Who wants a summer job? Bob Tice, Bob Lehman, Pat Johansen and Charlie Newlon, raised our hands in response to Dr. Barney’s question. We were in Dr. Barney’s Forest Ecology class at Colorado A&M in the late spring of 1954. He didn’t have much information. Something like “forest survey aide on the San Juan National Forest.” That was all there was to it; we had summer jobs which would qualify for the type of summer forestry field experience required for graduation.

Soon the Forest Service sent letters to tell us to report to the San Juan National Forest in Durango, CO, on the Monday after finals were over. We learned that our summer headquarters would be the Square Top Guard Station, about 15 miles southeast of Pagosa Springs, CO. They also sent us a list of things that were required on the job. Among them were sleeping bags, sturdy logger’s boots, and a pocket watch. It had, apparently, been determined that wrist watches were likely to be torn off by brush that we might have to work our way through. Of all the items required, this was the one none of us had and we all had a time finding reliable, affordable pocket watches.

Several days after final exams we all drove from Ft. Collins, CO to Durango, CO. I drove my 1949 Ford. Bob Tice drove his car with Bob Lehman and Pat to Durango. We met at the San Juan NF headquarters, Forest Supervisor’s office in Durango at the exact time on the Monday morning we were told to report. However, we were informed that they weren’t ready for us until the next morning.

None of us had money for a motel, or would even have considered it, so we drove out and found a likely open spot south of Durango along Highway 160 near the intersection of Highway 550 to roll out our ground cloths and sleeping bags twenty feet from the highway. There wasn’t much traffic and we slept well. The next morning we used the restroom at the Supervisor’s office to make ourselves somewhat presentable.

After the required paperwork, the four of us were told to report to the Pagosa District Ranger’s office back in Pagosa Springs. We arrived there around noon and soon learned more about our living facilities and the job of inventorying the timber on the Pagosa District. Bob Sullivan, the friendly Ranger from the Piedra Ranger District was our first contact for the job. He introduced us to Pagosa District Aide Ruben Marquez, who was our “overseer.” Ruben was a really nice guy who would keep us on track all summer.
Museum News

By Gray Reynolds, President

The Museum Board of Directors and staff have been busy developing capital campaign contacts, preparing the 2012 annual report, providing auditor with financial reports, collections program and the news notes below.

Mike Paterni Joins Board -- We welcome Mike Paterni to the board of directors. Mike has a strong background in natural resource management as a Range and Wildlife staff at Hahn's Peak District, Routt National Forest; Wildlife Biologist and District Ranger, Deer Lodge National Forest; and Resource Staff Officer, Custer National Forest. Mike retired last year as Regional Director Program & Budget for the Northern Region in Missoula. Mike believes the history of the Forest Service and conservation is important to "Bridging the Past and the Future". Mike was also elected as the Museum's Treasurer at the April Board meeting. We thank Mike for his willingness to join the Board of Directors.

Ray and Rita Kresek Honorary Life Members -- The Board approved a honorary life membership to recognize their work to collect and display an amazing collection of artifacts at their Fire Lookout Museum located in Spokane, Washington on one acre by their home. The Historic Lookout Project was founded in 1969 for the purpose of research and publishing books. The museum has over 19,000 artifacts and is open to the public by appointment. http://kresek.net/. The first Honorary Life member was Gary A. Stensatter, a private Missoula civil engineer and former Forest Service employee, who was instrumental in forming the NMFSH in 1988.

Larry Gadt Kansas City Rotary Presentation -- This spring, Larry, a Board member, gave a presentation on the Forest Service and the Museum to 150 members of the Kansas City Rotary Club. Sally Bibb, wife of National Council member Bob Bibb, invited Larry to give the presentation. Larry described the benefits of National Forest management to urban communities by providing clean water, air, wood, energy and wildlife habitat for important species such as grizzly bear, elk, and salmon.

George Bain Appointed Region 1 Liaison to the Museum --- Regional Forester Faye Krueger recently appointed George as liaison with the National Museum of Forest Service History. George is the Northern Region's Director of Recreation, Mineral, Lands, Heritage, and Wilderness.

Name Change -- Forest Service History Memorial -- The Board of Directors has approved renaming the Forest Service History Memorial to the Forest Service Museum Honor Roll. Many people believed the Memorial was intended only for deceased persons. The Board believes the new name will encourage nominations to honor current retirees and other people.

The Forest Service Museum Honor Roll recognizes those who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service. Anyone is eligible, including current, former and retired employees of the Forest Service, and people or groups whose work has supported the Forest Service Mission. The Honor Roll will also commemorate special events in Forest Service history. The nomination process and donation of $100 remains unchanged. The biographies that accompany nominations are an important historical record and describe the career of each person added to the Honor Roll.

Membership Dues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright © 2013
Ruben explained all the details about the summer ahead. We were given two 5-gallon milk cans which we filled with water at the Pagosa RD headquarters utility closet. These cans were our supply containers for water for drinking, cooking, dish washing and, eventually to fill a shower we made to hang on the telephone pole in back of the guard station. He also told us where we could buy enough food and ice to keep it cold for a week. We went to town and bought the supplies and soon we were off in our own cars, with Ruben leading the way in his Forest Service pickup.

