



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

Volume 21, Number 3

August 2009

Pioneer Ranger

Harry S. Kaufman

By W. M. Rush

W. M. Rush was the Assistant Forest Supervisor of the Absaroka National Forest, Livingston, MT. This article first appeared in the Northern District's (now Region) employee newsletter, "BULLETIN", Volume VIII, January 1929. Kaufman was a ranger from 1903 until 1941 when he retired. His Ranger Station, Main Boulder, is fully restored and open to the public [See article on page 3].

Twenty-Five Years in the Forest Service

In the spring 1903, a young man, just off the spring round up, appeared at Supervisor Russell's ranch on Butcher Creek, Carbon County, Montana, applied for and was given a job as Forest Ranger.

For the magnificent sum of \$60 per month, this young man was to furnish two horses, riding and pack outfits, camp outfit, and his own services twenty-four hours per day. His first trip was to Montana, 300 miles through a hostile country. In those days a Forest Ranger was about as popular as a coyote in a poultry yard and traveling for the ranger was not altogether a joy. Arriving at Jardine, Montana, he set up camp at Pine Creek and started in on his job of protecting his section of the great Yellowstone Forest Reserve, comprising what is now seven National Forests. Returning to his camp one day, he found most of his food supplies stolen; only a little canned stuff remained. In opening some of this the ranger noticed a very small round hole through the side of the can. Upon inspection of the remainder, he found that every can had been punctured. So ptomaine poisoning was the first way the natives tried to rid the earth of this boy, come to make a National Forest out of their domain. Next, plain assassination was tried on the road to Gardiner and the ranger was forced to spend the day amongst the big rocks out of sight of the killers' rifles. Then they stole his entire outfit and set him afoot.



Harry S. Kaufman, 1941

Such was the beginning of Harry S. Kaufman's career in the Forest Service, and for a few years the going was anything but tame. Fighting trespass stock, cattle thieves, tough timber operators, game poachers, was the order of the day. Not the least element in Public Relations those days was the six-shooter on Mr. Forest Ranger's hip. Judge Colt still had some influence in this western

National Museum of Forest Service History

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Student	\$15
Individual	\$30
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Contributing	\$150
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Organization	\$100
Lifetime	\$1,000

Annual Meeting

7:15 9:00 PM,

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009

Garden Hilton Inn, Missoula, MT

Dessert Reception and Keynote Panel

Join the Board and Regional Directors of the National Museum of Forest Service History as we unveil the architectural and exhibit concept plans for the Museum. Learn more about how the NMFSH Collections, Archives, Research and Education (CARE) service program has assisted individuals, organizations, communities and USFS employees in 47 states to share the history and accomplishments of the USFS and its partners and cooperators.

The dessert reception and social will offer a look into the NMFSH collection and invite guests. Our annual meeting is open to NMFSH members, USFS Reunion participants and the public. Enjoy the company of family and friends and celebrate the Museum's accomplishments that members and partners make possible.

The program includes speakers: Tom Tidwell, Chief U.S. Forest Service; Dr. James Deutsch, Smithsonian Museum; and Lynn Sprague, member, NMFSH Board of Directors. Speakers will offer their insights on the opportunity and importance of the Museum to serve as the National Education Center and Repository of the remarkable history of the USFS in conservation, innovation and multiple uses of resources.

Award Presentations At Annual Meeting

National Museum of Forest Service History Volunteer Award —The Board of Directors is honored to recognize Gary G. Brown, former Montana State Forester and past Museum President for his inspiring dedication, vision and leadership in the laying the foundation of the Museum as a nonprofit organization and the groundwork for building a permanent home in Missoula.

National Museum of Forest Service History Conservation Legacy Award — The Board of Directors is honored to recognize *Enterprise Rent-A-Car* for their 50-year commitment to plant 50 Million Trees in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation. Since the program launched in 2006, 3 million trees have been planted on National Forest lands and across the globe. Lee Broughton, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Director of Sustainability, will accept the award.

Museum Legacy Raffle Tickets Available Sept 7-25

The Museum's 2009 *Legacy Raffle* will be launched on September 7th. The *Legacy Raffle* winning numbers will be announced via the internet on September 26th, as we celebrate National Public Lands Day with the launch of the Museum's new web site. Each of the five prizes signal important aspects of the Museum's exhibit concept design plan. Win a **Wii** game consol and learn how Wii technology will be used to share wildland firefighting and timber harvesting with museum visitors. **Canon Digital Camera PowerShot**~ values our wildlife and recreation heritage, **Garmin GPS** ~ highlights USFS research innovations, **Vortex Binoculars**~ honor wildfire history, and **Omaha Steaks** ~ spotlight grassland and multiple use heritage. \$20.00 raffle tickets provides five chances to win.

