



The Dixie Ranger

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Officers:

President:

Bob Erickson

Vice-President:

Jerry Edwards

Sec.-Treasurer:

Betty Bray

Directors:

1998:

Olen Aycock

1999:

Dan Sims

2000:

Peaches Sherman

Editors:

Bert & Betty Bray

Address:

SFSRA

1973 Hwy 34 E

Newnan, GA

30265-1327

e-mail:

brayIra@aol.com

Phone:

770.253.0392

JUNIOR FORESTER ON THE SABINE

A continuation of the story: What happened to the gasoline?

Had I pulled loose a fuel line? Checking with the flashlight answered that question negatively. Ah, here's the problem: the bootlegger's gas tank had been peppered with buckshot. Apparently soap, which gasoline won't cut, had been used to seal the holes, and the soap dissolved while the car sat in the water-filled ditch. To Shelbyville I then trudged through the mud, arriving just as Mr. Strong was opening the country store.

The kindly shopkeeper filled a five-gallon can with gas, left the merchandise in the care of his wife, and on his tractor we went for the car. Another hour later, filling the tank at Strong's store, I was on my way to San Augustine, tho' the fuel gauge by then again read empty.

The FS quickly located a pickup truck for the city-bred Yankee forester to drive. Months later, I learned FS auditors turned hand springs when they received the bill for the gas, refusing to pay. The FS contracted with Texaco, while Strong's Store sold Gulf. Solution to this problem involved a federal institution in Kansas that manufactured highest-quality paint brushes. As Leavenworth's products were not on inventory in the ranger district's warehouse, Mr. Strong was happy with the barter exchange. I still hold the record for spending more days stuck in the mud than any forester ever assigned on the Sabine.

A Friendly Town

In San Augustine, a county seat of some 1500 people, this kid from the concrete jungle of the inner city found a home. While notoriety is written in the town's history and a Texas Ranger ("One riot, one ranger") assigned there was our neighbor, no one locked doors. A quiet village! Yes.

The town's people, and especially the members of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in the old village, were good to us.

Without a minister, the manse was vacant. The church folks moved us in, the nicest home in which either of us had ever lived. In exchange, as a layman, I led Sunday services, morning and evening, continuing to do so until the congregation called the Rev. J. Lester Spencer, a demobilized Army chaplain who had served the nearby POW camp.

How glad I was to have been a citizen of San Augustine when, years later as Dean of the School of Forestry, I met up with a state representative at the Austin airport. As Rep. Steve Burgess and I chatted, a member of the state Railroad Commission arrived on the scene. Dressed in the highest-fashion cowboy attire, from 10-gallon Stetson to one-of-a-kind silver-embossed western boots, the commissioner asked a lot of questions about the school and the university. Suddenly, the 6-foot-plus politician leaned way over, pushed his finger into my chest, and blurted into my face, "Wayer yoa frum?" Just as quickly, Steve interrupted to exclaim, "Oh, Larry Walker, he's from San Augustine!" The high-fashion cowboy's response, "That's ok then. I thought yoa was one of these (expletives deleted) Yankees who come down here to tell us how to run our schools and colleges. For many reasons, we'd found a wonderful home in San Augustine.

Wildfire Solution

Ranger Nick sized up the fire situation. It wasn't that our people were setting them; but the payroll

showed our people were fighting them. They earned \$.35 an hour fighting fire. Wages for road, bridge, and trail crews, TSI workers, and timber markers amounted to \$.40. A fellow could put in 40 hours at \$.40 and earn some extra dollars on weekends at \$.35. The ranger called everyone to a meeting at the Dreka fire tower work center to announce a new rule: If you chase smoke and hoe lines for 10 hours on Sunday at \$.35, then your \$.40 an hour work week will end Thursday afternoon. If a Friday night fire or a set on Saturday occurs, Nick said he would bring in crews from the Angelina district. No accusation was made. The men caught on; their "friends" abruptly ceased setting the woods on fire.

Calling on a family we suspected of burning the woods, I was invited into the shack built of scrap lumber, the ground beneath visible through cracks in the floor. We conversed briefly, but for this I was totally unprepared: A child, still in diapers and not yet able to walk, was sitting on the floor smoking a cigarette. We classified the fire as a "smoker-caused incendiary," attributed to one of the older boys, maybe 8 or 10 years old.

We all feared an assistant regional forester responsible for fire prevention and control. He'd show up unannounced from Atlanta, inspect fire tool caches placed at various locales and write a report which we got six months later.

By then, we couldn't defend ourselves, and he knew it. All across the South, I learned later, he was not well received.

