

“Keeping in Touch”

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

July-September, 2016, Vol. 12, No. 3

Dates to Remember

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

**2016
July 14
September 8
November 10**

**Panhandle
Coffee Breaks
First Tuesday
of Each Month**

Mark Your Calendars

Idaho Fish and Game Commissioner Rips Lawmakers, Won't Reapply

By Eric Barker, The Lewiston Tribune

Idaho Fish and Game Commissioner *Mark Doerr* accused state legislators Friday of interjecting politics into the agency. The one-term commissioner from Kimberly announced he won't reapply for his position. "We serve at the pleasure of the governor," Doerr said, "and if he wanted to reappoint me, he would do that."

Doerr and *Commissioner Will Naillon*, of Challis, were both notified by the office of Gov. Butch Otter earlier this month that he would not reappoint them to their positions. Otter's decision was widely seen as political retribution for the commission's refusal to make it easier for wealthy hunters to win coveted big game tags and for refusing to allow large landowners to sell hunting tags. During this year's legislative session, Sen. Steve Bair, R-Blackfoot, and Rep. Mike Moyle, R-Star, sponsored legislation that would have forced the commission to offer a number of big game hunting tags for auction. The bill was printed by the Senate Natural Resources Committee but never received a hearing.

At the same time, the commission considered but rejected adopting additional auction tags beyond the one annual bighorn sheep tag that is sold to the highest bidder. Doerr said the politicians wanted the commission to pass something lawmakers didn't have the political capital to push through the Legislature.

"After several meetings with legislative leadership, it became abundantly clear that they wanted the commission to do their dirty work for them by changing commission policy," he said in a lengthy statement. "The commission did not change policy due to the overwhelming input of the sportsmen of Idaho to maintain the current policy. The legislators were not happy and it is unfortunate their influence impacted the governor's decision on commission reappointments."

Doerr urged legislative leaders to respect the 1938 citizens initiative that created the commission as a way to insulate fish and wildlife management from politics. He also asked them to steer clear of bills in the next session that would force the commission and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to sell more auction tags and institute a system that would allow hunters to receive extra chances at winning tags in the state's annual controlled hunt drawing or landowners to sell hunting tags.

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sent to the above address.**

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"The personal, political and financial gain offered by special interests must be intoxicating for those in leadership in the Idaho Legislature because they continually ignore the will of the majority of their constituents, in this case, the sportsmen of Idaho," Doerr said.

Doerr said he is confident that the remaining commissioners and those who are appointed to take his and Naillon's place will continue to represent hunters, anglers and wildlife. He said he will accept an offer to serve on a committee that will make a recommendation on his replacement.

Read more here: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/environment/article80605277.html#storylink=cpy>.

A History of A Wonderful Commissioner

By Sharon Clark

Former Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Richard Hansen has recently passed away. (See obituary on Page 5)

It was in May 1985 when Governor Evans announced the appointment of Richard Hansen of Bayview, to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission, succeeding Pete Thompson of Sandpoint. *Richard Hansen received widespread support from a broad cross-section of interests, including representatives of environmental and conservation groups. I am confident he will be a fine addition to the Commission, the Governor said.* Commissioner Hansen would go on to be reappointed for a second term, serving Idaho until 1997.

In 2013, while celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the 1938 Voter Initiative, we asked former commissioners about serving as a member of the Commission. Here is how Commissioner Hansen responded (responses are shown as received and have not been edited):

- *1. *Why did you choose to serve on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and would you do it again?* In 1985 the F&G and Governor Evans was being hammered by the legislature on timber and ag interests because they supported expanding wilderness. I had a personal issue with that. My feeling was they had every right to support what they considered right. I had no experience or background in sportsmen clubs and not much knowledge of the F&G. Having spent most of my life as a forester in close association with wildlife and fish in the field, I felt pretty well prepared for the challenge. I spent some time visiting our local legislators from both parties and got on the Governor's short list. After a personal interview with Governor Evans I got lucky and received the appointment. I considered it a privilege and would do it again.

