



NEWSLETTER

BOB MARSHALL EXPLORES ALASKA'S ARCTIC DIVIDE

INTRODUCTION BY DAVE STACK



GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE The treeless slopes of the Arctic Divide near the Nunamuit village of Anaktuvuk Pass. (NPS Photo/Sean Tevebaugh)

IN 1930, BOB MARSHALL EXPLORED THE ALASKAN Arctic Divide and stayed in Wiseman, Alaska until 1931. During that time he wrote six letters – 86 pages in all. They describe his experiences, the people and life in Wiseman.

Marshall shared his letters with a long list of friends, thanks to his sister, who mimeographed and forwarded them on. Harry T. Gisborne, a pioneering fire scientist, received them and his copies are a part of the museum's archives. Marshall and Gisborne had worked together in Missoula, Montana at the Forest Service's Research Station.

Beginning in 1929, Bob Marshall made four trips to explore the Arctic Divide – three during the summer and one in winter. He

made his last trip in 1939, shortly before he died.

In 1931, he authored the U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 844 E, "Reconnaissance of the Northern Koyukuk Valley, Alaska." He also wrote a book entitled Arctic Village, which recounted his stay in Wiseman. The area has since been designated Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

In August of 1930, Marshall and Al Retzlaf, a geologist who had lived in Alaska for nine years and was an experienced outdoorsman, began a four-week exploration trip to the Arctic Divide. The expedition included one employee and two horses.

This is an excerpt from Marshall's September 23, 1930 letter:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FOREST SERVICE HISTORY

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Lifetime	\$1,000

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NOTE FROM PRESIDENT TOM THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH - I am pleased to announce that we have selected **Lisa Tate** of Moorhead, Minnesota as our new executive director. Lisa will begin work for the museum in August.

She currently is the executive director of the **Red River Zoological Society** in Fargo, North Dakota and was recently named Woman of the Year in Fargo. Lisa has 27 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector. She is well respected in the nonprofit and conservation communities, and has comprehensive understanding of nonprofit best practices, fund

LISA TATE

As a child, I spent most of my play time outdoors. My family camped, fished and enjoyed the forests of Montana; and also as we traveled all across the United States on family vacations. One of my fondest childhood memories was finding a small set of deer antler spikes on the Lolo National Forest. I was about seven years old and I asked my Mom to mount them on the wall for me. I picked and sold huckleberries to make spending money for the county fair every summer. Later in my life, I enjoyed other outdoor activities, such as skiing, rock climbing, hiking, hang gliding, and horseback riding.

Having national forests as my childhood playground shaped my life and made me the person I am today. I cannot imagine a world without such spaces and I am eternally grateful to the visionaries who have conserved and managed our national forests for all to enjoy – both in the past and into the future. This is a rich and valuable history to preserve and share, and I am excited to be a part of it. I am looking forward to my role in helping to

raising and board development.

Lisa grew up in Missoula. The mountains and forest around Missoula had a great influence on her life. She looks forward to being a part of the **National Museum of Forest Service History**.

Dave Stack will continue to serve as executive director until Lisa comes on board in August. She plans to attend our board meeting and the **Old Smokeys Picnic** in Oregon on August 12th. We know she will bring lots of new energy, leadership and ideas to help us meet our mission and goals.



preserve the history of conservation and the legacy of the U.S. Forest Service at the National Museum of Forest Service History. The plans to educate and share this conservation history and legacy with the public through the National Conservation Legacy and Education Center inspired me to use my skills and expertise to help bring this showpiece to fruition. ■

MUSEUM NEWS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED - This is a good time to get this committee working with our new executive director coming. This committee can help us with improving and refining our messaging about the importance of our efforts to protect, interpret and use the history of the Forest Service. Members of the

committee have experience in communications. The committee members are: **Ed Nesselroad, Dave Steinke, Frank Carroll, Judy Dersch** and **Denny Bschor**. **Nancy Gibson** from our board of directors will serve as liaison to the board for this committee.

