



THE DIXIE RANGER

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President's Corner:

It's times like this, when I am supposed to write something, that my mind goes blank. I stare at the computer screen in sort of a dazed trance. What is there to write about? Then I remember what one of my college professors once told me, "People want to read things about people, and not about things."

Well, there is one thing, about us, that has been on my mind for some time. It is a subject that we do not talk about much. It is this: one of the more sobering aspects of belonging to any retirees association is the loss of good friends and colleagues as we pass through this stage of our lives. It is just part the natural life process that we all must go through if we are fortunate to live long enough. But, it is an uncomfortable topic. We all know that one day it will be our turn.

Most of us have experienced the loss of a colleague, and friend, we have known and worked with for a major part of our working lives. It is only then we come to fully realize how much that person really meant to us. Words spoken at their funeral are words that are spoken too late for the one who has left us. We have regrets. We wish we could have told them how much they really meant to us, and how much they enriched our lives.

Then a sort of sad joy overtakes us. We become aware of how grateful we should be that they shared part of their life with us. They will not be forgotten. They have become a part of us.

Lately, it seems to me that we have lost too many. But, that may not be quite true. Maybe it has always been this way, but, now, these are people that we knew well and worked with. It is our time to go through this.

Forest Service retirees are a lucky lot. We have worked together and shared experiences in many places throughout our country. We are all different, but there is yet a common thread that we all share. We hold many warm memories of our lost friends and colleagues. They will be with us always.

Larry Bishop

President 2009-2011

RETIREES LUNCHEON/MEETING – June 2, 2011

The June Southern Forest Service Retirees Association luncheon started with a Board of Directors meeting at 11:00a.m. Among items discussed was the selection of a nominating committee for electing new officers and board members. Sid Haggard, current vice-president will move up and become our new president. The other officers currently serving have agreed to continue in their positions for one more year. One new director will be selected. Once again a discussion was made whether to keep *The Dixie Ranger* as a hard copy mail-out or convert to e-mail only...the idea was

to save money. It was agreed that it is still more important to have a hands-on Dixie Ranger for most members and that keeping e-mail addresses current would produce a big challenge.

At noon, lunch was served to forty-three attendees. Following lunch, Vice-president Sid Haggard introduced our guest speaker, Rex Mann. Rex spent 39 years with the Forest Service in Region 8, primarily as a firefighter. He had two topics for his presentation. The first was a very interesting history and future of the plight of the American Chestnut tree. Rex is a founding member of the "American Chestnut Foundation" created to restore the great American Chestnut!! History: Some 150 years ago, there were more than 300 billion chestnut trees, 100 ft. tall in the U.S. They were fantastic and vital for all types of building and construction. In 1904 they started dying due to a blight infestation that could not be stopped. By 1945, virtually all the trees were gone.

By the 1980's a tree restoration project began by crossing the American chestnut with a blight resistant Chinese Chestnut. This new tree has a good chance of restoring the chestnut population. But, a giant effort must take place by volunteer groups to plant the seedlings and establish new chestnut growing areas all over the U.S. This is a long-term project that needs funding and sponsors! This is a fantastic cause for the good of a great tree to say the least. The second topic presented by Rex was inspired by a book, "The Last Child in The Woods" by Richard Lugar. Rex says our young generation now knows very little about nature and the woods....they actually "fear" this interaction and are taught to stay "protected" indoors!! Rex is heading up an outdoor education center near the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park. His idea and mission is to educate the young and their parents through the efforts of fire management and telling the great forest restoration fire story that came about because of the famous 1988 Yellowstone fire!! This program uses volunteers and works closely with the West Yellowstone community. They use the National Smoke Jumper Center and are restoring an old Forest Service ranger station to headquarter this effort. Rex says: "We owe it to the rest of the world to give back....leave some tracks...to influence young people"!! This was a very inspiring, educational and entertaining program.

At the general meeting Historian, Jim McConnell, read a list of recently deceased Forest Service retirees, spouses and current employees' spouses and a moment of silence was observed. Treasurer, Tom Tibbs, reported that our current bank balance is \$10,098.40. Following the business meeting, door prizes were awarded to those lucky individuals who had the winning numbers. Gerald and Fern Coutant did a great job of selecting and awarding the door prizes. Nancy Sorrells, who organized and set up the luncheon, created beautiful tables with her patriotic red, white and blue decorations which were also given as door prizes.

Sid Haggard announced that our speaker for the December luncheon will be Dick Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of Timber Management in the Washington Office. Make your plans now to attend!! The December luncheon is a festive occasion and is always well attended – a great time to reconnect with fellow retirees. More information will be in the November Dixie Ranger.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON – DECEMBER 1, 2011

Always be yourself, because the people who matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.

2010 - 2011 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Larry Bishop
lmacbishop@hotmail.com

President-elect: Sid Haggard
sidhaggard@att.net

Secretary: Sonny Cudabac
scudabac@mindspring.com

Treasurer/Data Base: Tom Tibbs
qtibbs6@embarqmail.com

Historian/Obituaries: Jim McConnell
elanjim@bellsouth.net

Dixie Ranger Co-Editors: Dave and Peggy Jolly
djollysr@comlinkinc.net

Directors

Clair Redmond (2011)
clairredmond@bellsouth.net

Vickie Sell (2012)
morganza@windstream.net

Mac Gramley (2013)
mgramley@windstream.net

NFSRA - Ralph Mumme
ralphmumme@att.net

R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

Northeast Atlanta - Retirees are now meeting for breakfast the last Tuesday of each (except December) at the IHOP Restaurant, 4205 Stone Mountain Highway, Hwy 78, at 7: The restaurant is located in the Killian Hills Village Shopping Center between Pet Smart Depot and the Sports Authority just west of Killian Hill Road. Spouses are always welcome.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at "My Country Kitchen", 2740 Su Street, Kennesaw, Georgia. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Go for all with great fellowship.

Cherokee National Forest - Retirees meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday each month in Cleveland, TN, at the Golden Corral on Stuart Road Paul Huff.

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet the third Tuesday of each at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Jim Wenner sent a photograph of their August meetin. See the pages.

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. They have been meeting the last 19 years. No dues are collected and only rarely are there programs or express professional concerns. For information, contact Charles Blankenship at (540) 774-6272.

George Washington National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet for breakfast a.m. on the first Wednesday of even numbered months at the Village Inn Restaurant, on U short distance off I-81 at Exit 240.

Highlands - Robbinsville - Franklin - Murphy North Carolina Area - Retirees meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch on the last Wednesday of every month in Franklin. Contact George Lynch for the location as it may be in a different place each month. George's e-mail is georgelynch@verizon.net; phone: (828) 369-9722.

FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER RETIREE GET-TOGETHER – by **Glenda Wood** – The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests' retirees held their spring meeting at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia on April 13, 2011. Approximately 30-45 minutes prior to our noon lunch, retirees and a few current employees from the S/O enjoyed socializing. It was especially good to have retirees Vicki Scott and Bryant Watts and current employee Bill Hansen join us and doing well. Each of them has faced recent serious health challenges.

