



# National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 1

February 2006

## 1919 — St. Joe National Forest and The Cook

By **James H. Rowe**, *Written in 1972*

*The author was born in Fort Benton, Montana in 1899. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. After this adventure with the Forest Service in 1919, he returned to Great Falls and again cooked for the Rainbow Hotel. Rowe moved to Butte, and worked as chef as a chef until 1939. He married Annie Powers in Libby in 1939. Rowe later owned restaurants in Butte and Kalispell. He moved back to Billings in 1969. He died on March 21, 1983 in Billings. His wife, and a daughter, Mary Anne of Billings, survived him. Members of the Rowe family still reside in Fort Benton, Montana.*

The complete, 11 page story by James H. Rowe of his 1919 forest fire experiences can be downloaded from the [Newsletter Supplement Page](#) on the Museum's web site at [www.nmfs-history.net](http://www.nmfs-history.net).

In Avery, [Idaho] they gave us a pup tent and some blankets, and 16 of us crossed the river (heading south ) into the St. Joe National Forest. We were sternly warned not to leave the trail, as it was brushy and very easy to get lost. Towards evening, after a 20-mile hike we arrived at the Roundtop Ranger Station. The next morning we were on our way again to the Monumental Buttes Ranger Station [Jug Camp Ranger Station about 7 miles south of Roundtop].

After two weeks of an ideal existence, the bad news came. A big fire had broken out on Foehl Creek [Jug Camp is at the head of the Foehl Creek drainage], and a large crew was being rushed in to fight it. I was to have three more cooks and four flunkies working for me, and I was to be in charge of feeding the crew, order from the packers, and, most of all, try and please the crew of fire fighters. With nothing but ham and bacon in the meat line, it was really going to be an almost impossible task.

Bright and early the next morning, we started out walking with our pup tents and blankets, with the packer and his string of mules loaded with food and the cooking utensils--a Ranger, and Mr. Sutherland [The man had a heavy Scotch burr - this was likely Roscoe Haines who was Forest Supervisor from 1916 to 1919] to teach us how to put up our first camp. We were happy as we walked through the scenery of this beautifully forested St. Joe National Forest.

As we headed down the trail toward the place we would set

up our first large camp, I lost my nerve completely, now I would have to cook over open fires, with only ham and bacon in the meat line and as many staple foods as the overworked packers could get in to us--absolutely no fresh meats, as the distance was too far from Avery, and there was no way to refrigerate it.

I realized that my crew and I had a job to do, mainly, feeding a large crew of hungry men. We were to be supplied with bread and old-fashioned toasters, so we would have toast for breakfast. It either had to be bacon or ham, fried for the morning meal; mush, either oatmeal or cornmeal, sugar added, and a solution of condensed milk and water mixed together. It was palatable, and the men were always hungry. For fruits, we



**Roundtop Ranger Station, St. Joe National Forest.**

Circa 1950s. Idaho Panhandle NF Photograph.

had dried prunes, apricots, peaches, and apples. To round out breakfast, we had fried potatoes, which kept a couple of flunkies busy peeling and slicing them--they got faster every day. Sometimes we had a treat--eggs scrambled with a lot of condensed cream to make them go further. This seldom happened, but when the men got some eggs they really appreciated every bite. Our coffee we cooked in huge coffee pots; after it was well-boiled, we settled the grounds with cold water, added enough condensed cream to color it slightly, and enough sugar to give a trace of sweetness. This was one thing the fire fighters would not stand to be shorted on--they wanted lots of coffee.

Now, we would have to get the men off to work with a lunch, and that was really a tough one. We had a variety of three sandwiches: boiled ham, fried bacon, and cheese. We gave each

*(Continued on page 5)*



**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	\$45
Contributing	\$150
Sustaining	\$300
Organization	\$100
Lifetime	\$1,000

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## From The President

Thanks to all members for your support of the museum's capital campaign. Max Peterson and Bob Model kicked off the campaign during the 2005 Forest Service's Retiree's Meeting in Portland, Oregon. During the past year, museum memberships have grown over 100 individuals. Total individual gifts and pledges in 2005 totaled \$80,000. The Forest Service matching grant of \$500,000 was timely and is vitally important to our capital campaign goals. The fact that the Forest Service employees and retirees are joining the museum in increasing numbers and providing donations and gifts, signifies our national commitment to complete this project as planned.

