

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Retirees/Families & Interested Former Employees

April 2007, Vol. 3, No. 2

Dates to Remember:

Dates for the Retiree Luncheons, Golden Corral on Emerald in Boise, 11:30 a.m.

2007: May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8

**2007 Biennial IDFG Retiree Reunion
August 4**

“Mark Your Calendars”

IDFG Retiree Committee:

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Jack Fisher, jfish@msn.com
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Bill Goodnight, idaholc@aol.com
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Write or Send News Items to:

IDF&G Retirees
PMB 401
3313 W. Cherry Lane
Meridian, ID 83642
or E-mail: fisherjj@interplus.net

It Has Finally Happened!!!

The Retirees now have their place on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's website. You can access our newsletter, etc., by going to: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/retiree/> and then clicking on the appropriate item.

More Thank Yous!!!

We are really amazed at how many of you have contributed to keep this newsletter going. Your generosity has made it all possible. Thank you John Nagel, Chuck Jensen and Jack Fisher for your great donations. And a special GREAT BIG THANKS to Claude and Marie Clapsaddle for their exceptionally large donation! You wonderful people make it all worthwhile!

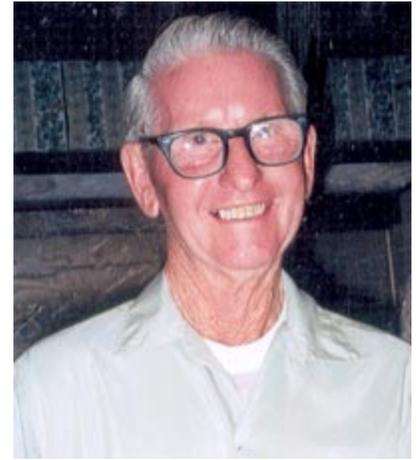
New Retiree

Welcome, *Sharon Merritt*, Administrative Assistant 1, Salmon Region to the retiree group. Sharon retired March 23, 2007 after 8 years of service.

In Memory of Ray Rogers

1924 -2007

by Jack McNeel and Ralph Pehrson



Many current department employees and some recent retirees do not remember *Ray Rogers*. Ray came to work for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 1954 as one of the first wildlife biologists assigned to the Coeur d'Alene area. He was often described by his co-workers as the "best public relations person in the department" for his ability to win over an audience with his easy Louisiana drawl, his stories and his knowledgeable presentations. Ray was known to take a strong stand on many issues and usually convinced his opponents that his way was the right way.

In his personal life, Ray enjoyed collecting and driving older model Cadillacs. He insisted that they were much safer as they were larger and more difficult to damage than most other vehicles. He had an obsession about not using products made outside the United States. On several occasions he turned down capital outlay items purchased by the department because of their "foreign" manufacture.

As a navy veteran Ray enjoyed the time he was assigned to the U.S. Navy rifle team and was able to participate in national marksmanship competitions at Camp Perry, Ohio. He was responsible for "recruiting" several navy marksmen to come to Idaho to retire. Two of these individuals later became employees of the department.

Schooled as a professional wildlife biologist, Ray will be remembered for his avid stand against spring bear hunting to protect females with cubs. He fought for, and was successful, in the department establishing regulations permitting the taking of bullfrogs with a gig, at night and with a light. This was an activity he enjoyed during his youth in the swamps and bayous of Louisiana.

Ray was an early advocate to protect the Buck Creek/Canyon Creek drainages and surrounding watersheds from logging and excessive road building. Many department people who followed in Ray's footsteps supported his position and worked diligently to have the area declared a roadless area. This finally led to the department's acquisition and management of much of the area around Snow Peak; today it is designated as the Snow Peak Cooperative Wildlife Management Area.

Ray was primarily responsible, along with the assistance of others, in the design and construction of a unique goat trap to be used at Snow Peak. Ray felt a strong need for a different trapping system that would protect the goats and trappers from injury. After some trial and error the first year, the trap finally proved to be operational and successful with many goats trapped without injury. Translocations from these trapping operations led to the establishment and enhancement of mountain goats at numerous locations throughout Idaho, such as the Selkirks, Pend Oreille Lake, Seven Devils, Palisades on the South Fork of the Snake River and the South Fork of the Clearwater.

