



The Dixie Ranger

Published quarterly by the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association
\$8.00 per year Vol. XXIX No. 2 May 1999

HOW DID THAT JOB TURN OUT?

By Jim Wenner, Ouachita NF, Retired

How many times have we wondered how a job turned out when we didn't see the results of our work before moving on? For example, I've wondered for 42 years about the yellow poplar seeded in an area we site-prepped around an old bull poplar up Potts Creek, George Washington NF.

Another time, about 1965 I was recreation planner in Region 7's Upper Darby Regional Office. "Recreation" was the buzz word then and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation was in its heyday. The Forest Service, wanting to be number one, was searching for projects. We had the north-south Appalachian Trail. We envisioned the north-south Pacific Crest Trail. We need an east-west trail! Jim, invent one. Maps on the table, I traced a corridor starting at the Long Trail in Vermont through the Adirondacks, tied to the Erie Canal and New York State parks. Be sure to traverse the Hector Land Use Project and, of course, the Allegheny National Forest. Get over to the Ohio border somehow, and Region 9, catch, you have a trail to locate westward. What will we call it? Easy, it's not in the South, but in the North country. Obviously, this is the North Country Trail! Okay, job done.

How did that job turn out? I was in central New York in July 1998. Hector LU has been upgraded to the Finger Lakes National Forest. At the ranger office in Hector, NY, I described that trail dream to Ranger Martha Twarkins. Her eyes twinkled as she stepped to the brochure rack and pulled out a folder with the familiar National Park Service layout. That's no dream, she explained. It goes right across the Forest. Right there on the front cover in big letters was "North Country Trail." "National Scenic Trail." And inside, amidst all the descriptive text, was the acknowledgement I hoped for: "The North Country Trail began as a U. S. Forest Service proposal in the mid-1960's..." "Wow," Martha exclaimed, "how neat." "Nice job, Jim," I thought as Doris and I actually hiked the North Country Trail in Watkins Glen, NY.

National Forest Service Museum Thanks SFSRA

The National Forest Service Museum Board of Directors wishes to thank the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association for the \$500 life membership in the NFSM. In addition we were pleasantly surprised by the additional contribution of \$100 each year, starting in the year 2000 for as long as the Association exists, also caused us to smile broadly.

Your membership and committed contribution is very timely. In 1999 it is our goal to restore the Forest Service Bungalow Ranger Station Residence, built in the 1920's, on our 36-acre site, a FS Special Use Permit located seven miles west of Missoula. In addition, we hope to soon build a 60' x 36' building on the same site. This building will be the preliminary museum and headquarters of the NFSM and National Smokejumpers Association. Of course this takes money, that's why we were so pleased with your contribution.

Again, thank you very much. *-Gary G. Brown, President*

(Note from Editors—In response to our question in the last issue of the DR regarding your thoughts on an increase in dues to be collected and then sent to the Museum, only 4 people responded with a “yes” and one with a “no”. If you have strong feelings either way, there is still time to let us know before our next luncheon date of June 10. The Board will discuss the issue at that time).



Luncheon June 10

Come join fellow retirees for lunch. Our next luncheon is June 10. We meet at the Petite Auberge restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road. We meet at 11:30 a. m. for a time of fellowship before lunch. Lunch is served at 12 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 per person. Reservations are required, so please call either Peaches Sherman at 770.253.7480 or the Brays at 770.253.0392. Reservations should be made no later than Tuesday, June 8. We'll look forward to seeing you there.



In case you think you are technologically challenged, look at this excerpt from a *Wall Street Journal* article...“Compaq is considering changing the instruction “Press Any Key” to “Press Return Key” because of the flood of calls asking where the “any” key is.

The End of the " Old Ranger" Stories

Joann Webb is sharing this letter from Ranger Bill Cranston which was written in January 1998 shortly before he died at age 94 on February 3, 1998. They corresponded for at least 30 years. Mr. Cranston was Ranger on the Osceola NF when Joann started with the Forest Service in 1956.

"Dear Joann,

How pleased I was to hear from you. That's the first letter I have had from anyone in Region 8. I got a letter from the Knut Lunnums in Yakima, Washington. His wife and my wife were from the same part of Washington. I didn't know Knut until our paths crossed in the Region, but we both worked for nearby logging companies – Knut worked with his father as a timber faller and I worked on the rigging as a choker setter, a scaler, and several years in camp office. The camp had 150-160 men. I kept their time and wrote out their checks once a month.

My wife died last summer after quite a long illness that kept her bedridden for about three years. My wife's doctor says I have remarkable good health and I agree with him. When I retired 32 years ago I immediately had a gall bladder and prostate operation. I was hospitalized for 26 days but I felt good all the time. Since then, I haven't had so much as a sniffle.

The camp cookhouse was for 150 men. The logging company I worked for ran 3 camps. The company sent a trainload of logs down their railway to be dumped into the Skagit River each day, six days a week.

The timber was Douglas fir, Hemlock and Red Cedar. The fir was a construction timber, the hemlock was used primarily in making paper and the red cedar mostly for shingles. In the west coast states of Washington, Oregon and California, the companies cut long logs, 32, 36, and 40 feet. The rest of the U. S. was shortlog country, 12, 14, and 16 feet. There is a cedar stump near Arlington which has a hole cut out of it that one can drive a car through, low gear, not high gear. Cedar is a swell-butted growing tree. After you get east of the Cascade Mountains, the timber in the rest of the U.S. doesn't grow near as big as on the Pacific Coast.

