

The Story Behind the Picture

by Bill Little

Don Webb (MYC-56) loaned me a couple issues of *Smokejumper* magazine and I enjoyed reading them. Thought your readers might be interested in the following picture.

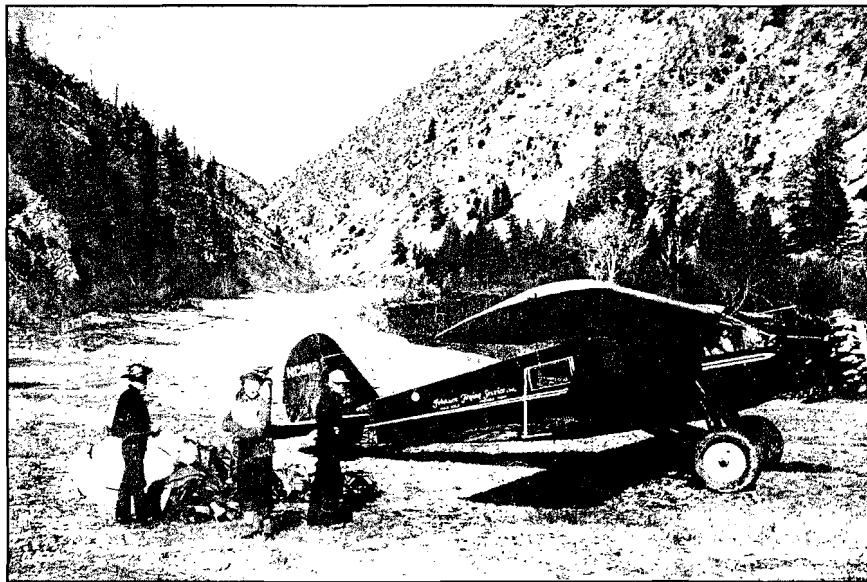
I took the picture of the Johnson Flying Service's Travelair at the Taylor Ranch on Big Creek (Payette Forest) in early May, 1956. Jess Taylor is on the right, Mrs. Taylor in the center and Bus Thorpe is on the left. Some of the old timers will remember Bus as he was a packer for the Payette Forest in the 50s and packed a lot of jumpers out of the back country. Big Creek Ranger, Bob Burkholder, is nearly out of sight behind Mrs. Taylor.

Taylor ranch acted as a collection point for jumpers brought in from fires in the back country. The men would usually overnight and be picked up by a Johnson plane. Taylor had an agreement with the Forest Service to provide jumpers with meals and a

place to bed down. The Taylors were well-liked and provided a valuable service in that remote country.

Bill Little retired from the U.S. For-

est Service in 1988 and is living in Kino Bay, Mexico, with his wife, Mary. He can be reached at: 4771 Camino Del Norte, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. 📧



(Courtesy Bill Little)