When completed the museum will make a major contribution to public understanding of Forest Service history by:

- Providing for public enjoyment and education for those visiting the area or securing access via the internet.
- Caring for certain historic objects and papers such as documents, tools, and other items that mark its past.
- Cooperating with groups across the country to preserve, interpret, and display Forest Service history including the Forest History Society, the Pinchot Institute, and the Forest Service Headquarters as well as regional and local organizations.
- Inventorying objects, papers and other items held by other local regional or national museums to provide a ready reference to the location of such material for ready reference via internet.

Recently, regional coordinators have been named in each region of the Forest Service to provide campaign information to retirees, employees, and to assist in asking industries and foundations for support.

I am asking each member to help us recruit additional members by personally explaining your commitment to this historic effort. Membership, pledges and donations of whatever amount are crucial for our success.

Best Wishes,  
Gray Reynolds

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## Meeting With Senator Burns

Board members John Drake, Gary Brown and Dave Stack met with Montana Senator Conrad Burns on February 4, 2006. We discussed the Museum's request for a FY 2006 \$1 million federal appropriation toward the construction of a museum and national headquarters to preserve Forest Service history. We discussed the importance and need now to preserve the history of the Forest Service. All federal funds received will be matched with private donations. We also discussed the Museum's plans to request a Montana State appropriation of \$500,000. Senator Burns asked us to stay in touch with his staff.

Senator Burns expressed his strong views on the need to know the past to understand where we are going in the future. Senator Burns believes a conservation history education program is very important. Senator Burns said we could use his name as a supporter of the Museum. The initial museum building design needs to accommodate future expansion.

Senator Burns has good memories of working in Montana in the summer of 1953 on a Forest Service Blister Rust project. He still remembers the two different blister rust host species. He also talked about fighting a fire on Edith Peak, Montana.

The Montana Congressional delegation supports the Museum project. We will also brief Montana Senator Baucus and Congressman Denny Rehberg on the Museum's FY-2007 appropriation request.

# Firescope

## The Biggest Little Program in Forest Service History

**By Robert L. (Bob) Irwin**

*Bob started with the Forest Service as a crewman on the Eldorado National Forest, in 1947. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps in Korea, and used the GI Bill for a (long) college education interspersed with seasonal fire duties on National Forests in Regions 5 and 6. He graduated in 1959 with a BS degree in Forest Management.*

*His jobs were always heavy to fire management including four years as Fire Management Officer on the Sequoia NF. He managed fires throughout the western states. He taught Fire Generalship at Region 5 schools and at the National Fire Training Center, Marana, Arizona.*

*He was appointed FIRESCOPE Program Manager in 1975 and served until 1982. In retirement Irwin lives in Sonora, CA.*

In the fall of 1970 southern California burned. In 13 days, more than 600,000 acres, 772 structures, 16 lives, and uncounted natural resources were lost to raging fires. Those were the biggest losses in modern times. The major fires took place in only seven counties. That was a very small part of the country, but it was a really big deal for the 27 Congressional Representatives and the two U.S. Senators who represented several million constituents in those burned areas. The Watershed Fire Council of Southern California pushed hard for action. Congress moved. The initial efforts resulted in some funding for, and direction to the Forest Service, to improve the wildland fire fighting capabilities of southern California fire agencies.

\$900,000 of Federal money went to Forest Service Research in 1971, with a message “to fix the fire problem”. A total of \$12 million followed over the next nine years. How the “fix” took place in the early years is recorded in the National Museum of Forest Service History. The record is in documents provided to the Museum in 2001 by Robert L. (Bob) Irwin, FIRESCOPE Program Manager from 1975-1982.

It is the largest collection in existence that tells how a seven-county, fire-only challenge came to be a national, and international “all-risk” emergency management system. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group, National Association of State Foresters, FEMA, and the U.S. Coast Guard have integrated FIRESCOPE products into their emergency response actions.

The Incident Command System (ICS), Unified Command, and the Multiagency Coordination System (MACS) have been supported by the 9/11 Commission and endorsed by the Homeland Security Administration. Canada, Australia, and other nations have adopted FIRESCOPE components. A “local” program can’t get much bigger than that!

These are some of the materials in the Museum’s collection:

**Firescope Program Report (1972-1982)** is a fairly detailed summary of most actions taken by Forest Service, State, and local fire agencies to develop and implement the Program during early times. There were problems and victories. A bibliography of 70 references is included (2005.64.2).

