



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

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December 2006

Memorial Grove Rocky Mountain Region

By R.G. Colwell and Bill Nelson

This article was adapted from the history of the Memorial Grove at the Monument Nursery by R. G. Colwell, Senior Clerk, Pike National Forest, 1943-1944, and recent articles by Bill Nelson, retired Pikes Peak District Ranger. Thanks to Dave Steinke, Rocky Mountain Region Public Affairs, for the photographs.

The story of the Memorial Grove takes place near the town of Monument, Colorado, a small town of about 2,000 people sitting at 6,961 feet above sea level, south of Denver and just north of Colorado Springs along Interstate 25. It's the home of the Pike Hotshots and the Monument helitack crew on the Pike National Forest.

Originally founded May 1, 1907, as the Mt. Herman Planting Station, the name was changed to the Monument Nursery within two years. During the first few years, trees from the nursery were used primarily in nearby forests. One of the earliest reforestation successes was on Mt. Herman, just west of the complex. When the nursery was established, it consisted of 480 acres, a barn, and five tent houses for the crew. The nursery was expanded in 1929, when the adjacent Monument Ranch was purchased. The seedling facility was one of the first in the Forest Service system and the most important in the Rocky Mountains. The late 1930s proved to be the nursery's peak production years, with more than 60 employees, and as many as 5 million seedlings shipped annually.

During the Great Depression, in the 1930s, the site served as one of Colorado's largest Civilian Conservation Corps camps. From 1934 to 1942, CCC crews under Forest Service supervision designed and constructed buildings, fought fires, manned the nurseries and planted seedlings.

On April 3, 1919 District Headquarters sent a letter to all forest officers in the Rocky Mountain District noting that "some real forester conceived the idea of a national movement to plant trees on Arbor Day as a memorial to Forest Service men who had lost their lives in the United States armed forces during World War I." The letter further suggested that trees be planted at Ranger Stations and at the Monument Nursery in fulfillment of the idea. Accordingly, on June 10, 1920 five Colorado blue spruce trees grown in the nursery were planted and marked as living memorials.

This first planting was south of the old storehouse. Similar plantings were made at the ranger stations. It was the beginning of the



Sid Hanks Attaches Brass Plate
Hanks, retired Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, attaches the 2006 Honor Roll

Memorial Grove in the Rocky Mountain Region.

In the spring of 1921, Colonel Allen S. Peck, District Forester, planned and initiated a movement to establish a permanent, regional Memorial Grove at the Monument Nursery instead of in smaller groves at widely separated locations. The grove was to be a living memorial to all members of the Rocky Mountain District (named was changed later to Region) who had died while in the Forest Service, or



National Museum of Forest Service History

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The *Newsletter* is published quarterly for the members and supporters of the National Museum of Forest Service History, a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the history of the USDA Forest Service.

Membership Categories

Individual	\$30
Family	\$55
Contributing	\$150
Sustaining	\$300
Organization	\$100
Lifetime	\$1,000

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By Gray Reynolds, President, NMFSH

I am pleased to report that the sewer and water contract at the Museum Site is nearing completion. The \$401,800 contract completes the underground piping, the wet well and pump station and waterlines to support the museum building. This contract is the first major construction effort leading to our goal of completing the National Museum of Forest Service History in time for the 2009 Reunion scheduled for Missoula, September 7-11, 2009.

The capital campaign is well under way with a goal of raising \$4 million by the end of 2007 and an additional \$2 million in 2008. I thank all of our members for their support and gifts to the capital campaign. Our current membership stands at 737, and increase of 48 new members over last year. I ask all members to each please recruit two new members this year. The board relies on member dues to keep the museum office open and the curator working to catalog donated historic items.

I also ask that each member consider a gift to the museum capital campaign to help us reach the \$4 million goal we have set for 2007.

Dave Stack and other members of the executive committee are working with Stan Zimet, an architect in Missoula, to revise the current site plan by the end of the year to accommodate the museum and 10,000 square foot repository building. Mr. Zimet is doing the preliminary work pro bono. We plan to begin the museum building design in next spring.

