

“Keeping in Touch”

Quarterly Newsletter by/for
Fish & Game Retirees/Families and
Interested Former Employees

January 2014, Vol. 10, No. 1

IDFG 75th Anniversary Website

Dates to Remember

**Retiree Luncheon
Schedule
Golden Corral
on Emerald in Boise
11:30 a.m.**

**2014
January 9
March 13
May 8
July 10
September 11
November 13**



Mark Your Calendars

The Department is gathering historical images to put on their website for the year-long 75th Anniversary celebration that kicked off on November 8th. One of the features of the 75th Anniversary web page will be a link to a library of historical pictures. Also each of the weekly “milestones” will feature historical photos that capture the story. So if you have some great stuff please scan them and email them to: vicky.osborn@idfg.idaho.gov or drop them off with Sharon Clark at the headquarters Fisheries office or at a regional office.

Please label the photo and then include a text document with any information you have on the picture . . . who or what it is, who took it, date, location? Also your name . . . who submitted it.

Below are the parameters from Eric Stansbury for submitting and/or scanning historical photos to be used in the 75th Anniversary account for our website. Remember, if they are not Department photos, we must have written permission to use them.

To Submit Images

If you have images you would like us to consider for addition to the library, please use the following guidelines:

DO NOT send images that are copyrighted to sources other than IDFG. All images submitted are assumed to be **DEPARTMENT PROPERTY** (taken on work time with department equipment) and free for agency-wide use.

There is always the option to send us your sorted, quality slides to be scanned. They will be safely returned.

If you scan your own slides, scan clean, dust-free images at 300 ppi at 6 x 4 inches. Save in TIF format. This is optimal for use at that size or smaller to produce quality printed material like brochures, yet can be compressed to JPG format for screen use like PowerPoint or WEB.

If you are taking digital pictures, set the camera resolution at MEDIUM HIGH or better if possible. We are looking for an

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a newsletter for
IDFG Retirees/Families
and
Former Employees
is published
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All donations
should be made payable to
IDF&G Retirees and
sent to the above address.

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image of about 1800 x 1200 pixels at 300 ppi, which converts to our optimal "for print" archive size of 6 x 4 inches in TIF format, around 6 MB in file size, large enough to serve as an archive for many future applications). RAW files can be converted to TIF as well.

Also, Ben Studer, the Director of Web and Digital Communications is revamping the department's website. He says, "This is the first of a series of updates on changes happening to the website and digital communications. Our web team was embarked on an ambitious 100-day plan that includes photo galleries and technology infrastructure changes. The core of the plan surrounds making the website work for you and for our customers."

Some of the changes being made are to the Photo Gallery, which will include promoting public participation with the department and collecting stories about wild-life experiences. It now features hunting success but it will eventually include a wide variety of photos.

The "Seen and Heard" section is a blog "pilot" which gives a casual way to share outdoor news stories that are relevant to Idaho. Blogging will play a larger role on this website.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration will have a special place on the website. If you have a computer, please take a minute and check some of the content including: Historical timeline, Wild Game recipes, archived photos, and classic videos.

Must Read!!!

If you haven't read *Tony Latham's* book, "Trafficking," you are missing a great adventure. I couldn't put it down and read it in one day And, I missed a meal, too. Since I recognized or knew most of the people in the book, it made it all the more interesting. And if you didn't know, Hawley Hill, a former Chief of the Enforcement Bureau was Tony's great uncle.

Can't wait to get this newsletter done so I can read Tony's nonfiction book, "Five Fingers." It is a mystery/thriller about a small town Idaho game warden chasing a real bad, bad guy. Here is a bit of the book: "In less than a month, the small community of Challis, Idaho has seen a string of bloody and wasted deer carcasses left in the snow. Game warden Charley Cove spurred by his Salish upbringing to respect all things as part of the great circle of life, struggles to discover and stop what he suspects are poachers, but ends up becoming intertwined in a darkness he could not have envisioned."

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Must Read, cont. from Page 2

Also, **Donna Dillon**, Bureau of Communication retiree, gives rave reviews for all of Tony's books. She said she couldn't sleep after reading his last book which kept her up until after 3 a.m. I hope this inspires you to buy his books. **Amazon.com** is your best bet.

Welcome New Retirees!

Wow! Lots of folks retiring this time. **Bruce Palmer**, Magic Valley's Regional Wildlife Biologist, retired November 15 after 35 years of service. **John "Jay" Crenshaw**, Clearwater Region Regional Wildlife Manager, retired December 17 after 28 years. **Niels Nokkentved**, Public Information Specialist with the Bureau of Communications, retired December 31 after 8 years. **Melo Maiolie**, Panhandle Regional Fishery Biologist, retired December 31 after 28 years. **Connie Hay**, Administrative Assistant 1 with the Caldwell Health Lab, retired January 1, 2014 after 6 ½ years. **John Heggen**, Enforcement Bureau Chief, is retiring Jan. 31 after 25 ½ years of service.