Tour the Museum Site — Friday, Sept 11, 12 to 4 PM

You are invited to visit the Museum site, 1 mile west of airport entrance, (6305 Highway 10 West). View completed site improvements and posters and architectural drawings of the planned museum building. Members of the Board will be on hand to discuss plans and answer questions.



Saddling Up—Boulder Ranger Station
Absaroka National Forest, Circa 1920



Field Telephone
Harry S. Kaufman, Circa 1930

country.

In six or seven years a wonderful change took place in public sentiment and some real progress toward Forest administration was made.

Kaufman was in charge of the building of the first telephone line on the Absaroka section of the Forest Reserve (now Gallatin National Forest). He had seen the Supervisor's office grow and move from Russell's ranch near Red Lodge to a dingy, one-room office near the freight yards in Livingston, to a spacious two rooms in an uptown building, to three rooms in a regular office building with electric lights, janitor and everything, and on to the present location in the Federal Building. In 1903, the property on the Forest was exactly nothing, not even a tent. The trails were pure and simple game runs. All travel was done with horses. Timber sales, even free-

use permits, had to be approved in Washington. No expense account. No forage allotments. THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

Forest officials with whom Kaufman has made field trips include such men as: Gifford Pinchot, Jess Nelson, Elers Koch, Sherrard, Kirkland, Paul Redington, J.A. Fitzwater, R.Y. Stuart, Silcox.

In 1910, Kaufman was in charge of the Swamp Creek fire on the Cabinet Forest. When the big blow-up came, and, after getting his sixty men on a rockslide, he suffered the supreme agony of seeing four of his men break away and run into the fire and death. The story of getting this fire crew out through the burn and to hospitals in Plains and Sandpoint over a railroad, where the bridges and trestles were burned out, is an epic in itself.

See RANGER, page 6

Boulder Ranger Station Today

The Big Timber Ranger District of the Gallatin National Forest is proud to offer to the public a fully restored house museum and visitor information station at the Main Boulder Ranger Station. This station has been continuously used since it was built in 1905. The station is open to the public as an exhibit of an early Forest Service Ranger Station. Most of the original furnishings were provided by the Kaufman-Ball families. An extensive collection of photos, from the 1910s - 1930s and Harry Kaufman's diaries, transcribed from 1903 (as a forest guard for the Absaroka Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve) through to 1941 with the U.S. Forest Service are available in the restored building.



Boulder Ranger Station 2009

Photo Courtesy Gallatin National Forest, Montana

Timber Framing Post Project

Blackwater River State Forest

When constructed, the museum lobby will use timber frame construction. We will use 24 different species for the posts. Each post will have a connection with the Forest Service. Volunteers have agreed to research and write a story about how each tree was used in the development of the United States – wood products, naval stores, maple syrup etc. The stores will be used by teachers during tours of the building or in classrooms across the country.

The Blackwater River State Forest in Florida has donated three posts — Long Leaf Pine, Atlantic White Cedar, and Red Oak. Romi White, Information Officer and Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Florida Division of Forestry, has written a short history of this Florida State Forest.

A History of Blackwater River State Forest

Blackwater River State Forest, Florida's largest state forest, is comprised of over 207,000 acres. Its restored longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem is part of the largest contiguous ecological community of this type in the world and home to many endangered species.



The area has a fascinating history, dating back to the end of the ice age and formation of Blackwater River, which is believed to have been named by Native Americans who inhabited the area thousands of years ago. Spanish and early pioneer exploration of the area included an expedition by General Andrew Jackson, for whom an historic trade route through the forest is named. In the early 1800s, Scottish emigrants began inhabiting the area, which basically remained a frontier through the Indian Wars. As counties were formed during the mid-1800, longleaf pine products made the area a timber industry capital.

To mitigate over-harvesting of forests and uncontrolled wildfires, which sometimes burned for weeks, the Florida Board of Forestry was established in the late 1920s.



Longleaf Pine—Wiregrass Ecosystem

Blackwater River State Forest

Photo courtesy of the Florida Division of Forestry

The Blackwater lands were purchased from tax-delinquent private land owners by the U.S. Resettlement Administration in 1935. This short term administrative unit was created as part of the New Deal. This was an unsuccessful New Deal program with objectives of providing subsistence farming opportunities for the poor. The lands were managed by the U.S. Forest Service prior to being turned over to the State of Florida.

