



National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 2

May 2008

Museum Building Design Completed



Design by OZ Architects, Missoula Montana

By Dick Bacon, Museum Director

Building materials will play a unique role in telling the Forest Service history story in our museum. Forest products building materials will be visible to visitors throughout the museum building. Companies that worked with the Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, WI) -- in developing new building materials -- are being asked to provide in-kind donations of building materials.

Efforts are underway to obtain greater national involvement in the museum construction. We are asking many people to help with building material acquisition. Timber framing will be used in the construction of the lobby. An exciting opportunity involves securing 24 posts of different species from across the United States. Efforts are underway to acquire these posts. Plaques will be placed on each of the posts to identify the specie and describe where it came from. Visitors will have a self-guided brochure containing information about construction of the museum.

These posts should come from locations with a tie to the

Forest Service, such as National Forests, Experimental Forests, State Forests, and Tree Farms where State and Private grants have been provided by the Forest Service.

One section of the museum will use small-diameter timber trusses. The large exhibit gallery will feature glulam trusses. Walls and ceilings will use SIP (Structural Insulated Panels) — all products developed by the Forest Products Laboratory.

There are also opportunities for individuals and organizations to provide some handcrafted items. Plans are to have a handcrafted main entry door, and a unique steel entry gate at the entrance to the museum grounds.

The design process is in the Design & Development (D&D) Phase. The Missoula Support Committee is meeting with Architect Stan Zimet of OZ Architects twice monthly. We selected a mechanical system that uses the earth's heat for heating and cooling at our last meeting. The next phase is preparation of Construction Drawings.

Forest Service employees and friends, retired or not, are a very creative bunch. We would like our museum visitors to witness this creativity for themselves.



National Museum of Forest Service History

A Nonprofit Corporation

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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 U.S. Forest Service.

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Membership Categories

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Student	\$15
Individual	\$30
Family	\$55
Contributing	\$150
Sustaining	\$300
Organization	\$100
Lifetime	\$1,000

Museum News

By Gray Reynolds, President

Awareness of the Museum is being spread by members volunteering their time to staff museum exhibits at the recent two-week Region 8 / 9 training session in Columbus, Ohio and an open house for the new Coconino National Forest's Red Rock District office and visitor center in Sedona, Arizona. Thanks to all museum volunteers.

Phil Perry and Mike Hathaway spent two days at the Columbus session which included a national employee orientation. Our goal was to increase employee awareness of the museum and increase memberships. Fred Lintelman (he promised to join too!), a R-9 retiree, was a Forest Service volunteer working on meeting logistics, assisting in setting up and packing the display and keeping his eye on the display. Our exhibit sign message was -- "Your History - Your Museum". There were 300 new employees and a total of 600 to 700 employees attending. Mike talked with Kent Connaughton, R-9Regional Forester. Kent said he wanted to become a museum member.

Randall Warner set up a museum display at the Red Rock Visitor Center open house in Sedona. Many visitors to the center saw the display. Randall is working to have a display at the visitor center.

Dale Petersen's personal effort and leadership to develop a Beartooth Highway (south central Montana and Wyoming) history exhibit is nearing completion. We now have an electronic prototype for a 4' X 7' exhibit display. Eight volunteers have contributed to the project. This prototype concept could be used for other exhibits across the country. Dale is developing a marketing plan to share the exhibit with others and allow others to buy all or portions of the display. Steve Williams, Custer National Forest Supervisor, is interested in the project and will talk with the Shoshone Forest Supervisor about the project.

An Early Ranger: His Story

By Frank E. Lewis

Frank is a retired Forest Service employee. He lives in Shelton, WA. Lewis worked on several forests in R-6 and Regional offices in R-1 and R-6 and the Washington office.

The Siskiyou National Forest was established in 1907 with headquarters in Grants Pass, Oregon. M. J. Anderson was its first Supervisor. He'd recruited a cadre of Rangers from the local area who'd indicated an interest in being employed by the newly created Forest Service. Melvin M. Lewis, my father, was one of them. He received his first appointment in April, 1907.

In 1906 Mel and his brother Charlie while checking on cattle from their dad's ranch encountered a rider who identified himself as a "Ranger" from Orleans, California. He informed them they needed a permit to run cattle on the recently designated Klamath National Forest. It seems their livestock were in

trespass! That ranger told them also that a National Forest was supposed to soon be established in Oregon, he understood.

The following spring they heard a man was going to be in Grants Pass taking applications for Ranger positions on the recently designated Siskiyou National Forest. Both Mel and Charlie applied and were hired as Forest Guards. Dad was to take charge of the Paige Creek district along the California-Oregon border and Charlie was to handle the adjoining Kirby district along the Illinois River. Headquarters for the Paige Creek district was to be established near Takilma, Oregon which was close to the nineteenth century mining town of Waldo or as it became known as "Sailor's Diggings". Charlie apparently soon left the Forest Service and the Paige Creek district assumed responsibility for the area along the Illinois River, too.