I have 8 great grandchildren—six boys and two girls. I have seen only one of them. One of my grandsons studied for the ministry. He preached for several years but the telephone company offered him a job at \$52,000 a year and he took it. It wasn't entirely on account of the money. He said there was an old woman

in the church that was trying to run it. Grandson Bill works at IBM . Judging from his lifestyle, his salary is plenty high. Our granddaughter's oldest son entered college last September. She returned to teaching to help pay his way.

Our son was smarter than I was. He married a girl that had a millionaire grandfather. She and her brother came into a sizeable sum of cash. I have written this on my lap. Affectionately, Bill Cranston"



You're Doing Great on Paying Dues

I do want to mention again that dues are paid through the end of the year that is shown on your address label. A (99) means that you are paid up through December 1999. It's o.k. to pay dues beyond the current year, but not too far ahead. If there is a (98) at the end of your name, you owe dues for 1999—\$8. If (99) appears after your name, you are current on your dues and do not owe any for 1999.



In Memoriam

Jeannette Prevost Russell, age 89, of Decatur, GA, died on February 2. She is survived by her husband, Paul H. Russell, son Richard and daughters Mary Jean Phillips and Elizabeth Smiley, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Kathryn Elizabeth McFarland Johnson, 88, died February 13 in Atlanta, GA. She was the widow of Alfred W. Johnson.

Angie Mule', 85, died March 19 in Alexandria, LA.

Mattie Sykes, wife of Clinton Sykes of Lufkin, Texas died in January.

Marjorie Dart (Haynes), long time secretary/receptionist to Forest Supervisor, NFs in Alabama, died January 16.

Donald Gerred, oldest son of Don Gerred, died in Washington, D. C. in February.

James B. Cartwright, 91, died on March 12. His daughter wrote that he was active and alert until his death. He loved *The Dixie Ranger* and commented everytime

one arrived, "Oh, wonderful! There's such good reading in this." He read each one cover to cover. I would appreciate your announcing his death in an upcoming issue. He still had friends all over the country—Clarissa Cartwright Blackmore.

Bruce Alter of Gainesville, GA, died in February.

Kythe M. Sears, age 104, died March 21 in Decatur, GA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold M. Sears. She is survived by two daughters, one son, ten grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Robert F. Collins, age 92, Lexington, KY, formerly of Winchester, KY, died January 3. Mr. Collins was a former Forest Supervisor of the Daniel Boone NF. He began his career with the Forest Service in 1931, serving in a variety of capacities, and during WW II rising to the rank of Army lieutenant colonel in command of a tank battalion. In May 1953 he arrived in Winchester to serve as supervisor of the Cumberland National Forest. During his 17 years as supervisor of the Forest which encompassed 500,000 acres in 16 Kentucky counties, Collins was instrumental in getting its name changed to the Daniel Boone National Forest. When first established in 1930, it had been named for the Duke of Cumberland, son of George II of England and notorious as one of the bloodiest men in British history. Not only was the new name more fitting, but it helped identify the forest with Kentucky as nothing else could do. Mr. Collins received many honors during his government service and also long after his retirement. He served as a visiting professor in the University of Kentucky School of Forestry, Forest Policy, for four years after retiring from the Daniel Boone. He authored the book on "History of Daniel Boone National Forest" and a textbook, "Forest Policy of the United States" for the Forestry School. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a son, Robert T. Collins of Los Angeles and a granddaughter, Kathleen, of Los Angeles.

Sam Johnson, Snellville, GA, died February 28. He is survived by wife Ruth. Mr. Johnson served as treasurer of the SFSRA for a number of years.

Harry R. Wright, 85, of Highlands, NC died February 23. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Sara N. Moore Wright, two sons—Charles of Highlands and David of Alexandria, VA, and two grandchildren.

Harry L. Rossoll, 89, of Atlanta, GA, died February 25. Harry created the Smokey Bear fire prevention messages that became one of the most successful public relations campaigns of all time. For 25 years Harry drew more than 1,000 of the "Smokey Says" cartoons. He also talked with foresters in the field and gave talks about Smokey to school children. Harry was a charter member of the SFSRA and attended almost all of the luncheons. Along with his niece, microbiologist Dr. June A. Bradlaw of Rockville, MD, Harry was writing a book about Tree Bear—the bear who encourages planting of trees. Dr. Bradlaw expects the book to be published this year. Harry gave talks to the retirees on Tree Bear at the luncheons. Many of us will remember Harry's trumpet. He played in a band locally and they also entertained at SFSRA luncheons.

Harry began working for the Forest Service in 1937 and retired in 1971. He was busier in retirement than when he worked it seemed. He painted a collection of murals interpreting the history of forestry that are displayed in the Forest Heritage Center at Beavers Bend State Park in Oklahoma.

For many years Harry maintained a studio in Executive Park in DeKalb County but in the most recent years, he worked from his home.

There are no immediate survivors. Harry's daughter was killed in an automobile wreck in 1961, and his son died in a boating accident in 1965. His wife, Olga, died in 1988.

At the very beginning of Harry's funeral, the minister said that Harry did not want any tears. We were to celebrate his life—and what a life he had! We shall miss him.