In 1938 the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture entered into a long-term lease with the Florida Board to establish the forest, which in 1955 was deeded to the Florida agency, which later became the Florida Division of Forestry, present manager of the land.

Fire management, reforestation, watershed protection, recreation management, and operation of the Munson nursery and tree improvement program are primary activities on the forest today.

Forest Service History Memorials

A Memorial for Vance C. Setterholm was donated by Jean G. Setterholm since the last newsletter.

Forest Service History Memorials honor the living or memorialize deceased persons who worked for or were a cooperator /partner for the Forest Service. For a minimum \$100 donation, we will format the biography and a photo submitted and maintain a record in our Forest Service History Memorial Book and on our web site.

THE MANN GULCH FIRE AFTER SIXTY YEARS

Think that after six decades the story of the Mann Gulch Fire has been relegated to the dust bin of history? You'll think again if you Google "Mann Gulch Fire" on your computer and try paging thru some of the 18,800 sites currently listed on the Internet.

You might also be surprised to learn that despite the remote setting of this fire and the difficulty of reaching the site, fire-fighters, fire researchers, writers, photographers and ordinary citizens still continue to flock to Mann Gulch each season to make the hike up to the 13 weathered monuments.

Literally thousands more people, some from countries scattered around the globe, listen to the story of the fire as part of the commercial boat tours which ply the Missouri River each summer through the Gates of the Mountains north of Helena. As part of the boat tours they often visit nearby Meriwether Picnic Area and view the bronze displays dedicated to the 13 men who died in the Mann Gulch Fire. Add to these numbers the visitors who stop by the Missoula Smokejumper Visitors Center to view the memorial display there.

In the annals of wildfires in the West, few fires the size of the Mann Gulch Fire (it burned less than 5,000 acres) are remembered or evoke such long-term interest. That notable exception is the Mann Gulch Fire, which burned on the Helena National Forest in August of 1949 and claimed the lives of 12 smokejumpers and a summer fire guard. That homage is well deserved. Forest Service fire managers continue to visit (*see photograph above*) Mann Gulch to study the lessons learned from this tragic fire.

By Dave Turner, Helena National Forest, Retired



Mann Gulch Fire Area 2005
Helena National Forest, Montana

Photo courtesy Dave Turner

Museum Access Road Construction Completed

Construction of the Museum site access road and parking was started on May 18 and completed on July 13, 2009. Only the sub-base was constructed at this time. This work was supported by the U.S. Forest Service grant for infrastructure development. The project was designed by DJ&A Consulting Engineers of Missoula, MT. The contract was awarded to Nelcon Inc with a low bid of \$90,416. Parking capacity is 37 cars and 10 large vehicle parking spaces. The road design (bottom to top): Geotextile; 12 inch layer of 3" minus sub-base crushed gravel; and following museum building construction a 4" layer of ¾ inch minus crushed gravel and 3" layer of asphalt.



Geotextile Fabric Used



Hauling Sub-Base Material

Welcome New Members

5/01/2009 to 7/31/2009

Steve Bryant
Harold E. Coffman
Jane Darnell
John Eckert

Leon LaMadeleine
Jim Rodebaugh
Kim M. South

New Life Member

Jean G. Setterholm

Unrestricted Donations

5/01/2009 to 7/31/2009

* * Memorial Donation

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Sam Halverson
Richard Hauff
Reid Jackson

James W. Payne
Del Radtke
Earl and Anne Reinsel, Jr.
Wyman Schmidt
C.M. Snavely

In-Kind Donations

Terry Forest, DJ&A Engineering
Gil Churchill

RANGER, continued from page 3

After the 1910 fires, Kaufman was detailed to grazing work on the Cabinet, Coeur d'Alene, Pend Oreille, St. Joe, and Kootenai National Forests, coming back to the Absaroka National Forest in 1913, where he has been in charge of the Boulder Ranger District ever since.

Harry is known and respected by every old-timer (and many of the new ones, too) from Cody, Wyoming, to the Yellowstone Valley, and by his genial personality, fair dealing, and hard work, he has probably done more to put the Forest Service in its present Favorable place in the public's estimation than any other person in that wide region.

