



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 1

February 2007

Occupation – Ranger's Wife

By Dorothy Gray Guck, circa 1955

In 1954 Dorothy moved from the Ruidoso District to the Smokey Bear District on the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. In 1958 Dorothy headed the effort as Capitan, New Mexico dedicated a log cabin Smokey Bear Museum. At the ceremonies, Rudy Wendelin, national Smokey artist, gave a chalk talk and the Boy Scouts presented a pageant Dorothy had written. The Forest Service printed this pageant and distributed 300,000 copies to schools throughout the United States. For this, Dorothy was given a Forest Service achievement award. Dorothy was married to District Ranger Milton E. Guck.

For nineteen years I have held a key position in the Forest Service. Trouble is, no one has ever recognized it as key to anything but the cookie jar. So I shall place an invisible jeweled crown on the head of each unpaid, unsung woman who wears the label, "Ranger's Wife."

Until the recent fire seasons in Region Three, I used to get a spark of excitement in the news that a single snag was afire in the forest. A ten-acre fire caused a dread that set my blood pressure soaring. But the stark reality that a thousand acres of my forest can go up in smoke within an hour has me flabbergasted. Drought, greater use, and all the factors built up since the last war to contribute to the appalling fires, have whet my fire prevention efforts to new heights in my occupation as a ranger's wife.

During a good share of my nineteen years, I sat out in the mountains with an occasional permittee and his cattle, 50 miles from town, and listened to the shrill belch of that long-necked monstrosity hanging on the wall that some people refer to as a modern convenience. To me it always said, "Lookout reporting, smoke on north side of Pine Mountain." I held a naked dripping infant in one arm, perched the receiver between my chin and shoulder, and scribbled directions on the scratch pad, to be relayed to a busy ranger.

Years of fire seasons I have rounded up horses afoot in boulder strewn pastures, filled canteens by dozens, cooked beans and biscuits for weary firefighters, bicycled over the country during war years in search of crews, held the phone until the night wore thin, and even manned the lookout tower while the regular man took off to see his newborn son.

In 1950, the Lincoln Forest on New Mexico gave me a couple experiences I had never had before. The season started on Sunday,



A Ranger's Wife Helps Run the Ranger Station by Taking Daily Weather Readings — Coronado National Forest, Arizona, 1941 Photo by Forest Service, Southwestern Region

about six weeks before the regular fire crew usually goes to work. My husband, Ed, who is ranger on the Ruidoso District, was being badgered by his three children to go to a movie (seventeen miles on a dirt road). He had been riding in his high country the previous week noticing the lack of moisture, and sitting with his back to a high wind all day. A typical fire season expression seemed to gloom up his countenance and throw his head from side to side in a violent "No" gesture. All he needed was a telephone



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

It's crunch time for the National Museum of Forest Service History and the Board of Directors needs the active support of all retirees and current Forest Service employees.

The museum board is aggressively pursuing our goal of \$6 million : \$4 million in 2007 and \$2 million in 2008. Our current projects include developing a museum conceptual interpretive plan (\$45,000); beginning the first two steps of the museum building architectural design process, including structural systems, electrical, heating and cooling (\$34,000); and construct access roads and parking to the museum (\$330,000). The architectural design includes a substantial in-kind donation.

The 2009 Forest Service Reunion is scheduled for Missoula in early September. Our goal is to celebrate the formal opening of the museum during the reunion. It is very important to have the museum opening coincide with the reunion so that attendees from around the nation can enjoy the museum and see what a difference their contributions have made. This will be a tight schedule to meet and we need the help of the entire Forest Service family and its friends to become members of the museum and to recruit others now. We currently have a membership of 720 active members and about 70 whose memberships have lapsed.

The Forest Service has always prided itself as a can do outfit and now is the time to step forward and become a member. Your dues and donations are tax deductible gifts that will greatly help achieve our \$4 million goal by July 1, 2007. Please visit the web site www.nmfs-history.net, or call the museum at 406-541-6374 to find out more about the project. We need your active support now to turn our goal into a reality.

Max Peterson and Bob Model, co-chairs of the capital campaign, have named retirees and friends working in each region of the country to contact prospective donors. We are approaching \$1 million in donations and pledges. Each membership authenticates the support of retirees and current employees. That support drives our fundraising efforts. I'm asking each one of you to show your support by becoming an active member of the National Museum of Forest Service History and pledging a donation.