Also, would like to welcome for a second time, **Don Carr**, who has retired from his second job, Bonner County Veterans Service Officer. And we welcome former

employees **George Stephens and Tom Poczalski** to our retiree/former employee contacts.

A Follow-up Report from the Philippines

(If you read the story in the July 2013 issue about Dr. Geoff Williams' help for the unfortunate folks from the Philippines, this will bring you the latest update. I tried to condense the submission but . . . well, you will see why I couldn't!)

"Well, our surgeries here in Kabankalan are over and we are now seeing patients in follow-up. Maybe our best highlight from this mission is Pinky. I first met Pinky 3 ½ years ago. I was up in the mountains seeing a patient that had some problems with healing. I was coming back to the city, riding on the back of a motorcycle when I looked over and rapidly passed what I thought was a girl with a hole in her face. I went back only to find the girl had disappeared.

I went up to the house and looked in and saw a bunch of kids. When I talked to the kids they said the girl I was looking for was in a back room. I went back to the poorly lit room and found a little girl crouching in the corner. I dangled a bag of M&Ms in front of her and she quickly snatched them away from me and sunk back into the shadows. She had a tattered dress and stringy hair and no shoes and

had a very wide bilateral cleft lip. As I was leaving, one of the girls in the front room said "her name is Pinky." Before I got back on the motorcycle, I jotted down directions on how to come back and invite Pinky to a future mission.

Unfortunately, I soon thereafter discovered that I had lost the paper with the directions. For the next couple of years I hoped that Pinky would be there in the hospital clinic room waiting to be scheduled for surgery -- but no luck. Then, last February, I saw a face that looked familiar and in an instant I knew in my mind that this was Pinky.

I looked at her chart and, sure enough, there it was "Pinky Mangata, age 11! Unfortunately, a huge number of kids had come for surgery at that time and we had already filled up our slots. As a fix, we scheduled a follow-up mission for this month (the mission we just completed) and gave Pinky a date.

Pinky's surgery date was July 17 and the surgery, due to the complexity of Pinky's deformity, took 6 ½ hours. I had to cut a bone in the middle of Pinky's palate in order to place the center bone in a better position. All went well, however. We had to give Pinky some special fortified drink mix in order to help her

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postoperative healing in view of her malnourished state. Four days after surgery on a Sunday, we discharged Pinky and her father with two cans of the special protein formula. Incidentally, Pinky's mother had died a few years earlier -- so her father was the primary care giver.

As I contemplated, Pinky and her father were living in a very indigent situation and I decided to accompany them to their house. So, off we went; me, Pinky and her dad and our three nurses -- altogether in the bus. When we arrived at the bus stop, we had to take two tricycles to get into the region where Pinky lives. After leaving the tricycle, we set off on foot -- on a dirt road that was obviously impassable to any vehicle. It consisted of nearly knee-deep mud interspersed with boulders -- and winded in and around sugar cane fields.

A few seconds after we took off on the road it began to rain. The rain turned into a real tropical squall. The three nurses had to take their shoes off in order to continue. The American nurse had to walk bit by bit, leaning on Pinky's dad's back and me holding her up from behind by a belt loop on her pants (she could not keep her feet under her in the slippery mess). Within a few seconds we all became

completely drenched. At times, the road was so impassable we had to walk through the cane field (like walking through a high standing corn field, although the cane blades were sharp and cut our arms and fingers). Several times I considered turning back but kept thinking that Pinky's house was right around the corner.

We walked for about 45 minutes at a snail's pace in the downpour. Eventually, Pinky's father left the road and we began following a barely visible trail through the jungle. Soon I saw what looked like a lean-to on the right. It looked so insignificant that I hoped it was not Pinky's house. I was disappointed to reach the hut and to discover that this was indeed Pinky's home. It was partially caved-in and only a portion about the size of our bathroom at home was covered from the rain.

Pinky's siblings were cooking some rice gruel on an open fire in the sheltered part of the hut. It was just about the most impoverished living setting I have ever seen -- mud floor, open walls. The only merciful thing was that the roof over the small intact living area was water tight and the down pour was not getting in. After a few minutes, I left some money with the father and the team set out into the rain again. Fortunately the rain had let up and all we had to contend with was the indescribable "road." On

the way back we again walked through the cane field to avoid the deep mud and rocks. Pinky's dad again accompanied us back and provided a support for our American nurse to lean on. She had started to suffer a meat tenderizing effect on her feet due to the rocks that she encountered, but at one point said that the large mud collections on the bottom of her feet were acting almost as shoes, providing some protection.

