For two days, Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot sat and listened as speaker after speaker at the 1907 Public Lands Convention in Denver rose to lambaste him, President Roosevelt and the Forest Service. The fledgling agency, which embodied the Progressive movement’s ideals of science and regulation, was only two years old, but it had already drawn an overwhelming amount of contempt from many western stockmen who believed that the federal government had no right to regulate their use of grazing lands. On the third day of the convention, as Pinchot walked to the stage, little sense of deference for the nation’s top forester affected the crowd. They continued to treat Pinchot in a verbally abusive manner. Despite the less than hospitable welcome, Pinchot began his speech undeterred.

President Benjamin Harrison created the first Forest Reserves in 1891. But it was not until 1905 when Roosevelt transferred the Reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture that the National Forest and its corresponding agency came into existence in its modern form. Both Roosevelt and Pinchot staunchly supported the conservation movement in reaction to a fear that forests and grasslands were disappearing rapidly in the face of unchecked development. When Roosevelt ascended to the presidency in 1901, conservation became one of the executive branch’s top priorities. By 1907, the National Forests encompassed more than 132 million acres of land across the western United States.

Many people did not see eye to eye with Pinchot and Roosevelt on the issue of conservation. The large timber companies of Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington did not appreciate the Forest Service’s attempt to restrict their ability to develop the land. Cattle and sheep raisers widely resisted the federal government's conservation policies even more as they did not see any reason they should have to pay to graze their livestock on public lands. When Pinchot first came into his position in 1898, when the Department of the Interior still administered the Forest Reserves, the agency issued free permits to stock raisers as a means to limit the number of animals grazing on Forest Reserve lands. Even though some people in the government wanted grazing to be completely banned from the Reserves, Pinchot insisted on merely limiting and controlling the number of animals allowed to graze by issuing permits, which would have the effect of preventing erosion, protecting watersheds, and maintaining the overall health of the ranges. However, by 1906, after the Department of Agriculture gained control of the Forest Reserves, the federal government began charging small fees for grazing permits.
Attend the Annual Museum Meeting

By Gray Reynolds

Plan to attend the Annual Museum Meeting on September 20, 2012 during the Forest Service Reunion in Vail, Colorado. The noon luncheon at Vail Mountain Marriott Hotel is open to museum members and interested individuals. The Conservation Legacy Award will be present at the Thursday evening banquet.

AGENDA

- President Gray Reynolds Welcome
- Report on Museum Site and Interpretive Planning; Travelling Exhibits; Rangers Pack - Telling the Conservation Story to Future Generations, and Campaign Status
- Presentation of the Gary G. Brown Founder’s Award
- 1,000 Friends, A Membership Initiative
- Buck Knife Membership Drawing

Collection Donation Guidelines

By Dave Stack

The Museum's goal is to interpret the history of forest and grassland conservation in the United States through telling of the story of the U.S. Forest Service and its partners and cooperators.

The museum collection of artifacts, letters, reports, maps, photographs and published books is an important source to link this nation’s conservation legacy to the present to inspire the continued stewardship of our National Forests and Grasslands for future generations.

Real objects have a magic appeal all their own. Visitors relate to their rarity, authenticity, and story. Personal stories of how people worked and played, challenges faced managing projects, conducting research and interactions with State and Private partners and cooperators bring to life past Forest Service work for visitors and students. How did families cope with transfer of station or living at remote ranger stations? Employee parties and gatherings show the culture of the Forest Service.

Artifacts, documents, photographs and personal stories connected to the Forest Service are essential for the success of the museum. Dates and location used are important for the historical context. Photographs should be identified by date, location and names of the individuals. We need regional organizational directories. Remember we are interested in the recent history of the agency as well as the early 1900s.

An example of artifacts needed to support a planned exhibit -- the Bungalow Residence will interpret a ranger's residence a back county location in the 1940s or 1950s -- so we will need household items of the period to interpret family life. Personal stories will we used to explain how families lived; unpaid work by the wife, children's life, etc.

See ARTIFACTS, page 6
Although some ranchers came to understand the necessity of conservation and the grazing fees that aided that effort, many did not. Smaller ranchers could not afford the fees as competition increased for the limited number of permits. In 1906, a local ranger charged Colorado stockman, Fred Light, with trespassing after finding his cattle grazing on Forest Reserve land without a permit. The case, along with another, eventually made its way to the Supreme Court in 1911. At that point, the Supreme Court decided that the Forest Service indeed had the right to charge grazing fees. Nevertheless, in 1907, the issue was still hotly debated.

