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This Issue

A national effort to conserve heritage areas is proposed. The NPS spells out the provisions of its Heritage Partnership Initiative.

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New training opportunities are announced.

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Safe driving and protection of historic resources need not be mutually exclusive. The National Trust responds to a concern for preserving historic parkways.

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Cultural Resources Management
Information for
Parks, Federal Agencies,
Indian Tribes, States, Local
Governments and the
Private Sector



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Cultural Resources

Partners in Training and Preservation

USFS Preserves its Treasures

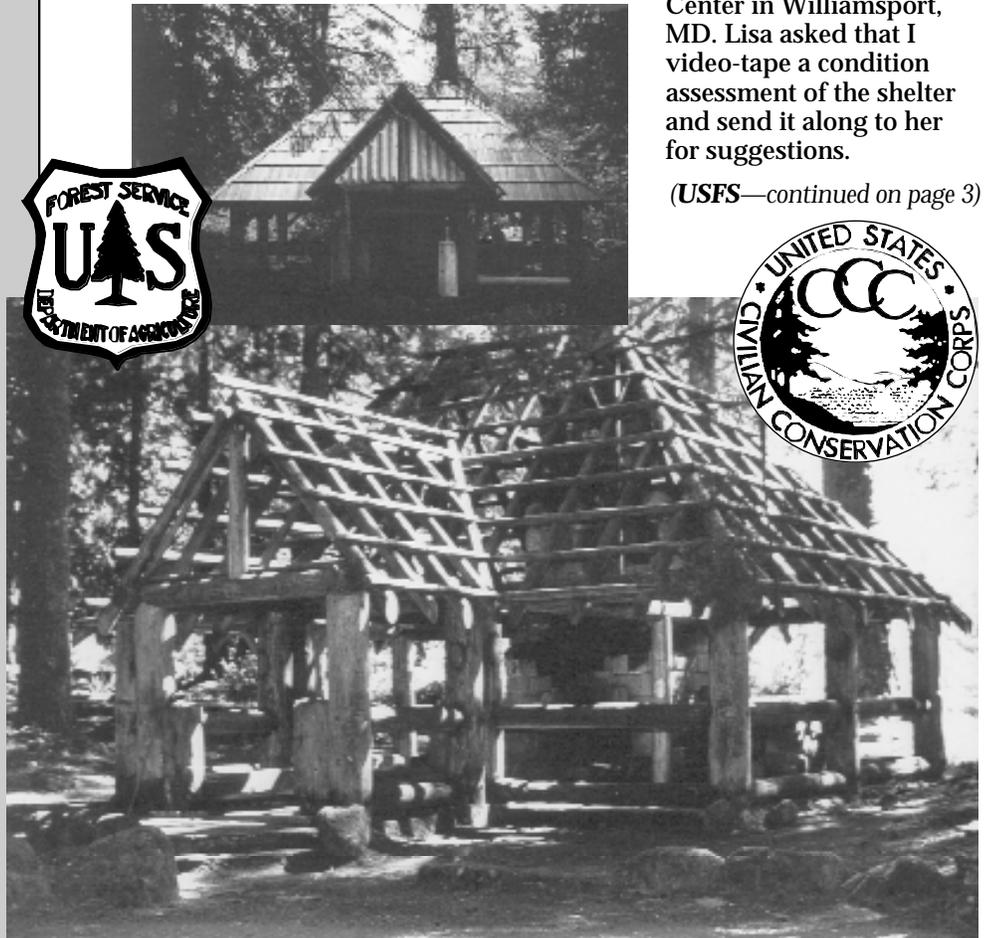
John C. Platz

Between 1933 and 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps built over 4,000 structures in Oregon and Washington. These structures ranged from fire lookouts and administrative facilities to recreational structures. As a group they not only showcase the craftsmanship of the Depression era but have served to establish an architectural identity for the U.S. Forest Service. Yet a survey performed in the mid-1970s revealed that of these 4,000 structures, an estimated 1,400 remained. Based on a statistical sampling performed in 1988, by 1990 only 800 structures would remain, and by 2005, approximately 100 would remain.

