While the Forest Service legacy is represented in many ways, administrative buildings arguably serve as the most visible manifestation of the outfit’s heritage. These include ranger stations, guard stations, lookout towers, patrol cabins, snow survey cabins, nurseries, and experiment stations. The Civilian Conservation Corps and other New Deal workers built thousands of these facilities on or around the National Forests in the 1930s and early 1940s. Before then, rangers relied on temporary shelters such as tents, abandoned structures, or a handful of buildings constructed with limited funds.

The First Stations

When the Forest Reserves were created, they were not expected to be self-supporting for some time. Consequently, the first ranger stations were rented, located in rangers’ own homes, or even built with the rangers’ own money. More often than not, a ranger had no station and camped while working in the field.

The transfer of forest management to the Department of Agriculture in 1905 brought increased construction funds and the Forest Service began building much-needed infrastructure. Gifford Pinchot, in the 1905 Use Book, directed rangers to focus on roads and trails. He encouraged them to build cabins and fenced pastures where needed.

When money was not available to build new facilities, Pinchot permitted rangers to use abandoned settlers’ cabins for administrative purposes. Such was the case in the Intermountain Region, where rangers occupied buildings left by miners and homesteaders. Additionally, they continued to rely on portable shelters and temporary structures. The Great Basin Experiment Station in Utah started as a tent, expanding in later years to a compound of several buildings.

Sterling Righteous Justice, a ranger on the Caribou National Forest, often camped at the Toponce Ranger Station in southeast Idaho. His comfort level was raised when the Forest Supervisor gave him a 12’ x 12’ wall tent and funds to build a tent frame. After furnishing it with a small camp stove, Justice enjoyed his cozy refuge after a long day’s work.

When rangers received funds to build administrative buildings, they typically followed pioneer traditions. They constructed one- or two-room cabins of logs, stone or milled wood resting on primitive foundations of stone or wood. Roofs were often sod or bare earth, later to be replaced with metal or wood shingles. Earth floors were sometimes upgraded to concrete, although with his limited experience, Ranger Joseph Asdale discovered the difficulty of working with such a material. In 1915, he requested lumber to build a new floor over his poorly constructed concrete floor:

I wish to know whether or not you can grant me enuff [sic] money to put a floor in the Pole Cr. Ranger Station cabin. It is 16 ft. x 25 ft. and is at present floored with an attempt at concrete, but is

See BUILDINGS, page 3
By Gray Reynolds, President, NMFSH

Increasing membership is important for the success of the museum. There are approximately fifty thousand Forest Service retirees. There are only seven hundred and fifty individuals that are members of the Museum. We do not believe that this reflects a lack of interest. We believe retirees have vanished into the woodwork. We don’t know how to contact them. As a member you can help us make people aware of the museum effort.

In addition, membership of Forest Service employees is quite low. We are asking employees to step up to support the Museum so we can complete the museum building in time for the 2009 Forest Service reunion in Missoula.

If Forest Service employees and retirees do not support caring for the history they made, who will? A large Forest Service membership will show a commitment by the community to the museum, and will improve our chances of support from corporations and foundations.

Members’ dues and donations support the museum program that is best described in the Museum brochure approved by the Board of Directors in 2006.

Membership Supports:

A history museum and organizational headquarters that can function as a focal point for Forest Service history activities around the country and provide support and expert services to the regional efforts.

Support for Forest Service history programs throughout the Service. The Forest Service needs our assistance and encouragement to carry out an on-going, in-service effort to recover past history and record current history. The Museum cooperates with the Forest Service under terms of a 2003 Memorandum of Understanding.

Professional care for historical objects and papers. The Forest Service has a history that is replete with images, documents, tools and other items that mark its past. The Museum will keep the materials entrusted to them safe as well as display them. Expertise will also be available to Forest Service units and history groups around the country to help them care for and display their own historical items.

Museum exhibits and programs for public enjoyment and awareness. Museums invite visitors and participation. Our doors are open to everyone, people of all ages. We provide a stopover for tourists and local citizens as well. Special exhibits and activities for young people are planned. Exhibits and objects are available for loan.

A program to honor people devoted to the Forest Service ideals and principles. The museum publicly honors people and groups who have contributed to American conservation.

Develop educational programs on the history of conservation. Understanding past natural resources issues will contribute to making informed decisions about the future of conservation.

A strong membership supports an active national museum program. By joining together we can reach our goal of preserving and interpreting Forest Service history.

Thanks in advance,
Gray Reynolds

Coming Events

Museum’s Annual Meeting
Portland Oregon in conjunction with the Society of American Foresters meeting. The tentative date is October 23, 2007. Plan to attend.