While lunch orders were taken, Glenda Wood gave a special welcome to current S/O employees: Forest Supervisor, Paul Bradley; AO Don Walker, and Bill & Linda Hansen; first-timer attendees and recent retirees: Ginger Thomas & Katie Jackson; Bryant Watts' daughter, Lisa Joyner; and retiree Carl Bronson, who had recently returned after a lengthy stay at his Colorado home, to his home in SC. He would be singing in the upcoming Easter cantata with the Newberry Community Choir. A beautiful acknowledgment from Jean Eng was read, thanking retirees for the memorial sent in Don Eng's memory to the National Museum of Forest Service History. It was especially meaningful to Jean that she had received a personal acknowledgment from Dave Stack. He is currently Vice-President of the History Museum and had worked with Don in 1976 in Minnesota. An update on the group of folks from whom she had recently heard was given. FM&S retirees continue to lead busy and interesting lives. Those expressing regrets for not being able to attend the meeting were: Phyllis Burnette, who was in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for the week to participate in a bridge tournament; Alvin & Diane Feltman had planned to attend, but last-minute business needed their attention; Mary Holton had recently left to serve in Texas on a Forest Service detail; Paul & Carolyn Myers were on a 3-week travel tour in Australia; Helen Sheridan was out-of-town for 2 weeks; and unfortunately, John and Ann Garrett were unable to attend because Ann had been diagnosed recently with the shingles, and wasn't up to traveling from south Georgia. (As of early June, she was doing well.)

Jerry Henderson gave the invocation for lunch. Immediately following the meal, Supervisor Bradley gave us an interesting update on Forest Service issues and activities. He stated that he felt good about where they were, both at the state and national levels. He was especially excited that, all things considered, the FM&Sumter had led the Nation in timber sales the past year.

Retirees and/or spouses in attendance were: Dave Adams, Ron & Catherine Boozer, Carl Bronson, Jean Eng, Delia Heath, Ed Hedgecock, Jerry & Audrey Henderson, Larry & Verma Holmes, Katie Jackson, Janet & Tommy Kinard, Jeanne LeBoeuf, LeRoy Lewis, James Marshall, Colette Phillips, Dave Rosdahl, Jim & Vicki Scott, Ginger Thomas, Bryant & Joyce Watts, and Jim & Glenda Wood.

The fall meeting is planned for October 19, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. at the Ocean View Seafood Restaurant in Columbia. We'd love to have you join us. Please contact Vicki Scott at (803) 364-2504 - cyberfogie@aol.com or Glenda Wood at (803) 422-4144 - tanner2010@centurylink.net.

2012 NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE REUNION Rendezvous in the Rockies -- Vail, Colorado 2012

Mark your calendar and make sure to talk to others about attending this great event. The 2012 National Forest Service Retirees Reunion will be in Vail, Colorado, at the Vail Mountain Marriott **September 17-21, 2012**. This is an outstanding location and a wonderful facility. The fall colors and scenery will be outstanding with the crispness of fall and the sparkle of Colorado blue skies. The committee is already hard at work putting together a wonderful program, with exciting field trips, and other special events. Vail is centrally located in the Rocky Mountains and is easily accessible by train, plane, and automobile. This location and timing will ensure that all participants will enjoy spectacular country, lasting friendships, and wonderful memories. U.S. Forest Service retirees, current employees, partners and vendors are invited and a good mix is expected to attend. There will be plenty to do at the reunion – renew friendships, get up-dates on Forest Service activities, attend historical presentations and meet with current Forest Service leadership. More specific information will be made available as the program events are firmed up, but until then mark your calendar, put a sticky note on the refrigerator, and make sure to talk to others about coming to this great event.

Visit the Reunion website: <http://fsreunion2012.com>. Bookmark this site to stay abreast of the latest happenings and opportunities.

Looking Forward, Looking Back – Old Timers Tales

The Forest Service Reunion 2012 is committed to bringing retirees, and others, together to share their past, present and future plans. Today, retirement means so much more than a rocking chair on the front porch. Today we sit in that chair to unwind after a great day of activities of all types. Some of us start new careers, some of us travel, but, after our lives in the woods, few of us simply sit around and rock.

The Reunion Committee is working in partnership with the National Museum of Forest Service History. We would like to collect and share your tales of the past. As you know, our memories are not just from the field. Many an office tale has been told, too. We have set up a location on our website for you to read some of the stories you tell. As well, we have an e-mail address with which to submit your best, or not so best, memories from your illustrious careers.

The History Museum staff will collect these stories for inclusion into their wealth of Forest Service memorabilia, permanently documenting our colorful history. Check back often, as stories are told we will add some of them to the web page. Now...sit back, relax and reminisce: <http://fsreunion2012.com/OldTimerTales> .

Keep an eye on Vail and the surrounding areas with the Mountain Cam collection. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts. Stay tuned, tell your friends and help us make this the best Forest Service Reunion possible. If you experience any problems please e-mail us at: KeepUpdated@fsreunion2012.com .

LET'S ALL VISIT BEAUTIFUL VAIL in 2012

Why is it that at reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

NOTES & LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

PETE AVERS - Georgia - I just noticed my dues are past due. Here is payment for three years.

JIM FLANDERS - Arkansas - Here is my check for the next three years. I want to mention that the Ozark Retirees meet the first Friday of each month at the Old South Restaurant in Russellville. We meet for breakfast at 8:00 am. All are invited.

JOE BENNETT - North Carolina - Sorry this is late. My wife has dementia and my time is not my own anymore. Hope this pays me up for 2010, 2011 and 2012. ??

FRANCIE MIZELL, daughter of Roger and Maxine - South Carolina - Mom and Dad continue at home in Saint George, South Carolina. During a recent book-shelf reorganization, Mom "discovered" a notebook full of e-mails which Forest Service friends had sent to Dad when he retired (1998?). They have thoroughly enjoyed reading through them again. Your calls and cards are such a treasure to them. Stop by and say "Hello" if you're on your way to Charleston or the beach this summer.

JOE HARRISON - Tennessee - Sorry I'm late. Here's my check for three year renewals for myself and Reed Jennings.

JAMES E. "SCOOTER" BROWN - Virginia - Enclosed is my check for three more years. I look forward to each issue of the Dixie Ranger. It is always good to hear from retirees to see what they are doing since retirement. After working 32 years with the USFS, I started and owned James "Scooter" Brown Nationwide Insurance Agency and worked 18 years before retiring again, giving me a total of 50 years in public work.

Ruth and I retired with the USFS in 1985 and still miss the good folks in the Forest Service. We make Robbinsville, North Carolina, our permanent residence, however we still maintain a house and woodland in Heflin, Alabama. Heflin was our first assignment after coming out of the Army in 1955. Frank Mayfield was my first Ranger.

JACK KELLEY - Arkansas - Sorry to be late with my dues. Libby and I are still doing fine. I'm still building and renovating houses, furniture, antiques, etc. I enjoy the newsletters.

JOSEPH MOORE - North Carolina - Dues are late as usual. Enclosed are three more years. Laverne and I are fine. I had knee replacement in January. It went poorly, taking awhile to recover. There were other issues that developed. You do a great job with the Ranger. We read it as soon as it comes in. I enjoyed Gordon's article on the Week's Act.

CHARLIE POSSEE - South Carolina - All is well in sunny South Carolina. Bracing for the heat and humidity. I'm contemplating going out on fire season assignments if my body would go a week without pain somewhere. See you down the road.

WALT FOX - Georgia - This will catch me up plus some few years!

MARCIA MACNAUGHTON - Virginia - Thanks for a great job! Here are dues for 2011 and 2012.

BARNEY SHERRER - Arkansas - Thanks for all of your efforts in keeping all of us old gray heads informed. No change with my wife Valda and me. Still live in Mena, Arkansas.

AUDREY POMERENING - Virginia - I received your interesting Dixie Ranger and it reminded me that I needed to inform you that Donald Pomerening died on February 21, 2011. He served the Forest Service in Laurel, Mississippi; Haleyville, Alabama; Wiggins, Mississippi; Jackson, Mississippi; Albuquerque, New Mexico and Washington D.C. for a total of 30 years. Then he served his community for 30 years. He had a good life.