MORE ON PRESCRIBED BURNING

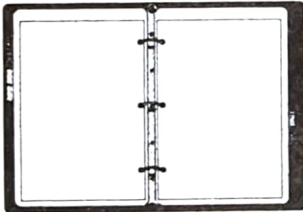
By Eli J. "Joe" Giaquinto

Adding to the accounts of prescribed burning (PB) in the southern national forests (O. D. Smith, Don Peterson),—when I was DR on the Tenaha RD/Sabine NF, Texas (1957-58) and again on the Neches RD/Davy Crockett, NF, Texas (1958-61), we began the initial PB in those areas. We burned for rough reduction, site prep for natural seedbed and planting sites, as well as brown spot control. By that time I had experienced PB for every conceivable purpose for some four and a half years on the Leaf River RD/DeSoto NF, Mississippi, where our wildfire fighting experience (385 fires the first year I was there) taught us a lot about controlled fire, as well. Our first PB on the Neches was on the north side

of Texas Hwy 103, from Lufkin to Crockett, east of Ratcliff. We knew that to effectively control undesirable species and prepare the site for natural seeding, we would need a hot! fire, and experience taught that there would be an adverse effect on the pine timber. Due to the convection currents at the highway right-of-way, the fire was particularly hot along that area. After the burn, the residual stand looked really sick, becoming the subject of several complaints from the travelling and local publics, and supplemental comments from the SO. I explained the objectives of the PB and assured everyone that the damage was temporary and to be expected. The residual timber survived quite well and we had a similar "carpet of green seedlings covering the area" that O.D. experienced on the Mena RD.

Thankfully John Cooper who was the Supervisor for the NFs in Texas and had been Assistant Supervisor in Mississippi when I was there, understood the situation and did everything he could to explain our position. He was an expert at public relations and I&E, and all complaints soon subsided.

I learned a lot about public relations in Texas. So much different than in Mississippi. At that time, Mississippians expected and many even enjoyed woods-burning. Not so in Texas.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please add the following new members to your Directory:

J. LAMAR BEASLEY (JANNETTE), 2310 Ballycairne Court, Reston, VA.; phone: 703.860.2640

CLINTON (Clint) O. FLOYD (DIANE), Rt 3, Box 141-C, Kosciusko, MS 39090; e-mail: clintfloyd@aol.com

ROBERT N. KITCHENS (VICKIE), 1281 Parkwood Chase NW, Acworth, GA 30102; phone 770.425.1058

TROXELL OLIN MASON, Rt. 1, Box 23, Unicoi, TN 37692; phone 423.743.8197

BARRY NEHR (JANET), 10 Alcovy Way, Covington, GA 30014; phone 770.787.2175

CHRIS THOMPSON, 6835 Glenlake Pkwy, Apt I, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Please make the following changes to your Directory. Changes are indicated by underscoring.

J. W. Brumley - 3946 Saint Johns Ave. #H2, Jacksonville, FL 32205-9356

John I. Christensen - 1812 NE 7th Ter, Gainesville, FL 32609-3751

Lucile Isbell - 106 Whisper Trace, Peachtree City, GA 30269-2234

Jackie Mount - 25 Stone Creek Trail, Alpharetta, GA 30004-2303

Jane Prather - St. Georges Woods, Apt 11, 1401 Old Macon Road, Griffin, GA 30223, phone: 770.227.6643

Lucy Qualls - 507 NW Fairway Villa PL #20, Lawton, OK 73505-6036

Gordon Small - 1496 Fern Trail, Waynesville, NC 28786

Mrs. Walter R. Smith - 373 Trimont Trl, Apt 6, Franklin, NC 28734-2562

Change or add the following e-mail addresses:

J. Carl Arnold ocarnold@emeraldis.com

Robert Bowers bowezx@worldnet.att.net

Maudie Butler frankbutler@earthlink.net

Bob Erickson bobbarberickson@worldnet.att.net

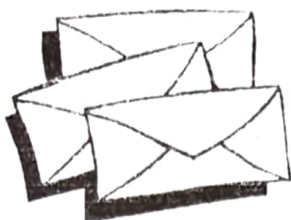
Robert Lentz (correction)

<http://www.easternshoreartist.com/RobertLentz/index.html>

Hurston and Mary Ann Nicholas maryhurstn@aol.com

Jack Reichert (correction) jmreichert@alaweb.com

Best newspaper headlines of 1998 - all verified! Include Your Children When Baking Cookies; Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers; Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case; Miners Refuse to Work After Death.



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Gerald V. Ward, Mountain View, AR – Here are my dues for 1999 and 2000. I really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* newsletter and the letters from the members and from retirees that I was associated with during our working days.

I am sorry to hear of Phil Newton's death. Mr. Newton was a Ranger on the Sylamore RD during 1940's. He spent a lot of nights at our house during those days. For some reason the Ranger was required to spend several nights each month on the district. Since his home was in Mountain View which was outside the district boundaries, he was required to do this.

I have been trying to find out if Lewis J. Smith is still living and, if so, where is he living? He was my first Ranger. He was one of the "Old School" Rangers and he believed in employees earning their pay. In those days employees were required to travel to and from the work location on their own time. If Lewis was working on the district and not in the office, he did the same thing. Saturdays, for the most part, was just another work day for him which was spent in the office catching up on paper work. The initial stages of evaluating Blanchard Springs Caverns started shortly before he was transferred to Georgia. I think he was located in the Supervisor's Office on the Ouachita NF when he retired.