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

Future Newsletters
August Issue — Southern Region
November Issue — Alaska Region

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very dusty and dirty as none of us understood concrete making when we put the floor in and the result is far from satisfactory.

Materials, equipment and finishes were somewhat dictated by the Washington Office. The February 1908 Field Program contained direction for Supervisors’ Offices:

A well-laid floor of wood kept in good condition by painting or oiling needs no covering. Linoleum is best adapted to worn and uneven floors or those made of inferior lumber . . . . Carpets and rugs should be used only when linoleum can not be purchased, or when the floor is too rough for its use.

1908 Standard Plans

An important shift in administrative facility guidance occurred in 1908, as mentioned in the August Field Program for that year:

The Standard Plans for Rangers’ Cabins and Bills of Material have been sent out to all supervisors. The set bound in heavy board covers is to be retained in the supervisor’s office, and the sets bound in manila are for use in the field, if desired. Supervisors who have not received these plans or who require additional sets should make requisition for them to the Property Clerk, Ogden, Utah.

The bound set included standard plans for small cabins, year-round houses, bunkhouses, storehouses, and barns. Some standard plans were realized in Region 4, although few survive today. Ranger William Swan, of the Salmon National Forest, in August of 1909 sought to use a standard plan for the Jessie Creek ranger dwelling noting, “a station at this place, being just out side of the city limits, should be a model of neatness and the house should be of modern pattern such as standard plan No 28.” An emphasis on appearance continued in the following decades, as recalled by former Ranger Archie Murchie in his biography:

And our dwellings, whether they were Forest Service cabins or privately rented, had to be kept up neat and clean. You got called on it if you had a dirty house, even if it was your own property . . . because, say some permittee comes in and sees your house in a mess – that’s the impression that he’s going to get of the Forest Service.

Historical records suggest that Region 4 established standard color schemes at an early date. Charles Butler, a ranger on the Humboldt National Forest, in 1916 requested yellow ochre primer, white lead, red mineral paint, and a small can of coloring blue for painting a ranger station. The Supervisor replied that they would not purchase paint at that time because the Regional Forester was contemplating a standard color scheme for the ranger stations.

Snow Survey Cabins

As the science of snow surveying developed, a new building type emerged in the early 20th century. Dr. James E. Church, known as the “Father of Snow Surveying,” and his students built the first snow survey cabin in 1907 on Mt. Rose near Reno, Nevada. They prefabricated the pieces of the 8’ x 8’, four-bunk building in Reno, hauling them to the mountain for assembly.

In 1926, the Forest Service issued a permit to Church for construction of a snow survey cabin, on the condition that rangers could use it for administrative purposes. The log
structure, known as the Buckeye Snow Cabin, still stands in the Hoover Wilderness Area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. It is the earliest known snow survey cabin in Region 4. Its dominant feature was a wood chimney-like extension from the roof. Known as a manway or a “Santa Claus chimney,” it allowed surveyors to enter the building from the top when snow was deep enough to cover the cabin.

**Disappearing Resources**

Few administrative facilities built before the CCC era (1933-1942) exist in Region 4. Surveys on several forests show they make up an average of 13% of historic facilities and a mere fraction of all facilities. With this in mind, it is increasingly important to preserve, or at a minimum document, these symbols of the Forest Service’s first years.

On March 5, 2007 the Museum awarded a conceptual interpretive planning contract to Split Rock Studios of St. Paul, MN for $29,000. Split Rock Studios is an experienced professional museum exhibit planning, design and fabrication company.

The first step was a meeting to gather ideas for exhibit themes and storylines. The Charette was April 16 to 18, 2007 (see picture on page 5) at the University of Montana’s Lubrecht Experimental Forest. Attendees came with diverse backgrounds from the Forest Service and Forest Service partners. Attendees were from Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Washington, DC.

Our first task was to develop the Big Idea, the over arching message that all exhibits should tie into. The big idea is very basic to inspire visitors. The message isn’t printed for visitors. The Big Idea from the Charette is: “The Forest Service has a rich and colorful history as stewards of America’s National Forests and Grasslands. These lands belong to all the American People to use and enjoy for the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run. The future of these special places is up to you.”

We identified subthemes of: Education / Pop Culture; Fire; Forest Service Culture; Future; Multiple use; Partnerships / Cooperative Forestry; Politics; Research; Roots; What is a Forest; Wilderness; and Wildlife. Smaller teams listed major topics for each subtheme.

The first submittal from Split Rock will summarize the Charette findings. The report will include ideas submitted in 2006 from Museum members. The Museum will have 10 days to review the report and decide on any changes. The Charette Group will be involved in reviewing of reports.