"BIG JOHN" CATHEY - South Carolina - Greetings all. I finally looked at when my dues were due, lo and behold, I am late as usual. Seems like I didn't pay for 2010 and now I'm late for 2011. Where has time gone? I have been retired for almost 17 years and still enjoy retirement. I am still active in the profession, SAF - elected Fellow in 2009 - active in SC Forestry Association, County Forestry Association and Church. Also occupied with 5 grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls. Bernice and I stay busy with yard and garden and other activities. Health is good for a 73 year old diabetic with a defibrillator/pacemaker and bad ankles (up and down too many mountains for 36 years). Anyway, keep up the good work with the Dixie Ranger.

GEORGE BLOMSTROM - Virginia - Keep up the good work!

RICHARD HOFFMAN - Nevada - Sorry, I moved last year in May and forgot to renew. Guess they don't forward newsletters. Thanks.

DAVID SAMUEL - Arkansas - We have finally completed our retirement home on Lake Ouachita in Montgomery County, Arkansas.

JIM TAYLOR - Florida - Thanks for your note. I have moved a couple of times since I last paid my dues and failed to update you folks. I am enclosing my check for \$30 to get me back in good stead. Looking forward to getting the next issue of The Dixie Ranger.

JACK GODDEN - Wisconsin - Have enclosed some "Filler" for the Dixie Ranger if you have the space - dealing with my days marking timber on the Cherokee 1954-1956, Hiwassee District (my best days in the woods). Also experiences on Morehead District of Cumberland, then R-7, now R-8. The difference was R-8 Scribner Scale, R-7 International 1/4" Scale - hard to find a tree without fire scars on Morehead District of Cumberland. In cleaning out my files, I found the story on "Traffic Yellow" (page 2) that I can't find printed in a Dixie Ranger by Betty Bray. I have included it in this article. Numbers of my age group "early nestors" are moving on - don't identify with the newer generations who I couldn't get to write anything for our R-9 Newsletter. Retired as their Historian. This may be my last great memories of my R-8 days.

Editors' note: See Jack's article on page 18.

MARTHA COOK - North Carolina - Here is my check for three years (2011, 2012 & 2013 for *The Dixie Ranger*. I look forward to each issue. Dave & Peggy Jolly are doing a great job ... Thank you both for all the time you spend on *The Dixie Ranger*!

MARGARET STEPHENS - Georgia - Please accept my SFSRA dues in the amount of \$20. I've been pampering some health problems for awhile and have neglected my Forest Service friends. I

enjoy my newsletter very much and want to keep up with all of you. Thank you very much and God bless you all!

TERRI MCDONALD - Florida - Enclosed is a \$50 check for five more years of dues. I'm looking on the bright side. Thank you for all the wonderful job you do for the Association – your work is appreciated.

GEORGE HEMINGWAY - Florida - I think my membership expired in December. Here are \$20 for another two years. Judy and I are enjoying our new place in Eustis and renewing friendships with old friends we made while I was Ranger on the Seminole. Please come by if anyone is down this way.

ROY GANDY - Georgia - Here are dues for two years.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARK BRISCOE (CAREN)
65 County Road 327
Oxford, MS 38655-5919
Phone: (662) 236-5362
E-mail: markcaren@gmail.com

RONALD BOOZER (CATHERINE)
360 Holland Boozer Road
Prosperity, SC 29127-8244
Phone: (803) 364-2870

JACK EDWARDS (DEBE)
2079 CR 3568
Clarksville, AR 72830-6447
Phone: (477) 754-4729
E-mail: jackhe@centurytel.net

THURMAN HARP (KAREN)
109 Dahlia Drive
Griffin, GA 30223-5796
Phone: (770) 227-7719
E-mail: tklHarp3@yahoo.com

GIL MASSIE (LINDA)
2782 River Station Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-2747
Phone: (678) 691-3918
E-mail: crlup@comcast.net

JAMES MAYO (CINDY)
6 N. Valley Drive
Weaverville, NC 28787
Phone: (828) 658-3599
E-mail: blindcat@charter.net

ROBERT MITCHELL (JOANN)
372 Polk Road #45
Mena, AR 71953
Phone: (479) 216-0596
E-mail: mtchro9@yahoo.com

LANIER PAYNE (JOAN)
1303 Skeenah Gap Road
Blairsville, GA 30512
Phone: (706) 745-5402
E-Mail: grousemanLP@windstream.net

TOM PETERSON (LORNA)
S 6650 County Road G
Augusta, WI 54722-5134
E-mail: peter5054@gmail.com

Changes/Additions to the March 2011 Directory

Norman Alley - E-mail change to: thealleys@windstream.net

J Beasley - E-mail change to: amwlands1@verizon.net

Harvey Benson - E-mail change to: barvey@suddenlink.net

George Blomstrom - E-mail change to: veramb@verizon.net

James Brown - E-mail change to: scooterb@frontier.com

Bobbie Bryan - Bill Bryan deceased March 3, 2011

Martha Burnett - Howard Burnett deceased December 27, 2010

John Cathey - E-mail change to: jecathey@embarqmail.com

Eddie Coleman - Gary Coleman deceased December 23, 2010

Larry Ford - E-mail added: firedog@suddenlink.net

Richard Hoffman - New address: 4145 Longknife Road; Reno, NV 89519;
Phone: (775) 787-7807; E-mail: gahoffmann6996@att.net

Bob James - E-mail change to: bjandsj@bellsouth.net

W. Mac McConnell - New address: 2406 Carefree Cove; Tallahassee, FL 32308;
Phone: (850) 576-7774; E-mail: millmac@comcast.net

Audrey Pomerening - Jack Pomerening deceased February 21, 2011

James Sabin - Alice Sabin deceased February 15, 2011

David Samuel - New address: 5126 Hwy 270 E; Mount Ida, AR 71957;
Phone: (870) 867-4057; E-mail: d.samuel@att.net

Wanda Smith - Winston Smith deceased April 23, 2011

Margaret Stephens - New address: 6109 Jackson Trail Road; Hoschton, GA 30548
Phone: (706) 654-2032

William Sweet - E-mail change to: wsweet01@att.net

Jim Taylor - New address: 5390 Woodland Lake Drive #303; Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

It's important that you keep our Treasurer, Tom Tibbs, informed of any and all changes in your e-mail and regular postal addresses, phone numbers, etc. – check your address label on the last page of this Dixie Ranger to be sure your information is correct and to check the year through which your dues are paid.
gtibbs6@embarqmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Elaine and Jim McConnell

Donald Pomerening, age 88, passed away on February 21, 2011 after a prolonged illness. Don was born in Bloomfield, Wisconsin, on December 6, 1922 and was raised on a farm near New London, Wisconsin. After spending a year at the University of Wisconsin, he enlisted in the Army in October 1943. He landed on Omaha beach on D-Day and saw action in France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia and received five battle stars. He spent ten weeks at the American University in Shrivenham, England before returning home for discharge on December 29, 1945. Don enrolled in the University of Michigan in January 1946 and received a Bachelors degree in Forestry in 1948. Three days later he married Audry Coates. He worked for the Forestry Department of Virginia in Staunton before joining the Forest Service. After two years at the Santee Experiment Station near Charleston, South Carolina, he returned to school and received a Masters in Forestry from Duke University. Don returned to the Forest Service and was stationed in Mississippi, Alabama, New Mexico and the Washington DC office. After an appointment with the Foreign Agriculture Organization in Iran, he retired in 1978. Don spent his retirement years volunteering for his church, meals on wheels, Ventures in Community, the Crop Walk, Fairfax County Human Rights Commission, United Community Ministries and New Hope Housing. Don is survived by Audry, his wife of 62 years; son Don and his wife Mary and granddaughter Dana of San Antonio, Texas; brothers Calvin and Jim and sister Faith. Memorial services were held on February 26th at Wesley United Methodist Church on Richmond Ave. in Alexandria, Virginia.