Even though Pinchot tried to assuage his critics by allowing homesteading on the Forest Reserves and beginning a predator eradication program, claims of despotism and a need for greater states’ rights rang out from despondent western ranchers. A sort of Sagebrush Rebellion gained momentum across the western states, as individuals along with private organizations and the states themselves, rejected the federal government’s efforts to inhibit, in any way, their livelihoods. Colorado's Attorney General represented Fred Light in front of the Supreme Court, and western U.S. Senators attempted to cut-off Forest Service's funding. Other attempts aimed to decrease Pinchot's personal salary. These efforts fell flat as the agency not only received its proper funding, but Pinchot received a raise. Nonetheless, these efforts represented a widespread mindset that wanted to limit the federal government’s role in their daily lives.

Opponents did not limit their attacks to the halls of Congress. Political cartoons of the time compared Pinchot to a Russian Czar. One cartoon from a Colorado newspaper depicts a stern looking Pinchot seated with cape and crown with six mounted "rangers" wielding whips. In front of Pinchot, cowering, are men labeled "new settler," "miner," "pioneer," "irrigationist," and "stockman." The headline at the top claims, "Czar Pinchot and His Cossack Rangers Administering the Forest Reserves" along with another list below labeled "Crimes By Regulation." Another cartoon shows Pinchot as "King of the Forest Reserve" seated on a throne, wearing a crown, and commanding a staff with a sheep owner and a cattle owner bowing before him begging for grazing land.

Amidst this highly charged atmosphere, Roosevelt and Pinchot had no intention of backing down. In March 1907, a large scale spending bill passed through Congress with a rider that would prohibit the president from adding more land to the Forest Reserves. Roosevelt needed to sign the bill because he needed the money to run basic services of the government. He had ten days to do so before it died by pocket veto. With this timeline in place, he and Pinchot went to work. Over the next week and a half, the two giants of conservation spent hours poring over maps and drawing lines to delineate new lands to be incorporated into the Forest Reserves. By the time they finished, 16 million acres of land had been added to the Reserves, and these new forests came be known as the "midnight reserves." Only when these new lands were officially designated as part of the Forest Reserves did Roosevelt sign the bill.

Naturally, opponents of the Forest Service, and conservation in general, were enraged. In Denver, state officials organized the Public Lands Convention for June of that year in reaction to Pinchot and Roosevelt's chicanery. The main issue to be discussed was the legality of the Forest Service’s right to regulate and restrict their economic freedoms. Roosevelt sent Pinchot to represent the federal government. In Roosevelt's eyes, the issue was significant enough to warrant the appearance of no one, but the country's chief forester.

Pinchot sat calmly, as speakers continually attacked his personal character. Upon being introduced at the convention, the chairman claimed Pinchot to be "the man who has caused all this trouble," and decreed him to be "the meanest individual on earth." The overall tone of the convention can aptly be summed up by Colorado Senator Henry Teller who cried, "We cannot remain barbarians to save timber. I do not contend that the government has the right to seize land, but I do contend that we have the right to put it to the use that Almighty God intended." These remarks leave little doubt that Pinchot was deep in the lion’s den.

When Pinchot finally had his opportunity to speak, he quieted the hostile crowd by saying, "If you fellows can stand me, I can stand you." From this point on he had the attention of his audience as he explained the necessity of conservation's principles. Relying on his customary talk about the greatest good for the greatest number for the longest time, Pinchot explained the benefits of federal regulation and ensured the crowd that everyone, including small scale ranchers, would receive their proper due without fear of "favoritism and graft." Pinchot emphasized the importance of science in managing the country’s natural resources and insisted that regulating grazing would result in the protection of watersheds, which would in turn ensure the availability of water for irrigation. When Pinchot finished his speech, the crowd cheered "lustfully."

Although some of the speakers who followed continued to rail on Pinchot, Roosevelt, and the policies of the Forest Service with a bitterly acerbic tone, others
adopted a more conciliatory course as they recognized the validity of some of Pinchot’s points. Later that day, the convention passed a series of resolutions. Shockingly, the resolutions assumed a much milder tone than even Pinchot could have hoped. Even though they called for changes in Forest Service policy and an increased recognition of states’ rights, the wording was much tamer and less rancorous than the majority of the convention had been. Undoubtedly, Pinchot’s presence, in addition to his wise and measured words greatly influenced this outcome.