Of course, there was no ranger station so

See **RANGER**, page 5

World War II Guayule Emergency Rubber Project

By Don Nelson, Jr.

Don was Group Leader for Vegetation Management, Pacific NW Region, when he retired in 1996. Don worked on the Gallatin, Lewis & Clark, Custer (National Grasslands), Lolo, Bighorn, Washington Office, & R-6 Regional Office during his Forest Service career. His father, Donald W. Nelson, was Junior Forester in charge of Nurseries and Seed for the Nebraska Shelterbelt Project when Don Jr. was born in 1936.

At the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific, the supply of rubber from the Far East was cut off. The Government immediately began a search for alternate sources of rubber-bearing plants. Guayule was one such plant. It grew wild in north central Mexico and Texas.

The Intercontinental Rubber Company, operating in Mexico, began to study the possibilities of growing guayule as a crop in 1907. Due to the revolution in 1912, the experimental work was moved to California and Arizona.

The U.S. Government became interested in guayule in the 1930s. At that time, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and another officer recommended that the Government aid in the establishment of a 400,000 acre guayule production project. Nothing was done about this recommendation until 1941. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, a bill was introduced and enacted on March 5, 1942, which authorized the acquisition of the Intercontinental Rubber Company properties and the growing of 75,000 acres of guayule by the USDA. Because of its experience in operating large-scale nurseries and tree planting jobs, both on **National Forests** and on Great Plains farms under the **Shelterbelt Project**, the Forest Service was given overall



A guayule nursery in Salinas Valley, California. Seedlings were approximately three months old. Circa 1942 Don Nelson Collection.

responsibility for the Project. A number of other USDA agencies and State Universities and Institutions cooperated in the project

Northern Rockies (R-1) Regional Forester “Major” Evan W. Kelley was named as Director of the Guayule Emergency Rubber Project headquartered in Salinas, California. Major Kelley sent the following letter to C. L. Billings, General Manager, Potlatch Forests, Inc., Lewiston, Idaho, describing the project. The letter was reprinted in “The Family Tree” (the Potlatch company’s newsletter) in March 1942. **(This letter was retrieved from the archives of the National Museum of Forest Service History.)**

“Dear Bill,

Thank you, Bill, for your recent letter and your interest in our problems. We staggered the dealers in the Salinas Valley by bids for more than \$300,000 worth of lumber in one fell swoop. Much of it was 1x8’s with cross cleats at 30-inch spacings and two connecting cleats on one end. These are being piled at the nursery.

Forty or more carpenters with about three carloads of nails at their disposal are nailing on the cleats. The contractor is using big four-wheel carriers to deliver the material from his yard to points for use. These 1x8’s with cleats are called duck boards, and are used as tracks between the nursery beds. End on end these boards would extend one-third the way across the United States—911 miles of them.

An order for 4x6 redwood posts was bid in at about \$37,000. The holes for these posts, each 2½ feet extended one below the other, would make a single post hole 24 miles deep. These posts are used for uprights to support the overhead sprinkling system. The piping in this system has a total length above ground of 94 miles, with drilled outlets every two feet—125,000 of them altogether, each equipped with a brass nozzle with an outlet of .04 inches.

Somewhere around 40 miles of pipe underground will deliver the precious fluid to the overhead sprinklers, which will scatter spray over 22,000 nursery beds, 4’x200’ each. We are fortunate in finding land fairly well equipped with wells, but we have already contracted for three additional ones 600 feet in depth, carrying 16-inch casings. The contractors have about 5,000 feet of pipe laid underground. Two trenchers are working non-stop during the daylight hours.

We have also been in the market for lumber for a sand bunker with a capacity of 80 carloads. Its construction was contracted. You would be surprised at the speed with which it was thrown together—in about a day and a half. The building of these big military camps in this vicinity has developed a lot of high-powered construction organizations. Their talent is being used on our construction jobs.



Examples of rubber made from guayule from the Museum's repository.

Collections of George S. James and Gerald Huff.

We have one building project yet to do. It is the erection of a camp for 1,000 men—a battery of five complete units, each composed of four barracks, messhall, kitchens, bath houses and lavatory, and recreation hall, besides commissary offices and foreman headquarters. The Mexicans, Filipinos, and white men will be housed, slept and dined separately. Bids were sent out for this job March 9. It must be completed by March 25.”

“We have just about completed our land-leasing program. No easy task, believe me, in this country where land is so valuable and so intensively used. We are in competition with lettuce-growers, bean-producers, cauliflower-farmers, sugar-beet people and producers of various other crops. Much of the land has already been plowed, including elimination of a lot of lettuce and other vegetables. If you are short of head lettuce next summer, just charge it up to guayule. This territory is one of the largest producers of head lettuce in the United States.