Harry R. Thomas, age 71, of Bethera, South Carolina, died on March 30, 2011. He helped establish the Francis Marion Seed Orchard in the early 1960s. For the past 30 years, Harry was Forest Service Timber Marketing Supervisor for the Witherbee Ranger District of the Francis Marion National Forest. He was born in Berkeley County, South Carolina to the late Alfred Lester and Bertie Morris Thomas. A member of Providence Baptist Church and a retired board member of Macedonia Fire Department, Harry was an avid fisherman and hunter. He was first married to the late Peggy Benton Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie J. Thomas; sons Bryan (Pam) Sheila (David) Sumner of Awendaw, South Carolina; a stepdaughter North Carolina and Shirley (Lee) Gowdy of Lexington, South Carolina; two grandsons Ian and Aaron Thomas; step-granddaughter Kimberly Lambert; brothers Daniel D. and Donnie W. Thomas of Huger. Harry's funeral service was held in the Providence Baptist Church on April 2, 2011, with interment in the Berea Methodist Church Cemetery.

John Wesley Moore, age 72, died April 6, 2011 at Abbey Hospice in Social Circle, Georgia. He was born in Travelers Rest, South Carolina and graduated from Taylor High School in 1956. He

attended Clemson University on a football scholarship and graduated with a BS degree in forestry. Upon graduation, he worked for Georgia Kraft Company for one year. He then worked for the University of Georgia Experiment Station in Eatonton. In 1967 John began his career with the Forest Service. During that time he was the District Ranger on the Daniel Boone National Forest in Stanton, Kentucky and for the Oconee National Forest in Monticello, Georgia, where he served for 17 years. Upon retirement from the Forest Service, John became director of the Brender Demonstration Forest in Juliette, Georgia. He also served on the Jasper County Planning & Zoning Committee. John was named Georgia Forest Conservationist of the year 1980 -1981 and he also received the National Stewardship of National Resources Award in 1988 which was presented in Washington, DC. He was an avid outdoorsman and sportsman. John is survived by Betsy his wife of 55 years; two daughters Cynthia Louise (James L.) Adams of Cary, North Carolina and Julie Aileen (Thomas R.) Tucker of Monticello, Georgia; 3 grandchildren, Brandon John (Annie) Adams, Ashley Louise Adams, and Carrie Aileen Adams; great-grandson, Levi John Adams; and a brother, William Furman Moore. Funeral services were held on April 9, 2011, at Monticello First United Methodist Church and burial was in the Moore family plot at Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery in Central, South Carolina.

Winston T. Smith, age 74, of Loganville, Georgia, passed away April 23, 2011. He was born in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana Tech. His first job with the Forest Service was on the Winn Ranger District in Louisiana. He retired in 1999 with 42 years of service in Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and the Recreation Staff in Atlanta. Winston was a volunteer. For 25 years, he ran the concessions stand for the Lilburn Basketball Association and served as treasurer for the association. He was a long-time umpire at Lilburn Lions Club Park. Four years ago, Winston suffered a stroke which left him legally blind. He gave up his volunteering and when he felt like it spent time listening to legal proceedings in Gwinnett County courtrooms. Winston is survived by Wanda his wife of 52 years; children Winston Dewitt Smith of Cleveland, Georgia, Wendell (Beth) Smith of Athens, Georgia, Wayne (Staley) Smith of Winder, Georgia, and Wendi (Kerry) Pitts of Watkinsville, Georgia; 10 grandchildren; and a sister Anne (Truman) Hedgecock of Arkansas. Burial was in Gwinnett Memorial Park, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Raymond G. Weidner, 83, of Arden, North Carolina died April 29, 2011. He had been in ill health for several years. Ray was born in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He graduated from Michigan State University and was a veteran of World War II and played the trombone for the Army band. Ray worked for the Forest Service for 35 years. He worked in Timber Management for the National Forests in North Carolina for many years. He was a member of the American Forestry Association. He volunteered for Meals on Wheels for over 15 years and his love for animals drew him to volunteer at the WNC Nature Center for several years. Ray is survived by his wife Carolyn; two sons Karl (Sally) Weidner of Louisville, Kentucky and Eric (Beverly) Weidner of Lawrenceville, Georgia; three grandchildren, Jennifer Weidner, Brian Weidner and Sara Thompson and one great-grandchild, Connor Thompson. A memorial service was held on May 9, 2011.

Albert Spector, 92, was born in Pennsylvania in 1918. He passed away on May 4, 2011. Al worked for the Forest Service at the Southern Forest Experiment Station on forest survey and flood control. He came to Atlanta and worked in WWRM on small watersheds and then took an assignment with the US Study Commission for a South East Basins study. When that finished, Al had an assignment for a watershed study in Venezuela. He returned to the Forest Service for a brief time before going on to the Water Resources Council in Washington, D.C. When he retired, Al returned to Atlanta to live. He is survived by his daughter Dara Spector.

Ellie Louise Wilson Nix, age 85, passed away on May 5, 2011. She was the wife of L. C. Nix who worked in Programs and Land use Planning in the Regional Office for many years. They had been married for 65 years and had retired to Highlands, North Carolina. She was a secretary and member of Highlands United Methodist Church. She was a fabulous cook, a loving wife, sister and aunt. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a sister Dolly McCall and her husband and Frank of Highlands, North Carolina, and three brothers, Albert Wilson of Espanola, New Mexico, and Thomas and Walter Wilson of Highlands, North Carolina. She was preceded in death by four brothers Joe, Curt, Eugene and Lyman Wilson and a sister Velma Mason. Funeral services were held on May 8, 2011 at Highlands United Methodist Church. Burial was at Highlands Memorial Park.

Charles Edward "Bud" Howe, age 80, passed away on May 13, 2011 at Parkview Residential Healthcare Center, Bolivar, Missouri. He had moved to Bolivar from Ava, Missouri, a few months before he died. He served with the 45th Infantry Division in combat in Korea from 1950-1952. On August 12, 1954, Bud and Betty Lenaburg were united in marriage in Hobart, Oklahoma and to this union four children were born. Bud received a BS degree in Forestry and Range Management from Oklahoma State University. In 1958 he began his career with the U.S. Forest Service working first in Arizona, then transferring to Ava, Missouri, where he was District Ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest. He then transferred to Tallahassee, Florida, in 1975 and was responsible for the development and management of the range land on the three national forests. He helped develop the Chadwick Recreational Use Area and was also instrumental in starting a brush-spraying campaign in southwest Missouri. Bud retired in 1983 and moved back to Ava to live on the ranch that he loved. Bud is survived by his wife Betty; three sons and their wives, Bob and Kathy Howe of Morrisville, Missouri, Brian and Michelle Howe of Anchorage, Alaska, Bart and Debbie Howe of Warrensburg, Missouri, and son-in-law Paul Merrill of Bellingham, Washington; six grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Bud was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother and his daughter Beverly Howe Merrill. At Bud's request a graveside service was held on May 16, 2011, at the Turkey Creek Cemetery, Ava, Missouri with full military honors by Ava American Legion #112 and VFW #5993.

Judy G. Kertz, 67, of Dry Prong, Louisiana passed away on May 13, 2011 at her residence. She was the wife of Ron Kertz, who works for the Forest Service in Forest Health Protection at Pineville, LA. They had been married for 33 years. Judy was in advertising including KLAX, KALB and FOX TV. She brought the gift of love to everyone she met. Her message was always love, life and joy. Besides her husband Ronald, Judy is survived by two sons Michael Todd Moulton of Alexandria and Adam J. Kertz of North Carolina; two brothers A. J. Guillot of West Virginia and Larry Guillot of New Iberia and seven grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister Jean Guillot.