Three years later, Roosevelt’s successor, William Howard Taft dismissed Pinchot as chief forester in an effort to rid himself of the diligent, yet obstreperous conservationist. Despite the fact that Pinchot’s tenure as chief forester proved to be short lived, his impact was undoubtedly felt. While many people continued to disagree with his policies, the agency he helped established continued to champion his principles. In the short time that Pinchot held his position, he accomplished much, but at no other time than that late spring day in Denver did Pinchot more successfully confront his detractors head-on and come out unscathed.

References
i Char Miller, Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism (Washington: Island Press, 2001), 166-7
iii Department of Agriculture, Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture: 1907 (Washington, D.C., 1908), 565.
iv Lewis, 57-8.
v Light v. United States 220 U.S. 523 (1911).
vii Miller, 165.
viii Lewis 61.
ix Miller, 163-4
x McCarthy, 37.7
xi Creede Candle, June 22, 1907, 2.
"xii Miller, 166.

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The Smokechaser's Pack

By Steve Coady

Steve worked on Willamette National Forest, Lowell District National Forest from 1989 to 2004. He is an historian/Interpreter/Presenter of Forest Service history. He presented a program in Avery Idaho during the 1910-2010 centennial of The Big Burn.

Smokechaser: a forest fire fighter; especially one with light equipment that enables him to get to fires quickly.

Once the smoke was pinpointed, the lookout would grab the Pack by the lookout door and head to fire.. What equipment did the Smokechaser carry in the Pack?

Beginning with the Missoula-made oak pack frame with some modifications, the outside is a canvas sheet large enough for a man to stretch out and pull the other half over him. A green pouch held a compass and map of the fire lookout's area. Tied to one side Pack would be the shovel handle, on the other side would be tied the brass/wood pump & hose for the 5-gallon green canvas water bag inside. Probably the shovel blade was secured partly under a flap of the folded canvas shelter.

The shelter was used to carry/pack the water bag, an ingenious collapsible canvas water bucket. The bucket has a canvas "lip" approximately a third of the way across. On the outside of the bucket towards the top, is a short spout with a brass screen sewn to the canvas. This bucket was used to fill/refill the pump bag. The screen was to prevent stream debris from getting into the pump mechanism (a simple glass marble!). There were two round honing stones for sharpening, two boxes of K-Rations. Possibly originally these packs were equipped with the World War I Stonebridge Lantern and several candles. After World War II, electric headlamps (with the cloth covered cords) replaced the candle lanterns. A file and small first aid kit were in the Pack.
Museum Memberships
Are you a Life member of the Museum?

If you’re reading this newsletter, chances are pretty good that you’re already a member of the National Museum of Forest Service History. You understand what Gifford Pinchot meant when he talked about using this country’s lands for the greatest good, and you value the history we are passing on to our children and grandchildren.

Maybe you joined when we were first getting started - or maybe you heard about us just last year, when you retired from your job.

Your membership makes it possible for us to produce traveling displays, provide research to local conservation education programs, and continue cataloging the more than 42,000 objects in our collection. Your membership will help make the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center a reality one day soon.

If you aren’t a member yet, we invite you to join us today. If you’re already a member, we ask you to think about renewing at a higher level.

From now until November 1st, we’re offering the gift of a limited edition Buck knife engraved with the Museum’s logo for Life member contributions of $1,000 or more. Fittingly, it’s Buck Knives’ Woodsman model, with a 4” stainless steel fixed blade, a wood and brass handle, and a leather sheath. Our logo is laser engraved onto the blade. In lieu of the limited edition knife, you may choose to receive a gift certificate for $75 redeemable for merchandise at the Museum’s online gift shop. By making a membership contribution of $1,000, Life members provide the Museum with a core of support that enables us to fulfill our mission.

If you are already a Life member and wish to take part in this special offer, your additional contribution of $1,000 will greatly assist the Museum and can be made to memorialize someone special to you to.

We don’t like to leave people out, so if you’re not a member yet, you can join now at any level and be entered into a drawing for one of these knives. Ask friends o join too!. Just fill out the form on this newsletter to sign up from now until September 14th. If you’d like to sign up online, here’s the link: http://www.nmfs-history.net/involved/membership.html. Either way, we will automatically enter you into a drawing to win this special limited edition knife.