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Commissioner Hansen, Continued from Page 2

- *2. *What is the most memorable event or decision you were involved with while serving as a Commissioner?* I can't pick out just one. If a Commissioner stands by the code to protect and propagate the resource as I tried to do, there are many memorable events. I spent almost a year on the Commission before being confirmed by the Senate. Senator Budge took issue to me being an Independent. The process got pretty scary as I had enjoyed my year. Thanks to Senator Laird Ney and Senator Reed I made it. After 12 years on the Commission I can't recall one issue involving a political party. Not even a discussion. It's about fish and wildlife. Mountain Home bombing range. The Department and Commission opposed expansion of the range and Governor Andrus supported the expansion. We were probably a small part of the expansion failure but took most of the blame; especially from him. Think he's just now getting over it. A letter from Governor Batt to resign was received by all Commissioners. None of us accepted. At the next Commission meeting, the Capital building was inundated by sportsmen. I was Chairman at the time and called to his office. After much discussion he remarked: "Think I have to eat crow." Go out and tell them you can stay on. I always admired him for that. I worked hard to expand Fish and Game wildlife management areas, especially Craig Mountain and Snow Peak; to a lesser extent Tex Creek and Andrus. I tried to involve myself as a Commissioner to expanding and funding our wildlife management areas.
- *3. *What advice would you give to future Commissioners?* None unless asked. If asked to answer! If you think you could help. Might add where I thought I was a miserable failure as a Commissioner.
- *4. *Looking ahead, what do you see as the key challenge(s) facing the Department?* No brainer; money. Can't move and maintain without capital. Sportsmen and women probably can't carry much more. My dream is a strong professional fund raiser in the Foundation. There is a lot of wealth in Idaho, and its citizens have a strong commitment to fish and game.
- *5. *How do you think Fish and Game will look 25 years from now; how will hunting and fishing be different from today? If the sportsmen and women remain strong and keep politics out of the system I can't see much difference 25 years from now. Unless agriculture methods change bird hunting; won't be good except on WMAs. If more money were put into the WMAs, it would help. Big game can hold its own. Sometimes I think the sportsmen and women are their own worst enemy.*

* * * * *

Editor's Note: The reason I included the two previous articles was to point out that we did have some very good Commissioners. Now politics is definitely trying to rip away all the Department and the Commission stands for.

Realism Runs Deep in Series from Idaho Author

Well, *Tony Latham* has really made a name for himself. Heather Grevatt, Assistant Professor and Librarian for Boise State University's Albertson's Library wrote a fantastic review of Tony's book for the Idaho Statesman. If you haven't read his books yet (Five Fingers and Seven Dead Fish), I strongly recommend you do it. Any new ones out yet, Tony?

Another Writer You Should Know About

By Karen Huber

The other retirees (Statewide) may be interested to know *Vaughn Paragamian* (retired) just published his first novel (of sorts) called "They Sleep with the Fishes." It is a series of true stories of his family's involvement with the Mob back in southern Wisconsin, Waukegan and Chicago area during the Great Depression. It has a touch of Italian history and culture, too. He ties the stories together with two key characters and carries the book to the end with a mystery. Several goons do get whacked in the book (true) because they didn't know Vaughn's grandfather was friends with a Godfather type Mob Boss before they tried to extort him and try something even more heinous. A story he never told anyone up until a few years ago, is a cousin tried to bring him into his gang when Vaughn was in undergrad school. The book is available from Lulu Publishing, Lulu.com under fiction in the mystery crime category. Or he has the book for \$12. (If you want to purchase the book directly from Vaughan, (which I did) his address is 6399 S. Tall Pines Road,

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814. I'm sorry Vaughn but I have not had time to read your book yet. It's on my list as #1 — JJF)

After publishing 60 papers in scientific journals and editing three symposia proceedings, Vaughn's love of writing and story telling had to find a literary outlet in retirement. He is presently working on a sequel but that won't come out for at least a year.

Vaughn L. Paragamian retired from IDFG in 2011 after spending 21 years working in North Idaho. He was born January 1, 1945 in Kenosha, Wisconsin where he lived with his Italian grandparents several years. He later moved a few miles north to Racine and when he was young spent many days with his Armenian Grandmother. Vaughn spent most of his free time on the Root River while growing up. In school, he enjoyed athletic sports, fishing and hunting — but not academics. He started working at age 14 for a farmer. After working in factories several summers he was inspired to finally apply himself and holds a BS from Iowa State University and an MS from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He is a veteran having served in the Army from 1969-1971. He spent 42 years as a fisheries scientist and has the nickname "The Codfather." Vaughn lives with his wife Beth and dogs Daisy and Enrico near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He has three married children: Laura, Jon and Karin and five grandchildren.