Betty, keep up the good work. We retirees have an avenue for keeping in touch via the newsletter. Look forward to the next issue.

Clint O. Floyd, Thomastown, MS – The year has flown past. Diane and I live in Thomastown, MS, which is just a four way stop on the highway with two stores and a post office. We've been very busy here with community activities, our four grandchildren, and a small consulting business that I've started. I talked to Briscoe Price a couple of weeks ago and that aroused my interest in the SFSRA and receiving *The Dixie Ranger* to hear what some of our long time friends are doing.

Dick Fitzgerald, Fairfax, VA – I see by the address on the recent *Dixie Ranger* that I owe my dues. So here's a couple year's worth enclosed. You folks do a good job on the paper. It is sure nice to read about some of the old work in this day and age when it seems we can't do much right. Hope you all have a great year.

Merlin Dixon, Homosassa Springs, FL – Thanks, both of you for the great job you are doing on *The Dixie Ranger*.

I can't believe I'm in my 22nd year of retirement—where have the years gone?

Bob Dodson and I get together every now and then. We usually talk about the “good old days in the FS.” Sure glad we served back then and not now.

One fire season I put in over 200 (documented) hours of overtime—my Ranger, George Vitas, asked supervisor Don Morriss if I could get overtime pay for at least some of the time or compensation time. Don's answer was a loud and clear - - - -NO!

In the 40's you had no time to go to your new station to find a house for your family. When I was transferred from the Kisatchie to the Pisgah District, the van with all our belongings arrived 45 minutes after we did. When I asked Ranger Bill Duncan where I could find the house Supervisor Hugh Redding told me would be furnished, the ranger laughed and said, “You will have no house furnished.” I did finally manage to talk him into letting me stay in Shank Lodge until I found a house for my family—yes, those were the good old days—Ha!

Walter Newman, Falls Church, VA – Please accept my thanks again for doing *The Dixie Ranger*. You requested comments on several matters. I heartily support your contribution to the NFS Museum and will vote for a \$2 increase in dues for that project. I hope that Harvey Mack's operations in California will be melded into the Missoula project. On the other hand I heartily disapprove any contributions by SFSRA to the WO FSX Club. I am a member of the WO FSX Club. It costs \$1 to join and there are no annual dues. I don't know what SFSRA members could get as benefits from contributing to that organization.

It is hard to realize that I retired from the FS 26 years ago and left the Southern Region for the W.O. nearly 38 years ago. Like Ted Mathis, I would prefer more short bits and pieces about retirees than long-winded stories, but I certainly don't know how to get people to write about their situations, etc. As the years pass there are fewer and fewer names that I remember.

Dorothy and I have just about quit making trips abroad. When we think about it, it seems that we have already “been there, done that.” We still go to Florida occasionally for short stays in winter, to the New Jersey pine barrens and South coast in Spring and/or Fall, and we are active in the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Canals and Navigation's Society. I still volunteer at the

Fairfax County Library, grow a vegetable garden and a bunch of flowers even though I take 11 pills every day for various ailments and my arthritic knees are a considerable problem.

(Editor's note: We first set up the \$100 payment to the WO FSX Club to help with expenses for getting a Web Page up and running. Then for our share another \$100 was established in our budget to continue with expenses yearly. However, since we first established this in 1997, the WO FSX Club has not requested any additional funds to date).

Arch Smith, (Class of '34 to '70) Eastover, SC – Thanks again and again for your splendid work in keeping *The Dixie Ranger* coming! Although the persons we still know are dwindling, it's still good to hear about those we do know!

We talked to Jean Brands last night. She had sent us a copy of the news story about Harry Rossoll's death, and we got all the "retirees news" first hand. Surely sorry about Harry. He was a great guy! Smokey will miss him!

We are "rocking along" and trying to keep from getting old! No luck, though. Babs is "Mrs. Wobble" and I am "Mr. Hobble" – both still kicking.

(Editor's note: Did you notice that Mr. Smith put his years of service and retirement after his name in his letter to the Editors? That's interesting and I'd like to use that feature in future DR's. Would you consider doing the same the next time you write? Many times when I get your letters I wonder how long you have been retired. Some do mention the years, others don't. Think about doing it, please – Thanks, Betty).

George Blomstrom, Harrisonburg, VA – Just noticed, here are my dues for a few more years. Time flies. Have been retired 10 years the end of February. Enjoy the news in the "*Ranger*" of former friends and tellers of tall tales.

Haven't done too much—go to New England/Nova Scotia once or twice a year visiting family and friends. Note: Up there they think I talk like a southerner. Taught at the Romanian American University in Bucharest for a month each time in Nov. 92, Oct. 95, and Oct. 97. They gave me an Honorary Professor, PhD in 97 for "...the outstanding contribution in promoting the cooperative relationships between our two universities (James Madison), we grant to..." etc., "...for the promotion of education and culture." No I don't speak Romanian, in fact some people here don't think I can speak English !!

Keep up the good work and keep the news coming.

Bill Williams, Jonesville, LA – I really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and want to keep it coming. Here's a check for a couple of years dues.

My wife and I still do a lot of travelling and plan on a trip to the Northwest again this year. I certainly enjoy the stories about Ivan J. Nicholas. I also have a few from the Kisatchie and him.

Vera Thorsen, Minneapolis, MN – Enjoyed the last *Dixie Ranger*. I'm getting to know fewer and fewer people. I pass my copy along to my Jim who is on the Ocala NF.