The capital campaign strategy was completed in July. Max Peterson has asked regional campaign coordinators and members of the Board of Directors to make business and individual contacts to request donations to fund the \$6 million museum and the endowment. The endowment is necessary to help fund the operating expenses.

The museum goals are to tell the Forest Service history beginning with Gifford Pinchot's original conservation objectives through current Forest Service policies. Emphasis will be placed on the innovations and early day management challenges, as well as the important roles played by others such as local and state officials, permittees, state and private foresters, resource users, engineers, fire management personnel, summer and winter recreationists, and wilderness managers.

Our planned interactive technologies will allow web users to visit the museum from home and work places. We are committed to producing a first class interactive museum that will attract adults and children and will accurately tell the history of the Forest Service, its partners and cooperatives, and the role that each have played in this remarkable last 100 years. Please help the museum with your gifts, support, and ideas.

Best Wishes,
Gray Reynolds

Donations Needed

By Dave Stack, Vice President

Consider making a small, end-of-the-year donation to the support the general museum operations. Many members have already contributed during the year. Of course the donations are tax-deductible. Send donations to: NMFSH, PO Box 2722, Missoula, MT 59806.

General donations support the current museum operations. In 2005, total operating expenses were \$69,466. Forty-one percent of the expenses supported our curation program to catalog and care for historic items donated to the museum. The remaining expenses paid for utilities, insurance, newsletters and other small expense items. I continue to volunteer as Executive Director which results in a large cost savings.

after retirement.

Thirty names were on the first list of deceased members of the district honored. Carlos Bates, forester in charge of the Fremont Experiment Station, begun in 1909 near Manitou Springs, Colorado, offered to secure the required number of suitable trees from a gulch just below the station.

Planting assistant Walter Schrader, Rangers John Patterson and Frank Poley, with Bates and his assistant, Oliver Robertson, dug twenty-seven Colorado blue spruce and three Engelmann spruce, from 18 inches to three feet tall. The trees were baled in burlap and hauled to the Mt. Manitou Incline Railway in a one-horse, two-wheeled, narrow-gauge cart that belonged to the Fremont Station.

The Mt. Manitou Incline Railway transported the trees to Manitou Springs without charge and they were carried to the Nursery, where they were thoroughly wet down and stored in a cool place until the day of planting. The site selected for the memorial grove was in the northwest corner of nursery area number 1, immediately in front of the old nursery office and adjacent to the road. The date was set for May 30, 1921, but as Memorial Day in that year was on Monday, the first planting of trees took place on Sunday, May 29, 1921. The trees were set out at intervals of 12 feet, in broken rows, 12 feet apart.

Only Forest Service officers and their families, who planted those first thirty trees, attended the first planting ceremony at the Memorial Grove.

Later, the criteria for being honored in the grove were expanded to include all deceased Rocky Mountain Region employees. When the Berry fire in 1989 destroyed some of the trees, it was decided that instead of planting a new tree for each deceased employee, a plaque would be mounted that listed the names of all who had died within the previous year. That has since been changed to the current tradition:



Elizabeth Sporcich, Budget Analyst
Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, 2006

in addition to the plaque, a single tree is planted in memory of all employees who died during the previous year.

Very few people in the Region, with the exception of some retirees, had any knowledge of the Memorial Grove or its history. Since 1995 there has been an effort to improve the grove and facilities and to spread the word of its existence and purpose.

Through some extraordinary efforts of retired regional employees, Pikes Peak District Ranger Bill Nelson, Deputy Chief Tom Thompson, Deputy Regional Forester Sid Hanks, director of Engineering Lloyd Newlin, graphic artist Larry

Simmons, recreation director Steve Dietemeyer and a host of others, the area is thriving.

Substantial work has been done at the site, and annual maintenance is still needed. The Regional Office maintains a small memorial fund account to purchase plaques and limited improvements to the site. The Rocky Mountain Region retirees coordinate the day and supply funds and labor to make the first Saturday in May special. Current Pikes Peak Ranger Brent Botts, district employees and Pike Hot Shots pitch in and help coordinate and host the annual workday and dedication ceremony.

