

US Forest Service in Red Feather Lakes Addendum #2 Photos from the Redfeather District Archives

Changing Ranger Districts and Changing Times

Since the creation of the Department of Agriculture in 1905, the number and location of Ranger Districts north of the Cache la Poudre Canyon has changed as national forests have changed in boundaries and downsized in staffing.

1905- The Manhattan and North Park Districts were formed as part of the original Medicine Bow Timberland Preserve. The first forest ranger appointed in the United States, Bill Kreutzer, reports to work in Colorado.



William R. "Bill"
Kreutzer

1910- The Timberland Preserve is divided into the Colorado and Medicine Bow National Forests.

1917- Manhattan and North Park Districts are joined by the Livermore District, created as a result of land added to the Forest.



1929- Laramie River District formed from the combination of the Livermore, Manhattan and part of the North Park Districts, and now headquartered at Red Feather Lakes.

1932- Colorado National Forest renamed the Roosevelt National Forest. North Park District goes with Routt National Forest.


1949- Redfeather District created as Laramie River District is divided.

1968- Redfeather District emerges as the Laramie River Districts combine.

1975- Roosevelt National Forest is combined with another and becomes the Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forests.

1998- Redfeather and Estes Poudre Districts combine to become the Canyon Lakes District.

REDFEATHER REUNION
JULY 30-31, 1988



**Celebrate the Red Feather Ranger Station's
 50th Anniversary**

- Historic display throughout July
- Fourth of July festivities in Red Feather & at the Ranger Station
- A reunion of U.S. Forest Service personnel, CCC's, and local residents on July 30 & 31

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Red Feather Ranger District
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50th Anniversary of the District, 1988

Red Feather plans 50th anniversary

The U.S. Forest Service will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its ranger station in Red Feather Lakes during July with an historic display at the old station and special events throughout the month.

The festivities will conclude with a Red Feather Reunion on July 30-31. It will bring together those who worked for the Forest Service, the Civilian Conservation Corps, longtime local residents and others with an interest in the area's history.

The ranger station's log structures were hand crafted and remain in excellent condition. With the help of the Grand Encampment Museum in Wyoming and district "alumni", the ranger station will take visitors back to forest management in the 1930s using old uniforms, tools, photos and demonstrations.

Displays in the Fort Collins museum and library will also echo the forest history theme. The Red Feather Reunion celebrates the legacy of buildings, trail, roads, reser-

voirs and recreation facilities built by the Forest Service, CCCs and early residents. Activities planned include a barbeque, pancake breakfast, music and lots of story-telling.

"We've contacted people from all over the country about the Red Feather Reunion and the response has been tremendous, but we still need to get the word out to those we may have missed," said District Ranger Donna Hepp. "The reunion is a celebration of the people who shaped the area's history. We're looking forward to learning the history from those that lived it."

July 22 is the deadline to register for the reunion.

Reunion guests of honor include an 82-year old ranger now living in British Columbia, the carpenter who led construction of the ranger station and a woman who spent 17 summers as fire lookout in the 1940s and 1950s.

Among the community events is a perfor-

mance of barbershop music on July 23 and a celebration marking the silver anniversary of Chapel of the Pines on July 24.

The reunion will be from noon to 8 p.m. July 30 with a barbeque at 4 p.m. The reunion pancake breakfast is scheduled from 7-11 a.m. on July 31.

The Deadman Fire Lookout Tower also will be open to the public for the first time in 15 years from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 30, offering a spectacular view of Northern Colorado.

Hepp said the Forest Service now uses aircraft rather than lookouts to spot fires. But she said it is interested in reopening the tower as an historic and recreational display if able to find a group willing to serve as volunteer hosts during summers.

For more information, stop by the Redfeather Ranger District office, 1635 Blue Spruce Drive, No. 101, in Fort Collins, 224-1375, or call 881-2758.



Contemporary photo (2018) of the Assistant Ranger's home where Ray and Sonja Mehaffey lived from July 1963 to July 1967. The house was heated with LP gas and firewood. Below is the District Ranger's house (2018).





Jul 5, 1949 Garage building, Redfeather Ranger Station.

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Jul 5, 1949 Ass't Ranger's Residence, Redfeather Ranger Station

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