We must do it now to assure the museum will be open for all to enjoy in September, 2009.

Thanks in advance,
Gray Reynolds

Contract Awarded

The Museum has awarded a contract to Split Rock Studios of Arden Hills, MN for the preparation of the Conceptual Interpretive Plan for the Museum. Contract cost is \$29,000. The first step is a focus group of about 25 persons with a diversity of experiences from across the country to brainstorm themes and storylines. The Museum will host this event in mid-April at the University of Montana Lubrecht School Forest, east of Missoula.

Coming Events

Museum's Annual Meeting
Portland Oregon in conjunction with the Society of American Foresters meeting October 23-27, 2007. Plan to attend.

Forest Service Reunion 2009
September 7-11, 2009 in Missoula, MT.

Investing In Our Legacy

The National Museum of Forest Service History provides a unique opportunity for all of us to be a part of a continuing legacy of public service, dedicated to the scientific management of natural resources that will be increasingly important in the future.

There are many ways to make a gift the Museum Capital Campaign that will confirm and further our legacy by "Joining Together to Understand the Past and Inspire the Future." Gifts to the Campaign can be Outright Gifts or Planned Gifts.

All donors will be recognized in the Museum.

OUTRIGHT GIFTS

CASH

An outright gift of cash is the easiest way to make a contribution. It is deductible up to 50 percent of your federal adjusted gross income and there are additional tax savings available in most states. Campaign gifts may be extended over a period of time - up to three years - to make a larger gift than you could with a one-time payment.

SECURITIES

It may be advantageous for you to give securities rather than cash. If you give appreciated stocks, rather than selling them yourself and donating the proceeds, you can provide up to 15 percent more spending power to the Museum. And, it's a triple benefit for you: an income tax deduction, removal of assets subject to potential estate tax and avoidance of capital gains taxes. Contact the Museum Office for details of donating securities.

REAL ESTATE

A gift of real estate can provide the same benefits as a gift of securities, but offers the additional advantage of a deduction of 30 percent of adjusted gross income, with a five-year carryover of any excess.

PLANNED GIFTS

What We Mean by Planned Giving?

One of the easiest ways to explain a planned gift is to contrast it with an outright gift. Outright gifts are received by the charitable organization immediately and result in a charitable deduction on your income tax return if you itemize. Many planned gifts also feature this tax benefit, but they can provide you with even more advantages.

While you'd like to make a generous gift today, it may not be your wisest financial. In that case, why not think

about a planned gift that is committed now but will come to Museum in the future - usually after your death. A planned gift is a creative way to maximize the effect of your generosity, continues your tradition of philanthropy and it has financial benefits to you.

BEQUESTS

Including the Museum in your will is the simplest form of planned gift. Bequests may be designated to a specific project or program, or they may be unrestricted to meet the Museum's future needs. Before making a restricted bequest intention, please contact the Museum Office to ensure your eventual wishes can be fulfilled.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

Life income arrangements can increase your income, save on taxes and provide future support to the Museum..

Charitable Gift Annuity

The charitable gift annuity is the simplest - and often the most beneficial - life income gift. In exchange for cash, stock or real estate, the Museum will guarantee you an income - dependent on the age of up to two beneficiaries - for life. The asset then passes to the Museum. An annuity is a good way to supplement retirement income.

Charitable Remainder Unitrust

A unitrust offers a varying - usually increasing - amount of income. The payout rate you choose must be a minimum of 5 percent of the trust's value.

Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust

While the annuity trust's benefits parallel those of the unitrust, the annuity trust provides a fixed payout based on the value of the asset you used to fund the annuity trust.

Real Estate with Retained Life Estate

A gift of a remainder interest in a personal residence, vacation home, ranch or farm offers a charitable deduction and avoidance of capital gains. You can continue to use the property - even rent it - throughout your life and then the property goes to Museum.

Life Insurance

With the Museum named owner and beneficiary of an insurance policy, the Museum gains support and you receive a charitable deduction.

The information in this newsletter is not intended as legal or financial advice. For legal and financial advice, please consult your attorney and tax advisor.