**Forest Service Research General Technical Report PSW 40, 1980** by R.A. (Dick) Chase titled “FIRESCOPE: A New Concept In Multiagency Fire Suppression Coordination.” Chase describes the major organizational failures of 1970’s fire efforts. In very brief summary, they were:

- Lack of common organization (100 agencies, a dozen ways to do the job, who was boss? mass confusion).
- Poor communications (single frequency radios, “overtalking”).
- On fires, between fires, and no real picture of overall status between agency dispatchers or commanders.
- Inadequate management of suppression resources (where is Crew X?, one engine going east, another west on same road; “what is an air tanker?”)
- Lack of prediction capabilities (most fire planners didn’t know where their fire was at the moment, much less where it would be in 12 or 24 hours).

The U.S. Forest Service Research and NF Administration, California Division (now Department) of Forestry, California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Los Angeles City Fire, Los Angeles County Fire, Santa Barbara, and Ventura County Fire Departments agreed to participate in finding solutions to managing large emergency incidents.

The way they did that is partly detailed at the Museum. There are some real human stories of risk, “bucking the system”, helping others, and enjoying the awareness and pride of getting something done! Most of the story is there and the documents give insights into the years of work that resulted in success.

There is more:

- 40 hours of audio tapes that capture experiences and observations of 31 people who were charged with early system development. The tapes tell a lot about the human interactions that did (and did not) help in an overall productive effort.
- A good summary of the total FIRESCOPE Program by FEMA (February 1987). This has a detailed description of the Decision Process (developed by the Program Manager) that gave Partner Agencies a voice in program development. The first “Decision Process” proposal is contained in the Program’s files. (2005.64.6)
- The full story of the development and characteristics of FIRESCOPE’s key element, the Incident Command System. Includes the multiagency process for Unified Command.

(Continued on page 4)

(R.L. Irwin in "Disaster Response" by the C.V. Mosby Company, 1989) (2005.64.5)

There are two hundred pounds (225 separate items cataloged) of historic material stored at Missoula. There are good summaries of communications products, things that were "new" in the 70's like air-to-ground infra red fire perimeter transmission, and automated weather stations. A common mapping system for all emergency services was developed. FIRESCOPE installed the first ever computer e-mail system that linked 21 major state-wide fire agencies into one information network.

A little humor is sprinkled through the Museum materials: the audio tapes have some "funnies" about participants. A story of "disappearing ink"; some anonymous notes pinned to the Program Manager's office door, and a Playboy cartoon were saved. The story of San Bernardino National Forest's flood response using "wheelbarrow strike teams" to bail out flooded areas is both a tribute to ICS flexibility, and a bow to the imagination of fire people called to an all-risk situation!

Finally, there is a record of resistance to change in every organization. That resistance went from a few of the guys on the ground to a few near the top of each outfit. One record of a W.O. Forest Service Chief and Staff meeting in 1979 quotes a member as saying, "there is very little that will be exportable from FIRESCOPE."

Resistance to change still abounds. The record of problems exhibited from state and local lack of coordination during recent hurricanes match somewhat closely the problems faced in 1970. The problems resolved by the dedicated people that built FIRESCOPE are still valid, and need to be learned.

Too bad Louisiana didn't get the FIRESCOPE message now in the Museum materials!

Capital Campaign Gifts	
As of 2/3/2006	
Members & Friends	\$ 80,841
Pledges	\$ 65,083
In-Kind Gifts	\$ 1,905
Forest Service, USDA	\$ 500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 647,829</b>

## New Forest Service History Memorials

**In Honor of Jack Bohning** donation by John Drake

**In Honor of Douglas G. Smith** donation by Linda Smith

**Memorial for G. Lloyd Hayes** donation by William I. & Dorothy E. Stein

**Memorial for Richard N. Hickman** donations by Mary L Hickman and Bill Cooperrider

**Memorial for Bill Lundsford** donation by Dave Stack

**Memorial for John Mitchell** by Douglas G. Turner

**Memorial for Victor Parent** donation by Bud Moore

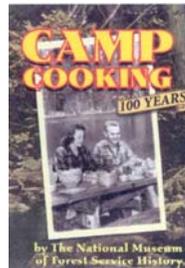
**Memorial for Don K. Porter** donation by Doug Leisz

The National Museum of Forest Service History offers Forest Service History Memorials for those wishing to honor or memorialize people who worked for or with the Forest Service, living or deceased.