Will be leaving for my annual trip to Florida soon. Mpls has had a very mild winter—hardly any snow. I'm keeping busy and travelling as usual.

Leslie M. Oliphant, Placerville, CA – Upon inspecting the label bringing *The Dixie Ranger* to me here in the land of the 49ers, I notice I need to become a 99er. Check is enclosed.

Also enclosed are a couple of articles clipped from *The Sacramento Bee* about the passing of Harry Rossoll. One was on the obituary page, the other from the Editorial Page the next day.

I knew Harry quite well due to my 2 sojourns in the RO, '57-63 and '68-69. When Harry heard I was transferring to R-5 late in 1969, he asked me to do a favor for him. Harry told me that during his Navy service during WWII he was stationed in San Francisco for a time. While there he had sold some of his paintings to the Domino Club. He wanted me to see if they were still there.

Upon inquiring around shortly after arriving, I was told the Domino Club was a very popular "watering hole" in downtown San Francisco.

I found several things to be what I considered unique about the Domino Club. First of all, you entered it from an alley instead of from a street. Next, it had several levels to it.

Hanging throughout the several levels and the connecting stairways were many dozens of paintings, all nicely arranged and illuminated.

One of the charms of the Domino Club was that you could purchase a libation from one of the several bars, then wander around perusing the many paintings at leisure.

On my next trip back to R-8 I was able to report to Harry that his paintings were still prominently displayed and, that in my judgement, they were outstanding. You can just imagine Harry's small mustache wriggling as he mischievously grinned. You see, Harry had carefully neglected to tell me that all of the many paintings at the Domino Club were from the same category of art—the female nude.

Ah, Harry Rossoll—what a guy! I know you two are quite sad about his passing, just as I am.

(Yes, Les we were extremely sad at Harry's passing. But I can't help but think of how Harry would be reveling in the accolades bestowed on him by the Associated Press, local newspapers throughout the nation and television stations in the Atlanta area. We shall miss him—editors).

Bill Bustin, Brandon, MS - The increase in dues to support the National Forest Museum would certainly get my vote. My career with the F.S. was 1956-1979 only but recently could I claim retirement pay. We have many friends in the old R-8 in Miss., Ala., Georgia and Arkansas.

Keep me informed about the National re-union.

Horace Landrith, Seneca, SC - I enjoy reading the stories in *The Dixie Ranger*. I am in the real estate appraisal and Forestry Consultant business in Seneca and have been in this business since "retiring" from the Forest Service 12 years ago. Most of what I know I learned from the Forest Service, particularly people like Phil Etchison, my old boss in the Regional Office. Phil was in charge of land acquisition and exchange and was responsible for acquiring many thousands of acres of land in Region 8.

Phil had a head of blond hair that was beautiful until after about the first 5 minutes in the office after which it became entangled in his fingers and stood straight up the rest of the day.

I was on the Cherokee NF and wrote Phil a letter asking him to set aside \$25,000 for a memorial to Jim Froula for his excellent work in acquiring ROW for the Appalachian trail. I told him this could be justified under the little used, but still applicable timber and stone act. Phil replied that this was an excellent idea, and the R.F. would go along, but there was one detail that had to be taken care of, and this was Mr. Froula would have to be deceased, and that if I would take care of this, the money would be allocated. Since Jim was not in favor of this, we dropped the case.

I learned while visiting the R.O. not to take a lunch break with Phil unless you were prepared to walk. He asked me to have lunch with him. I said ok. We walked up the street, stopped at a snack bar, got a sandwich and drink and kept walking. I thought he was looking for a picnic table, but we walked several miles, eating while we walked, and finished back at the office. I had heard of people eating on the run and not taking time to eat, but this took the cake. I'm glad I had on my good walking cowboy boots.

Roger Mizell, Doraville, GA - Here are my dues for the next two years. I enjoy receiving my *Dixie Ranger* and immediately sit down and read it, front to back. Y'all do a wonderful job of putting it together. Please keep up the good work.

Bob Potter, Mocksville, NC - Dues for a couple more years are enclosed. I thank you and all involved in the publication of *The Dixie Ranger*. Although my work in the Southern Region ended in 1961 when I transferred to the WO, I still enjoy reading about the people and events associated with that Region during the 1950's. Larry Walker's recollection about Special Use Permits on the Sabine NF remind me of one of my first experiences on the Black Warrior District of the Bankhead NF shortly after transferring there from the Ozark NF in 1954.

Jack Logan was the District Ranger and Ben Carson was his Assistant DR. I was the newest member of the staff and was assigned the job of collecting a \$5.00 special use fee from Mr. And Mrs. Smith. This elderly couple owned a large, multistory wooden house near the village of Grayson. The house was L shaped, was built before the establishment of the national forest and, unfortunately, straddled the NF property line created with subsequent government purchase of the private land. Mr. Smith had been seriously injured years before I met him and was confined to a wheel chair. Mrs. Smith was a wiry, tough little lady determined to defy government claim to her property and especially to resist paying the special use fee. As I learned later, collection of Mrs. Smith's \$5.00 fee had become a frustrating and not always successful venture confronting the District Ranger and his staff. As new man on the totem pole, I was assigned the task.