George E. Aunspaugh, 80, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died May 15, 2011. He was born Jan 30, 1931 in Pleasant Plains, Arkansas to Othar and Sarah Aunspaugh. A Korean War Veteran, George was an accountant with the US Forest Service and retired head of Budget and Finance for the Ouachita National Forest. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Hot Springs where he served as deacon, Sunday school director and church treasurer. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Revon; and two sisters, Maxine and Patricia. George is survived by Joan his wife of 60 years; daughter Georgie Carihfield of Hot Springs; son Allan Aunspaugh and his wife Anne of Liberty, Missouri; four grandchildren, Michael Carihfield and wife Linsey of Hot Springs, Rahel Aunspaugh of Washington, DC and Emily Aunspaugh and Alyssa Aunspaugh of Liberty,

Missouri; two great-granddaughters, Sydney and Kennedy Crihfield of Hot Springs, Arkansas, and a brother J. O. Aunspaugh, Jr. of Sercy, Arkansas. Internment was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Judy Diane McDonald, age 56, passed away on May 22, 2011, in Cleveland, Tennessee. She had Lew Gehrig's Disease for about a year. Judy's husband Terry is the PAO on the Cherokee National Forest and was in South Carolina before moving to the Cherokee. Judy is survived by her husband; two sons, Jason and Terry McDonald; parents, Rev. Walter David Higgins and Lillian L. Higgins; sister, Carolyn Williamson, all of Cleveland, Tennessee; brother, Carroll David Higgins of Reno, Nevada; and three grandchildren. Haley, Devon and Lillian. A graveside service was held on May 25th at Tasso Cemetery in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Joel H. Nitz, 86, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away on June 18, 2011. He was an Army veteran of WWII with service in the Pacific Theater, Philippine liberation and occupation of Japan. Joel graduated from the University of Minnesota and retired after 35 years with the Forest Service. After college graduation in March 1950, the Forest Service had no openings, so he worked for the state of Wisconsin in their State Conservation Dept. The next year he began his Forest Service career in Mena, Arkansas. Joel worked on ranger districts in Arkansas and Alabama, the recreation staff in Columbia, South Carolina, and on the fire, recreation and safety staff on the Kisatchie National Forest. Following his retirement, he volunteered as safety officer to various forests and districts in Region 8 where he gave hearing tests and touted the merits of hearing preservation in his safety presentations. Joel is survived by Irene Wagner Nitz, his wife of 63 years; daughter, Deborah Ann Nitz (Jonathan) Schoeneck, Hot Springs, Arkansas; brothers, Paul Nitz (Carol), Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Mark Nitz (Marguerite), Placentia, California; sisters, Ramona Nitz Heikkinen and Naomi Nitz Schultz (Raymond), Mankato, Minnesota; grandsons, Joshua Joel Schoeneck (Melanie), Jackson, Wisconsin and Caleb Christian Schoeneck (Mary), College Station, Texas; and eight great grandchildren, Elizabeth, Joel, Gabriel, Faith Ann, Silas, Rachel Ann, Katie Marie and Natalie. Joel was cremated. A memorial service was held at Caruth-Hale Funeral Home in Hot Springs on June 21, 2011.

J. B. Hilmon, of Abingdon, Virginia, died July 1, 2011 in Bristol Regional Medical Center. Dr. Hilmon was a graduate of Virginia Tech and Utah State University and earned his PhD from Duke University. In a US Forest Service career spanning 30 years, he was director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in Asheville, North Carolina, and prior to his retirement in 1986 was associate deputy chief for the National Forest System in Washington, DC. After his retirement he was consultant to tree farms belonging to his son and brother. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Hazel Hart Hilmon; son Philip and wife Sharon Hilmon of Mendota, Virginia; daughter Martha Vose of Fredericksburg, Virginia; two granddaughters, Kelsey Stout and Sydney Hilmon; brothers, Marvin Hilmon of Sarasota, Florida, and Bob Hilmon of Elgood, West Virginia; sisters, Shirley Meadows of Kernersville, North Carolina and Betty Jean Stamper of Richmond, Virginia. His ashes were spread at his son's tree farm.

TRIBUTE TO JOEL NITZ by Mike Sparks

Joel was one of my heroes. I first met him while I worked on the Winn Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest in 1974 -1979. Joel was the Staff Officer for Fire, Recreation and Safety in the Supervisors Office. I always knew he was someone special as he would always stop what he was doing to talk with and encourage me in my career. I left the Kisatchie in 1979 for the Francis Marion and Sumter SO. In 1985, I moved to the Regional Office Timber Management

shop working for Dave Dubow. Later, I became the Regional Director of Forest Products. While on a timber activity review on the Ouachita NF in Hot Springs, probably middle 1990's, I was eating dinner with friends when a man rose from a nearby table, came to greet me and I recognized him as Joel Nitz. He had retired to Hot Springs, Arkansas, and was enjoying his family. He recognized me after many years and greeted me with a "Hi Mike" and asked about my family and career. He was one of my heroes. He loved his God, his family and his career and he cared about people. I didn't know until recently that he was also one of "The Greatest Generation" as described in Tom Brokaw's book by the same title and he was certainly one of God's gifts to the earth. He was loved and will be missed by many.

Bill Hess remembers WAYNE RUZISKA: He and Dave Dubow —An interesting Pair

After reading the article in a back issue of *The Dixie Ranger* about Dave Dubow, I realized it brought back memories of the fun times I had with Dave and Wayne Ruziska (deceased in 2002).

I first met Wayne when I was Assistant Ranger in 1961 on the Cumberland National Forest, Stanton District (now Daniel Boone National Forest). Wayne was the Ranger on the Somerset District. Wayne was tough. He was a World War II Veteran, wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. I met Dave in 1972, when we were fellow forest staff officers on the Kisatchie National Forest under Supervisor Lamar Beasley. Dave was no pushover for anybody. Later all three of us ended up retiring while in the Atlanta Regional Office.

Both these guys were true outdoorsmen and loved to hunt, fish and camp as I did. Dave was an excellent trout fisherman and never went home until he caught his limit of trout—no matter how late in the day. Our favorite fishing stream was on the East Fork of the Chattooga River. We would camp at Oconee State Park in South Carolina and talk about the day's adventures. We camped away from any other campers, as sometimes our discussions would get loud (helped by liquid refreshments). Our hunting trips to Nebraska were always an adventure. Nothing was boring or quiet with these two guys. Even though Dave and Wayne were tough guys, it was meaningful to see how three of us were remembering our adventures, with compassion, when Dave and I were with Wayne at Wayne's bedside just before he died.

Friendship

"True friendship is like sound health, the value of it is seldom known until it be lost."
Charles Caleb Colson

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words.

Unknown

"The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."
Abraham Lincoln

THE OUACHITA PINNACLE FIRE

by John Archer

The Ouachita Pinnacle fire started on April 9, 1970. This was the biggest fire that I had been on up until this time. I was the new District Ranger on the Jessieville District of the Ouachita National Forest. I was trying to get my feet on the ground after moving the family to Arkansas from Virginia. I barely knew the people on the district. Alvis Owen was the Forest Supervisor and Jim Brewer was the Deputy Forest Supervisor. We had a few fires so far that spring, but nothing of any size. Deputy Forest Supervisor Brewer came to the District to get acquainted. We were out driving around in Jim's car. We stopped by a small fire that had happened the previous day and looked at some timber work and the kind of things you do on that kind of trip.

We were driving east on State Highway 298 (the Possum Kingdom Road) when Claud Clare, the aerial observer for the east side of the Forest reported a fire south of Ouachita Pinnacle. It was a pretty good fire day. The wind was blowing and you could feel that the humidity was low. The fire was nearby so Jim and I headed that way. We took a left on a well used log road and finally drove out into an opening at the base of the mountain where we could see what was going on. The fire was burning in an area where timber was recently cut. The sawtimber had been cut and only the pulpwood was left to be cut. There was a lot of logging slash where the fire was burning. It was really cooking.