For a minimum \$100.00 donation, we will collect the biography and a photo and maintain that 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](mailto:nationalforest@montana.com)

## Museum Books and Posters For Sale



Visit the Museum Webpage to view books and posters and print order form.

[www.nmfs-history.net](http://www.nmfs-history.net)



**Jug Camp Cabin 1924.**

Idaho Panhandle NF Photograph..

man two sandwiches. Once in a while, we got an apple or an orange, but very seldom, as we were to learn; after we were in camp, I came up with a solution that kind of pleased the men. It was to give the men dried fruit to chew on, and, as it took quite a while to chew the dried fruit, they were kept from getting over-hungry by chewing the really dried fruit of those days. One man was to be appointed to take a coffee pot for each separate working crew. We gave them plenty of coffee and condensed cream, so we would not be bothered with complaints over the lack of it. Once in a while, I would find time to make some doughnuts, which were always a treat.

I began to figure the variety we could get with our supplies for the main meal, the evening meal. In the meat line, the old standby was pork and beans; and, having done butcher work, I could bone out hams for ham and cabbage if I could get the cabbage. A stew could be made of any vegetables we could get and made more tasty with a flavor of cheap gallon catsup; then the old favorite, pork and beans Navy style, and that was about it in the meat line. Every day, mashed or boiled potatoes would be on the menu. Any vegetable we could get would be warmly welcomed. For desserts, boiled custard made of tapioca, rice, or just plain vanilla custard, would furnish some sweetness. If the packers were not too busy, maybe we would receive some No. 10 cans of fruit, which would be a real luxury. To round out the meal, we would serve tea and coffee for dinner.

The Ranger and Mr. Sutherland picked our first camp site about four o'clock in the afternoon, and, with the Ranger showing us, we built a background of stones, drove two forked poles firmly into the ground, and put an iron bar in the forks of the poles. Our equipment was large square metal cases, each holding enough utensils for 50 men.

We knew that the crew coming in would be really hungry; so all 16 of us got the camp set up and went to work getting out the first meal. Because of lack of time,

three of us sliced bacon, so the first meal was fried bacon, mashed potatoes, a vegetable, canned gallon fruit, bread and butter, with lots of coffee. Because in the Navy in the large cantonments we served cafeteria style, I adopted this way of serving the men, and, when the crew of 125 men arrived about six o'clock, we fed them in a very short time. The crew that had come from Monumental Buttes with me helped clean up the first night, and I can truthfully say that through the summer us cooks and flunkies never had time to set up our pup tents, as we worked from when we could see in the morning until we couldn't see at night. The most disheartening thing of all was, after we were all finished with the evening meal, to have 40 or 50 new men come in who had been without food for several hours. Somehow or another we fed them, and they were grateful.

I put everything I could think of in my requisitions, hoping to get the works and knowing that an over-worked crew at the Forest headquarters in Avery would do the best they could for each camp in this huge area. I knew the crew craved green stuff, and, as the packers could not deliver to us 50 miles away, I put in an order for all the bulk onions I could get. We peeled and sliced them and put them down in vinegar, water, salt, and pepper, and this was really a lifesaver for our evening meal - they couldn't get enough, no matter how many we fixed. It really saved our lives, as our favorite title was "belly-robbing S-of-B's." In a few days, my crew had changed from amateurs to a bunch of pros. They learned their jobs so efficiently that it more and more amazed me. Americans can really adapt themselves to new conditions.

The cafeteria style of serving the food worked out perfectly. We picked out a level place, built a long bench, lined up the food with a cook or flunky behind each can or pan of materials, the coffee last, and we could really feed them quite fast, for working under unusual conditions. We might have been the first to try this on forest fires.

