By Ida Matz

Describes her summer experiences at a District (now Region) cruising camp in northeast Oregon in the late 1920s. This story illustrates the often-seamless connection between Forest Service work and family life in the early days of the agency. The camp was run by her father, Fred A. Matz, head timber cruiser for the North Pacific District (now the Pacific Northwest Region). Fred Matz retired in 1946 after 37 years service in District/Region 6.

Dad had gone to the field weeks before school was out [1920s]. Camp was north of Enterprise near the Washington state line. Dad had written home telling about going from the end of the road by pack outfit to get into the work area, setting up camp beside a creek and getting the crew oriented and work started.

Finally the day came that my brother and I were out of school. Within a day or two, we threw our shoes into the garbage can, climbed into the 1924 Hupmobile [Hup] touring car with Mom at the wheel and headed east. Summer had started.

The only incidents of the ride that I remember was that the wind blew the canvas top of the car over the wall at Crown Point. Mom stopped, lowered the wooden framework and decided there would be no rain all summer so we wouldn't need the top. So we went on. No more problems until the next morning, after overnight at Pendleton. Going up Cabbage Hill, Hup boiled only because Homer, my eight-year-old brother, had forgotten to release the hand brake. We crept to the top of the hill to the shade of a telephone pole and waited for the motor to cool enough to add water from the water bag. The motor started so we went on.

At Enterprise, Mom went to the Forest Service warehouse to get directions to camp and pick up camp supplies - fresh meat, fruit, vegetables, staples, mail, etc.

By sundown we had arrived at the end of the road where the packer should be. He was gone. The buildings were locked. The note on the door said he would return in four days. Mom cranked the Forest Service phone nailed to a tree until camp answered. She explained the problem to Dad. He told her to park the car so that the morning sun would not shine on the cargo and to camp there; he would be out in the morning.

The next morning Homer and I sat on a split rail fence looking across a dry meadow. We saw sun reflections on metal and ran to meet Dad. On one shoulder was a double-bit axe and on the other was a crosscut saw. Dad had left camp four hours earlier (it was only eight miles from camp to the end of the road) and had opened a road so that Hup could go to camp.

After Dad had rested, lunched and repacked the car we again went on. Mom drove and Dad led the way on foot or rode the running board - no room on the seat. Hup suffered the loss of a fender when a bank gave way while fording a creek. I remember seeing the tents in the woods and how happy I felt. I'm sure Mom must have been even happier. We had arrived.

Camp life was the same as summers past and to come. Good memories include bonfires at dusk, sing-alongs to the wind-up phonograph, star gazing, story telling, good food, sleeping on the ground in a tent, bathing in a creek, damming the creek, taming chipmunks, building towns of Log Cabin Syrup cans and going fishing on Friday mornings. Not-so-good memories include pit toilets, electric storms and fear when the phone rang at night and Dad called, "Crew out! Going to a fire!"

Homer and I had chores to do at camp including keeping the wood box full for the cook, water buckets full.
The President’s Report
By Gray Reynolds

The Board of Directors approved, at the February meeting, hiring Liz Madison and Jennifer Fletter to provide expertise and develop capacity within the Museum organization, solve problems and respond to requests for information. They will bring their expertise and collaboration skills to work with the team to accomplish the goal to develop a history program in Missoula and across America and to support the Forest Service’s history program.

Liz has nearly 30 years of professional experience in public relations, fundraising, business development, board development and strategic planning working with nonprofits, public agencies, corporations and foundations. As a senior fundraiser professional, Liz has provided leadership to attract more than $450 million in philanthropic support and $300 million in state and federal funding to support conservation, education and the arts.

Jennifer has more than 10 years of professional experience managing nonprofit fundraising, communications and marketing operations. Skilled in project management, strategic planning, message development and data analysis, she has produced annual fundraising campaigns, fundraising events, and strategic online and print communications.

Liz and Jennifer are working directly with the Board of Directors and Regional Campaign Directors to review and revise the business plan, campaign prospectus, and website. Also they are researching and preparing a prospective major donor list, training materials, campaign tools and assisting in planning for the Museum’s Annual Membership meeting.