For the past five years the event has grown. Last year over 100 people gathered in the small clearing to honor 12 Rocky Mountain Region



Jeff Hovermale (left), Pikes Peak Ranger District, speaking at the 2006 Monument Colorado Memorial Grove tree planting ceremony

employees who had died in the previous year. Brass plates containing their names were riveted to a metal memorial tree.

The American Flag is raised and a lone bugle plays the national anthem. Family members are encouraged to speak about their loved ones, a bagpiper plays, a rider-less horse walks around the grove, and speeches and remembrances are made. Then a single tree is planted to honor all of those who have died. Family members help place a small Colorado spruce tree into the earth.

After the ceremony, in true Forest Service tradition, everyone goes back to the Hot Shot base to have a potluck luncheon, tell some stories and reminisce about the good old days and talk about the hopeful ones in the future.

In May of 2007, a new interpretive sign will be installed that tells this remarkable story to everyone who comes to the Memorial Grove.

The grove is thought to be the only such memorial of this type in existence in the Forest Service and the folks who work on it and the families of loved ones who dedicated their lives to the agency are very proud to keep this tradition alive.

Museum Site Infrastructure Construction

Construction of water and sewer lines to the future museum building site is nearing completion. Final inspection and acceptance is anticipated in early December 2006. This is a major accomplishment and moves us closer to our goal of opening the museum building in 2009.

Construction costs will be approximately \$401,000 and an engineering cost of \$48,000 for a total cost of \$468,000. The high costs reflect the complexity of construction — a sewer lift station was required and the utility lines were bored under two creeks to minimize environmental impact and decrease permitting delays. We are connected to the municipal sewer and water systems.

The consulting engineering firm of DJ&A designed the project, obtained necessary permits, prepared the contract and specifications and inspected construction work for compliance with contract specifications. The contractor is Western Excavating of Missoula.

Additional photographs of construction can be seen on the Museum's website www.nmfs-history.net Click the "On-Line News" tab.

The design, costing approximately \$20,000, for the road and parking area has been completed and ready for contracting.



Water Line Construction Under Butler Creek



Sewer Lift Station — Concrete Pad to be Poured

Centennial Lookout Assembled At Museum Site

By Gary Brown

The Forest Service Centennial Celebration in 2005 commemorated the first one hundred years of the Forest Service “caring for the land and serving people.” The national celebration took place during the Folklife Festival on the Capitol Mall in Washington, DC, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. Over 1 million visitors toured through the Forest Service exhibits. Exhibits and demonstrations depicting the science, technology and the history of managing and protecting our forest lands were contributed by the Forest Service units from across the nation.

Region-1’s contribution to the festival was a replica of the L-4 fire lookout cab constructed from the original 1930s era design, including the furniture. It was built in Missoula (assembled to make sure it would fit together properly), disassembled and trucked to the Capitol Mall and reassembled. Forest Service hosts and posters interpreted the history of fire lookouts and their purpose in forest fire suppression. The exhibit was quite successful. After the festival was completed, the lookout was disassembled and trucked back to Missoula.

The L-4 lookout cab was transferred to the National Museum of Forest Service History and is being reassembled

on the Museum site. When completed the total height will be 24 feet. The lookout is the first of the planned outdoor exhibits at the museum. The lookout is a great addition to the museum.

Original construction and Washington D.C. setup was accomplished by the Region-1 Historic Preservation Team: Team Leader Kirby Matthew, Dale Swee, Bill Harris, Warren Miller, Ian Barlow, Kerry Cassidy, Chris Castillo and Mike Ryan. Museum member and former Board member Jack Fisher also took part as a volunteer with 600 hours of work. The cabinets and furniture are the result of Jack’s excellent carpentry skills.

Museum volunteers who took part in the re-assembly at the museum site were Dave Spores, John Drake, Jack Fisher, Tom Schnarts, Joe Gorsh, Jim Reid, Wayne Ellington, John Drake, and Gary Brown

The Region-1 Historic Preservation Team and current Forest Service employees assisting the museum in the re-assembly of the lookout were: Kirby Matthew, Cathy Bickenheuser, Kerry Cassidy, Milo McLeod, Gene Thompson, Joe Hamilton, Allen Byrd, Sydney Bacon, Steve Oravetz and Rudy Schlegel.