*From the Richard Guth Collection 2004.48.568*

Bracketed text was added by Cort Sims, *Forest Service Archaeologist, Panhandle National Forests, Idaho.*

*Forest Service Archaeologists Sandra French, Lewis & Clark National Forest, Montana provided invaluable assistance in researching this article and locating the personal history of James H. Rowe.*

## Welcome New Members

11/5/05 to 2/4/06

R.B. Anderson	John A Madden
Dr. Virgil C. Baldwin Jr.	Raymond F. McLaughlin
Glenn S. Bradley	Clifford M. McLuskie
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Gary Handschug	John R. Robertson
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Ron Hvizdak	Keith Thurkill
David Kissel	Bert F. Webster
Mont Lewis	Robert D. Wildman
Lennart E. Lundberg	Mark Wondollede
Tom Maclay	

## Unrestricted Donations

11/5/05 to 2/4/06

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John P. Case  
Robert Ethington  
David G. Fellin  
Paul J. Grainger  
Albert L. Gray, Jr  
Sam Halverson  
Donna M. Hanson  
Charles E. Hardy  
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Bob & Jean Irwin  
Greg Margason  
Don Meyer  
Jack R. Miller  
Alfred P. Mustian, Jr.  
David K. Nelson  
Donna & Joseph Piaser  
Del Radtke  
Marshall E. Spencer  
David B. Trask  
Margie Tullos  
Lillian Wenger  
Allan & Joyce West  
Don V. Williams  
James M. Williams  
Edwin J. Young  
Southern Forest Service Retirees

## Capital Campaign Donations

11/5/05 to 2/4/06

Stan & Alice Bean  
J. Lamar Beasley  
Lynn R Biddison  
John F. Butruille  
William M Cannon  
John P. Case  
John A. Combes  
Bill Cooperrider  
Jay H. Cravens  
D J & A Engineering  
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Carol J Ede  
Dale L. Farley  
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Fred Haeussler  
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Robert and Nancy Russell  
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Ted C. Stubblefield  
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Robert C. Van Aken  
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W Jane Westenberger  
Whit Whitfield  
Thaddeus Yarosh



## Membership Application

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

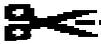
Mr. \_\_Ms. \_\_Dr. \_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal  GIFT

### Membership Categories Annual Dues

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



## Regional Coordinators Named for The Capital Campaign

Max Peterson and Bob Model, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs recently announced the appointment of Regional Coordinators.

Region 1	Missoula Museum Group
Region 2	Chuck Hendricks
Region 3	Lynn Biddison, AZ Lou Romero, NM
Region 4	Jack Lavin Stan Tixier
Region 5	Doug Leisz Jack Blackwell
Region 6	David Scott John Butrille
Region 8	Dave Jolly Bob Jacobs Ralph Mumme
Region 9	Don Meyer Jim Berlin
Region 10	John Sandor
Forest Products	Fred Haeussler
Outdoor Recreation Ski Industry	Gray Reynolds

Duties of the Regional Coordinators are:

- Serve as a Regional/Local point of contact to provide information on the Museum and the reasons for the Capital Campaign.
- Contact the Retiree Organizations to reach retirees and ask them to make a contribution to the Capital Campaign.
- Contact the active Forest Service organizations in your area and ask them to be involved in the Capital Campaign.
- Contact organizations and individuals outside the Forest Service such as user groups and foundations to make them

aware of the Museum and ask them to make a gift to the Capital campaign. Doing this through people known to the organization is recommended where possible.

- Provide information and updates to the Missoula Museum Headquarters and the Chairs of the Campaign including progress, problems and opportunities.
- Develop a letter signed by the Coordinator to use in sending material to individuals/organizations to ask for their support.

## Donor Recognition Policy

The Board of Directors has approved the following policy to recognize donors to the Capital Campaign. In addition there are sponsorship and naming opportunities available.

1. All gifts will be recognized in a commemorative book at the Museum.
2. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the Wall of Honor in the Museum lobby.
3. One-year membership or one-year extension for donors contributing or pledging \$500 to \$999.
4. Three-year membership or three-year extension for donors contributing \$1,000 - \$9,999.
5. Donors contributing \$10,000 or more receive a life membership.
6. A special gift of appreciation will be given to persons donating \$5,000 or more. The gift will reflect Forest Service history.
  - a) \$5,000 - \$ 9,999 A medallion with nameplate.
  - b) \$10,000 - \$99,999 Small shadow box with a Mote Dolack postcard, medallion and nameplate.
  - c) \$100,000 + Framed full size signed Monte Dolack poster with medallion.



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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Ph.: \_\_\_\_\_

I / We enclose a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I / We pledge a total gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Payment Schedule:

1) Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 3) Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2) Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 4) Date \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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.