All of our farm machinery—some 420 pieces—has been delivered, and automotive equipment is on hand. An equipment repair shop has been rented, furnished and manned.

Due to the long delay in passage of the authorizing bill, which did not receive the President's signature until March 5, we did not gain possession of the Intercontinental Rubber Company's property until that time. This delayed repair of special machinery that the company used in the planting, lifting nursery stock, etc. That day the bill was signed about noon. The property was turned over, and that afternoon we planted 37,000 guayules with the one machine that was in condition to operate. Blacksmiths have forged by hand many of the parts for the other four and we are now planting seed in quantities.

Prior to planting it is necessary to treat guayule seed—22,000 pounds. The seed has a germinating stubbornness that adds up to about half that of a Region One pack mule, and requires the construction of a treating plant 80x200 feet. Seed testing for viability was started even before we got the property. Treating the seed is an involved technical process. It is soaked in water to soften its hard shell; water is wrung out of it by centrifugal force (it is placed in big drums—laundry driers, in fact,

adapted to this purpose), then doused in chemicals for a time; dried again; placed upon trays—4,000 of them—in the temperature and humidity control room, until the life germ is about to burst. Then within an hour it must go into the ground, mixed with sawdust—about seven carloads—by machines. The sand is distributed over the seeds by the same machine.

In this warm climate no sooner is the seed planted than the weeds begin to come. How would you like to have a job weeding one of those 22,000 nursery beds? The plantations have been cultivated both to retain soil moisture and to eliminate weeds. We will be in the farming business in a big way.

This ends the story for this time, Bill. If you want the next chapter, let me know and I will tell you more about producing rubber from guayule.

Very sincerely yours,
Evan W. Kelley, Director
Guayule Emergency Project, Salinas, Calif.”

PROJECT FACTS

Guayule is a shrub, with the botanical name Parthenium argentatum. It looks a good deal like sagebrush, and grows wild in north-central Mexico and adjacent areas in the “Big Bend” section of Texas. The mature shrub is usually three feet or less in height, and has crooked, brittle branches. Its leaves are slender and grayish-green; with slightly irregular edges and the many inconspicuous yellowish flowers are borne on, short, slender stems.

The Project laid plans to get 208,000 acres planted by the spring of 1944. Salinas California was Project headquarters and first nursery. Eight additional nurseries were developed — 3 on the Southern California Coast, 2 near Bakersfield and 1 each in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. A total of 17 labor camps for 9,000 workers serve the planting areas and nurseries. Private land was leased for planting.

By the spring of 1943 the synthetic rubber program was seen to be developing satisfactory, and in view of increasing demand for food and fiber the Rubber Director recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture that guayule planting be halted. The total planting was 31,689 acres mostly in California. Small areas were planted in Texas and Arizona. During the life of the Project 2,947,272 pounds of rubber was produced. The Project ended on December 31, 1946.

Reference: Rubber from Guayule, USDA Forest Service Emergency Rubber Project Report, June 1946 (2005.44 Mary Vanderslice Collection).

one of dad's first tasks was to establish one, which he apparently did between patrolling the area, fighting fires and acquainting the locals with the advent of a "National Forest" on the Forest Reserves. At any rate, by the time dad and mother were married in 1914 a residence/office building had materialized. Also a Forest Nursery was established at the ranger station, which operated until 1923. The ranger's headquarters was relocated in the 1930s to Cave Junction, Oregon and became known as the Redwood R. S.

Most projects in those early years were accomplished by the rangers from adjoining areas getting together and doing whatever had to be done, be it Boundary Survey, Homestead Examinations, Telephone Line Construction, etc. Dad related an incident that occurred when he and others were doing "June 11 Homestead Exams". Not all the natives were all that friendly apparently as one of the crew who carried a sidearm had to keep the homesteader's attention while the exam was conducted thanks to Smith & Wesson's help.

Gifford Pinchot's plan was to provide some technical training to the largely unschooled ranger force staffing the western national forests. Arrangements were made with a number of universities to conduct short courses in surveying, scaling, etc. The University of Washington conducted a series of sessions at its newly established College of Forestry. Mel attended the 1909-10 course in Seattle.

The first Rangers Meeting for the staff from the Crater, Siskiyou and Umpqua National Forests was held in Roseberg, Oregon, in 1909. Mel Lewis was among the attendees and was presented with a small shield and Sudsworth's "Trees of the Pacific Slope", which I donated to the Region 6 history display in the 1970s.