My first contact with Mrs. Smith was on a Wednesday morning and I spent most of the day sitting with her around her wood burning stove in her kitchen, trying as tactfully as I could, to tell her that I was there to collect the \$5.00 fee. She explained that she could not pay the fee until she received her social security check, which might arrive the next day. So, I visited again with Mrs. Smith on Thursday, and...on Friday. She said her check still had not arrived and beside, she was not convinced that her house was on government land. She insisted

that if I returned on the next day, a Saturday, she would ask her neighbor, a salesman for Raleigh Products, to assist me in re-surveying the property line in question. So, although Saturday was not an official working day for me, I did return armed with copies of the county land records and maps and a compass and staff. Together with Mrs. Smith's neighbor, we went to the four corners on either side of the house, identified the witness trees for each corner and sighted through the compass that the proven line did indeed pass right through the apex of the L-shaped house. The Raleigh Products man said only that he was satisfied and that we should go down and talk again with Mrs. Smith. I folded up the land records, picked up the compass and staff, and followed him back to the house where Mrs. Smith and her husband had been watching us. As he approached Mrs. Smith, he said "Mrs. Smith, the ranger and me have looked at this property line and sure enough, it does go through your house. So, next Saturday, when my boy and I both have off of work, we'll come here and take down this side of the house and use the tin roofing to cover up the open end of the remaining part of your house. That will solve your problems with the government and you won't ever have to pay that special use fee." There was a pause during which Mrs. Smith looked surprised and flabbergasted. She then came around behind me and whispered in my ear "Ranger, if you'll come to the house with me I'll give you the \$5.00."

Jack Boren, Alexandria, LA – It is with sad heart that I must report the passing of Angie Mule', one of the old timers on the Kisatchie. Angie, at age 85, passed away in Alexandria on March 19th.

My memories of Angie began with my assignment as the Kisatchie's first Special Agent (Criminal Investigator) in November 1963. Angie was the clerk, secretary to Bill Brandau who was the Fire Staff Officer—kinda the poor forest deputy—and my boss. At the time the Kisatchie, due to a devastating fire in 1961 or 62 was in temporary quarters at the VA Hospital, across the road from the under-construction new Forestry Center. Angie took me under her wing to show me the Forest Service ropes as I had just retired from the US Air Force. She was great, patient, understanding and most helpful. I learned what a controlled burn was for and that we had fire towers and plowed out fires.

In about September 1964, the new building was ready. It was touted as the only place outside Washington, DC that housed all elements of the FS under one roof—NF Systems, State and Private, and Research. Hans Raum was Supervisor. Big plans were made for the grand opening. Chief Ed Cliff, other FS VIPs, Rangers, Federal and State legislators, mayors, governors, and you name it—we had 'em all for this gathering.

After the on-site ribbon cutting, speeches, accolades and such, a big reception and dinner was planned for the evening. Everyone was leaving. All of a sudden, here comes Angie being escorted and on the arm of CHIEF OF THE WHOLE FOREST SERVICE, ED CLIFF. Out the front door, into Angie's old Plymouth sedan and away they went. Well!!! Bill Brandau and, I believe, Frank Finison, Rec. Staff, came running up to me and said "You're the Forest Investigator, follow them and see what Angie and the Chief are up to. My response was hey guys I've only been here a couple of months and I ain't about to run off and investigate the CHIEF. To make a relatively short story. On the way home I passed a local lounge, The Boom Boom Room and there was Angie's Plymouth. I later learned that Angie had clerked for Cliff in Alaska or some place and they were just having a "hello". Angie said that the Chief asked her to get him away from the crowd for awhile. I sat on the "secret" for years. At least 'til Cliff retired and I cleared it with Angie. We had some good laughs and I kept my job.

After Angie and I both retired, we kept in touch by phone and my wife and Angie had lunch once in a while. We'll miss her. The old order passes and it's important for us to remember the good old days.

Brooke Davis, Gainesville, GA - Thank you for your extremely fine job of keeping this newsletter rolling. I still enjoy hearing from a few familiar names. I do miss my former co-worker, Bruce Alter.

Eli (Joe) Giaquinto, Tucker, GA - I noticed a "(98)" on the DR address. Here's my check. I'm all for the additional \$2 charge. Incidentally, I noticed on Page 13 that you cited "Don Shenkyr." I knew Doug Shenkyr quite well.

Thanks for keeping us well-informed and in touch with our past.

(Joe, you're right. It should have been Doug. My apologies to Mr. Shenkyr-Betty)

John (Jack) Welsh, Ormond Beach, FL - Here is my check for a couple more years plus some. As they say "time flies when you are having fun!." It has been ten years as of January 1, 1999, that I have been retired.

The big news from here is the fire storm situation we had in July and August last year in Central Florida. Fire crews from most of the U.S. were here fighting the fires. Even an experimental Russian fire fighting plane came to our rescue, but I understand it was not used because the Forest Service would not certify it.

Our house is on a peninsula between the Halifax River and the Atlantic Ocean, and I felt very safe until I found a piece of charred pine bark almost half the size of my house in my yard. The situation was so bad I-95 from Jacksonville to almost Orlando was closed. The entire Flagler County just north of us was evacuated. Every day the smoke was thick and the young and elderly were advised to stay indoors. Visibility was less than half a mile some days.

All the animals in the pond, a nursing home and about 10% of Daytona Beach were evacuated. The July auto races were cancelled.

There was an overwhelming outpouring of community support for the fire fighters such as refusal to accept payment for ice, water bottles, bananas, and food, at booths at Wal- Mart. We could not supply some western fire fighters with wool socks (here in Florida).

