

National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 4

November 2004

Harvey Mack



Harvey Mack received the 1993 Forest Service National Volunteer Award from District Ranger Maribeth Gustafson, Trabuco District, Corona California.

Harvey B. Mack was born in 1920 in Oregon City, Oregon. He died August 2004 in Corona, California. When Harvey was nine years old his family moved to Hemet California, and moved to Corona in 1935, graduating from Corona High School in 1938 and Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, California in 1948. He attended Washington State College (now University) and graduated from the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School at Monterey, California in 1965.

Harvey first worked for the Forest Service in 1939 as a Fire Lookout on Santiago Peak in the Cleveland National Forest in Southern California. He worked on four National Forests, two Regional Offices and the Washington Office as the Budget Officer. In 1964 he transferred to the Secretary of Interior's staff as director of Planning, Programming and Budget for Departmental program and activities. Harvey retired in 1973.

From 1991 to 2000, Harvey developed and operated the Forest Service History Center Museum at the former Corona Ranger Station, Cleveland National Forest. He was a collector, curator, and champion of the Forest History Center. He volunteered almost 8,000 hours to collecting, organizing, storing and displaying about 6,000 items related to Forest Service history. He attended retiree gatherings, wrote letters and newsletter items, and persuaded hundreds of retirees and employees to donate insignia, photos, books, and other memorabilia to

the collection. Harvey shared his wisdom, enthusiasm, and six decades of experience with hundreds of visitors and Forest Service employees. This collection is a national resource that will help all Forest Service employees and retirees to proudly tell the history of the Forest Service.

Harvey is survived by his wife Vale; daughter, Carolyn, and sons Ray and Larry. The Board of Directors of the National Museum of National Forest Service History (NMFSH) has agreed to care for the Mack Collection and to recognize Harvey's contributions in the future NMFSH museum. Donations to the Museum's *Forest Service History Memorial* in memory of Harvey Mack will help continue his efforts to preserve Forest Service history.

Museum's Cataloging Project

Artifacts and archives are valuable to a museum only when a current and accurate inventory is available. This includes records of what we have and where it is stored. Earlier this year the NMFSH purchased the *Past Perfect Museum Software* to record information and provide search tools. The museum hired curator Beth N. Humble to provide consistency and to guide volunteers. This is a labor-intensive project. Cataloging or inventorying is a significant cost.

The Museum has cataloged approximately 3,700 items prior to the arrival of the Harvey Mack Collection this summer. Member Dale Johnson, retired University of Montana Archivist, has provided his expertise to guide the cataloging effort. Objects donated, by members over the years, were inventoried in the past on an excel spreadsheet. With the Forest Service grant this year, we started inventorying the donated books and papers. Items are recorded as

See **Cataloging**, page 5



**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
Lifetime	\$1000

From The President

Greetings-

Next year the Forest Service will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. As an important part of this celebration, I challenge all of the current members of the National Museum of Forest Service History to recruit at least two new members for the museum. During the coming year, there will be many national, regional and local events aimed at honoring the rich and exciting history of the Forest Service. A key element for the Museum during the Centennial celebration is to assure that the Museum generates the support and resources to preserve the culture and artifacts that embody the history of Conservation Management of natural resources in the United States.

Currently the museum board is moving forward with a \$3.0 million capital campaign initiative. This initiative will be more successful if we can substantially increase our membership base. I am also asking that each member consider a contribution to the museum to help to defray the ongoing stewardship costs of the museum. Forest Service artifacts exist in every Region, State & Private Area, and Research Unit. Many of the artifacts are not listed in local, regional, or national inventory lists and are subject to damage and loss if we don't generate the necessary funds to inventory, store, and properly display the artifacts for public investigation, study, education, and viewing.

We have a big job ahead but with your support, 2005 can become the year we make major progress in developing the museum in Missoula and develop and strengthen the ties to all Forest Service units across the country.

Best Wishes,
Gray Reynolds

From The Vice President

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Museum if you haven't this year. Donations are running below budget estimates. We thank all the members who have made donations since the last newsletter. We print donor names twice a year in the winter and summer issues.

I encourage members to mail their membership renewal payment one (1) month prior to the date shown on their newsletter-mailing label. This would reduce Museum expenses and time related to mailing renewal reminders. Savings could be used to support programs like collection cataloging.