Mimbres Ranger Euel Nave & Wife Saddle Pack Horse on Gila National Forest, New Mexico, 1938 Photo by Forest Service, Southwestern Region

some CAUSE. They may be ardent supporters of a community uplift society, a refuge for homeless cats, or the re-enactment of prohibition. Regardless of the final results or the purpose, all women must work for a CAUSE. Rangers' wives are handed a well-planned crusade as they enter the first ranger station. The ultimate joy of devoting long payless hours to the CAUSE of forest fire prevention far surpasses the slight inconvenience of life with sadirons, washboards, butter churns, teakettle baths, wood stoves, lack of neighbors, and kerosene lamps. Or does it?

Rangers, those conservation preachers, are as devoted to their life's work as any religious minister is to teaching the gospel. Preaching conservation is more than a job for pay. Heaven knows higher wages can be obtained in most any other profession: But for the same reasons a preacher spends his life in the spired

call to verify his premonition. It came at 3 p.m.

"You're sure it isn't dust that you see?" he bellowed, not very skeptically, into the mouthpiece.

Five minutes later, smoke was billowing over the hill into the station pasture. My husband sank his teeth into a juicy bit of action by phoning sheriffs of two nearby towns for all available men. Then he shoved a list into my hand and said, "Here, you call the rest. I'm going."

A lookout tower had to be manned. A couple more towns might have men, grocery stores had to be opened and supplies ordered for 200 men, the Supervisor's Office called and portable camp ordered. By 7 p.m., this rough mountainous country had been emptied into a hard-fighting, organized line, and fed a hot meal by a hastily set-up kitchen.

This ranger's wife mumbled into the phone at 1 a.m.: "The soldiers will be at the crossroads at 5 a.m. Now Charlie, you give Ed that message. I'm going to bed. At 2 a.m., I resigned myself to the all-night phone vigil when Ed called to ask, "What was the message I was supposed to get?"

One day during the three weeks my husband acted as dispatcher for the Capitan fire, I had finished the morning chores of building a fire in the cookstove, weeding the garden, feeding the chickens, the horses, and the children, relaying ranger's messages to fireguards and lookouts, and was twiddling my thumbs when Ed gave me the details of Smokey, the bear cub's rescue. The four-month-old cub found in the Capitan fire with badly burned feet was destined to gain nationwide fame as the symbol of forest fire destruction. I grabbed every crumb of the tiny bear's story and fed it to the local papers and periodicals, proving that the wives finally end up with the Forest Service gleam you see in the eyes of rangers, to protect and cherish the trees and wildlife.

Women in every walk of life have always sponsored

chapel, a ranger lives and works with the forest. The wife of a minister must be as concerned with the work of the chapel as her husband. A ranger's wife believes and spreads the conservation gospel of her husband.

There are quite a few of us rangers' wives in the United States. Most of us were schoolteachers, college girls, many city bred. It hasn't been exactly easy to learn to enjoy the life in the forest. At first we even resented a husband's occupation that seemed to be first while we were second. Then one day we found ourselves taking up the banner, and now we realize that tourists are paying thousands each year for a glimpse of the beautiful resources that provide our everyday fare.

The supervisor stopped by the station last week and asked, "Does it worry you to have that husband off fighting fires?"

My reply, "You fellows never give me time to worry:"

"Why don't you persuade your husband to quit the ranger life?" the supervisor questioned with a sly grin.

"Heavens no:" I exploded as he knew I would. "I think--" Then I stopped. The inkling of a suspicion had suddenly entered my mind. "I wonder if the Forest Service could possibly survive without me?" I didn't ponder that question. It was too upsetting. I had long known that I would have an empty existence without the job as ranger's wife.

The article was originally published in the March 1955 issue of *American Forest Magazine* and in the *Sampler of the Early Years*, 1980, by the Forest Service Women, Washington DC, Martha Kaiser, Treasurer. Thanks to both organizations for permission to reprint the article.

The complete, 5-page story by Dorothy Gray Guck "Occupation — Rangers Wife", can be downloaded from the [Newsletter Supplement Page on the Museum's web site at \[www.nmfs-history.net\]\(http://www.nmfs-history.net\)](#).

New Law Applicable to Traditional IRAs in 2007 Only

Many Museum members and friends own individual retirement accounts (IRAs). Typically, donors remove assets from the account to make their gifts. The resulting charitable tax deduction would largely offset the income tax resulting from receiving the distribution as ordinary income from the IRA.