Mel left the Paige Creek district in 1923 to become Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Siskiyou in Grants Pass where I was born in 1925. In 1935 he was transferred to the Columbia National Forest to replace John Kirkpatrick, ranger at Randle, Washington. The Randle district had been part of the Rainier National Forest, which in 1933 became part of the Columbia N.F. Dad retired in 1945 and moved to Portland, Oregon. He was a charter member of the R -6 "30 Year Club", now the PNW Forest Service Retirees Association. He passed away in 1966.

See page 8 photograph—Melvin M. Lewis at 1909 Roseberg, Oregon Ranger's meeting

Coming Events

August 2008 Newsletter

The next issue will feature a history article from the Nebraska State Forester.

SAF Convention Exhibit

The Museum and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees will have an exhibit at the November 5-9, 2008 Reno, NV SAF Convention.

Forest Service Reunion 2009

September 7-11, 2009, Missoula, MT. Co-sponsored by the National Smokejumper Association, Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association & the Museum.



Operation Timber Patch

Can anyone identify the origin and date of this Operation Timber patch? It appears to be related to a large reforestation effort following a forest fire.

Walt Allen, archaeologist on the Gallatin National Forest in Montana, said the patch is from a person who did volunteer work about 30 years ago on the Forest. It may be a BLM patch. Montana retirees can not identify the patch.

Welcome New Members

02/16/2008 to 5/2/2008

John W. Benzie
Wayne Bousfield
Janet M. Buzzini
Douglas W Crandall
Martin C. Everitt
Karyn Foley
Larry O. Gadt

Linda Goodman
Thomas Hamilton
Ranee Hearst
Cynthia Leisz Higgins
Brian Leisz
Bruce Leisz
Mark Leisz

Larry Payne
Stephen S. Sackett
Richard A. Smith
Thomas S. Suk
Stillwater Mining, Bruce Gilbert

Unrestricted Donations

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Robert Ethington
Joe Gorrell
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Sam Halverson
Thomas Hamilton
Hank Hays
Ina Hearst
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Robert D. Hill
Reid Jackson

Elizabeth J. Kidd
Robert D. Mrowka
James .F Naylor
Margaret M. Nybo
Jo Ann Stewart
Robert W. Tice
Rodney F. Young

Capital Campaign Donations

02/16/2008 to 5/2/2008

William M. Cannon
John P. Case
James G. Gerber
Mike Kerrick
Elizabeth J. Kidd

Robert W. Larse
Marshall E. Spencer
Dave J. Wright
Ski Apache, Justin Rowland
Stillwater Mining Company, Bruce Gilbert

In-Kind Donations

02/16/2008 to 5/2/2008

Beaudette Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Cost Management Engineers
DJ&A, P.C. Consulting Engineers
OZ Architects

Memorials Donations

02/16/2008 to 5/2/2008

Ed Grosch
Elizabeth J. Kidd
Vale Mack
Ken I. Young

Missing Museum Members

We need help to track Museum members who have moved and did not leave a forwarding address. The last known address is listed below for the missing members. Please contact us if you have additional information.

Harold Chriswell, 3115 Squalicum Pkw #135, Bellingham, WA 98225

Jim Brown, P.O. Box 1996, Sisters, OR 97759

Robert Bulchis, 750 NW 23rd St, Apt. 118, Corvallis, OR 97330

Dick Jones, P.O. Box 1533, Orfino, ID 83544

Capital Campaign Donation and Pledge Card
 National Museum of Forest Service History, P.O. Box 2772
 Missoula, MT 59806-2772

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 _____ \$ _____

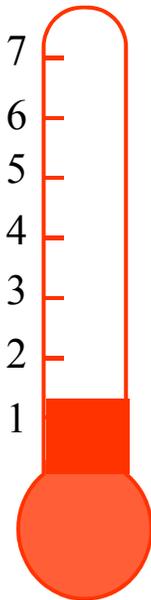
Please pay pledges by December 31, 2009

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 persons donating 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
 \$10 Million Goal**

**Capital Campaign
 Gifts
 As of 04/30/2008**



<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
Members & Friends	\$ 379,415
Pledge Balance	83,646
Organizations	111,500
Foundations	20,000
Government	525,000
In-Kind Gifts	26,439
Endowments	23,172
TOTAL	\$ 1,168,172



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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. Please renew EXPIRED memberships as soon as possible to continue support of the Museum program.

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.: _____

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Membership Categories Annual Dues

Individual	\$30 or more	Sustaining	\$300 or more
Family	\$55 or more	Organization	\$100 or more
Student	\$15 or more	Life	\$1000 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more		



1909 Oregon Rangers Meeting
Melvin M. Lewis (see arrow in photo) attended this meeting circa 1909 in Roseberg, Oregon. Rangers from the Siskiyou, Crater, and Umpqua National Forests attended. See "Ranger" article pages 2 and 5.
NMFSH Archives 2008.5.20.