Soon Dan Cates, our TMA, along with and Don Swigger our Lead Timber Technician arrived at our location. Ab Newkirk arrived with the fire plow. Claud Claire, the aerial observer, reported that the fire was spotting. Spotting is a situation where little fires are starting in front of the main fire. This makes control extremely difficult. Dan and I got our heads together and decided that we had better try to cut the fire off from the mountain. We thought it would be worth a try and would stop the second-guessing at a fire review, if it came to that. Dan put the plan into operation. It didn't take long before he called me on the radio and said that the fire was way beyond them and approaching the base of the mountain. We decided to regroup and come up with another plan.

About that time the fire made a run up one of the spur ridges on the mountain. It was something to see. Flames were over 100 ft. long and it was moving fast. Jim said, "Do you think we have a project fire here". A project fire is a fire that has lots of fire fighters where a formal organization is needed or risk total chaos. I agreed that this was a project fire. Dan and I figured that the first place we could attack it would be Rd 107, a mile and a half away at the top of the mountain. We had an old plan-a-metric map on which we plotted our strategy. Topo maps were not available for that part of the District in 1970. We decided that we would set up our fire headquarters on Rd 107 near State Highway 7 as that would be the place all fire fighters would have to pass going to the fire. I had our timber marking crew wait at the road intersection with Hwy 7 and 107 to direct people in to the fire headquarters. Dan would take our present resources to the top of the mountain on an old woods road. He would prepare to burn out Road 107 and start locating the ridges that we would bring the bulldozer fire lines down to surround the fire. I would go to our fire HQ at the beginning of Road 107 and get things organized.

Jim drove the car and I got my fire line handbook out and ordered resources for a 3-sector fire over Jim's mobile radio. There were no prepackaged resources like overhead teams, crews etc. in those days so I had to order them position by position. We arrived at the HQ. Fire Fighters were arriving at the headquarters. Don Swigger suggested we send Bill Johnson and Bunt McEarl to the top of the mountain to be with Dan as they had lots of fire experience and knew the country.

They had been at the road intersection directing people in to the fire. Alvis Owen, the Forest Supervisor, arrived at the HQ on his way to the fire. We had four big dozers coming. Sam LaFever was the Service Chief and was signing up the dozers as they arrived. Jim was advising me on who could do what in the fire organization. The Forest had gone through a simulator exercise back in the fall and most of Jim's knowledge was coming from that.

Meanwhile, at the top of the mountain, Dan was getting things sorted out; Bill and Bunt were scouting to find the right ridges to take the lines down. Alvis had arrived at the location where we planned to hold the fire. Had been driving at top speed back and forth on Rd 107 where we planned to stop the fire, checking things out. Alvis drove at top speed in those days wherever he went. A few air tankers had arrived and were dropping on different parts of the fire to slow the spread. Dan was having the road fired as the fire approached.

We got a couple of big dozers to the top of the mountain and ready to go. Dan was ready to send dozers off on the East Side. Bunt had found the right ridge and said to send the dozers on down. Alvis called me on the radio and said, "They are on the wrong ridge". Lots of things were going through my head about that time. Was I about to mess up? Was the Supervisor right? Was I going to remain the Fire Boss on this fire? Was I going to remain the District Ranger on the Jessieville District? Bunt had sounded pretty confident on his last radio message that he was on the right ridge. I said, "Send them off".

About 1800 you could feel the humidity rise. Dan had most of the road fired out by then and it was holding. There was still lots of fire out there and a lot of line to build. Overhead that was to spend the night had arrived. Some people had been at the headquarters for a while and weren't doing much. The problem was that they didn't know what to do and had little or no fire experience. Our fire HQ was in tick city. Someone was spraying my pants with ticks-off. I hadn't noticed the ticks. I released those folks that weren't busy, which cut down on some of the confusion. We got the Sector Bosses headed to the fire line.

Darkness arrived. The Sector Boss on the east flank called me on the radio and asked to be relieved. He had just arrived on the line. I sure didn't want a Sector Boss on the line that didn't want to be there. Dan released him and I sent him home. Bob McClain from Mt Ida became the Sector Boss for that sector. A lot of our Dozer Bosses were engineers from the Supervisors Office with no fire experience. One told me later that the worst night of his career was leading a dozer off of that mountain.

Joe Swindle brought a Job Corps Crew out to the fire and held the west flank with his crew and 2 dozers. We had over 100 people committed by nightfall. By dawn we had a line around the Ouachita Pinnacle Fire. Two days of mop up and it was history. I sure learned a lot on that fire. Alvis said that it was the first fire that had been organized on the Ouachita for quite a while. He said that we had done a good job. It turned out that an old pulpwood loader had started the fire.

The Ouachita Trail now runs where the Ouachita Pinnacle Fire once burned. Most of the area west of the Big Bear Shelter to Road 107 was in the fire area. Fire scars are visible at the base of many of the surviving trees. One area was burned down to bare soil and rock. In this place Mother Nature and the US Forest Service teamed up to start a new stand of trees. The last time I hiked through that area they were 20 feet tall. I'll bet they are more than twice that height now.

★ ★ ★ You will be happy to know that we have another article from John, titled **OUACHITA TRAIL**, to look forward to in a future issue of *The Dixie Ranger*.

FOOT is a great means of giving back – Information taken from a March 2011 article written for the Hot Springs Sentinel-Record, Corbet Deary's Out & About column.

After the ice storm of 2000, avid hikers, mountain bikers, agencies and organizations, including the Ouachita Mountain Hikers (OMH), spent countless hours clearing the designated path of obstacles. The Ouachita Trail System was in shambles. A walk along the beaten path was challenging, to say the least, and potentially dangerous with many suspended broken tops and limbs capable of plummeting to the ground.

About two years later, other damage became noticeable. Sections of the forest floor which had been shaded by a heavy canopy for many years were no longer protected from the sun. What had been open woods were being overgrown with saplings, briars and other sun-loving plants, the trail system literally disappearing in spots. OMH members decided that something had to be done when they attempted to hike from US Hwy 71 to the foot of Rich Mountain. This hike prompted one OMH member to declare that, "It came as close to invalidating the rule that the worst day on the trail is better than the best day indoors. We fought briars, couldn't find the trail, ran into rattlesnakes and bees; it was just miserable."

Shortly thereafter, Forest Service employees joined hikers and mountain bikers, working side-by-side along the 10-mile section of trail. As a result of this joint project, the Friends of the Ouachita Trail, FOOT, was born in 2003. Before long a website was designed and membership grew. Anyone interested in learning more about or joining FOOT can go online at www.friendsot.org or contact Loretta Melancon at 501 915-8033.

Forest Service looks beyond flood – Officials begin planning future of Albert Pike Recreation Area - Information taken from a early April front-page article in the Hot Springs Sentinel Record. The Forest Service announced that cleanup activities will resume at Albert Pike Recreation Area. Following the deaths of 20 campers in a flash flood when the Little Missouri River overran its banks in the predawn hours of June 11, 2010, the recreation area has been closed to all overnight use and will remain closed for the foreseeable future. Seventeen of the 20 people killed in the flood were camping in Loop D, which will remain closed indefinitely.

In early April, U.S. Rep. Mike Ross, D-District 4 stated that he was pleased to hear the agency will resume cleanup activities at Albert Pike. "I also support their decision to keep the campgrounds closed until they determine if and when they can be safely reopened," Ross said. He said he met the prior week with Southern Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa in Washington DC, and "I am continuing to monitor the cleanup activities very closely. Safety and ensuring this tragedy never repeats itself should be our No. 1 priority."