Ruben introduced us to the Guard Station and facilities. It was a standard Forest Service building with one room and garage, built in 1935 at the edge of a large meadow. A nearly flat-topped, square-shaped, 11,600 ft mountain towered in the distance.

The outhouse was about 30 feet out back of the station. There was: a wood burning cook stove, an ice box, Coleman gas lanterns, no electricity, no water supply, a wall-mounted party-line crank phone shared with several ranches, and a heavy picnic table in the room. The garage housed our four army cots for sleeping. We also had a wood supply and white gas for the lanterns. For water, we could fill our 5-gallon milk cans back in Pagosa or from a well at a nearby ranch.

The next morning Bob Sullivan and Ruben drove in from Pagosa Springs. Our introduction began: we had a two-way Motorola radio to use in emergencies and more especially on forest fires. The radio was heavy, had a canvas bag, and was about 14 in. long, 8 in. tall and 6 in. wide with a microphone and telescoping antenna. It was a “line of sight radio” and proved not very useful in this mountainous country. Our main transportation on the job was a World War II vintage jeep with a canvas top. If we needed to split our crew to work in opposite directions, we were to use a Dodge Power Wagon as our second vehicle.

This powerful old vehicle was terribly slow. If any plots were located really far from any roads, Ruben had a horse we could use.

Our job was to inventory the standing timber supply on the Pagosa Ranger District. To do this we had a few things to know. First, our pacing was established so we could pace our way close to the exact plot centers shown on the stereo photos. Sullivan set up a pacing course which we walked over multiple times to establish an average pace for each of us. Mine turned out to be 12½ paces to travel one chain or 66 feet. Then Sullivan re-introduced us to the surveyor’s chain we had learned to use at Pingree Park, Colorado A&M’s ten-week-long summer forestry camp. We used the chain to measure such distances as the diameter of our survey plots or help locate geological survey markers. “Throwing” the 132-foot-long steel tape and 6-foot trailer tape (two 66-foot chains and the trailer) was another skill that came easily if you remembered just how to hold the large loop you first made as you retrieved the tape. Simple, but exact, twists with the wrists magically made the large loop into two smaller ones that you secured together with a bit of leather tied to the tape end. None of us had any trouble with this.

Although we had learned basic timber survey techniques at Pingree Park, our next lessons were the review of the use of maps, aerial photos, a book of random numbers, and the tossing of a tiny ring onto the randomly selected photos, and then pushing a pin prick through the ring to denote the plot center on the aerial photo. Mastering the technique of using a pair of stereo photos and a pocket stereoscope to view the route to your plot centers location in 3-D and to assure you were at the precise plot center was a great help in the field.

The photos, maps and tally sheets to record the trees by species, and diameter were carried in your aluminum Tatum holder. Several pencils and a horse hair or two in case you had to replace a broken sighting “string” on your compass were in your shirt pocket. A “Jake” staff (a 54 inch
hardwood Jacob staff with a tapered head and a forged, pointed steel shoe) was another necessity. The rest of your field instruments were carried on an army surplus web belt. These included: a forester’s staff compass with a ball-and-socket joint that fit the top of the Jake staff; leather holster for the compass; a piece of leather through a pair of holes in the belt to tie on the 132-foot “chain” tape, a diameter tape for measuring tree diameters taken at breast height (4½ ft.) or DBH; one quart-canteen, and a cloth sack in which to carry your bag lunch. As for survival gear, none of us really used any all summer. We all had pocket knives, waterproof matches, and hard hats. Sometimes we took light jackets but I don’t recall any really bad weather all summer even though occasionally we heard thunder. This noise made you hesitate and look carefully for flashes and to count the seconds from flash to thunder before you put your steel diameter tape around another tall tree.

The first night at the station I volunteered to be the cook because I didn’t like to do dishes. This rash decision stuck with me all summer and I cooked the evening meals and most breakfasts on the efficient wood burning stove. The next day Sullivan drove in and took us out to show us the way we were to measure plot diameters and the tree diameters, by species within the 30 foot plot boundaries and how to record the data. By the third day we were pretty much on our own. Each of us would work alone every day in the field.

The daily routine sometimes began when Ruben arrived from town, lit the wood burning cook stove, and we awoke to the aroma of coffee he thoughtfully made. Sometimes he even began cooking breakfast. Most often I made bacon and eggs cooked to order. We made our own lunches such as sandwiches with peanut butter and jelly, baloney and other lunch meats, cheese, sliced bread, butter, and apples or oranges. We wrapped the sandwiches in waxed paper, put all in a paper sack, inserted this in a cloth sack and carried this tied to the web belt. By 8 AM we were on the road. Whoever had the group of plots farthest from the station drove the jeep. One by one the other 3 were dropped off as near to their plots as possible with the admonition to be by the roadside to be picked up so that we could all be back at the station by 5 PM.