One major loss was a lumber yard but very few houses that had fire burn between them were lost due to the great effort of the fire fighters.

When we could go see the effects of the burn, I saw a crew from Utah waiting along the road and I stopped to talk to them. They said "green" (palmetto) should not burn but it does. I asked them if they still used the Red Card and they said yes. I told them that I was a retired Forest Service person and the last Red Card I had was in 1968. One young man said, "I wasn't even born then."

My son wanted me to go volunteer my services to the effort, but I said that they wouldn't want any advice from an older person.

Locals do not like controlled or prescribed burns because of the smoke and ash that gets in their pools, but every chance I get I tell them that it is needed to prevent another disaster. Controlled burns are more common now and the radio stations notify people of the planned burns.

Don Pomerening, Alexandria, VA - Sure appreciate keeping up with long ago friends through this media. We're all getting older. My wife, Audrey, continues to work full time as a CPA. I've been retired 21 years. My goal is to be retired 31 ½ years, the same amount of Federal service I had at retirement. So there's a chance I'll achieve that milestone.

At our next retirees meeting, our oldest member Lloyd Swift, age 94, is going to speak on "People and Events" during his tenure with the Forest Service. Memorial services for Bob Winters was March 3. He died at age 96.

Lyman Gray, Tallahassee, FL - I enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* very much and am looking forward to Bill Cranston's letter. I had high regards for him.

Danny Britt, Pineville, LA - I enjoy getting each issue and seeing who is around. I am still in Louisiana and keeping busy. Get in as much fishing as I can and do some volunteer work. Keep up the good work.

Dan Bacon, Macon, GA - I notice that my dues are past due, so I'm sending a check for two more years plus a little extra. I have been in Macon since '95 and still working a little doing soil surveys - about half time. I appreciate all that you do in keeping the retirees informed.

Hob Howard, St. Petersburg, FL - I turned 90 on my birthday January 22. My daughter arranged for a family reunion at her place in Loganville, GA, to mark the occasion. Everybody was able to be there except one grandson-in-law and my 22 year old great grandson who is a junior in college. I was with my 5 grandchildren in the same place for the first time since 1972. There were 6 great grandchildren and 2 step great grandchildren at the party - a day to remember!

(Congratulations, Hob. Becoming 90 years old is quite an accomplishment. We have a number of our retirees who are 90 or 90+, but I have no way of finding out who they all are. I would love to do a feature on all of you and if you are interested in others who are in your same age group, please write to us and give us a little bit of your background. Thanks, Betty).

Joe Bennett, Hertford, NC - I spent a good portion of last summer in Texas working with the Texas Forest Service. Everybody heard about, read about or saw on TV the fires in Florida and east Texas. However, there was another fire siege in Texas in 1998 that hardly anybody ever heard about.

From the latter part of May until the latter part of October, five months, the West Texas Zone Operation coordinated and planned the placement of resources over about 80% of west Texas, basically everything west of the Trinity River. The West Texas Zone Operation was the Area Command with the addition of some tactical responsibilities primarily involving aircraft use. I was logistics chief for about half of the period.

These figures are estimates and varied almost from day to day, but on one day in early August we had about 1100 personnel, 64 aircraft (tankers, helicopters and lead planes), 28 flow units and dozers, 127 engines and 8 hand crews in about 18-20 staging areas scattered across the zone. This was at the peak of the drought

when the K-B drought index was 600-800 (800 max) for most of the zone. There were resources from every federal fire fighting agency, many of the state agencies and they came from 45 states, also the weather service.

There were a number of R-8 retirees besides me. Bob James (RO) plans chief; Jim Evans (Ouachita) air ops.; Jack Langley (Alabama) plans chief; W. Weaver (Daniel Boone) logistics chief; and John Cathey (South Carolina) logistics chief. We also had several retirees from other regions. Whit Lehner (Florida) worked at the state office of emergency operations (Hope I spelled his name right - *me, too, Joe, I hope I read your writing correctly*). There was also a national prevention team assigned to the zone.

Unfortunately I don't have any figures on number of fires or acres burned. Since there is no commercial timber in the zone, our responsibility was to protect people, property and other resources. At the time I left in late September, the ratio of dollar value saved to dollars spent was better than 7 to 1. It was a very interesting operation. The Texas Forest Service folks were as good as any I've ever worked with.

Betty Wells, Montgomery, AL - Always look forward to *The Dixie Ranger* and especially all the "stories." I only came to work for the FS in 1968, but there were still a lot of the "oldsters" around that loved to tell about others "tales" and I knew a lot of the ones they told on and had even heard some of the yarns you have printed. It is lots of fun to hear them.

Ed Ellenberg, Fairfield Glade, TN via e-mail - Greetings from Tenn. I'll make this short and not so sweet. You clearly explained how those of us who want to can participate in the National Forest Museum Program. I believe it is a bad precedent for the SFSRA to start making collections for other programs and activities.



At the March luncheon meeting, Terry McDonald, Public Affairs Officer on the Cherokee NF, presented a slide program on recreation on the Cherokee. Bob Bowers, Vice President, is willing to work up a bus tour to some of the areas shown in the slide presentation. Anyone interested in participating may contact Bob either by e-mail at bowezx@worldnet.att.net or phone: 770.205.1902. This could either be a one-day trip from Atlanta or an overnight trip, depending on the response. If interested, please let Bob know before the June 10 luncheon.