See **MUSEUM NEWS**, page 7

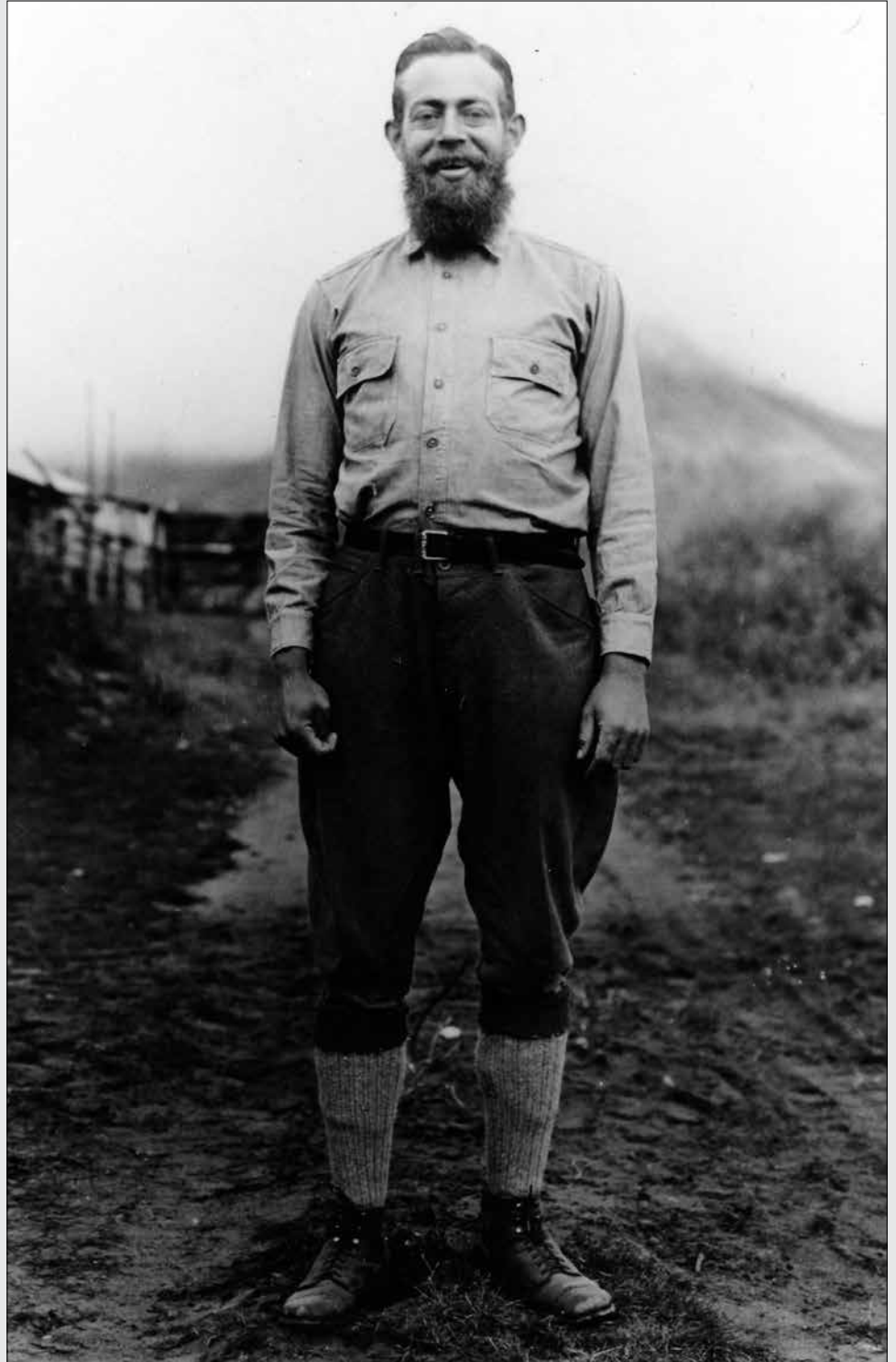
I had as my major ostensible objective, the entirely laudable study of tree growth at northern timberline; as my minor ostensible objective, the not quite so respectable study of the geography of the great unexplored drainage of the upper North Fork of the Koyukuk, an area of about 1,000 square miles, and the preliminary mapping of it. And my most important, though not advertised objective at all, gaining the absolutely unassessable aesthetic thrill of just looking at as much natural beauty as could possibly exist anywhere. We planned to spend about two weeks in this great thousand-acre wilderness of the of the upper North Fork, just below the Arctic Divide and a week or so more traveling each way to and from it.

Each day, I set out to climb some fresh peak or explore some fresh valley, which apparently no human being had ever visited. Often, as when visiting Yosemite or Glacier Park or the Grand Canyon or

"I found myself here at the very headwaters of the mightiest river of the north, at a place where only three other human beings, aside from me, had ever been..."