Kirby Matthew, Region-1 Historic Preservation Team Leader, ensures Gary Brown nails the shingle correctly. Jack Fisher and Rudy Schlegel are working on the roof. October 2006

Welcome New Members

8/16/06 to 11/27/06

Karl Brauneis
Mary Coulombe
Nancy Curriden
Bjorn Dahl
Frank Dangelo, D.A. Davidson & Company
Dixie Dies
Chris Dunbar, Big Sky Wealth Management
James Fickle
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Edward Gryczan
John Korb
Ted Koskella
Tom Kovalicky
Wes Langley, State Farm Insurance
Gloria Manning
Stephen Mealey
Arleen Stevlingson
Richard Thomas, Thomas Plumbing & Heating
Stan Tixier

Unrestricted Donations

8/16/06 to 11/27/06

Joanne Booth	Embree M. Kennedy
Jerry Brown	Douglas R. Leisz
Clinton Carlson	Tom Lennon
John P. Case	Donna L. Lenz
Robert W. Cermak	William McCleese
Gwendolyn Cloninger	Peter Neyhart
Ray Connelly	James O'Keefe
Tom Coston	Neil Opsal
Jewel S. Cowan	Del Radtke
Carma J Gilligan	Frank C. Sherman
O. Dean Goodrich	James Stapleton
Barbara W. Gorsh	J.R. & Vervian Stephenson
Nita Hearst	Freddi M Thompson
Jeanne Higgins	Stan & Betty Thomson
C. C. Ibsen	Stan Tixier
Reid Jackson	Stephanie Watts
Wendall & Jessie Jones	
Charles R. Joy	

Capital Campaign Donations

8/16/06 to 11/27/06

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Herman E. Ball
Barb Beck
Chester M. Beil
Barbara Bledsoe
Gary G. Brown
John F. Butruille
Jim Dolan
Dale L. Farley
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Roy Wenger Estate
Whit Whitfield
Archer W. Wirth
Thaddeus Yarosh
DJ&A Consulting Engineers (In-Kind)
Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
Starbucks Coffee (employee matching)

WANTED

Featured history articles for future issues of the Newsletter are needed. Our goal is to publish articles from all sections of the country. We especially need articles from Regions 3, 4, 8 and 10. The featured article in the last six newsletters are from Regions 2, 5, 1, 1, 5 and 6. Talk with your local Forest Archaeologist for story ideas. The featured article is 1,000 to 1,250 words and up to 2 photographs. Call Dave Stack (406-541-6374) at the Museum for additional details.

Membership Application

Fill out, detach, and mail to: National Museum of Forest Service History, P.O. Box 2772
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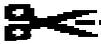
Mr. __Ms. __Dr. __ Name: _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Ph.: _____

E-mail: _____ New Renewal GIFT

Membership Categories Annual Dues

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



New Forest Service History Memorials

In Honor of

Jack Fisher

Bob Kintig

Memorials for

George D. Carlisle

Fremont N. Haines

Roscoe Haines

Arnold F. Masoner

Forest G. Morin

Thomas C. Nelson

Danny On

John S. Spencer

The National Museum of Forest Service History offers Forest Service History Memorials for those wishing to honor living or to memorialize deceased persons who worked for or was a cooperator /partner for the Forest Service..

For a minimum \$100.00 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 Memorial Grove of trees at the National Museum of Forest Service History has also been planted in honor and memory of the people listed in the Forest Service History Memorial.

For more information contact the Museum: (406) 541-6374 or nationalforest@montana.com

Memorial Donations

Gary G. Brown
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Rita Glazebrook
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Gerald & Jessie Van Gilst
Ken I. Young

Capital Campaign Gifts

As of 11/17/2006

Members & Friends	\$ 155,166
Pledges	\$ 41,402
Corporate	\$ 5,000
In-Kind Gifts	\$ 3,177
Forest Service, USDA	\$ 500,000
Endowment	\$ 16,247
Pending Gifts	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 770,992



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1) Date _____ \$ _____ 3) Date _____ \$ _____

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Please pay pledges by December 31, 2008

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