I was fortunate to attend the OldSmokeys Board meeting in Portland Oregon, October 27-29, 2004 in Portland Oregon to discuss museum programs and the need for increased membership. The OldSmokeys is the Region 6 Forest Service retiree organization. Thanks to members Dave Scott and John Marker for hosting a field trip to Mt Hood Cultural Center & Museum at Government Camp and the High Desert Museum at Bend. We were able to visit the museum managers. The managers said that in order to preserve, and interpret history it takes: 1) A professional staff with the expertise; 2) A facility designed to display exhibits and welcome visitors; 3) All museum programs need to generate income; 4) Initial plans change and 5) Local support is needed.

We have sold over 1,100 copies of the 200 page Cookbook, "*Camp Cooking-100 Years*". Gibbs Smith Publisher of Layton Utah has promised delivery of the books on December 4th. We will mail the cookbooks to customers directly from Layton. This is to speed delivery in time for Christmas. Consider ordering a book if you haven't (See Order Form on Page 7). Even if you aren't a Dutch oven chef—the yarns and old pictures are worth the purchase price.

We welcome Bob Gibson of Bozeman, MT to the Board of Directors. Bob was elected to the Board at the October Meeting.

Dave Stack

BEARTOOTH HIGHWAY

by Dale R. Petersen

retired civil engineer, USDA-FS, R-6, R-9, WO

We all have our ideas of favorite highways and scenic byways. One clearly stands out—U.S. Route 212, The Beartooth Highway in the Custer and Gallatin National Forests in Montana and the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming. Bruce H. Blevins in his book, *Beartooth Highway Experiences*, recalls a 1937 newspaper advertisement: “.no one can describe this Beartooth Highway. We are on top of everything unbelievable as any sight.” In 1931 President Herbert Hoover signed a Congressional Bill for a National Park approach road intended for the northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

Another reason the Beartooth Highway is special to me is because I was born in Red Lodge, Montana while my dad, Clifford B. Petersen, worked on this magnificent highway. He worked on location, design and construction, including the first paving in 1935 for the Bureau of Public Roads (BPA is now FHWA), which handled the engineering. From 1936 to 1941, dad was a BPR engineering aide in charge of opening the road each Spring and maintaining it until closure in October.

My mother lived in a tent camp along the highway as it was being paved. My first home was in a log cabin at Richel Lodge, located at Lions Camp along Rock Creek, just as the highway starts the long climb to the 10,942 foot-summit.

Early maps touting the highway did not mention the Forest Service or National Forests. The road was the big thing with endless mountains and lakes depicted along the way until you reached Yellowstone Park. The Plan Sheet and Final Report refer to the project as “Yellowstone Park Approach Road, US 212, Custer, Shoshone & Absaroka (Gallatin) National Forests; Carbon & Park Counties, Montana; Park County, Wyoming.”

Heading from Red Lodge the highway climbs through five switchbacks that you will never forget. Drivers must stay focused while tempted to stare at the widening view of endless mountains and Rock Creek below. Once on top you get the sensation you are looking down on mountains all around. Going through the high-plateau lakes region you are beckoned to stop to fish or play. Toward Yellowstone the scenic vistas are worthy to be a park itself.

The initial highway was built for \$2.3 million to a width of 16-18 feet with a bituminous surface treatment. Blevin’s book highlights many interesting events including some fatal endings of those who traveled the road, from 1931 to 2000. Blizzards can come in summer months. Over time road improvements made the road safer and more enjoyable while the sights remain awesome. More amazing is the ability of those early workers to provide a footprint on the landscape we can enjoy today.

Richel Lodge, probably under permit from the Forest Service, was an early-day dude ranch as well as headquarters for the BPR during development and maintenance.

An article by A. W. Parsons (FHWA website) entitled “Memorable Days with BPR.” describes his work on the location survey from Cook City to Beartooth Summit starting in



Beartooth Highway

July 1932. Parsons and dad talked about Harry Mitchell who was in charge of the early engineering work. During the winter of 1932-1933 five engineers (aides), including my dad, wintered at Richel Lodge to work on design while living in tents down to minus 20 degrees. No wonder three of the designers the following year brought back new brides, including my mother! Parsons said it was very cold and windy work to re-measure cut and fill sections on the rocky switch back sections. Others involved were O. Sawyer, Jim O’Hearne, Al Neely and Russel. Many of these men and others were pioneers working on the first highways in Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

Shoshone National Forest high elevation lakes, Beartooth, Island, Little Bear, Long and Rainbow were attractions to those who traveled the Beartooth Highway in the late ‘30’s and early 40’s. Our family was no exception. We used to be one of the first to fish the lakes in our 10 or 12-ft flat-bottom boats as soon as the ice started melting. We found easy catches using cowbells.