Twenty-five years' experience in Forest Service work. Just think of the long rides: snowshoe trips: fires fought; disputes settled; good times in town; headaches next day; fish caught; deer killed, bridges, trails, and telephone lines built; hard work in all kinds of weather; pencils worn out making reports; and the hundreds of other tasks successfully completed in the quarter century

of service. AND emerging from it all with a whole skin. (It does seem, though, that a few teeth were lost once.)

He has an inordinate fondness for horses, and can spend more hours in the saddle without tiring than any other man I ever saw. There is always a good string of saddle horses at his ranger station, too. In the many years that I've known Harry, there has never been a "bear bait" in his string. One of his famous rides was in 1911 when he rode "Brownie," a Government horse, from Gardiner to Livingston, a distance of 59 mile, in eight hours.

As Principal Forest Ranger on the Absaroka, Harry still does his stuff, always smiling, always ready for a joke or story, and, by the way, that reminds me—I was telling him a funny story one day and right in the middle of it he started laughing. "What are you laughing at?" I asked, "I haven't come to the funny part of my story yet." "Why," he returned, "I was laughing at the bully story I am going to tell you as soon as you are through with yours."

Capital Campaign Donation and Pledge Card
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Please pay pledges by December 31, 2011

Gifts and pledges may be paid by cash/check or by gifting securities (stocks and bonds). For securities, please call the Museum Office (406 541-6374) or write the Museum Office for transfer instructions. In accordance with IRS regulations, **your gift is fully tax-deductible.**

All persons donating will be recognized in a commemorative booklet available at the Museum. Donors giving \$1,000 or more will be recognized in the Museum lobby on the Wall of Honor.

Repository Corner

Rangers' Records and Reports

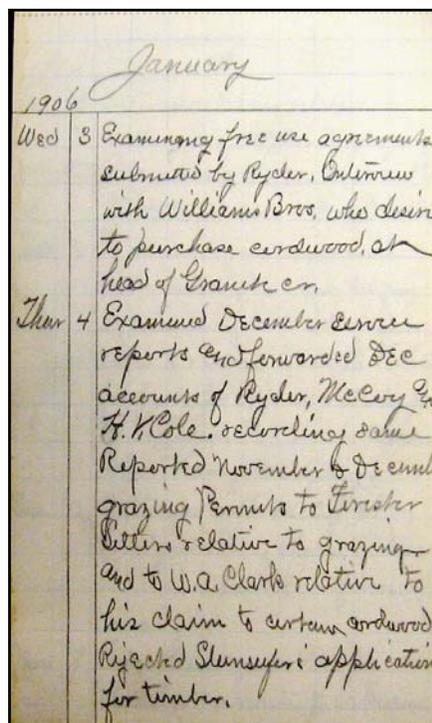
The first Forest Service Manual, "Use of the National Forest Reserves, Regulations and Instructions," or USE BOOK, issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on July 1, 1905, required all rangers "To keep a diary in the notebook furnished for the purpose, in which each ranger will enter for each day of service his movements, the work performed, and the status of reserve work or reserve business upon which he has engaged."

Keeping a daily diary was required until the mid 1960s. Most rangers were happy to see them go as the requirement was very time consuming.

Rangers used their diaries to prepare monthly reports to their supervisors. Each work activity was summarized with its numeric code. There are 86 ranger diaries in the Museum Collection.

Thanks to Gil Churchill

Gil Churchill, Locust Grove VA, saw a need for the Museum to have more videos about the Forest Service. He researched the National Archives and commercial sources and found EIGHT DVD's which he donated to the Museum. Titles included *Red Skies of Montana*, *Super Fire*, *Always*, and *Smoke Jumper Training for Airborne Fire Fighting in Missoula, MT, 1949*.



J. B. Seely, Diary, 1906
Madison Forest Reserve, MT
2004.75.373



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Individual	\$30 or more	Sustaining	\$300 or more
Family	\$55 or more	Organization	\$100 or more
Student	\$15 or more	Life	\$1000 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more		

Forest Products Laboratory Oral Histories

A collection of interviews with 52 current and former employees of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), located in Madison, Wisconsin, is now available on the internet. The interviews were conducted as part of an oral history project undertaken by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Oral History Program in cooperation with the FPL, to document the Forest Products Laboratory's history in their work to promote healthy forest and forest-based economies through the efficient, sustainable use of our wood resources in Wisconsin and the United States in preparation for the FPL's centennial anniversary in 2010.

Internet link to the FPL oral histories: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FPLHist/>