people attending the workshop will be great for networking. This workshop expanded my knowledge of The US Forest Service and their mission to manage public lands.

“The thing I like best about teaching with primary sources is that it fosters enthusiasm for learning.”
The National Museum of Forest Service History is proud to participate this year in the In the Footsteps of Norman Maclean Festival!

We will be hosting a Chuckwagon Pancake Breakfast with John Maclean presenting “Growing up Together: The Macleans and the Forest Service”

Date: September 10, 2017

Time: 9:00 am

Location: National Museum of Forest Service History Bungalow Ranger Station, 6305 Highway 10 West, Missoula Missoula (one mile west of the airport)

Cost: Donation amount of your choice at the door

To register, please go to: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2993249
Gary was a long-distance jumper. No, he wasn’t athletic, but he jumped into tracks that made a difference in the long run, even when he was a kid.

In the eighth grade in Alliance, Nebraska, his classmates voted him first in Most Courteous, Most Likely to Succeed, and Best Personality. He was voted second place in Best All Around, Greatest Asset to his Class, and third place in Peppiest. Unfortunately, Gary did not place in the categories of Classiest, Handsomeness, Best Athlete, Dancer, Physique, or Music. But he was a second place Wit, with his Nebraska colloquialisms: Life was *copacetic*, completely satisfactory, and school suited Gary’s *vicaborosity*; fortunately, since this seems to be a made-up word.

Also in the eighth grade, Gary was chosen for an American Legion Citizenship Award, and for Boy Scout Mayor for the Day. He was Freshman Class President at Alliance High School. What actually did Gary do that merited those distinctions? I don’t know; he never talked about those things. I discovered the wrinkled newspaper articles on his class’s preferences in the little red photo album that his mother constructed. I do know that she thought he would make a good U.S. President, which put me in a difficult category in her eyes, as his wife.

Gary served for four years in the Air Force as an airplane mechanic. The Commander at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota selected him for Outstanding Airman of the Month at the end of his third year, and promoted him to Staff Sergeant. After Gary’s discharge -- unsure of what to do next – he followed an Air Force friend to Missoula to enroll in the University of Montana School of Forestry. Studying forestry seemed like a good idea to him. He liked woods and mountains – why not?

I’m grateful for this happenstance decision, along with the fact that Gary eventually became the Montana State Forester, because it brought him to me. When I met Gary, we were seniors at the University in Missoula, he still had the whispy beard that he grew for his role as Chief Push of the Forester’s Ball, in 1959. Fortunately he shaved that off when we dated.

During Gary’s career in State Forestry, we moved thirteen times, throughout western Montana, from Goat Creek Ranger Station, to Kalispell, Tommy Vars’ cabin, Sperry Grade, back to Goat Creek; then to Missoula, Helena, Missoula again.
Gary Brown  (continued)

Gary took a break from forestry in 1973 to establish an electronics business in Butte, until the mining economy crashed. Then Gary rejoined State Forestry in Missoula again, where we stayed permanently, and Gary eventually was promoted to State Forester. In this role, he worked closely with the U.S. Forest Service and other conservation and state and local agencies.

In retirement, Gary dedicated himself to establishing the National Museum of Forest Service History. The Museum was his baby and his mistress. He worked with Forest Service retirees Ed Heilmann, Jack Fisher, and many others.

Gary mowed the museum field himself, for recreation. He worked to plant Champion Trees that represented the genetic diversity of forest species. He negotiated with county officials on infrastructure regulations and requirements. He helped Jack Fisher reconstruct the historic Bungalow Ranger’s Cabin, putting together the numbered beams like Lincoln logs. The Museum work created a strong bond among many forestry retirees.

Gary was also a strong advocate for environmental and social justice causes, mainly through the Congregational Church. He helped develop a conference, The Church and Environmentalism. In 2006, Gary engaged in direct action in support of global warming legislation by sitting in Max Baucus’ office and being arrested for refusing to leave, along with David Merrill, now of the Sierra Club. He joined other activists in Georgia, protesting School of the Americas involvement in training South American war troops.

He was a leader in establishing University Congregational Church as one of the first churches in the inland West to become Open and Affirming, supporting acceptance for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual, Queer) rights. He helped other Congregational churches in Montana become Open and Affirming, and taught the Our Whole Lives curriculum to youth groups.

Gary spent an untold number of hours at the Montana State Legislature, informing legislators and advocating for State Forestry. He drove thousands of miles to participate in forestry and conservation meetings across the state. In 2007, he decided to run for the State Legislature, knocked on hundreds of doors, winning the primary election in 2008. Then he discovered that he had lung cancer, and had to drop out of the race. He faced this new challenge with courage and grace, and his own brand of Nebraska humor. His life was copacetic, for sure, and he did suit my vicaborosity.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a member of the National Museum of Forest Service History and help us preserve America’s conservation legacy. To become a member, complete and mail this form, along with payment to:

NMFSH, P.O. Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806-2772

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