The final report will be completed in September 2007. It will include refined themes and storylines; a floor plan, exhibit sketches and narrative; walk-thru narrative of what the visitor sees entering and touring the museum; estimates of exhibit costs and future growth options.
Volunteers and the Museum Program

What is the role of volunteers in the museum now and in the future? What volunteer jobs are needed? Can volunteers assist local Forest Service units as part of the Museum program? **We need your ideas to adjust our vision and to identify opportunities across the country.**

**Current Volunteer Vision:**

Volunteers will play an increasing role in the delivery of Museum programs nationally as the museum grows and gains financial support and expertise over time.

**Next Six Months**

Volunteers are needed to assist Gary Brown in maintenance of the museum site – mowing, pruning trees, etc. Complete the reassembling the L-4 Centennial Lookout.

A volunteer coordinator is needed. The person doesn’t need to live in the Missoula area with the ability to communicate via e-mail.

Assist in restoration of museum vehicles: San Bernardino National Forest CA and Missoula, MT

**Museum Building Construction 2008 -2009**

Are there opportunities for volunteers to be involved in construction of the museum? These projects would be small but may allow construction of a larger building. Possible projects could be timber framing, landscaping, and interior finishing.

We plan to construct a small RV camp site for museum volunteers.

**Longer Term**

Vision — Members research and write local Forest Service history. History programs presented to local civic and youth groups. Accomplishments are shared with the Museum.

Oral histories -- Interview persons and provide documentation to the Museum. James McConnell, a member from Georgia has sent many oral histories to the Museum.

Members in the vicinity of National Forests and Research Stations organize to assist the Forests and Stations in their History Programs. Working with the unit archaeologist to catalog artifacts, photographs and documents.

Assist sites with displays of Forest Service history, e.g. Bagby Guard Station (Mt Hood), Camp Rabideau (Chippewa), Ghost Ranch (NM).

Write Museum news releases to inform members and the media of museum activities.

Serve as a Museum hosts / guides for a few days or longer. Prepare and present a programs to visitors e.g. Jack Puckett has a program about the #9 wire telephone system.

Welcome New Members
2/24/07 to 5/16/07

Kathy Anderson
Steve Arno
Matt Bacon
Bill Bailey
Allan Bier
Robert Buckman
Frank Fowler

Wally & Shirley Gallaher
Jay Gruenfeld
Bill Kolar
Pat Lynch
Dean Magee
Paul Moroz
James Naylor

Dayton Nelson
Gerry Ohrstrom
Wright Ohrstrom
Todd Schlapfer
John Steffenson
Kirk Thompson
Ed Waldappel

Unrestricted Donations
2/24/07 to 5/16/07

Gene D. Amman
Chester A. Bennett, Jr.
Joe Gorrell
Barbara Gorsh
Sam Halverson

Robert D. Hill
Dallard V. Johnson
Martha Kaiser
Margaret M. Nybo
Delmar L Radtke

Dave Stack
Byron and Mary Williams
Rodney F. Young
Wachovia Foundation (employee matching)

Capital Campaign Donations
2/24/07 to 5/16/07

Don Arundell
James Bates
Geri Bergen
Wayne Bousfield
Karl Brauneis
G. Wesley Carlson
John W Chaffin
Kenton & Jeannette Clark
Barbara Corrick
Bob Damon
Linda S. Feldman
Joseph Ham
Robert Harris
Robert Harris
H. Ames Harrison
Doug Hayden
Hank Hays
Sherry & Lou Hoffman
Ray D & E. Jean Hunter

Bob & Jean Irwin
Charles Joy
Larry Larson
Douglas Leisz
Abenicio Martinez
Jay McConnell
Flora Montalto
William Morgan
Grant Morse
Thomas Myall
James Naylor
Alan Newman
Mary Paulson
Robert Potter
Douglas Raaka
Delmar L. Radtke
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Ronald A. Schaufler
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John Sherrod
Dave Stack
Donald Stevenson
Ernst Valfer
Jimmy Walker
W. Jane Westenberger
Whit Whitfield
John Steffenson ESRI
DJ&A Engineering
Firewise 2000, Inc, Richard Montague and David Bacon
OZ Architects (In-Kind)
Pacific Southwest FSX Club
Sierra Pacific Airlines, Inc., Gar Thorsrud
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
Western Heritage Spur Company, Pat Lynch

Forest Service History Memorial Donations
2/24/07 to 5/16/07

Philip Aune
Rita Glazebrook

Douglas Leisz
Ted C. Stubblefield

Mike Tank
Whit Whitfield
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 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.

Capital Campaign Thermometer
$6 Million Goal

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Capital Campaign Gifts
As of 05/07/2007

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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.

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**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**

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**Membership Ideas**

Give a gift membership. Ask sons and daughters to become a Museum member. Many were raised on ranger stations and grew up with the Forest Service. They are part of the Forest Service history too!