The Forest Service still allows "normal river activities," such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking, to continue at Albert Pike, but with limited parking and no restroom facilities. Interested citizens can add their names and addresses to the Albert Pike mailing list by calling Caroline Mitchell at 501 321-5318.

We've reached the age where "happy hour" is a nap.

THE PAST YEARS OF U.S.FOREST SERVICE MARKING TIMBER

by Jack Godden

Reading retirees' newsletters from the Southern and Eastern Regions "8" and "9", I've seen no stories about Forester's "Marking Timber". Something strange nobody wants to reflect on their days in the woods and what we did in our early days in the "field". In the 1950s when you were hired, you expected to mark timber and fight fire. I was one that enjoyed both jobs. But, I want to relate to "tree marking" timber, some differences when we started "painting" trees for cutting rather than the past method of blazing, branding stump and tree with the "U.S." brand, stamped marking axes.

In October, 1954 I got "wedded" to a paint gun on the Hiwassee District of the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, Region 8. The "Staff" then Ranger GS-9 Norris Quam, me a fresh GS-5 "Junior Forester" out of college after 3-1/2 years of military service and job searches and Hilman Hargis, GS-3/4 Forestry Technician, local Tennessee native were the "timber markers" when not fighting fires. The Ranger and Hargis were my trainers. In those days, Rangers spent at least 80 percent of their time in the field. Joe Floyd, a GS-2 Forestry Aid, our one Fire Lookout, was our seasonal employee who would fill in the marking team when not tending to his Black Bald Lookout on the TN/NC line, our Fire Prevention signs, Warden Fire tool boxes and one Quinn Springs Picnic Area. I can't remember the first make of marking gun - a pot type with quart can, with hand pump, 3/8"/6" metal pipe to screw tip nozzle. I believe it was a product of Southern GLO Company who also supplied YELLOW paint in gallon cans. Within a couple months we received a pre-Christmas gift - new Nelson paint guns, with a quart size paint container, their paint in quart size cans for its first merchandising. This was the "Cadillac" gun (and paint) over the past "Model A" pot gun version. It was our marking weapon for "Tree Selection" Cut Prescriptions in selected proposed sale areas of the choice timbers in the southern limits of the Appalachian Mountains, where both northern and southern tree species mixed together - some 23 commercial species of Hardwoods/Softwoods - sold, harvested on one sale in 1956. We had customers for our timber.

If solo for the day of marking, you could guide selecting a "cut" tree as you advanced, looking for the "Crop" tree to be left for future growth or regeneration. You'd check for merchantable heights (16" logs and 8" half log) lengths to 10" top diameter, (later 8"); determine whether "Sound" or "Defective" - sweep, crook extent of rot - and using a diameter tape measure the tree at Diameter Breast Height (4-1/2' above ground height). We foresters were "Tree Huggers" before any of today's environmentalist. The 'tally' was by species, "d.b.h.," number of logs, "S" for sound, "D" for defective to be entered in your scale book, then add the paint - a spot at ground level on stump (one side, downhill side or the route of the marker). Some higher authority decided District Rangers would be responsible for check scaling on advertised sales. Every seventh tree, person tallying for the crew would call out if a "Sample" tree that markers would then add d.b.h. by numbers, "S" or "D", his one letter initial on the tree trunk. Timber buyers if ambitious to scout our markings before sale could check our measurements. The "tally" man also marked timber, the tally by dots, by species and size, a "square box entry" - ten trees following dot method, start count at four corners first, then line between corners and, lastly, marking the "X" for tenth tree. In 1955, a new JF was added to the marking team when not supervising our "KV" crew. That year I was promoted to Assistant Ranger GS-7 and assumed more responsibilities, preparing contracts and sales advertisements, writing and following marking prescriptions as the "tally man".

Region 8 used the **Scribner "C"** timber scale rules, their method in volume estimates; their volume tables less complex, allowing for either "S" or "D", sound/defective for the tally of the

marked tree. Tally books were totaled by the Supervisor's staff for 202-A (\$200-\$1,000 value sales or larger "202" sales) as Districts were absent of efficient calculators. The Hiwassee District moved several million feet of timber in 1955, 1956 including salvage of a tornado that cut across southern half of the District; we allowed emergency sale procedures to move the damaged timber.

In Region 7, I was introduced to the **International 1/4" Rules** on my transfer north to the Cumberland National Forest, Morehead District as Assistant Ranger. There was no simple "S" or "D", but 4' deductions for butt rot, sweep, and crook. There were few timber stands without fire scars as the District had few large blocks of ownership, many scattered parcels. Sales of a million feet or more were few; I prepared two sale prescriptions, one marked without the Ranger along with a crew of four. I left the District before seeing to their sale administration, but got to supervise road construction on one, finding an "active" oil transmission line after preliminary field review of oil company representative being told it was inactive!!

To be continued Jack's article **The Lighter Moments, Misery of Marking Timber** will be in the next issue of *The Dixie Ranger*.

MAN CALLED DAVE

by *Mike Sparks*

I had heard tales of him for several years before I finally met him. When I transferred to the Winn Ranger District as Timber Assistant in 1974 (or thereabouts), I heard his name mentioned with the fact that he was transferring to the Regional Office Timber Management shop. I never got to meet him while on the Kisatchie National Forest. During my tenure on the Winn, his legacy kept popping up in tales that were destined to become legend.

I went to the Supervisors' Office soon after arrival to visit the timber folks and get to know them. I met Kay Erwin, the timber sale contract specialist. He told me some tales about Dave that I found hard to believe, but they were true. I noted on the wall, behind Kay, was a large poster entitled "The Last Great Act of Defiance". It pictured a small mouse, with a menacing expression on its face, pointing its middle finger toward the sky where a large Hawk with talons extended was descending upon the little mouse. The mouse had a name written under it "Dave Dubow" and the Hawk had a name also "Bill Bryan" who was Dave's new boss in the R.O. Had Dave finally met his match? Time would tell.

Dave Dubow was the quintessential "TIMBER BEAST". He lived, breathed and promoted good timber management. He was devoted to his job in the Regional Office as Group Leader for Timber Sales but his first love was Silviculture.

I first met Dave when he led a team of R.O. Timber Management folks to conduct an inspection of the Francis Marion & Sumter NF's timber sale program. He reminded me of my Commanding Officer when I was in the Army...when that man walked into a room, a hush fell over the crowd because they knew someone special had entered the room. He stood tall and straight and in fact, was himself, a high ranking Army Reserve Officer. I believe he was a full Colonel.

That day, when the team arrived, we crowded into a large 12-passenger van and headed to the woods north of Charleston, South Carolina. I was relatively new to the Forest as the timber sale specialist and being low man on the totem pole, I was assigned to drive the van. I was doing just fine until we turned north of Charleston onto Hwy 17. Now friends, if you've ever been to

Charleston, you've encountered the Cooper River bridges..two of 'em. Here I was, in an oversized vehicle with 12 people in my charge. In those days, they didn't have the fine new bridges that are there today. These bridges were built around the turn of the century and were designed to accommodate small vehicles and large naval vessels so they were both NARROW and HIGH. When I passed an oncoming vehicle, I could have reached out and shook hands with the driver. I was petrified and broke out in a cold sweat but tried not to let my terror show. Bryant Watts, the Timber Staff Officer on the FM&S recognized my plight and attempted to comfort me but to no avail. I was relieved, however, because at the end of the second bridge, was our motel. I spent 3 wonderful days, picking the brains of the R.O. timber shop and getting to know them.

True to his character, Dave questioned every aspect of the timber sale program, sometimes deviating into the silviculture realm. When the week was over, the team told us we had "passed" the inspection although there were some corrective actions to be taken. Dave always said..."I came here to find problems and correct them". He was, as we used to say...a "hard nose". But he knew his job and did it well and he would pass out complements, although sparingly and when deserved.