Ray was the consummate "field" biologist. Hunters would report meeting him on remote trails where he might even spend the night in their camp, doing dishes in the morning so they could start hunting early. He worked before the advent of computer modeling and his primary knowledge of wildlife came from field observations. He preferred working with animals rather than shuffling papers in the office. One aspect that set him apart from most biologists was his love of all animals, from reptiles to birds, along with the exceptional care he took of any animal he had to handle. As an example, captured goats were well cared for and were continually given food and water with young ones being hand fed every 2 hours throughout the day and night. Tranquilized animals were watched until they began to recover and injured birds and reptiles were often taken home for care until they could be released.

Ray retired from the department in 1980 after 26 years of dedicated service. He took the early retirement option with penalty in order to, in his words, "get away from the proliferation of paper that was piling up on my desk." He moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to be closer to his wife's family where his jobs in security and package delivery got him away from the deluge of paper work that he anticipated he would be faced with had he stayed with the department.

When Ray left the department, he did so with two wishes: one was to be able to go on an African safari to hunt cape buffalo. When finances allowed him, he made the trip to Africa and was successful in harvesting a trophy animal. His second wish was to return to North Idaho where he could spend some days at Snow Peak enjoying the country he loved and to watch the mountain goats as they came to the lookout tower to satisfy their craving for salt. Ray never made it back to Snow Peak but his ashes will be returned there later this year and be placed around the lookout tower by friends and/or family.

Ray was 82 years old when he passed away on January 21, 2007. He is survived by his wife Annie, their son Larry in Alaska and daughters Sally and Joy in Las Vegas. He had two brothers; one died during WWII and the other is a former senator still living in California. He also has a sister who is living and resides in Louisiana.

At the suggestion of Jack McNeel and Ralph Pehrson, the Coeur d'Alene Regional Office has received permission from the U.S. Forest Service to place a plaque at the lookout tower on Snow Peak in honor of Ray Rogers. Right now there has been no decision as to where the funds will come from to have the plaque made or who will be available to hike out and attach it to the tower. Jack and Ralph think they are too poor and old to undertake the assignment.

Burt Bowlden Memorial

I received the following letter from *Viola Wheeler*, **Burt Bowlden's** niece. "I am writing to inform you that Burt A. Bowlden died on December 25, 2006 at a retirement facility in Boise. Burt was a Fish and Game employee for 35 years and a fish hatchery superintendent since 1949. He served at the Hayspur Hatchery, at Williams Lake, the American Falls Hatchery, the Fernwood Hatchery, the Hagerman Hatchery, the Twin Falls Hatchery, the Warm River Hatchery and retired from the Clark Fork Hatchery. He was very proud to have worked for the Fish and Game Department. We were very proud of him, especially since he lost his right hand in an accident when he was a senior in high school.

There will be a graveside service sometime the last of April or the first of May. For more information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 1280 W. Avalon, Kuna, ID 83634. My phone number is 922-5958."

We will keep you posted of the date of the services.

Jim Uranga - Jaime "Jim" Antone Uranga, 81, of Nampa, died January 23, 2007 at a Nampa care center. Memorial services were held January 26 at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Nampa. Inurnment will be at the Jordan Valley Cemetery in the spring.

Jaime was born May 25, 1925 in Boise, a son of Antone and Maria Uranga. He graduated from St. Theresa's Academy in Boise and entered the U.S. Navy during World War II; after the service, he worked for Idaho Fish and Game, retiring after 30 years. He married Jerri Staples on January 13, 1951 in Boise.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and four sisters. He is survived by his loving wife Jerri of 56 years; a sister Lenna Kidd; brother-in-law, Angel Madarieta; his children: daughter and

son-in-law Judy and Doug Gross; daughter Mary Coles; son and daughter-in-law Joe and Becky Uranga; grandchildren: Jerri Woodworth, husband Mike; Jon Gross, wife Mollie; Jaime Hardin, husband Kenn; Jill Coles, Nick Uranga, Michael Uranga and Tony Coles, great grandchildren: Sean Woodworth and Megan Woodworth, and numerous nieces and nephews. Donations in Jim's name may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 5386, Boise, ID 83705.

Kenneth Johnson by Jack Fisher

A long-time department employee, **Ken Johnson**, died at the age of 98 on March 18 at a rest home in Renton, Washington. Ken will be remembered as a great "fixer-upper" maintenance man in the Engineering Division. He was a master craftsman and could build or repair most anything required at Fish and Game-owned residences or buildings. He was buried on March 27 in Boise.

Retiree Updates

Thank you **Walt Browne** for sending the clipping from the Coeur d'Alene Press on Ray Rogers. We will pass it on to his wife Annie. And to quote Walt: "It's a sure sign of old age when you know more people in the cemetery than you do out on the street."