Avalanche Lake or some other famous natural scenery of surpassing beauty, I had wishes, egotistically enough, that I might have had the joy of being the first person to discover this grandeur. I had read Captain Lewis' glowing account of the discovery of the Great Falls of the Missouri and was completely thrilled. At about the ages of 11 to 20, I used to feel that I had been born a century too late; though I might have some good times, I would never enjoy anything as glorious as I would have known had I lived in the days of Lewis and Clark. Later, I changed these notions as I became more realistic and appreciated that, statistically viewed;

I would probably have been bumped off by Indians or died of fever before having many good times. That background is much less important than the psychological processes in determining



WILDERNESS ADVOCATE Bob Marshall poses for a portrait at age 31. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in Western Montana, which was named in his honor, contains over 1.5 million acres. (K. Ross Toole Archives/University of Montana)

how happy a person can be. Later still, I realized that though the field for geographical exploration was giving out, the realm



MAKING FRIENDS ON THE DIVIDE Bob Marshall, founder of the Wilderness Society, with Alaskan Natives from the Brooks Range. (PBS)

of mental exploration - aesthetic, philosophical, scientific - was limitless. Nevertheless, I still maintained a suppressed yearning for geographical discovery, which I never seriously hoped to realize. And then, I found myself here, at the very headwaters of the mightiest river of the north, at a place where only three other human beings, aside from me, had ever been and with dozens of never visited valleys and hundreds of unsealed summits, still as virgin as during their Paleozoic creation.

The first day in this heaven was blessed, perfect weather. Lew (Carpenter) decided to stay over a day and hunt sheep. Al was going to prospect near camp where he had picked up

limestone from which fact I called the peak Limestack Mountain.

The view from the summit showed a myriad of tumbled mountains rising out of deep valleys, cut up by great clefts and chasms, commencing in green vegetation and river bars, rising into rocks stratified at times and chaotically jumbled at others; culminating in unbroken snow and framed

Wiseman, Alaska - "The happiest civilization of which I have knowledge."

his gold bearing rock the summer before. I wanted to take advantage of the weather to climb one of the highest peaks on the Arctic Divide, the summit of which was only about four miles from camp.

The ascent commenced over gently rising, sod covered slopes at the bottom of Grizzly Creek valley. But after 500 feet or so of this, I found myself among huge conglomerate boulders, over which I had to pick my way with great care to avoid smashing an ankle. In a little basin among the boulders, I scared out three sheep. Above the conglomerate came a slope of yellow rock fragments so steep that I was continually starting juvenile landslides; likewise so steep that I could not climb more than 75 steps without stopping for breath. But when I reached the top of this incline, I was on the very divide. Above me rose the last thousand feet of my mountain, just a great gray stack of

always by the pure blue of the sky.

There were so many mountains, it was positively bewildering. I could pick out Blue Cloud, 70 airline miles to the south. But from it, clear over to the summits far north toward the Arctic Ocean, there wasn't another one among all the thousands of peaks I could

see, which had ever been climbed or even mapped.

I spent 3 1/2 bright hours up there on top of the continent, looking in every direction, over 70 miles of complete wilderness in which, aside from Lew and Al, I knew there wasn't another human being. This knowledge, this sense of independence which it gave, was second only to the sense of perfect beauty extending on all sides. My time on the summit was divided into three phases: first, just pure aesthetic enjoyment, such as another person might get listening to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony played by some dreamed-of super-Philadelphia Orchestra; second, taking pictures; and third, making sketch maps of the topography in every direction. I had to be rather careful on top because, though the side from which I climbed Limestack was gentle enough, the opposite side fell off about 1,500 feet perfectly vertically.

There is no need to go into the details of our seven-day journey back to civilization.

It can be summarized by three words, damn hard work. Please repeat them 91 times, once for each mile.

Our record of exploration included the following:

- 6 unclimbed mountains ascended, including 3 peaks on the Arctic Divide.
- 3 major valleys, never before visited by man, explored.
- 42 miles of untraversed valley walked and mapped.

Our record of ambulation included:

- 108 miles leading horses.
- 108 miles carrying heavy packs.
- 170 miles of side trips with just light packs.

Our scientific record included:

- 6 stands of timber studied for growth.
- 4 sample plots laid out to determine size of trees and number per acre.
- 1 experiment inaugurated in relation to tree establishment beyond timberline.
- 4 stomachs cut open to determine feeding habits.
- 11 rock samples brought back for identification.
- Daily temperature readings taken.

Our mineralogical record included:

- 6 creeks prospected.
- Zero creeks discovered with gold in them.

Our zoological record included:

- 58 sheep seen.
- 7 grizzly bears seen.
- 2 moose seen.
- 1 black bear seen.

Our record of living off the country included:

- 3 sheep killed and partly eaten.
- 1 moose killed and partly eaten (ultimately will be entirely consumed).
- 1 grizzly bear killed and partly eaten.
- 112 grayling caught and entirely eaten.
- 1 mess of huckleberries entirely enjoyed.
- 2 messes of cranberries partly enjoyed. ■



★ WISEMAN

Wiseman is a small mining community along the Middle Fork of the Koyukuk River in the Brooks Range. In the early 1930's, Bob Marshall reported the Upper Koyukuk population as 127 people. He reported 70 white men, seven white women, no white children, nine Eskimo men, 11 Eskimo women, 24 Eskimo children, one Indian man, four Indian women and one Indian child. The 2010 population of Wiseman was listed as 14.