As a youngster growing up in Russellville, Ark, home of the Ozark-St Francis NFs, I would sit on the curb behind the S.O. and watch the "rangers" come and go in their green and gray trucks each day. I grew up wanting to be one of those "rangers". When I started my career, I had determined that the pinnacle of my career would be serving as a Ranger over a District. That's all I wanted but I never attained that goal, thanks to Dave.

One day, while working on the Francis Marion & Sumter NFs, Dave called and asked me to come work for him for a week...he needed a detailer. Never having been to the R.O., I eagerly said "yes". Wow...was that a mistake. The detail was simply a ruse to get me into the R.O. and into Dave's clutches. When I arrived Monday morning, Dave was already there. I thought I would be early but found out that Dave was always there first each day. He grabbed me by the arm, pulled me into his office and closed the door. He then proceeded to tell me that one of his staff was transferring to Region 9 and he wanted me to apply for the vacant job. "But Dave", I replied. "I want to be a District Ranger and this would put me out of that realm". But Dave's power of persuasion was great and after a week, I agreed to consider it. My wife was in agreement and on the last day before the vacancy announcement closed, I submitted my application.

It wasn't long before Bryant and Don Eng, Forest Supervisor, called me into the front office and told me to pack my bags for Atlanta. I remember feeling somewhat weak in my legs, as if they didn't want to hold me up anymore.

But I descended into the unknown and went to work for Dave. I must say, it was one of the best decisions of my life although at the time, I didn't think so. I felt very inadequate as, I supposed anyone would feel in a strange office. But I soon learned some of the ropes and Dave seemed pleased with my work and encouraged me.

Dave was not big on technical progress, especially when it came to using computers. One day, I was typing a letter for Dave's signature on the old DG (computer terminal) and Dave tapped me on the shoulder and said.. "What in the world are you doing?". Surprised, I replied that I was typing a letter for his signature. He got a bit forceful and told me that we had an office clerk-typist to do that work and I was too high priced to do typing. I explained that I could type faster than I could scribble with a pencil and the clerk-typist would finalize the letter and correct any errors. He really

didn't know how to reply to that and walked away but said.."OK...just remember what I said". Guess discretion was the better part of valor.

Dave had a unique way of describing folks he encountered. If he liked your work, he might say, "He is an island in a sea of incompetence" or he might say words I can't repeat in this document to describe someone he didn't like. I saw him verbally and almost forcibly, remove an individual from his office one day because he didn't like what the man said.

Dave was always up front with anyone he talked with. What you saw in him was what you got.

Dave was not intimidated by anyone, especially Forest Supervisors. We were on a mountainside in West Virginia, a review team and the Forest folks...probably 15 or more. We were looking at a regeneration area of about 10 acres. Dave was not happy and said they should have harvested more acres, that harvesting small areas was not cost efficient. He was right in his statement but the Forest Supervisor stood up and said "Dave, I love you like a brother, but this is my Forest and I run it the way I want and I don't like large regeneration areas". That was the match that lit the fuse so the "discussion" began. Voices got loud, faces got red and finally the Director of TM, Lee Cromley, stood up and said, "We need to move on because this is not a productive conversation," and so we left but Dave succeeded in getting his point across.

Initially, Dave had told me that if I did a good job, in two years or so, he would support me to move to a Forest as Forest Timber Staff Officer which was my second priority career goal because I had given up my goal of ever becoming a Ranger. I loved working for Dave...every day was an adventure and time went by ever so quickly. Two years had gone by and a Timber Staff job was open and I asked Dave if he would support me. "No" he replied because I need you for another year to complete this STARS thing (a national level computer program of unimaginable complexity). So, another year went by. Then, Dave announced his retirement, my mentor would soon be gone as would my chances of leaving the R.O.

But, before Dave left, he planted a seed that I should apply for his job. I knew that I didn't want that job because I could never fill Dave's big shoes. But as I stated earlier, Dave was very persuasive so I put my name in the hat for Group Leader for Timber Sales in Region 8.

Dave was always giving me advice...at his retirement party he said: "Young fella (he always called me that), remember thisdevelop your idiosyncrasies when you're young and when you're old, people will accept you". This advice ..coming from the master, rang true.

And as we know, I was selected for the job, never to leave the R.O. I spent over half of my career in the Atlanta office. But, you know what, I enjoyed most every day there. I did not enjoy meetings but they were a necessary evil. Then, toward the end of my career, the Region was deluged with litigation. Seems the environmental groups had finally descended upon the Southern Region after devastating the timber programs in the West. I spent most of my time in meetings with attorneys. I was so thankful for Jean Kruglewicz, our litigation coordinator, as his skills were second to none and he kept us on track. He could speak "attorney talk".

I credit Dave Dubow with the fact that I never achieved my career goal as District Ranger but I also credit him with the fact that because of him, I found another job that provided even more challenges as well as lots of fun. I finished my career as Director of Forest Products. Thanks, Dave.

Forest Ranger Notes

"A ranger of any grade must be thoroughly sound and able-bodied, capable of enduring hardships and performing severe labor under trying conditions. He must be able to take care of himself and his horses in regions remote from settlement and supplies."

U.S. Forest Service Use Book, 1908

When President Theodore Roosevelt and his Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot reorganized and consolidated forestry in 1905 under the U.S. Forest Service their first aim was to develop a qualified and competent corps of forest rangers. Political appointments had been the standard practice of previous administrations resulting in a less than desirable work force. That all changed with Roosevelt and Pinchot and their selection process designated around a civil service testing system to get the best rangers.

The new rangers test consisted of a classroom written test and a field practical. Part of the field test consisted of marksmanship with both rifle and pistol. The ranger candidate had to supply his own horses, tack and firearms for work. Many men were known simply by their outfit and the firearms they carried. In the early days no two rangers looked alike. Considerable variety was the norm with a common western "cowboy" thread and bronze Forest Service badge that bound the rangers together.

"They are to be rangers in fact and not in name, and no excuse will be tolerated for inability to perform the vigorous bodily work of the position any more than lack of courage and honesty be excused." – Theodore Roosevelt

* * * * *

Editors' Note: This edition of *The Dixie Ranger* is a bit late getting to you due to "equipment" problems, with maybe some "operator" problems mixed in!! Our printer died and had to be replaced after we had started the newsletter. Along with the new printer was learning how to use the *wonderful, new features*. Part of our problems with the old printer was the inability to transfer our color photographs, which Elaine and Jim McConnell have taken at the luncheon meetings in Atlanta and those sent to us by fellow SFSRA members, from our computer files into the document (*Dixie Ranger*). Elaine and Jim have provided us with some excellent photographs, and we regret that we have not been able to share them with you. However, *wonderful* new software has been purchased, and we will try again in November. Sure would help if we were computer savvy!

* * * * *

Bad Eyesight – Arthur is 90 years old. He's played golf every day since his retirement 25 years ago. One day he arrives home looking downcast. "That's it," he tells his wife. "I'm giving up golf. My eyesight has gotten so bad that once I've hit the ball, I can't see where it went." His wife sympathizes and makes him a cup of tea. As they sit down, she says, "Why don't you take my brother with you and give it one more try." "That's no good," sighs Arthur. "Your brother's a hundred and three. He can't help." "He may be 103," says the wife, "but his eyesight is perfect." So the next day, Arthur heads off to the golf course with his brother-in-law. He tees up, takes an almighty swing and squints down the fairway. He turns to the brother-in-law. "Did you see the ball?" "Of course I did!" replies the brother-in-law. "I have perfect eyesight." "Where did it go?" asks Arthur. "I don't remember."

If you do not plan to use this form for your own personal use - dues or changes - please pass it on to a prospective Southern Forest Service Retirees Association member.

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Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

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