We’re holding the drawing during our Annual Meeting on September 20th at the Forest Service Rendezvous in the Rockies in Vail, Colorado. If you’re coming to the Reunion, you can sign up to become a member while you’re there. Make sure you do it by Thursday September 20th and we’ll enter you in the drawing, too.

If you’re already a member, thank you for supporting us so far. If you aren’t yet, I invite you to join us in sharing the stories of the generations of men and women who wore the uniform before us. Together, we will share our history with the next generation – so they know why the National Forest System lands are important to us all.

Dave Stack, Executive Director

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Why did you join?  Doug Leisz, Museum Board Member, Associated Chief, retired:

“I joined because the story must be told so that the public enjoys and tends their treasure…Too much is lost with the passing of time and people, even with the periodic written efforts to record history.”

Why did you join?  Member Rolf Anderson, District Ranger, Sweet Home Ranger District on the Willamette National Forest, retired:

I’ve always been a history buff and working with these folks gave me a good understanding of how the Forest Service developed and grew over the years. I joined the Museum to be a part of helping to preserve and interpret our culture and history.
Through the generosity of many, our collection and the Forest Service Harvey Mack collection has grown in excess of 40,000 items and as might be expected there are a number of areas where we have received duplications. **Additional donations of the following items are not needed** ---- Forestry and other discipline text books; National Forest Service Organizational Directories after 1930; compasses (unless very old); Uniforms of 1960 and later; Forest Service manuals and handbooks and Forest Service dishes

Many Forest Service retirees and families want to find a place from mementoes collected during their career. Donors should contact Executive Director Dave Stack (406-541-6374 or nationalforest@montana.com) to discuss items they are considering for donation. Sending a list of items considered for donation, if possible, would be much appreciated. If possible email an electronic WORD or EXCEL file.

A donation to the museum to defray the cost of storage and cataloging the items is appropriate but not required. A Deed-of-Gift that acknowledges the gift to the Museum will be sent to the donor for signature.
Repository News

Daisy Priscilla Edgerton Collection

Daisy Priscilla Edgerton collection was donated to the museum by Bobbie Bevington of Missoula, Edgerton’s great granddaughter. The collection includes publications she authored or edited, documents and photographs.

Edgerton was first employed in 1909 by the Forest Service in Washington, D.C., as an editor. In 1923 she transferred to the Department of Agriculture's Division of Information and Publications. Edgerton was hired in 1927 by the Mississippi Forest Service to develop a program of forestry education for the schools of that State. Among her outstanding accomplishments there was the writing and publishing of an elementary textbook *Southern Forests.* She returned to the Forest Service in 1930 to work in forestry education until her retirement in 1938. Other publications: *The Forest, A Handbook for Teachers* and *Famous Trees.*

Ferdinand A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service, in 1938 said "it is doubtful if anyone did more than you [Edgerton] in the early days to interest women in the Nation's forest problems. You were the first member of the Forest Service to specialize in the preparation of material for teachers."

"You leave this organization with a splendid record not only of long and faithful service, but also of pioneer work in forestry education. The esteem with which school people regard the Forest Service has been greatly augmented by your influence on our publications and by your helpful suggestions to teachers. Your ability to do effective research, to develop new materials continuously, and to present new viewpoints has been outstanding.”

Mount Lebanon School, GA, ca 1926

Oregon Caves National Monument, OR, ca 1923

Rosin Storage Dock, Savannah, GA, ca 1910

Lehman Cave National Monument, UT, ca 1930
Note: Your mailing label shows the date your membership expires. Please mail dues payment, 1 month prior to the date listed above. This space is blank for complementary copies of the newsletter. Please renew EXPIRED memberships as soon as possible to continue support of the Museum program.

Membership Application

Fill out, detach, and mail to: National Museum of Forest Service History, P.O. Box 2772
Missoula, MT 59806-2772

Mr. __ Ms. __ Dr. __ Name: ___________________________ Address __________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________ Daytime Ph.: ____________________

E-mail: ___________________________ □ New □ Renewal □ GIFT

□ YES—Start sending my newsletter to the email address above.

Membership Categories        Annual Dues

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

See the Museum Display During 2012 Forest Service Reunion
Vail Mountain Marriott Hotel September 17-21, 2012