(Thank you, Karen, for your article. I need all the help I can get! — JJF)

Welcome New Retirees!

Whew! So many folks retiring! Well, welcome to the group and hope you still wish to be a part of the Retirees/Former Employees group. If you do, please send in the postcard you receive with this newsletter with the information asked for or just write across it that you wish to be excluded.

**Don Beck*, Recreation Site Maintenance Foreman, Clearwater Region, retired May 20, after 24 years of IDFG service.

**Jim Davis*, IT Programmer Analyst with the Information Systems Bureau, retired May 31, after 33 years of service.

**Eric Leitzinger*, Natural Resource Program Coordinator, Fisheries Bureau, retired June 30, after 29 years of service.

**Paul Wackenhut*, Wildlife Regional Habitat Manager, Southeast Region, is retiring July 15, after 33 years of service.

**Roy Kinner*, Sr. Conservation Officer, Clearwater Region, is retiring July 16, after 28 years of service.

**Brad George*, Fish Hatchery Assistant Manager, Clearwater Fish Hatchery, is retiring July 30, after 34 years of service.

**Steve Schmidt*, Regional Supervisor, Upper Snake Region, is retiring August 16, after 30 years of service.

**Daniel Kelsey*, Sr. Conservation Officer, Idaho Falls Patrol Area, is retiring September 16, after 11 years of service.

Retirees/Former Employees Update

It seems that every time I go somewhere, someone asks me how **Bill Platts** was doing. Well, here is his reply: "I sure appreciate you and others wondering how I am doing. I almost made it to our luncheon last week, but fizzled out at the last minute. I need to get with it and quit worrying about how old I am getting. I do miss seeing everyone.

"Some of us old fish and game retirees (Rip-Lips Group) just had our annual fishing outing at C. J. Strike last week and a lot of old fish and game historic stories were told around the campfires. The stories get bigger and bolder each year and some things are added and other things are forgotten. We all had a great time, stayed sober, (*really?* — *JJF*) and got up early to go fishing.

"I am starting to get ready (*I am so puny I do not work out anymore if it's below 65 degrees F.*) for the 2016 USA National Track and Field Championships and this year I am trying to do something different. I have never participated in a Decathlon before, so my goal is to break the World and American records in the Decathlon at the coming National Championships. I have many goals I have not attained so do not count on it! If I do well I will let you know. I have to learn how to pole vault, jump over a whole bunch of high hurdles at high speed, and run the half mile without passing out before I even think about breaking the records. It will be a few weeks of agony before I will know I have this type of talent. If I do not have this talent I will back off and spend the

summer in the high mountain lakes with Blue.

"Many thanks for thinking about me and I will make more effort to get to the luncheons so I can keep better track of my "old" friends.
— Bill Platts"

Some very good news! My great friend, **Corinne Barlow**, has been battling lung and brain cancer for some time and she has been suffering through radiation treatments and all the repercussion from these treatments. But now, thank God, she is in remission and trying to get back to her real life. Love you, Corinne. You are still in our thoughts and prayers!!

It seems that **Gary Ady** just can't stay away from IDFG for long. He notified me in March that he had gone back to work for four months and will be retiring for a third time. He hopes to be able to attend some of our luncheons in the future. *Gary, I never did hear from Walt Rast. If he wants to be included in the Retirees' functions, he will have to notify me.*

A welcome back to **Jane Kress**, former Administration employee. She left Fish and Game 30 years ago and now has moved back to Boise from Pennsylvania on May 1. Her husband, Clae, passed away almost 20 years ago, and her son, Mike, is on his own so she came home. She had seen the Newsletter and wanted to be sure she could attend the Retirees' luncheon and catch up with all her department friends.

Let Us Remember

Richard J. "Dick" Hansen
1929 - 2016

Richard J. "Dick" Hansen, 86, passed away March 20, 2016 at his home in Bayview, Idaho surrounded by his loving family and his faithful golden retrieve Buddy, aka "Old Yeller." A Memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sandpoint on April 7.

Dick was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin to Richard and Mary Hansen. He was an Eagle Scout as a teenager and after graduating from high school he set his sights on becoming a forester. He figured heading West would provide him with a great opportunity to pursue his dream; after all, the West was full of timber and seemingly endless possibilities. So, with \$35 in his wallet, Dick and a friend set off to hitchhike the 1,634 mile journey to the West, heading for the "Big Tree Country" of Idaho and Montana.