The Tollgate Shelter, constructed in the early 1930s, was built within a stone's throw of the site of Sam Barlow's tollgate along the Barlow Trail. (The Barlow Trail offered an overland alternative along the base of Mount Hood for the final leg of the Oregon Trail as opposed to traveling the Columbia River.) Following a visit to the Tollgate Shelter in 1989, I monitored its apparent structural failure for the next few weeks and came to the realization that the shelter was days from collapse. One of the two main purlin logs had deteriorated and was in danger of immediate failure. Having frantically stabilized the purlin, I began to seek out assistance in preserving the shelter. Eventually, I made contact with Lisa Sasser, then the staff architect at the Williamsport

Preservation Training Center in Williamsport, MD. Lisa asked that I video-tape a condition assessment of the shelter and send it along to her for suggestions.

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USFS Preserves Its Treasures

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During that fall, I read all I could find on preservation philosophy and the care and maintenance of historic structures. Then an architectural firm in Portland agreed to prepare a project manual for the shelter at a cost of \$8,000. The necessary dollars were found and the project manual was assembled. After we received the documents from the architectural firm, I contacted preservation firms for estimates to accomplish the proposed work items. The estimates ranged from \$67,000 to \$95,000. These amounts were fiscally out of the question; and to compound the estimated cost of the project, the stabilization of the structure was intended to hold the shelter only through the winter.

It was one of those 3:00 a.m. wake-up ideas that brought it all home: what we needed was our own workforce that could prepare work documents, perform the necessary tasks using proper preservation techniques, and do all this at a realistic cost. Why not turn this lack of skills and funding into an asset and use the repair of the tollgate to train staff in preservation skills? Well, I could hardly wait to talk it over with Lisa. Williamsport could provide the instruction and topics pertinent to the shelter's restoration could be taught right on the site. The only question now was how much would this cost? I had heard that there was a potential for project funding for small projects through our cultural resource program; however, the requests were to be submitted in one week and were not to exceed \$25,000. To bring something like a workshop into existence on paper and to "sell" it was a long shot. Those attending the workshop would need a place to stay near the remote site, and food, tools, and materials would need to be provided. Other costs would include transportation and advertising.

The next conversation with Lisa was the kicker. Not only had I tapped into a real "partner" but a wizard to boot! Lisa began to relate the way Williamsport had conducted workshops for the past 10 years. Trainees paid tuition to attend the workshops, and these fees were used to offset the cost of the instructors and the cost of the project. With this new insight I developed a budget that covered instructional costs, tools, materials, food, lodging, transportation and Forest Service salaries and came to a grand total of \$45,000. Using a conservative estimate for tuition, I arrived at an estimated net cost for the project of \$35,000. The benefits to the trainees would be considerable as they would learn about log construction, condi-

tion assessment, masonry, roofing, blacksmithing, and wood preservation philosophy.

However, I still needed \$10,000. Not easily discouraged, I approached Mike Ash, my supervisor and the forest engineer of the Mount Hood National Forest, to make a pitch for the additional funds. Mike agreed to come up with the additional money. Next, we selected the instructors: Lisa and Dave Thomas from Williamsport would handle the preservation philosophy, and log and masonry portions; Brian Toss from Port Townsend, WA, the rigging; Bill Feist from the Forest Products Lab would instruct the wood preservative class; Henry Kunowski from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office would handle compliance training; the blacksmiths from the Fort Vancouver Historical Site (NPS) would do the blacksmith training; and the remainder of the instructors were made up of local experts and Forest Service personnel.

Thanks to the energy of Emogene Bevitt (NPS), Robin Wood (APT), Barbara Kennedy (USFS) and James Hamrick (Oregon SHPO), the registration exceeded my estimates. Based upon student evaluations for all classes the workshop was an overwhelming success.

Not only had the Tollgate Shelter been restored at a cost of only \$25,000, but 38 students from the USFS, NPS, state, local, and private sectors returned home with the knowledge and confidence to perform a variety of preservation tasks. The "partnerships" begun in 1989 at Tollgate are still growing today.

By the end of fiscal year 1993 this

partnership yielded the following benefits:

- A Region Six Heritage Preservation Team was formed
- 11 heritage structures were preserved
- 130 students were trained in a variety of depression-era skills
- USFS and NPS cooperation was firmly established
- USFS awareness pertaining to preservation of our treasures increased
- All preservation project work was performed at 30-50% of "outside" contract estimates
- A new "heritage" log cabin was constructed
- The long-range prognosis regarding structures likely to survive was revised (the forecast in 1988 was for only 100 of the original 4,000 structures to survive after 17 years; in 1993, the estimate was revised up to 300 structures expected to survive).
- The relationship between the USFS-Region Six and the Oregon SHPO was unparalleled.



La Wis Wis Shelter, Packwood, WA, with falling tree damage (above), and after restoration (below).