We eventually reached the pavement at which time Pinky's father got a pail of water from a house and cleaned the caked mud off of our feet. We had a fairly uneventful ride back on the tricycles and then the bus, although I felt down a bit as I thought of the destitute conditions I had left my little patient in.

Pinky and her father kept their follow-up appointment last week and all appeared to be well with a pretty reasonable result. Our American nurse took a picture of Pinky on her cell phone and showed it to her. Pinky then grabbed the phone and looked closer at the image of herself, which indicated that they did not have a mirror and she had not yet seen her new face. She was still swollen to the point of not being able to make much of a facial expression but the look in her

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eyes seemed to reveal that she liked what she saw. Anyway, we could use some prayers for Pinky and her family -- and for Pinky's healing in that circumstance in which she is living. *(It takes something like this to make a person realize how fortunate we are. — JJJ)*

Retiree Updates

Was so happy to hear from **Gerald "Jerry" King**. Hadn't heard from him since his retirement. He says that "retirement has been great and best job I ever had and longer than anything else; almost 89 (years old) now and counting, should make 100 at least." Jerry was upset that the Forest Service hadn't sent in a rescue helicopter to bring **Bill Hickey's** body out of the Bighorn Crags (*ref: October 2013 issue of newsletter*). Bill was a Senior Wildlife Research Biologist with the department from June 1965 until June 1984.

Frank and Judy NeSmith have been battling some health problems the last couple of years. Frank says, "About four years ago Judy had back surgery that helped her pain immensely. Then the next spring she had her gall bladder removed after our doctor suspected it was the cause of all

her 'food poisonings.' It turned out to be working at only a 15% level. When they took it out, it was stuffed with stones and sludge that never showed up on the original X-rays. She's had those symptoms for about 25 years, but it took the right doctor to get it right." . . . Since then, Judy has had foot surgery, two back surgeries and had to go through four weeks of rehabilitation and is now back to a swimming regime three times a week with Frank standing guard.

"She's doing fairly well now except that she can't stand up very long. Her stamina has been very slow to return. Her mood and attitude are usually good, though, even as I remain mostly the chief cook and bottle washer. She's now 70, I turned 71 in October and 49th wedding anniversary was August 21. Right now my main priority in life is looking after her."

"I've had my own back problems but nothing as bad as hers. So far, epidural shots have taken care of the majority of my problems. I had a kidney stone extraction last summer that went well . . . I saw a poem once about the Golden Years. I remember it ending with ' . . . the Golden Years can kiss my a--!' I second that emotion!" *(Well, you know Frank, that it does take a "Gold Mine" to survive these great Golden Years!)* Anyway, you and

Judy keep hanging in there. When I have enough room left in the newsletter, I will include one of Frank's latest stories about the earthquake that hit Boise 30 years ago.

Jack Fisher forwarded some information about **Roger and Norma McCormack** in Reno, Nevada. Norma is going through chemotherapy again for her cancer. It is working and the tumor is shrinking. "Roger is doing good, just a little slower. We still keep up with our groups of friends with cribbage, poker, bridge, bunco and casino blackjack tournaments and slots. Some weeks get very busy."

In Memoriam

Melvin Britt Branch

July 19, 1928 - June 22, 2013

Melvin Britt Branch, 84, passed away peacefully at his North Idaho home on June 22, 2013. Melvin enlisted in the Navy serving in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant and served on six ships, including the USS Coral Sea CVA-43, in his 22 year career with the Navy.

After his retirement from the Navy, Melvin joined the IDFG in 1970 as Region 1 Land Manager where he supervised the operations of the McArthur Lake

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Wildlife Management Area and sportsmen access sites. He was a Land Manager until his retirement in 1991; he worked with sportsman groups and private citizens in Bonner and Boundary Counties, as well as 4-H, Boise Scouts and school groups.

Melvin is survived by his wife Anne Lindstrom-Branch; sister Letha Harris of Neosho, Kansas; brother Marion Branch of Prescott, Arizona; brother Edward Branch of Plainsville, Kansas; and brother Lemuel Branch of Dewey, Oklahoma.

A memorial service will be planned for a later date at the Washington State Veteran's Cemetery, Medical Lake, Washington. Charitable donations in Melvin's honor can be made to: Bonner Community Hospice, 520 N. 3rd Avenue, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864.

Alexander W. Bruner **January 12, 1934 -** **October 12, 2013**

Alexander W. Bruner passed away October 12 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Al served eight years in the U.S. Airforce and Army Reserve before moving to Market Lake from Stockton, California to

begin his 28-year (1956-1984) career with IDFG. After his retirement from his final duty station, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, he started a new business: St. Maries Wild Rice. After selling his business, he retired and became a courier for local banks and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Al is survived by his wife Judith; three sons, Michael Bruner, Steven Bruner and Bradley; and one daughter, Julia Anne Knapp; numerous grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Mel's ashes were placed at Killarney Lake. Donations in Al's name may be made to North Idaho Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) at 816 Sherman Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815.