Dick enrolled at the University of Montana in Missoula and while attending college he worked log drives on the Clearwater River or any other logging job he could find to help pay for his college education. Dick graduated in 1953 with his B.S. degree in Forestry. After graduating, he was hired as a forester by Potlatch Forests, Inc., and he moved to Lewiston, Idaho to pursue his lifelong dream. Lewiston is where he met his wife, Shirley, and they were married on December 31, 1955. The newlyweds headed to Coeur d'Alene where Dick went to work for the

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Ohio Match Company which later became known as Diamond International. In 1961, Dick started his own forestry consulting business. He and his family moved to Bayview in 1963 where he started his business, Edgewater Timber Services. During this time he managed timber properties in Idaho, Montana, Washington and Alaska.

Dick served on the Lakeland School Board, served as President of the Bayview Chamber of Commerce and on the Kootenai County Waterways Advisory Committee and taught Vocational Forestry at North Idaho College for a number of years. He also developed the Bitter End Sailboat Marina in Bayview which currently provides moorage for nearly 200 sailboats.

In May 1985, Governor John Evans appointed Dick to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for a 6-year term and he was reappointed to a second 6-year term in 1991 by Governor Cecil Andrus. He served two years as Chairman of the Commission in 1988 and 1994. He made many lifelong friends while serving with IDFG and he said that he had met some of the most dedicated and hard-working personnel that he had ever worked with. He served the public and the Department while being a staunch supporter for local sportsmen's interests and a strong advocate for North Idaho.

Dick is survived by his wife of 60 years, Shirley; his brother Tom (Linda) Hansen; his children Greg (Debbie) Hansen, Chris (Cindy)

Hansen, Cami (Mark) Duclos, Shiraz (Sigrid) Vira; his seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; his two nephews; a great nephew and great niece, as well as many extended family members. In Dick's memory, donations may be made to the Bayview Community Center, P.O. Box 493, Bayview, ID 83803, or to Hospice of North Idaho.

Robert L. Vaughn

September 30, 1928 - October 15, 2015

Services were held at Alsip and Persons Funeral Chapel in Nampa on October 21 for Robert Lindsey Vaughn Sr. He was 87 years old.

Robert was born to the late Harry and Lucile Vaughn on September 30, 1928 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Robert was blessed with a large and loving family. He married his sweetheart, Roberta Jones on August 29, 1958 in Potlatch, Idaho and together they raised 5 children.

Robert graduated from Almond High School in 1946 and shortly after, at the age of 17, he moved to Pocatello, Idaho where he worked for both Kraft Cheese and the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1949, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a tank mechanic stateside and in Germany and was honorably discharged in 1952.

Robert began his college career in 1953 at Washington State University studying veterinary medicine. In 1956, the love of the outdoors led him to logging the mountains of Northern Idaho and in 1960 he opened the Potlatch Auto Body Repair shop. In 1964, Robert

began his productive 24-year career with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as the superintendent of various statewide fish hatcheries. In 1968, he finished his college career at Boise State University with a B.S. in Zoology. In 1988, he retired working as a Superintendent 3 at the Hagerman State Fish Hatchery. He was an active member in the American Legion Post 18 after moving to Nampa and served the Nampa/Kuna rural community as a custom farmer until the age of 84. Robert was an avid Idaho hunting and fishing sportsman and loved his annual salmon fishing trips on the Oregon Coast.

Robert is survived by his wife, Roberta, his children, Loree (Landis) Haulman, Joe Vaughn, Janet (Mike) Zadar, Jay (Cassie) Vaughn, Rob (Melanie) Vaughn; 12 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; 3 sisters, Elinor Jones, Mary Bucholtz, and Nancy Burns of Wisconsin. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Harry and Pete Vaughn and his sister, Charlotte Zimmerman. Donations in Robert's memory may be made to the American Legion or the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

Al Kiler

June 13, 1920 - April 24, 2016
Former IDFG Employee, *Al Kiler*, passed of natural causes April 24. Graveside services were held May 2 at the Idaho Veteran's Cemetery. Al was born in Boise, Idaho June 13, 1920 to William J. and Emma Isaak Kiler. He graduated from Boise High School in 1938.

