National Museum of Forest Service History
Newsletter
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Pioneer Ranger Family at Dale, Oregon

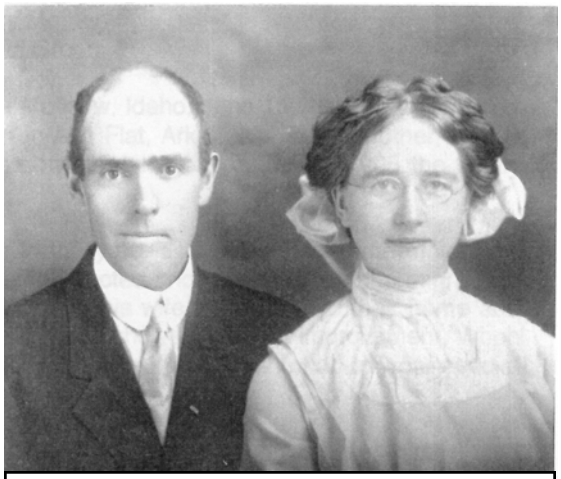
On June 3, 1911, Charles Fredrick Groom and Etta Estes were married in Lewiston, Idaho. Fred had obtained work for the summer as a Forest Ranger at Dale, Oregon. He was an experienced woodsman and camp cook, whereas Etta knew nothing about camp life. They went by train to Pendleton, Oregon, and there purchased a saddle for Etta, a pack saddle, blankets and other equipment for their forest life, taking these by stage coach to Bridge Creek Flats about 10 miles from Ukiah, Oregon.

The county road leading to Dale, Ritter, Long Creek and John Day was very crude. Mail was carried by stagecoach in summer, by sled in winter, and sometimes by packhorse. There were no other roads on the Dale District, and not many trails. The horses were Kelly, very gentle for Etta to ride, Splinter, not so gentle, for Fred, and Nancy Lee, the pack horse, strong and able to carry a heavy load, consisting of the complete camp outfit, working equipment and food for several weeks. Food supplies consisted mostly of potatoes, rice, navy beans, flour, sugar, salt, ham to go with the beans, bacon, butter, eggs, canned Carnation milk, and oatmeal. Cooking utensils were the very minimum. An ax, shovel and rifle were other essentials.

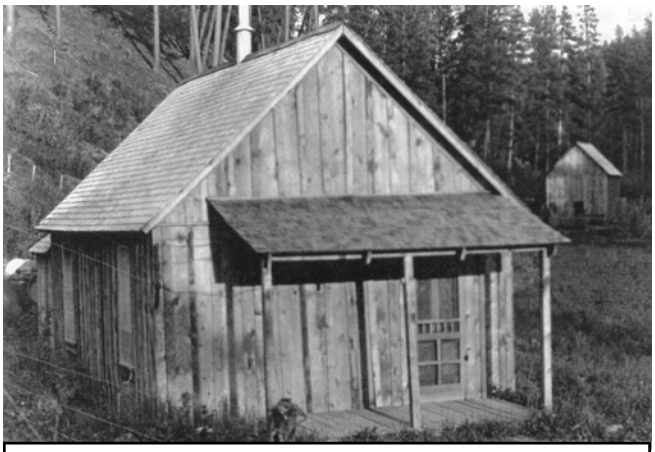
There were many streams on this District and fish were plentiful. In season grouse and pheasant added variety to the food supply. Also, when there was "open season" in autumn there was venison from which corned venison, mincemeat, and jerky were made.

The packhorse when loaded had a saddlebag *(more likely a pack bag or pannier)* on each side, blankets over the top and a tarpaulin on top of all to protect from dust and weather. A long rope tied in a "diamond hitch" secured the entire pack. The tarpaulin also served to protect a bed since there was no tent. The "tarp" was long enough to go underneath and over the top. Fir boughs made a soft (?) foundation.