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REPOSITORY NEWS

FRED HAUSSLER'S STATE FORESTRY BADGE COLLECTION - Fred Haussler was a board member from Savannah, Georgia. He worked for **Union Camp Corporation** for 37 years. Fred was president of the **Society of American Foresters** in 1985. He collected state forestry and fire warden badges and lapel pins. **Carol Haussler** donated the collection after Fred passed away in 2011.

Badges from 22 states are in the collection: Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming. The earliest badge is c. 1900 from Pennsylvania. (*Accession 2015.46*)



PA Forest Reservation Officer, c. 1900



Chief Maine Forestry Department, c. 1970



New Hampshire Fire Warden, c. 1970

1946 TRAIL BEETLE DONATED TO THE MUSEUM - Robert Wolfskill of Burns, Oregon donated a Trail Beetle tractor to the museum. Robert is a 1994 **Forest Service** retiree from the **Rocky Mountain Regional Office** in timber sales administration. He remembers seeing **Howard C. Smith**, the Black Hills Forest Supervisor in 1957, hauling a Trail Beetle around in the back of his Dodge pickup. Robert swears that the supervisor hauled the tractor only to make his pickup corner better when racing to fires. The Trail Beetle was designed at the **U.S. Forest Service Equipment Development Laboratory** in Portland, Oregon. Three prototype Beetles were built in 1945. Construction of the Beetle was contracted to **Western Gear Works** of Seattle, who built 25 Trail Beetles in 1946 for use by the Forest Service. Thanks to volunteer **Tom Stockdale**, who is working to get the machine in running condition. ■



Tom Stockdale helps to unload the Trail Beetle.

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM - We are loaning the **Bend Oregon Museum** some artifacts for their Smokejumper exhibits which opens June 4, 2016.

MINERAL VIRTUAL EXHIBIT - *Minerals We Use Every Day: Mined from our National Forests* is our traveling exhibit that was unveiled in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2012. The exhibit has been displayed at six sites from the East Coast to Nevada. Communications director **Scott Hawk** has adapted this exhibition for the museum's virtual exhibit gallery. The virtual exhibit connects people with minerals mined from national forest lands and shares 100 years of lessons learned in the restoration and reclamation of mined lands. It illustrates how the Forest Service and its partners are passing this know-how on to young people. It also links viewers to videos of Forest Service professionals talking about their jobs and introduces viewers to the words of **Theodore Roosevelt** and **Gifford Pinchot**.

PLAN TO ATTEND REUNION 2018 - Join Forest Service retirees, employees and friends from throughout the U. S., as we gather in Asheville, North Carolina, September 24-28, 2018, for a week of renewing friendships and visiting the

birthplace of forestry in the United States. Asheville has a lot of forestry history, including the **Cradle of Forestry**, the **Biltmore Estate**, **Chimney Rock Park**, **Mount Mitchell** and other field trip opportunities. The reunion will provide maximum time for visiting and socializing with friends we have not seen for a while. Registration opens in September 2016. You can visit the reunion web site at **2018.fsreunions.org** for more information.

MUSEUM ANNUAL MEETING - The museum's annual meeting will be Friday, August 12th. Museum members will attend the **Pacific Northwest Forest Service Retirees, Old Smokeys**, summer picnic at the **BLM Wildwood Recreation Area** near the **Zig Zag Ranger District**, Oregon, **Mount Hood National Forest** starting at 12 noon. Board members will talk informally one-on-one with Forest Service retirees attending the picnic. We'll answer questions about the museum. The board's annual in-person meeting will be held at the **Resort on the Mountain**, in Welches, Oregon the morning of August 12th. Museum members attending the picnic must register and pay a small fee to support the picnic. A registration form can be found below. We look forward to seeing you there! ■



Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association
SUMMER PICNIC IN THE WOODS—AUGUST 12, 2016
BLM Wildwood Picnic Area, U.S. Highway 26, Welches, Oregon

RESERVATION FORM

Mail this reservation form and a check for \$15.00 per person (payable to PNWFSA) to:
PNWFSA, P.O. Box 5583, Portland, Oregon 97228-5583*

Please reserve _____ picnic lunches at **\$15.00** each for (names exactly as they will appear on name tags):

My check for \$_____ is enclosed. Please print your name here: _____

Please send your reservation form to be received not later than August 5, 2016

*Grandchildren under 12 years old cost \$7.50 each.

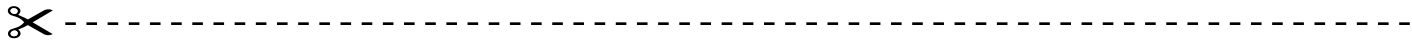


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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: | \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: | \$55 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization: | \$100 |
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