James Arthur Lau **February 5, 1946 -** **October 25, 2013**

Memorial services were held for *James Arthur Lau* November 5, 2013 at Relyea Funeral Chapel. Jim passed away after a battle with an incurable autoimmune liver disease. Jim retired from his position as Chief of Administration after eight years of service. Jim had an illustrious career over the years. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Goodrich and was later assigned to Naval Reconnaissance and Technical Support Center in

Washington, DC. He was discharged from active duty in 1969.

Jim received a Bachelor of Science degree with high honors from the University of Maryland, was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant by the State of Maryland. Jim began his business career with Ernst and Ernst in Washington, DC, then became Director of Corporate Accounting for Marriott Corporation, followed by a brief period as Chief Financial Officer of the Oxford Development Corporation.

After a brief visit to Idaho with his wife, Linda Falconburg (who was formerly from Jerome), he fell in love with the state and they sold their home in Maryland and moved to Idaho where he worked for Mid Mountain Data Systems in Boise. When the company closed, he became Chief Financial Officer for Jackson Food Stores for a short time, then began his career with IDFG as Chief of Administration. He retired in 2012.

Memorial donations may be made in Jim's name to the Idaho Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 2254, Boise, Idaho 83701.

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**Nile Earl Darling
January 9, 1923 -
December 10, 2013**

Nile Earl Darling passed away on Dec. 10, 2013 at the age of 90. Nile was a Construction Supervisor in Salmon from June 1, 1972 to June 30, 1985. Nile served in the US Marine Corps from November 1942 until November 1945. He was a tank mechanic and a tank crewman and was sent overseas in support of WWII. During his tours he participated in many battles including Roi-Namur, Siapan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved fishing with his buddies. He is survived by his brother, Grant Darling and wife Vivian; two daughters; six grandkids, 16 great grandkids, 4 great-great grandkids; as well as many nieces and nephews. Donations in Nile's name can be made to the Wounded Warriors Foundation, c/o Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, P.O. Box 730, Payette, ID 83661.

Brent DeShon

**October 30, 1964 -
December 24, 2013**

Brent Allen DeShon, son of Retired Region 6 Habitat Manager *Frank DeShon and wife Barbara*, passed away in a snow-mobiling accident December 24. Brent worked for the Bonneville County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff for 15 years. He was also a horse trainer and farrier, a coil tubing operation in the North Dakota oil fields and he was a cowboy poet. He is survived by his parents, Frank and Barbara DeShon, 639 N. Foothill Rd., Idaho Falls, ID 83401; wife Michelle; two daughters; two sons; and three grandchildren and another one on the way.

Donations may be made to the Brent DeShon Memorial Fund at any Idaho Central Credit Union in Brent's name.

Our deepest sympathies for all the families of our dear departed ones.

Henry Milt Reeves

Former IDFG employee, *Henry Milt Reeves* of Amity, Oregon passed away February 1, 2013. I have no further information other than his widow, Marilyn Reeves, notified us to remove her husband's name from our mailing list.

Editor's Apology

I just want to apologize for this newsletter's appearance. It is not one of my best, but as usual, my software is acting up again. So, I hope by the next issue I will have my new software set up and that I can wrap my so-called "MIND" around it!!! — JJF

Belated Happy Birthday

Mel Hughes, December 4

Belated Happy Anniversary

Frank and Judy NeSmith, 49 years, August 21

Happy Birthday!

January Birthdays

Jack McNeel, January 4

Clay Cummins, January 6

Margaret Whipple, January 7

Jody Taylor, January 13

Grant Christensen, January 18

Tom Parker, January 21

Ray Lyon, & Perry Johnson, January 28

Martin Luther, January 29

February Birthdays

Wes Cannon & Dave Ortmann, February 1

Greg Tourtotte, February 4

Gerald Scholten, February 12

Barbara Alverson, February 13

Tom Rogers, February 16

John Nagel, February 19

Chuck Jensen, February 20

Bernice Howell, February 24 (86 years)

Doyle Reynolds, February 25

March Birthdays

Terry Holubetz, March 3

Bruce Penske, March 4

Jerry Thiessen, March 6

Ken Norrie, March 9

Bill Hutchison, March 24

Cheryl Bridges, March 25

John Gahl, March 28

Cathy Kopke, March 28

Jack Fisher, March 30, 89 years

March Anniversaries

Ruby & Tony Tolsma, March 7, 44 years

Al & Sue Van Vooren, March 14, 3 years