Starting the trip with a steep, rocky zigzag road down to the North Fork of the John Day River the distance traveled was about five miles to go one mile. Dale Post Office was about 1-1/2 miles from the John Day River on Meadow Creek. Barney Shults had a general store with supplies that might be used by campers. One corner of the store was the Post Office. Living quarters were in the back. This was on the way to Kelsey Meadows, about eight miles into the forest, which would be headquarters for the summer. Home there was a small cabin about 10 by 15 feet with a bed and table built onto the wall, two small benches to sit on, and a small, old cook stove. This cabin was on the edge of a beautiful meadow surrounded by tall ponderosa pine trees.



Ranger Charles F. & Etta Groom
1911



Dale Ranger Station 1913

See **FAMILY**, page 3

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.

Items of interest for use in the newsletter as well as membership dues can be sent to the above address.

Membership Categories

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Individual	$30
Family	$45
Contributing	$150
Sustaining	$300
Corporate	$500
Lifetime	$1,000

From The President

Greetings-

As the nation celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Forest Service, the essential role of the National Museum of Forest Service History becomes more evident. Current Forest Service employees, retirees, friends, partners, and citizens from around the world are pausing to learn more about Gifford Pinchot and his leading role in establishing the Forest Service and the conservation movement in the United States.

On January 3-6 2005, Chief Dale Bosworth, Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, and President of the National Forest Foundation William Possiel, co-sponsored a Centennial Congress to discuss the history and public use and management of the National Forest System.

The premier screening of the two hour movie the "Greatest Good: A History of the Forest Service" left the centennial audience of approximately 500 people inspired, enlightened and anxious to learn more about the agencies history. The movie is excellent and is a must see for all. Centennial activities are scheduled in every region of the country culminating in "Reunion 2005" scheduled for September 4-9 in Portland Oregon and hosted by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association.

The energy, enthusiasm and commitment associated to this year's Centennial presents the museum the opportunity to dramatically increase our membership and support for our capital campaign.

I ask all members of the National Museum of Forest Service History to recruit new members and to actively support the $3 million campaign to construct the National Forest Service Museum.

The Executive Committee is making plans to construct the necessary sewer system and paved access roads and parking to serve the public at the Bungalow Cabin until the new museum building is funded and constructed. Your support has made it possible for the growth of the museum and we confidently face the tremendous challenges to successfully complete a $3 million capital campaign so that in the near future a National Museum of Forest Service History will be a reality.

Sincerely,

Gray Reynolds

From The Vice President

2005 is off to a fast start. Thanks to Larry Payne, the Forest Service supported my travel to the Centennial Congress in Washington, D.C. in early January. I made many contacts for the Museum.

Curator Beth Humble is back at work cataloging the Museum collection. Volunteers Bill Fischer and Doug Murray are assisting. This work takes time, patience and attention to detail—and it costs money. Our two hand-me-down computers started to breakdown. The Board approved the purchase of two new computers for the cataloging project. We have just installed two Dell computers, costing $1,500. We have cataloged over 2,000 items in three months.

The 2005 budget continues the shift to allocating dollars to "museum programs" and reducing "administrative costs". In round numbers, the total expenses in 2003 were $62,000 and are projected to be $62,000 in the initial 2005 budget. It's important that members support the annual operations during the time our capital campaign is ongoing. The cataloging, opening the Bungalow Cabin for summer visitors and producing an information booklet and brochures for the capital campaign are major program projects for 2005. We have applied for a Forest Service Centennial Grant to support the cataloging and visitor program.

Cordially

Dave Stack

from **FAMILY** page 1

There were no big fires that summer, so Fred and Etta traveled over the entire District and became well acquainted with several ranchers. In late September, seven other Forest Rangers came to help build a cabin and barn at Dale Ranger Station at the forks of the John Day River and Desolation Greek.

They built a small, 2-room house. It had a small kitchen complete with dining table and benches, a small cook stove and cupboards. The living room was also the sleeping room and had a small heating stove, a bed, table and benches, A well was dug near the kitchen door and a pitcher pump installed. A cool cellar was dug in the hill behind the cabin, and a small "out-house' was built about half way between the cabin and the barn. Baths were taken in the wash tub, and many times by going into a cold mountain stream, sometimes breaking ice to get a refreshing bath.