The campaign review will be finished in the fourth quarter of 2009. When completed, the capital campaign will be on a professional basis and in position to approach major donors. During 2009 the Directors and Regional Campaign Directors are making contacts to build relationships. We are also looking for opportunities to obtain campaign contribution commitments.

The Museum building will be LEED certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Certification signifies that a building has achieved the highest standards for energy and environmental efficiency. The Missoula Support Committee has worked with Architect Stan Zimet, OZ Architects, to design the building to 1) Accommodate visitors and interpretive exhibits; 2) Reflect Forest Service conservation ethics; and 3) Be energy efficient with low operating costs. New Forest Service buildings are now designed to meet LEED Standards. There are LEED evaluation criteria for the building site, water efficiency, energy, materials and indoor environmental quality. A LEED Administrator will be hired to track the process.

I encourage all members attending the Forest Service Reunion 2009 or who live in the Missoula area to attend the Museum’s Annual Membership meeting starting at 7:15 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn on September 8, 2009. We are working hard to make the meeting special. See page 4 for the meeting details.

Donations Supporting Museum Programs

Member donations are critical to support museum operations and programs. Our organization is lean, with an annual budget of less than $75,000. Examples of expenses paid with member donations are: Replacement of the well pump for the Bungalow Cabin irrigation system; Membership in professional museum associations, Insurance for property and liability, Newsletter, Financial audit and IRS report and Cataloging and caring for artifacts.

Please consider a gift to support general museum operations and programs.
at the cook tent and wash rack and coloring the maps with colored pencil.

One dumb adventure Homer and I had involved going fishing on a Friday. Mr. Tripp packed our lunch and we headed out to the beaver dam to catch fish for the crews’ dinner. We were to be back by 9 o’clock. For some reason we didn't catch fish and since we didn't want to face razzing about being poor fishermen, we didn't go back to camp until we thought everyone would have gone to bed. Nobody had gone to bed! Dad and the crew were looking for us. Mom and Mr. Tripp were waiting in camp. Mom honked the horn on Hup and everyone came back to camp. The long day ended and everyone except Dad, Homer and I went to bed. We three had a long, long conversation about our adventure.

Three days later when Homer and I got off our 50-foot hemp tethers and could talk in private, we agreed we had done a dumb thing, and had earned the punishment we received. We never did anything like that again. In later years, Homer and I thanked God that Dad was not a violent man.

Another adventure I had that summer happened on the way back to the tent after a bedtime pit stop. I was very excited about the black puppy I had been playing with. Mom and Dad were not at all that excited, and I was told not to go to the pit alone anymore. After we had moved from that camp, Dad explained to me all about baby bears and Mama bears. I really was scared then and realized I had not played with a puppy.

The time came for camp to be moved to another area and Dad insisted that a truck could come to move the gear. After all, if the family car could make the trip a truck should be able to do the same.

A couple of weeks before school would start again, Hup went to the garage at Joseph, and the family went to Wallowa Lake. I do not remember how we got there, we may have walked. I do remember the joy of playing with the Forest Service kids that lived at the lake and also remember how awful it was to sleep in a building and in a bed.

In due time, Hup was again fit to travel on the highway with a new top and new fender. We kissed Dad goodbye and headed west. Our summer had ended. Dad got home about two months later and we survived the winter knowing another summer would come.

As an adult I know now that the family had the best of two worlds; summer in the field and winter in the city, thanks to the Forest Service.

Editors Note: This story is from We Had An Objective In Mind, the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, 1905 to 2005 - A Centennial Anthology, published in 2005 by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association to celebrate the Forest Service Centennial. The book can be ordered from the Old Smokeys website www.oldsmokeys.org. Thanks to Rolf Anderson, editor of “We Had An Objective In Mind,” for selecting this article.
Annual Museum Membership Meeting
7:15 PM, Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009
Garden Hilton Inn, Missoula, MT

Dessert Reception and Keynote Panel
Join the Board and Regional Directors of the National Museum of Forest Service History as we unveil the architectural and exhibit plans for the Museum and learn more about how the NMFSH Collections, Archives, Research and Education (CARE) service program has assisted individuals, organizations, communities and USFS employees in 47 states to share the history and accomplishments of the USFS.