[My new dream is to develop an interpretative display about the Beartooth Highway.](#) This

might include a topographic relief model showing the Beartooth corridor along with documents or displays of early activities. It might include some signs or plaques along the highway commemorating events and people who made the highway possible, as well as places like Richel Lodge, Sawtooth Camp and others. There are documents of interest in the Carbon County Museum in Red Lodge and perhaps other places.



Author, Age 5, at Long Lake CCC Bridge—1940

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

"Celebrating the People" is the theme of the September 4-9, 2005 reunion of U.S. Forest Service retirees and friends when they meet at the Jantzen Beach Double Tree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Along with renewing old friendships, the attendees will be honoring the U.S. Forest Service in its centennial year.

The retirees and current Forest Service leaders will pay tribute to their predecessors who have served the nation by caring for 190 million acres of National Forests, conducting internationally recognized natural resource research and providing world leadership in forest and rangeland conservation.

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, a Forest Service retiree organization, is the sponsor of this national event. The Association expects between 1,200 and 1,500 people from around the United States to attend the event, which is part of a year long tribute to the Forest Service's 100 years of service to the Nation. It is the fourth national reunion of the Service's retirees.

The reunion will be at Jantzen beach Double Tree Hotel, an AAA triple-diamond rated hotel, located on the south bank of the Columbia River at I-5 exit 308. The hotel is about 6 miles from downtown Portland, close to the airport and within easy walking distance of the Jantzen Beach shopping center. The Jantzen Beach RV park is about a quarter mile away.

During the four days Forest Service people will revisit the "outfits" history through presentations, first person experiences and reminders of accomplishments such as development of superior trees and grasses, smokejumping, watershed restoration, wood technology, national computer systems, wildfire science and wilderness management.

Organizations and private businesses with close ties to Forest Service people will be encouraged to take part in the celebration with booths and displays on Wednesday and Thursday of the reunion.

The Chief of the Forest Service and other agency leaders will participate in recognition of the people have worn the "Pine Tree Shield" with pride and dedication. They will join the retirees in honoring those who have lost their lives while performing their Forest Service duties.

TO HAVE A REGISTRATION PACKAGE MAILED TO YOU: Send your name and mailing address to: Liz Kraiter, Register, 23337 Miller Court, Woodburn, OR 97071 or send an email with this information to: lkraiter@easystreet.com.

Sunday Sept. 4: Retiree Reunion and Centennial Celebration starts with an optional Lewis and Clark overnight tour to Fort Clatsop near Astoria OR.

Monday Sept. 5: Registrations opens at 9 AM. A social is scheduled at 5 PM.

Tuesday Sept. 6: Tours of the area - 1) Mt. St. Helens, 2) The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area, 3) Mt. Hood Timberline Lodge, 4) Evergreen Aviation Museum and 5) Yamhill Wine area just south of Portland.

Wednesday Sept. 7: A continental breakfast starts the day. There will be a special recognition of our predecessors, Forest Service people who have lost their lives in service to the Nation in Military actions or with the Forest Service and those who are currently serving in harm's way. A showing of the "Greatest Good", a documentary of the Forest Services 100 years. Following lunch there will be a series of mini-sessions about the "Outfits" early days.

Thursday Sept. 8: The morning program features the Chief and other Forest Service leaders. During the afternoon Regions, Stations and other units will be holding "open houses" to greet people and share experiences. The Fiddling Foresters" will provide entertainment at the banquet.

Friday Sept 9: The Farewell Buffet Breakfast will include a brief wrap up. The National Museum of Forest Service History will hold its Annual Meeting immediately after the Farewell Breakfast.



New Memorials

Art Greeley Memorial donations by Joseph Flynn and John Sandor.

William (Andy) Anderson Memorial donations by William Herbolsheimer and Brian & Debby Roberts.

Edwin F Smith Memorial donation by Dave Stack

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.

Recollections

Editor's note: The following story, by J. Fred McClain, is an excerpt from a longer reminiscence first published in TIMBERLINES, the R-6 retirees Thirty-Year Club newsletter, in No. IX, May 1955. It tells in simple terms the very real dangers early Rangers faced working with a sometimes hostile public who felt management of the National Forests interfered with their own interests.

J. Fred McClain began work for the Forest Service in 1906. At the time of this story, in 1907, he was a Forest Ranger on the Imnaha National Forest in eastern Oregon, District Six. The Imaha became the Wallow National Forest in 1908, and McClain continued as a District Ranger at Joseph, Oregon for 30 years, retiring in 1939.