And a lot of you have asked about **Bernice Howell** in the past few months, wondering what happened to her. Well, seems she took a fall back in November and has been suffering quite a bit of pain. When she fell, she fractured her pelvic bone; and "that's why I have been so out of it because there is nothing you can do for that kind of fracture except have patience and that is what I have little of!!!!" It also loosened her right hip replacement so she really has been dealing with a lot. I'm sure Bernice would love to hear from you. It might just cheer her up a little. Her e-mail address is berniehowell_1@msn.com. *And a belated Happy 84th Birthday, Bernice!!*

Received the following from **Marne Biladeau** (widow of Ted): "I just wanted you to know that I've been unable to attend the F&G Retiree luncheons because the Telephone Pioneers always have theirs the 2nd Thursday of the month (October thru June). There's usually around 150 persons there and being a Pioneer I love going and seeing the people I worked with.

"I'm doing great – reached 91 on January 4. *(A belated Happy Birthday to you, too, Marnel!)* Will be flying to Phoenix in March to visit both of my oldest kids – Sue lives in Payson and Ted, Jr., lives in Tempe. Maybe see you in the summer."

And I hope **Bill Goodnight, Don Anderson and Al Van Vooren** enjoyed their recent trip to Mexico. *(And I'm sure the Cerveza was really good!!)*

Rod Parker is on the go again. He says: "I'm leaving again the 28th for the Normandy Beaches, Paris, the Battle of the Bulge sites in Belgium, a condo week in Germany, on to Austria, 10 days in Italy and fly home from Zurich, Switzerland May 2nd. My offer is for any Dept. retirees planning to go to any of these areas I have a wealth of information about sites to see, sites to ignore (tourist money traps) B&B's, family run hotels, car rentals, and ways to see Europe on a penny pincher's (retiree budget). This is my third trip to Europe since 2004, so I am glad to pass on the lessons learned to other Dept folks." So, if any of you are planning a European trip, Rod would be a good person to contact.

Perks of Being Over 50

- 1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.**
- 2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.**
- 3. No one expects you to run — anywhere.**
- 4. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, “Did I wake you???”**
- 5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.**
- 6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.**
- 7. Things you buy now won’t wear out.**
- 8. You can eat supper at 4 p.m.**
- 9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.**
- 10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.**
- 11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.**
- 12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.**
- 13. You sing along with elevator music.**
- 14. Your eyes won’t get much worse.**
- 15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.**
- 16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.**
- 17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.**
- 18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.**
- 19. You can’t remember who sent you this list.**

And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

— Courtesy of Ralph Pehrson



All Right! All You Retirees! Front and Center!

**Time Again for the IDFG Retirees' Reunion!
August 4, 2007 – Boise, Idaho**

Don't Miss the Fun!

Make your reservations now! ALL RETIREES, PAST and PRESENT EMPLOYEES, and FRIENDS are invited. Lots of fun and good conversation available. Just \$20 takes care of your registration, continental breakfast, hospitality hour and dinner.

Registration: Begins at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 4, in the Boise Headquarters Trophy Room, 600 S. Walnut. A complimentary Continental Breakfast will be available during registration. As in the past, come prepared with an update of your activities since the last reunion.

Raffle: Bring extra spending money for the raffle and silent auction! The committee is again gathering some great gifts for the raffle and door prizes. You will remember that the money from the raffle helps defray the costs of the reunion. (If you have an item you wish to donate, please let us know. We will gladly accept all your donations!) If you have any questions, call Ralph Pehrson at 343-3945 or e-mail him at tiffey@aol.com.

Lunch Break: As in the past, lunch is on your own so you are free to do whatever you wish. There are many local attractions in the surrounding area.

Dinner at 6 p.m. At 4 p.m., the group will reconvene at Municipal Park Shelter for the social hour. The same great menu will be catered by American Catering as in the past: Ribeye steak and BBQ chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans, dinner rolls, salads, and strawberry shortcake for dessert, including soft drinks (iced tea, lemonade, coffee), beer and wine. Leave your diet at home!!

Cost & Deadline for Reservations: \$20.00 per person by July 15. Children 6 years and under are FREE!

**Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game Retirees' Reunion – August 4, 2007
(Make Checks to: IDFG Retiree Reunion)**

____ Yes, I plan to attend the reunion and dinner. Number of persons (including myself) _____

Name(s) of those attending: _____

____ I am enclosing \$20 per person. Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Send to:

IDFG Retirees, PMB 401, 3313 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, ID 83642