The dessert reception and social will offer a look into the NMFSH collection and invite guests and members to record their USFS experience for the Museum’s archives. Our annual meeting is open to NMFSH members, USFS Reunion participants and the public. Enjoy the company of family and friends and celebrate the Museum’s accomplishments that members and partners make possible.

The program will feature a Keynote Panel including invited speakers: Abigail Kimbell, Chief U.S. Forest Service; Dr. James Deutsch, Smithsonian Museum; Bob Model, Boone and Crockett Club Chairman; and Doug Leisz, NMFSH Board Member. The panel will offer their insights on the opportunity and importance of the Museum to serve as the National Education Center and Repository of the remarkable history of the USFS in conservation, innovation and multiple uses of resources.

Donations of Historical Items — Museum Curator Beth Humble will accept donations of photographs, small historic artifacts and archival papers during the reunion, in the Exhibit area, Call Beth (406-541-6374) if you have any questions.

Museum Site History Site Tour — Tuesday, September 8, 2009 — Join the Museum board, volunteers and friends at the site of the future National Museum of Forest Service History. Tour the grounds, Bungalow cabin, and lookout tower and learn more about landscaping plans to honor and memorialize individuals who have both dedicated and given their lives on behalf of the Forest Service. View recently acquired items that reveal the innovative heritage of the Forest Service and meet our curator. Be the first among reunion participants to see the architectural plans for the Museum and learn about the interactive and educational exhibits. Gather for lunch and participate in the cornerstone dedication for the Museum celebrating the history, people and ongoing contributions of the Forest Service.

Sign up for this tour through REUNION REGISTRATION. Reunion participants who choose this tour will also visit the Smokejumpers Museum, Fire Sciences Laboratory, and the Museum of Mountain Flying.

National Museum of Forest Service History Planning Forum Sessions, — Wednesday, September 9 and Friday, September 11, 2009 — Lend your voice as the Museum board invites volunteers to help plan for the future National Museum of Forest Service History.

1. Planning Forum: Telling the Story of the US Forest Service Partnerships and Joint Ventures — Learn more about how the Museum will recognize partnerships and joint ventures and inspire citizen stewardship. Share your stories about successful Forest Service partnerships and joint ventures and ideas on the presentation and interpretation of partnerships and joint ventures in the National Museum of Forest Service History. This planning forum provides an opportunity to engage with Museum board members and to become involved in the process of developing Museum programming and exhibits in the legacy you, your families and your colleagues created.

2. Planning Forum: Gift Shop Focus Group
Do you have experience in merchandising? Do you like to shop? Do you have strong opinions? Join this focus group and planning forum to share your ideas about items appropriate for this Museum dedicated to the history, people and ongoing contributions of the Forest Service on behalf of American society. Be the first to learn about the products and services the Museum will offer at its on-site and online gift shop, from products made in Montana to experiences enjoyed at National Forests and Grasslands throughout the nation.

3. Planning Forum: On-Site, Off-Site and Virtual Classroom: Connecting with Teachers and Students
Conservation education is an important goal that the National Museum of Forest Service History shares with the Forest Service. We invite volunteers with expertise, interest and ideas about on-site, off-site and virtual classroom experiences to help develop comprehensive educational programming that complements Forest Service programming and extends the reach of both organizations into classrooms and communities across the country.
We recently purchased, from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, 87 logs that were salvaged from the bottom of the Blackfoot River after the Bonner Dam, just east of Missoula, was removed. These logs were removed from the river, in October 2008, after 70 years or more in the river. Several logs have the “US” brand. The logs were hauled to Brian Leisz’s mill in Troy, Montana for milling. Bonner was a site of sawmills from the late 1886 until 2008. We plan to use the wood for interior trim and construction of small timber frame gazebo/shelter.