TRIBUTE TO "COLONEL" BOB COLLINS

Prepared by Jack Godden

Robert F. Collins was his name, former Forest Supervisor of the Cumberland/Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky. He was one of the last two surviving Region 7 Forest Supervisors. He died January 3, 1999 at the age of 92. (Ephe Olliver is the last surviving R-7 Forest Supervisor).

News releases on his death spoke of him being a "visiting" Professor of Forestry at the University of Kentucky, writing a book "A History of the Daniel Boone National Forest", and donating his personal library of 1,861 books to Eastern Kentucky University Library. To Leon Cambre, John F. King and me, there's more to add about the "Colonel." John King was one of his District Rangers at Berea, KY and spent 17 years of his 42-year career under Bob. John began his career on the Monongahela NF as a "Planting Boss" in 1931, served in WWII, obtained his Forestry Degree at West Virginia University. He is now 89 years of age and assists Berea College and their forest. I served first as Assistant Ranger on the Morehead District and then as the first Resource Project Staff on the Cumberland, 1957-1958. In the Supervisor's Office on the second floor of the Post Office in Winchester, I sat with my back to Bob, separated by a door only closed when he was dealing with the Regional Forester and other personnel matters. Leon Cambre served as his Deputy Forest Supervisor from 1969 until Bob's retirement. By contacts with each other we collaborated on this Tribute to him.

Leon Cambre said it well: "His 'General orders of the Day' (including what F.S. uniform to be worn at meetings), wearing of the uniform, office dress (with vest), demonstrated his military bearing. He believed strongly in the chain of command. If the Regional Forester told him something, we all began rolling up our sleeves, but if a Regional Staff did, we always knew a conflict was coming. His sense of history ran deep, an accomplished Civil War historian interested in battle tactics, always speculating what would have happened if communications were better or if some commander obeyed orders better. His loyalty to people he served with was even greater, especially old Forest Techs and S.O. administrative people." (I can testify to this after listening to Bob on the telephone one day telling the Regional Forester he was sending back his Personnel Officer who insulted a Forestry Technician on a classification review. My "orders" were to pick up the R.O. Employee at Berea, KY and put him on the evening train for his return to Upper Darby, PA.)

Collins espoused his appointment as a Kentucky "Colonel." He maintained excellent relations with the State of Kentucky – its State Parks, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, Colleges and Universities. His political astuteness achieved the change in Forest names, from the Cumberland to Daniel Boone (1965), the establishment of Redbird Purchase Unit and Ranger District, some twenty miles east of the original proclamation boundary, in the heart of Appalachia. He was a professional: a member of the Society of American Foresters, served as Chairman of the Kentucky/Tennessee section, member of Soil Conservation Society of America, attended the 13th Mountain Forestry Festival in Italy in 1964 and once was recognized as Forestry Man of the Year.

He saw to the administration of seven Ranger Districts, two Job Corps centers and witnessed the quality of the Forest resources improve. He was a mentor to many that achieved status because of their learning experiences under the "Colonel." His dedication rubbed off on you. "He was the kind of character that had two pair of spit-polished cavalry boots in his gun room ready to go if ever called" said Leon Cambre. As John King expressed it "Bob Collins displayed a fine image as a forester. With Irish courage, forestry education, Army discipline and knowledge of people, he was the best Forest Supervisor I have ever served. He encouraged his fellow workers to put aside the caulked boots and stag breeches and appear as forester and not wood hicks. He considered me as his first sergeant. His advice and training will never be forgotten."

Region 7 was divided in 1966 between Regions 8 and 9, the Cumberland went to R-8. Neither Regions, 8 or 9, realized the "jewels" they had acquired. Bob Collins was one of those fine cut gems who may not have always accepted R-8 ways of doing things, occasionally thinking "we really are Region 7 ½ here (as Cambree recited.) His accomplishments though speak for themselves. There are few others who will ever have the tenure on one National Forest to ever equal what Robert F. Collins did for the National Forest System in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "Long may his chimney smoke" was John King's farewell to another Forest Service great. I agree.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

Memories from the NF's in Texas by Larry Trekell

A Wild Ride on the Rio Rollercoaster, by Joel Nitz, Hot Springs, AR (Postponed from May issue)

Being Chief is Not Always Fun, by Bob Neelands, St. Augustine, FL (Postponed from May issue)

SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE
RETIREES ASSOCIATION
70 WILKES COURT
NEWNAN, GA 30263-6124

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEWNAN GA
PERMIT #34

Note: Please make your luncheon reservations by June 8. See page 2 for phone numbers.

In This Issue:

- National Museum 2
- Luncheon 2
- End of Story 3
- In Memoriam 4
- More on Prescribed
Burning 6
- Welcome New Members 7
- Letters 9
- Tribute 19
- Coming next issue 20

* * * *

OFFICERS: Jerry Edwards, President (770.998.1969); Robert Bowers, Vice-President (770.205.1902);
Betty Bray, Sec.-Treasurer (770.253.0392)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dan Sims (1999), Peaches Sherman (2000), Robert Johns (2001), Ex-Officio, Robert Erickson

EDITORS: Bert and Betty Bray E-mail: brayira@aol.com Phone: 770.253.0392

Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Dues are \$8 per year, payable in January. Mailing address:
Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 70 Wilkes Court, Newnan, GA 30263