Soon after arriving back at the guard station, I would begin cooking and Bob Tice would oversee the calculations to be made from the data we gathered in the field. He or Bob Lehman would usually operate the hand-cranked Monroe calculator with the accompanying thump-thump sound of the constantly shifting carriage. No batteries ran these calculators.

After dinner we got out the maps to begin the selection process for the next day’s plots, selected photos by use of the random numbers book, marked the plot centers, and decided who would measure which group of plots. After all this, we began which was to become almost a nightly ritual after all our chores and reports were done. It was a lively game of poker. We played for “strike anywhere” match sticks. You started with about 25 to bet. No money changed hands. We didn’t have much to spare anyway. Once in a while Ruben played poker with us. So did Nels Watson, timber staff officer from Denver, who took over the management of our survey from Bob Sullivan. It was mostly 5-card stud but sometimes we made up games that had various wild cards designated for variety.

Bob Lehman and I drew plots way up on Wolf Creek pass one day when Bob T. and Pat had plots in the opposite direction. They took the jeep so Lehman and I drove the Dodge Power Wagon up the pass. What a long, steep highway trip that was, especially the stretch from 8,000 ft. to 10,600 ft. to where our plots were. It seemed like we made about 10 miles an hour going up. The wagon was powerful and powerful slow. Our plots that day were in pleasantly cool Engelmann spruce stands. Most other plots that summer were in ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir stands with some white fir. There was quite a bit of oak brush at the lower altitudes and as we were advised against wearing wrist watches, our new watches were never bothered in our pockets!

Bob Tice and the rest of us would not have traded our summer experience for anything and it did help us greatly in launching our long forestry careers. Bob loved the United States Forest Service. He served in Region 2 as District Ranger on the Centennial District-Medicine Bow NF and on the Alamosa District-Rio Grande NF; as head of State and Private Forestry Fire Control in Region 2; as Resource Staff Officer-Nebraska NF; and Land Status Specialist in the Region 2-Regional Office.
Mineral Traveling Exhibit reaches Louisiana

Minerals We Use Everyday: Mined from our National Forests is on display at the IDEA Place at Louisiana Tech University from May 1 through September 1, 2013. This exhibit highlights the minerals found in everyday objects - from cell phones and satellites to bicycles and camping gear.

Did you know that mining occurs on nearly one third of all national forests? You don't have to be in Louisiana this spring or summer to learn more about it. Visit the online galleries for this traveling exhibit here, and learn more about the Museum's other Traveling Exhibits.

Swivel tiles (example on the right) create a puzzle effect for visitors viewing the exhibit from each side. This tile describes where iron and nickel are mined and one or more of its use. This photograph is a scene from the Lincoln National Forest.

COWBOY BOB AND THUNDER

Anonymous

Now, Cowboy Bob and Thunder, a remarkable pair they made. With keen eye and fleet of foot, they rode the forest glade.

Now, Thunder was a handsome horse, as horses are wont to be, stood a full 10 hands at the withers, which was tall for Bob, you see.

During a pause on the trail that day, when Bob had finished lunch; old Thunder gathered up his steam, To give old Bob a punch.

The story has been told before, by many there to see, who witnessed the great clash of wills, expressed upon that day.

But my account cannot be fraught with fault, or torn asunder, For I got my facts from a firsthand source, the steed, whose name is Thunder.

It seems old Bob, in taking charge, was willing to display, his horsemanship, for all of us, upon that fateful day.

Grabbing his reins, and the saddle horn, he leaped from the ground with grace; As Bob went up and over, his horse moved back one pace.

What happened then lacked any class, for Bob, but not for others, for in that instant Bob did see, all stars and pretty colors.

Upon his buttocks he did light, a stone to break his fall, the evidence recorded here you see, in picture form, for all.

Now, cowboy Bob we wish you well, On all your future trails. Here's your favorite view of Thunder, to remind you of this tale (tail)
William C. “Bill” Fischer Estate Gift
1932 –2013

Bill Fischer (left) was a long time Museum member and volunteer. Bill worked in the Museum office cataloging items donated to the repository. His skill, dedication and contributions added much to the museum’s growing collection.

Bill retired from the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory in 1993.

We appreciate all planned gifts. These gifts support the mission of the Museum.
Repository News

The Washington Office Communications Artifact Collection has been moved to the National Museum of Forest Service History. The shipment, of over 2,500 pounds, arrived April 30, 2013. The Museum staff is cataloging the artifacts. The collections includes many of the early radios, cast iron telephone, anemometers, test equipment, and records.

Telephone Switchboard, circa 1940
USDA Forest Service Collection

Type U Transmitter / Receiver, circa 1940
USDA Forest Service Collection

Pacific Marine Pump Type A5A, 1950
Stan Chester Collection

Gasquet District Road Crew, 1920s
Six Rivers National Forest, CA
Frank E. Lewis Collection
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.

Membership Categories  Annual Dues

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

University of Montana Community Forestry Day

The Museum loaned historical artifacts to students from the College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana, for a display at Community Forestry Day on March 23, 2013 in conjunction with the 96th Foresters’ Ball. The display, shown on the left, was open to the public during the day, prior to the evening dance.