However, thanks to a new law, the Pension Protection Act of 2006, there is a new way you can make significant gifts, up to \$100,000, with distributions from your IRA without any tax consequences. Until December 31, 2007, and if you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, you may direct, up to but not to exceed \$100,000 to the MUSEUM from your traditional or Roth IRA without income tax consequence. This "charitable" distribution will not be included in your taxable income and consequently, not subject to income tax. Since the "charitable" distribution will not be part of your taxable income, it does not qualify for a charitable deduction. But the transfer to MUSEUM will count toward the required minimum distribution you must receive from your traditional IRA in a calendar year.

New Forest Service History Memorials

In Honor of
Gene Alden

Memorials for
Don Durland
Willard R. Fallis
Carl L. Marsh

Memorial Donations From:

Richard Alden
John and Margaret Drake
Lorin Hearst Jr.
Harriet Marsh
Valerie K. Raney

The National Museum of Forest Service History offers Forest Service History Memorials to honor the living or to memorialize deceased persons who worked for or was 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 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

1001 Questions and Answers About the United States Forest Service A New Book

This newly published 200-page, softbound book was compiled and edited by Forest Service retirees Gilbert W. Davies and Florence M. Frank. The book costs \$18 (includes shipping). Send book orders to: Gil Davies, P.O. Box 52, Hat Creek, CA 96040. Make checks payable to Gil Davies.

Question 165: In 1908, proclamations designated the first two National Forests in the east. Name them.

Question 166: What district (region) did they become part of?

Question 238: Forest Service Uniforms (True or False) a. The first official Forest Service uniform was in 1905. b. In the beginning, the wearing of the uniform was required. c. There was no uniform allowance until the 1950s. d The first neckties were black or green.

Answers on Page 8

Welcome New Members

11/28/06 to 2/23/07

Richard M. Bacon
John C. Barrington
Geri V. Bergen
Homer Bowles
Glenn S. Bradley
Max Copenhagen
Dave Fallis
Dan Gosnell
Margaret A. Greenwood
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Dick Haines
Hollis Hardy
Ron Henderson
Dick Jones
Ed J. Kurowski
Timothy Lahey
Eleanor A. Lamb
Jack G. Lee
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Paul Mock
Charles Newlon
Christopher & Cathleen Newman
John & Barbara Ormiston
Dick Owenby
Will Parker
Douglas W. Raaka
Ronald Rippey
Byron L. Shark
David W. Smith
Chuck Spoon
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Big Sky Mobile Catering
D. A. Davidson & Company
National Wild Turkey Federation
Thomas Plumbing & Heating Inc.

Unrestricted Donations

11/28/06 to 2/23/07

Bernie Alt	Bob & Jean Irwin
Dean Boe	B. Leroy Merrick
Lawrence Cabodi	Bud Moore
John P. Case	David K. Nelson
Tony Dorrell	Linda M. Rowlette
John and Margaret Drake	B. Wolfe
Dave Fallis	Ken I. Young
James G. Gerber	Christine Thompson Es- tate
Lorin Hearst Jr.	Southern Forest Service
Ed and Donna Heilman	Retirees Association
Oliver L. Holmes	

Capital Campaign Donations

11/28/06 to 2/23/07

Roger R. Bay
Lynn R. Biddison
Richard E. Burns
Richard Bury
William M. Cannon
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Donor Name(s): _____ Address _____

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 _____ \$ _____

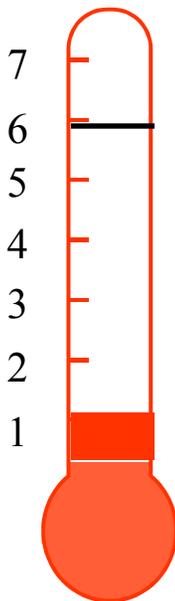
Please pay pledges by December 31, 2008

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 donors 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.



**Capital Campaign
 Thermometer
 \$6 Million Goal**



**Capital Campaign
 Gifts**

As of 02/23/200

Members & Friends	\$ 178,071
Pledges	\$ 94,536
Organizations	\$ 11,500
Foundations	\$ 5,000
In-Kind Gifts	\$ 3,353
Forest Service, USDA	\$ 500,000
Endowment	\$ 16,700
Pending Gifts	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 859,160



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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 on complementary issues of the newsletter.



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

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

Answers to Quiz on Page 5:

Question 165: Ocala and Choctawhatchee National Forests in Florida; *Question 166:* District 3 (Albuquerque headquarters);
Question 238 a. False. It was 1907; b. False. It was strongly encouraged but not actually required; c. True. 1954; d. True
Eventually the black tie was eliminated