In late November, Fred went to Sumpter, Oregon, and took the Federal Examination for Rangers. Etta stayed with Maggie Banks while Fred was away. His practical experience served him well. He passed the examination and became a regular Forest Ranger assigned to the Dale District with full-time employment.

Fred and Etta's son, Jack, was born at Dale Ranger Station. Etta had never had a gun in her hands before. Now she was taught the care and use of a rifle. This was useful a few years later when the weather was hot and dry. Rattlesnakes lived in the rocky cliffs above Dale Ranger Station and would come down to the river for water. Etta felt a special responsibility to protect her young son playing in the yard. She soon learned that if a rattler is startled it lifts its head up six or eight inches and looks. Many were the rattlers that lost their heads around the Dale Ranger Station.

Many changes came about for Etta. Very soon she had discarded her long black, divided skirt for a pair of boy's bib overalls. She had done home cooking for several years, but had no knowledge or skill in camp cooking, so she learned to cook and do everything in making camp from packing a horse to mastering the "Diamond Hitch." Many times Fred left early for his work on telephone lines or trails and Etta would clean the camp, saddle and pack things on the horse, and follow to where Fred was working. In the afternoon she would go on ahead and make camp for the night and have supper about ready when he arrived.

On one such trip, Fred was working with an assistant Ranger and they had a long day's work, arriving about 10 o'clock at night. Etta had everything ready for supper--even pheasant breasts from the pheasants she had shot along the trail.

Editors Note: Dale is approximately 70 miles south of Pendleton, Oregon within the Umatilla National Forest on Highway 395. This article was excerpted from a paper written by Etta Groom in September 1978. It is a part of the Jack Groom Collection in the National Museum of Forest Service History.

Monetary Donations

7/1/04 to 2/28/05

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A huge thanks goes out to all those listed above. Your help is very much appreciated and needed.

Welcome New Members

Jim Brown
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New Memorials

L**eRoy Sprague Memorial** donations by Glenn S. Bradley, Jr., Diane L. Johnson, William O. Deshler, and Sandy and Jim Lancaster.

Roy Wenger Memorial donations by Verla Diller, Carl & Erma Zager, Richard Baldwin, Helen Bolle, Ernest Corrick, William & Thema Weber, Wallace Littell, T. Richard Flaherty, Robert & Eleanor Weidman, and Jane & Michael Duffy.

John Marker Honoree donations by Elizabeth, Doug and Andy Marker.

Albert (Andy) Anderson Memorial donation by Doug Leisz.

Eldon Ball Memorial donation by Doug Leisz.

Bud Mason Memorial donation by Del Radtke.

William Enke Memorial donation by Del Radtke.

Dr. William L. Stewart Memorial donation by Jo Anne Stewart.

Memorials

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.

Reunion 2005 Portland, OR Sept. 4-9, 2005

Reunion 2005 promises to be a can't miss event. The National Museum of Forest Service History's Annual Meeting will be Friday during Reunion week. Check the Old Smokeys Website http://oldsmokeys.org or telephone Liz Kraiter 503-981-4200 to request a registration packet.

History Trivia

Each Forest Service Region is assigned a number. In Forest Service lingo, R-9 designates the Eastern Region with headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Many believe the numbers have always been the same. Not true.

In 1931 the Alaska Region was designated Region 8. In the east Region 9 included the Lake States and Region 7 encompassed the Northeast and South. The western Region boundaries reflected the current boundaries.

Source: Directory Forest Service April, 1931

Member's Corner

Volunteers are needed in all sections of the country to preserve and care for Forest Service history. The vision of this Museum is to link with and support other Forest Service History Sites. There are 100s of sites. As the Museum grows we want to support other sites with curation and interpretative expertise. Your local National Forest archaeologist would welcome assistance of volunteers. Some of this activity is ongoing, in Portland, Oregon, for instance. The greater the volunteer effort, the better.

Volunteers are needed now for specific projects listed below. Please call (406-541-6374) Dave Stack if you are interested.

The Pennsylvania Forest Fire Museum in Chambersburg, PA is interested exchanging information and ideas on how the NMFSH and the Fire Museum are working to become established museums. We have similar goals. Our mutual interest is, probably, in the area of State and Private Forestry. A Museum member living in the region could serve as a link between our two museums.