“An old prospector, a Mexican by the name of Manuel Lopez, had a mine in the Lake Basin area and who, by the way, wanted the whole Lake Basin set aside for him for pasturing his six horses. This caused quite a lot of trouble as he was always into it with some sheepherder or camp tender, and at one time he shot a French sheepherder in the foot. One of my trips up into the Lake Basin was to settle an argument between him and a camp tender.

After the trouble between them was settled, he asked me to go with him as he wished to show me the rich mineral deposits in his mine. He led me to the entrance of his tunnel which, by the way, was a tunnel starting from a small cave inside of a sheer wall 100 feet high and reached by a rope ladder leading down to this small depression in the wall. I hesitated in going down the ladder in such a dangerous place, but he assured me that it was perfectly safe. So, I followed him down and went into his tunnel to find the same formation in the tunnel as outside — no sign of mineral bearing ore.

In going back up the ladder, after he had climbed out, I caught hold of the rope in a way that turned it part over and, say, did I try to lose weight! The ropes on both ends of the ladder were cut over half in two! I think this put a gray hair or two in my head as the rope was very old. Upon my arrival at the top I asked him why this was done. He said it was caused by the wind blowing the ladder back and forth against the wall. I told him it certainly made a very smooth cut! I watched him very carefully when in his company after that.

This story, plus more than three hundred other stories, all written by retired or current Forest Service employees and family members, are being organized into a book to be published by the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association (PNWFSA). The book, titled, “We Had an Objective in Mind”, The U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, 1905 – 2005, A Centennial Anthology, will be published in 2005 to celebrate the Forest Service Centennial. It will be available via mail order and at the National Retiree Reunion in Portland in September 2005.

"Objects" - clothing, axe, radio, etc; "Photos" - photographs, slides, etc; "Archives" - correspondence, reports, maps, diaries etc; and "Library" - books, magazines, etc. This summer volunteers help sort the items into the different categories. We began in September to enter the data on the computer.

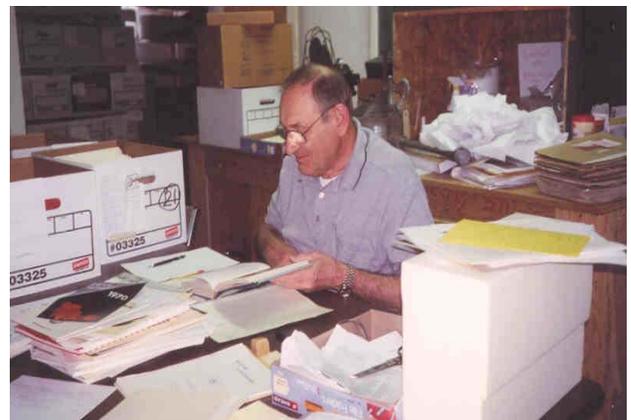
On September 13, 2004 the Mack Collection, approximately 10 tons, arrived from the Angeles National Forest. We are starting to open the boxes packed in 2000. Each item must be cataloged, recorded and preserved. We have purchased acid free storage boxes, folders and tissue paper.

We have a paper listing most Mack items, but we don't know in which box it was packed. The exterior of the boxes are very dusty. Initial data entry is now limited to the basic information, later additional detailed information should be added to improve item description and research quality.

We have a huge job ahead of us. We must complete the initial inventory of items donated to the Museum plus the Mack Collection.



Portion of Mack Collection after Unloading



Museum Member Bill Fischer Cataloging Archives, Summer 2004

Wenger and Cooley Honored

Dr. Roy Wenger and Earl Cooley were honored by the Civilian Public Service (CPS) Smoke Jumpers of Camp 103 during their reunion July 14, 2004 at Hungry Horse Montana. Both men are members of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Wenger is a Museum board member.

CPS smokejumper units were organized because of severe manpower shortages during World War II. In 1943 only five experienced smokejumpers were available in Region 1. Recruiting resulted in only four trainees for the coming fire season. Phil Stanley, a conscientious objector, suggested in a letter to Region 1 Fire Control and the National Service Board for Religious Objectors that they use conscientious objectors as smoke jumpers. The Forest Service agreed to the experiment. All CPS camps were solicited for volunteers. Region 1 selected 60 candidates from 300 volunteers. Regions 4 and 6 sent CPS men to Missoula for training. John Johnson supervised the McCall Idaho crew and Jack Heintzelman supervised the Cave Junction Oregon crew.