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He attended Boise Junior College, graduating in 1941 and played on one of the college's football teams.

In 1941, he went to work for Morrison Knudsen Company on Midway Island, building airfields and harbor facilities. He was at Midway when the Japanese attacked the island and Pearl Harbor. He joined the Army Air Corps and served in Hawaii as a military occupation specialist relocating personnel from battle-fractured units.

Al graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Wildlife Biology. He returned to Boise and worked for six years for IDFG as a bird biologist in Boise and eastern Idaho. He resigned to accept a position with the Idaho Department of Employment (then Employment Security Agency). During that time, he earned his Masters degree in counseling from Idaho State University, retiring in 1981. Al was active in the Eagle Scouts, the Ban-nock County Sportsman Assoc-iation, Ada County Fish and Game

League, Idaho Bird Hunters, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Elks and the Poachers Club.

Al was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Josephine; his parents, his sister, Coleen Hall; his son-in-law, Steven Jensen; and grandson, William Bradley Doane. He is survived by his children: Keith (Gayle), Lynn Dee Jensen, Kay, Kirk (Olga) and Kelly; brother-in-law, Edward Foster; sisters-in-law, Patricia Lewis and Betty (Kenny) Hames; his seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren and may nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made in Al's memory to the MK Nature Center or BSU Alumni Scholarship Fund.

(I had the privilege of working with Al on my first secretarial job at the Department of Employment — 1958-1962. During that time, I was on Al's bowling team sponsored by the department. He had to teach me how to bowl because I had never bowled before. We had a lot of fun and it was a real pleasure to know him. He will be missed very much. — JJF)

Virgie Dean Taylor

March 8,. 1935 May 10, 2016
Services for *Virgie Dean Taylor*, who passed away at the age of 81 on May 10, were held at the Hagerman United Methodist Church May 16. She was the wife of Retiree Ralph Taylor and mother of current employee Kenny Taylor.

Virgie was born in Picher, Oklahoma and later moved with her family to the Ozarks. She attended school in Blue Eye, Missouri where she met Ralph Taylor. They married in Berry Ville, Arkansas on February 13, 1952. They moved to Idaho in 1954 and settled in Hagerman in 1959 where her family still resides.

She is survived by her husband, Ralph; children, Kenneth (Sharlene) Taylor, Gene (Ann) Taylor, and Pat Taylor; six grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her infant son, Jimmy Taylor; her parents, her step-dad, Sam Cron; two brothers and one sister. Memorial donations may be made in Virgie's name to the animal shelter of your choice.

Anniversaries

July

Dan & Gail Papp, July 19, 48 years

August

Tom & Becky Rogers, August 20
Frank & Judy NeSmith, August 21, 52 years

September

Milt & Beverly Williams, September, 64 years

Happy Birthday!!!

July Birthdays

Larry Hlavaty & Paul Sommerfeld, July 1
Butch Welch, July 3
John Scott & Phyllis Kochert, July 9
John Beecham & Lois Lunday, July 10
Fred Christensen, July 14
Sharon Clark* & Joe Blackburn, July 15
Rod Duke, July 22
Brad Christensen, July 24, 81 years
Jo Toomey & Steve Barton, July 25
Wayne Melquist, July 28
Dale Tankersley, July 29
Diane Ronayne & Dale Towell, July 30

August Birthdays

Wanda Hays (Fenton's Widow), August 1
Monte Richards, August 1, 91 years
Jeff Copeland & Bert Bowler, August 4
Herb Pollard & Mick Hoover, August 5
Kris Van Cleave, August 14
Lonn Kuck & Will Reid, August 15
Frank Morgan, August 17
Dan Papp, August 20
Gary Will, Tom Reinecker & Keith Kiler, August 21
Norm Guth & Leon Strickland, August 26
Stacy Gebhards, August 31

September Birthdays

Rick Gilchrist, September 1
Bob Vaughn & Tom Leege, September 3
Al Van Vooren, September 4
Irene Powell, September 10 (87 years) & Dee Powell, September 1 (90 years)
Ted Chu, September 11
Phil Jeppson, September 13
Dwight Kilgore & Steve Pettit, September 15
Pam Sommer, September 18
Chuck Garey, September 20
Julie Mulholland* & Jim Keating, September 21
Vickie Keating, Mel Sadecki & Norma Stewart, September 22
Eldon Anglen, September 29