Explore the Big Sky Exhibit—The Forest Service needs assistance to staff the exhibit during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event in Great Falls, MT, June 29-July 3, 2005. Volunteers are needed for the "100 Years Ago" exhibit about early Forest Service activities.

The Bungalow Summer Visitors Center in Missoula needs hosts and persons to present a visitor program—perhaps a hobby or backcountry skill connected with the Forest Service. Several RV camp sites with water and electricity available.

2005 Annual Meeting — The Museum's annual meeting will be the morning of September 9, 2005 in Portland, Oregon, immediately following the REUNION 2005 breakfast. What agenda topics would members like to see? Please send in your suggestions.

We plan a raffle or silent auction to raise money for the Museum during REUNION 2005 in Portland. Hokey, Smokey's helper will be the object of the raffle. Hokey is a carved redwood cub bear. He is 16 inches tall and with his shovel, a total height of 25 inches. Museum member Al Groncki of Yreka, California, graciously donated Hokey. See the picture of Hokey on the back of the newsletter.

Report of the Forester 1905

For the Bureau of Forestry, or, as it has now become, the Forest Service the event of first importance during the past fiscal year was the transfer to its care of the National forest reserves. The act of Congress which accomplished this transfer took effect on February 1, 1905. Upon that day, therefore, a Bureau the duties of which had up to that time been confined to the giving of expert supervision and advice, and which had never had charge of one acre of Government land, was given full administrative control of 63,000,000 acres of public forest, with all the business arising from it.

During the past few years the Forest Service has pushed its field investigations and gathered facts in every part of the country. The practical utility of these studies is now made evident. Without the knowledge thus secured the Service would be unequal to the task of applying forestry the reserves along, the lines already begun. The Forest Service aims to bring the administration of the reserves near to the people whose wants they serve, and to do business quickly without neglecting any of the necessary safeguards. Under its methods large executive authority is given to local officials, the work is kept at a high standard by frequent inspection on the ground, vexatious delays are avoided, and the practical usefulness of the reserves is vastly increased.

With these changes public approval throughout the West of the reserve policy strengthens from day to day. Assaults upon the reserves will continue from self-seeking interests, as well as from short-sighted persons who are unable to distinguish between an immediate small advantage and a great permanent good.

Excerpted from the "Report of the Forester, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1905". Gifford Pinchot.

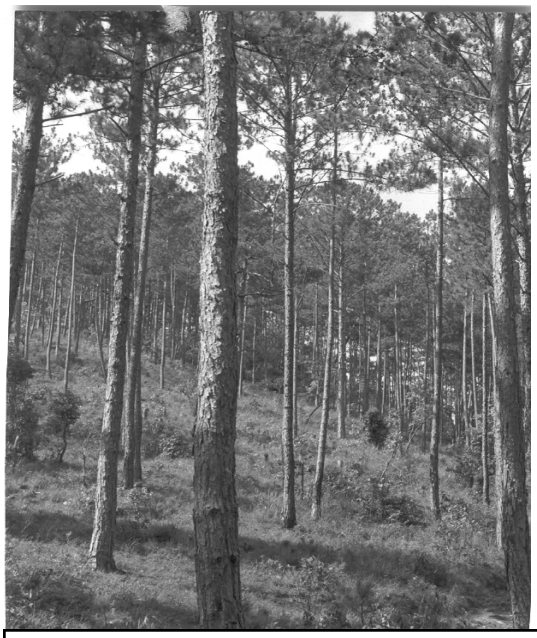
Edward I. Kotok, Collection. 2005.022.004.

President Theodore Roosevelt & Gifford Pinchot

International Forestry

The Forest Service, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has supported the nation's efforts to assist foreign countries. USAID is the government agency providing economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide to more than 100 countries for more than 40 years.

In the 1960s the Forest Service sent Jay Cravens, Barry Flamm and others to the USAID's Forestry Technical Assistance Program under dangerous and difficult circumstances during the Vietnamese War. Cravens has donated an extensive collection of photographs and archival material from his Vietnamese assignment to the National Museum of Forest Service History. These photographs are from the Cravens Collection.