Camp 103 smoke jumpers started their training in 1943 at Camp Paxson, Seeley Lake, Montana. Later the camp was moved to Camp Menard at Ninemile just outside of Missoula. They flew to fires in a Ford trimotor airplane from Hale Field in Missoula.

Special recognition by CPS Unit 103 was awarded to Roy Wenger, the smoke jumper's first civilian public service director. Roy coordinated efforts between the church groups, the Forest Service, and the Selective Service Committee in setting up this camp. Roy and his wife, Florence, took all the smoke jumper training, however, since he was the camp's director and his wife the dietician, neither ever jumped. Wenger was a professor at Kent State University in Ohio from 1948 to 1978 and then retired from teaching and eventually moved back to Missoula, Montana where he now resides.

Questioned about what difficulties Roy encountered in running this camp, he said, "With men from all three-peace churches and other denominations in one camp it was thought this would be a difficult camp to direct. However, these men were all independent thinkers and wished to succeed. It was one of the easiest camps to direct."

CPS Unit 103 also honored Earl Cooley, one of the early Forest Service smoke jumper trainers. Cooley a Forest Service smokejumper, was in charge of fire training and the Ninemile camp. About 70 men were trained for the 1943 season. Many of the jumpers worked during the winter for the Forest Service to be available the next fire season. The 1944 program was expanded to 120 men. The 1945 program expanded to

235 jumpers that included some returning veterans. The CPS program ended after the 1945 season. Cooley began his Forest Service career in 1937 at the Selway Ranger Station in Idaho. In 1940 he and Rufus Robinson made the first jump on a forest fire. Cooley retired for the Forest Service in 1975.

Edmund Ward, manager of the Forest Service Aerial Fire Depot Smokejumper Base presented the men Certificates of Appreciation" for their work as smoke jumpers in preserving the forest resources from fires.

As an added honor for Roy Wenger and Earl Cooley the men of CPS Camp 103 presented to the National Museum of Forest Service History a Ford Trimotor model in their honor. Earl Schmidt, a CPS Unit 103 jumper, made the model airplane. Gary Brown, the first president of the museum accepted the Ford Trimotor on behalf of the museum. ❖



Roy Wenger, Gary Brown and Earl Cooley

from **Beartooth Highway**, page 3

If anyone has an interest in the Beartooth Highway and would like to develop a proposal to the Museum, PLEASE contact the Museum. Ideally, about five people would be a committee to develop a proposal. With the internet a group could work together and, when needed, meet in Missoula or elsewhere. I already have a small box of materials that might be useful with pictures and articles, including some Dad wrote. LET'S GET STARTED ❖

Coming Soon

The Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association is reprinting "Early Days in the Forest Service". The four volumes contains personal stories of Forest Service employees. Originally published by the Northern Region between 1944 and 1976. The books should be available by early spring.

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.: _____

E-mail: _____

New Renewal

Membership Categories Annual Dues

Individual	\$30 or more
Family	\$55 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more
Sustaining	\$300 or more
Life	\$1000 or more

Profession*: _____ Age*: _____

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

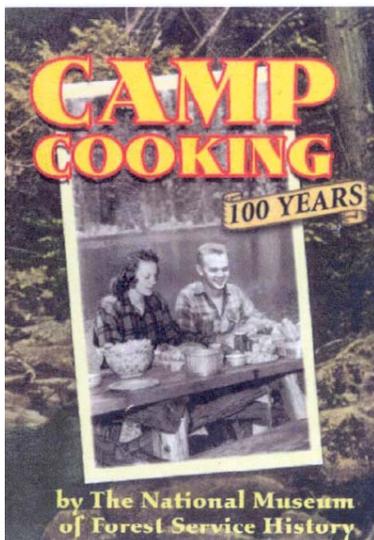
*These are optional

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 will feature 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 will be about 200 pages and 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



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Make check or money order payable to NMF5H.

Books expected to be shipped first week of December 2004.

Send Orders to:

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Abe Turley, Seattle Washington, donated this, D-6 Lookout, 1:12 Scale Model to the NMFSH. Children especially are attracted to the model.

Coming Events

NMFSH Annual Meeting

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

Forest Service Retiree Reunion

Sept. 7 to Sept. 9, 2005, Portland Oregon. More details in the next newsletter.

Dr. Char Miller Lectures on Forest Service history to commemorate the Forest Service Centennial.

Feb. 1 — Taos, NM

Feb. 3 — Flagstaff, AZ

Feb 28 — Jacksonville, FL

March 7 — Jacksonville, FL

April 19 — Lufkin, TX

June 3 & 4 — Bend, OR