2009 Forest Service Reunion

Join us in Missoula to celebrate the 2009 Forest Service Reunion.

Call or write the Bitterroot RC&D today to obtain your FREE REGISTRATION packet.

Early Registration ends July 1, 2009.

Make your hotel reservations soon at the Hilton Garden Inn now (1-877-782-9444) or the alternate hotels listed in the registration packet.
Welcome New Members
2/21/2009 to 4/30/2009

Barbara Coyner
Denise Germann
William Hager
Faye Krueger
Leon LaMadeleine
Shandy A Lemperle
Robert E. Lockhart
Elizabeth M. Madison
Richard C. McArdle
Dave Rittenhouse
Hon Schlafper
Gilbert Zepeda

Unrestricted Donations
2/21/2009 to 4/30/2009

Chester A. Bennett, Jr.
Gary G. Brown
John P. Case
Joseph Church **
David G. Fellin
Thomas L. Finch
Rita Glazebrook **
Linda Goodman
Joe & Barb Gorsh **
Joe Gorrell
Paul J. Grainger
Thomas Hamilton
Leslie E. Hendry
William G. Herbolsheimer
Robert D. Hill
Eleanor A. Lamb
Robert Lease
Robert E. Lockhart

New Life Member
Larry Gadt

* * Memorial Donation

Vale Mack
Richard C. McArdle
Robert D. Mrowka
James F. Naylor
David K. Nelson
Ronald A. Schaufler
David M. Stack
Peter F. Stickney
Byron and Mary Williams

Capital Campaign Donations
2/21/2009 to 4/30/2009

Dan Cramsey
John Emerson
Wally & Shirley Gallaher
Sam Halverson
Neil Opsal

David M. Stack
W. Jane Westenberger
National Wild Turkey Federation
Southern Forest Service Retirees Assoc.

In-Kind Donations
Terry Forest, DJ&A Engineers

Volunteers Needed

During Reunion week, September 7 –11, the Museum needs many volunteers to welcome REUNION attendees; staff exhibit tables; assist in set-up for the Museum’s Annual meeting on September 8; and sell Museum raffle tickets. If you are attending the REUNION, please consider donating several hours of your time. Please call of email Dave Stack (406-541-6374 or nationalforest@montana.com) NOW to volunteer.

Construction Starts On Museum Road
Nelcon, Inc. started sub-grade road and parking lot construction May 18, 2009.
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 ________ $ ________
2) Date ________ $ ________
3) Date ________ $ ________
4) Date ________ $ ________

Please pay pledges by December 31, 2011

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 in the Museum lobby on the Wall of Honor.

Repository Corner

Army Entrenching Tool
The entrenching tool was from World War I. It later was given a second career by the Forest Service. It is only 22 ½ inches long with a canvas blade cover with a buckled strap to wrap around handle and a metal pistol belt frog.

From the Donald Nelson Collection - 2002.10.14ab.

Horse Drawn Wheel Scraper
Manufacturer: Western Wheel Scraper, Aurora, Ill. Circa 1910. Used at the Fishlake Wilderness Landing Strip, Clearwater National Forest, Idaho. The scraper was restored by Ed Kuehne, Missoula, MT.
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 for complementary copies 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.: _____________________________

E-mail: ________________________    □ New     □ Renewal     □ GIFT

□ YES— Start sending my newsletter to the email address above.

Ideas and Assistance Needed
The Missoula Support Committee needs to increase the diversity of skills and experiences involved in developing the Museum. The MUSEUM is a physical place, a virtual electronic place and a conservation education center.

We need ideas and skills to contribute toward the building. Jerry Covault is organizing a group to carve a life size wood statue of a 1920s era “Ranger” that will be located in the lobby. Is anyone interested in carving wood entrance doors or a gate for the museum entrance?

We need people with experiences we don’t have -- people with history backgrounds to place environmental history on display and education backgrounds to help develop a national conservation education program. We will need small groups to review the conceptual interpretive plan. These groups will help refine themes; add different stories from different temporal and geographical settings and fact check.