Pure pine stand (Pinus khasya) near Dalat Vietnam. Elevation 5,000 feet. The Vietnamese name for pine is "Thong"

2004.78.116.24 Jay H Cravens Collection

Newsletter Feedback — Comments, suggestion and ideas on subjects that would be of general interest to the membership are always welcome.

QUITTING TIME

The fire guard stood on the lookout,
The ranger stood on the ground;
Said the fire guard to the ranger,
Do we quit when the sun goes down?

No, no, said the forest ranger,
We work until it's dark.
If that is the case, said the fire guard,
I'll take my time and start.

I'll travel the wide world over,
I'll roam from town to town,
Until I find a forest ranger
Who will quit when the sun goes down.

From: Guthrie, John D . 1919. "The Forest Ranger and Other Verse". David Scott Collection NMFSH. The author collected and edited the verses in the book. At the time he was a Captain in the U.S. Army Engineers (Reserve), formerly Forest Supervisor on furlough, US Forest Service. The book is dedicated to: "G.P. A Fighter for the Cause of CONSERVATION".

2005.003.002 David Scott Collection

The "Mighty Mite" portable sawmill was the first mechanical sawmill in this Vietnamese Montagnard village. Bill Bingham (in white shirt) a representative of a Portland, OR company that manufactures the mill is demonstrating the sawmill.

2004.78.116.62 Jay H Cravens Collection

Membership Application

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

Name: __Mr.__Ms.__Dr._____ Address: _____

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

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Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Individual	**$30 or more**
Family	**$55 or more**
Contributing	**$150 or more**
Sustaining	**$300 or more**
Corporate	**$500 or more**
Life	**$1000 or more**

Profession*:_____ Age*:_____

Income Range*: $_____/yr. Educational level*:_____

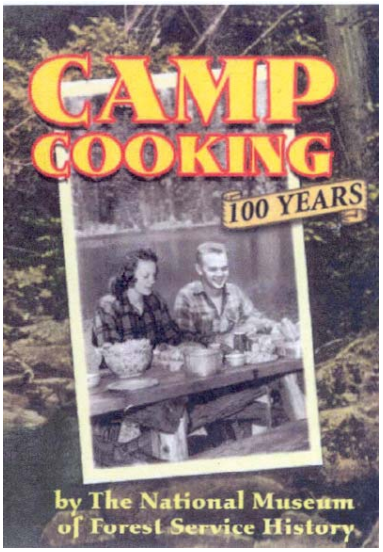
*These are optional

The Company Store

To celebrate New Century of Service and pay tribute to the decades of dedication given by Forest Service employees now retired, the Intermountain Region and the National Museum of Forest Service History are sponsoring a heritage cookbook. This cookbook features recipes for Dutch oven meals, open-fire cooking and other methods used in the early days of the Forest Service, along with photos documenting these activities of the past. The book (192 pages) is filled with photos and history.

"More than just a cookbook, this publication features incredible photos, anecdotes and recipes highlighting a century of Forest Service heritage." GRAY REYNOLDS

"The finest food comes from the Forest Service Family and all these recipes look wonderful. I can't wait to try them but I suspect my favorite will still be my moms."
DALE BOSWORTH, Chief, U.S. Forest Service



NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE
FOREST SERVICE 1905 - 2005

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Hokey, Smokey's helper will be raffled during REUNION 2005 this September in Portland. Donated by Al Groncki.

Coming Events

May 3, 2005 — Forest Service Honor Day All Forest Service units will have events to recognize the contributions of past and current employees and volunteers to conservation over the past 100 years. Honor employees who have given their lives in the line of duty. And recognize contributions by community members and other partners.

Forest Service Centennial Days Missoula, MT June 10—19, 2005**.** Includes NMFSH Bungalow Cabin, Ninemile Remount Station, Missoula Technology Development Center, and Smokejumpers Visitors Center and Fire Laboratory.

NMFSH Annual Meeting
Sept. 9, 2005, Portland Oregon in conjunction with the Reunion 2005.