Early Prescribed Fire

Ranger Nick carried out one of the South's earliest prescribed fires in the Moore Plantation. Its purpose was to remove hazardous fuel and to improve the range herbage for cattle and wildlife. CCC boys planted the Moore, now a wildlife management area, including in the mix slash pine, the natural range of which does not extend west of the Mississippi River. We intended the fire to run against a south wind. The fire refused to run. About mid-afternoon Nick sent us with our backfire drip torches to a FS road, earlier a tram bed, on the tract's south boundary, there to set a fire that would run with the wind. It did. It swept clean the soil of herbaceous material, pine straw, and litter until...until the head and tail fires met! There a brief firestorm occurred, the holocaust consuming everything in about a 5-acre area. The controlled burn, apart from this exception, did not injure the planted pines. Fire running with the wind, under prescribed conditions, is a cool fire.

Fifteen years later, searching for sites to show students upon my going to work at Stephen F. Austin State College, but having long forgotten the prescribed burn, I chanced upon charred soil in a large barren zone. To the ranger station I went to learn what had happened here. Out of the compartment file

folder fell a piece of rotting, worm-eaten yellow-dog, cheap newsprint-quality paper on which we handwrote memos to the file. I had signed this one in 1948, soon after arriving on the job, calling trees in the one-day field examination *loblolly* pines. But they were slash pine. I think, as I look back, that I reasoned well: the Sabine isn't within the natural range of *P. caribaea* and I had never seen the species. To tally the saplings as loblolly pine was logical. Oh, the barren area was the site of the 1949 firestorm noted above.

CCC Work

The CCC boys left their mark on the Sabine. The Patroon (puh troon) camp housed 240 enrollees and officers in 6-man tents and later cabins. They erected the Dreka fire tower, converted tram roads to graded roads and, according to photographs, boxed the roots and soil of six 8-inch diameter pines for shipment and planting at the State Fair grounds in Dallas. Did the trees survive? At Redhills Lake, the "tree monkeys" and "bush apes" raised a natural dam on a branch that flowed from a spring to form the finest cold-water lake in East Texas.

During the Second World War, CCC camps in and near the Sabine housed prisoners of war. Some 200 POWs salvaged trees following two severe ice storms in the 1943-44 winter. -Larry Walker

The third and final installment will appear in the February 1999 issue.

FOREST SERVICE HISTORY CENTER - a Thing of the Past?

Harvey Mack, Curator of the Forest Service History Center in Corona, California, has written to inform the Regions that there is no funding available for the continued operation of the museum and its collection. Harvey started the Center in 1991 and through 1993 received a total of some \$40,000 from the government. He has been advised by the Forest Service that there are no plans to include this Center or any other Museum in future budgets.

Harvey writes "nearly two-thirds of the historic collection is printed material, books, etc., not suited for display but of great historic value. There is no evidence as to how these documents would be preserved or utilized or how any kind of accountability would be maintained for the collection in part or as a whole.

"I am further concerned as I am now 78 and health problems are slowing me down. As a volunteer I have no authority and could be told to cease and desist at any time as I do serve strictly at their convenience. I know that we are of little concern compared with all the problems the people in Washington have, but ours is a once in a lifetime operation and what we don't save will be lost forever.

"I strongly suggest that each retiree write to the Regional Foresters and the Chief emphasizing the importance of preserving our history. We might be surprised at what urging of this nature could accomplish!" ■

WHY WE NEED A NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE MUSEUM - NOW

Karl Wenger, SAF President, recently published the following article in The National Forest Museum Newsletter—

Since the idea of a National Forest Service Museum first surfaced in 1988, I have followed its development in a quite desultory fashion. Perhaps like most of you—paying my dues and reading the newsletter, and forgetting about it between times.

However, the rate at which the Forest Service is changing adds considerable urgency to getting the museum established. As time passes and personnel, equipment, operations, and policies change, finding the items to furnish the museum will become more and more difficult. Consequently, if the museum is to come into being, adequate funds must be obtained soon. To do that, we need

sound and strong justifications to persuade potential large-scale donors that their money will buy them perpetual favorable recognition.

So why do we need a museum?

The Forest Service is a unique institution, not only because it was given control of large areas of unsettled land to manage but also because it developed an organizational culture that was unmatched among Federal agencies. Students of government have agreed that the Forest Service was the best managed and most efficient of Federal agencies in the discharge of its Congressionally mandated responsibilities. It is only in comparatively recent years that it has been criticized by elements of the public that do not agree that timber is the primary product of forests and that manipulation of the tree cover is necessary to provide the other goods and services the public expects of its forest lands.

A museum is needed to preserve the accumulated experience of the Forest Service as it developed management policies and operational techniques to control activities on large acreages of land. Just as an individual gains experience by remembering trials and errors of the past, so an institution can improve its functions by recording and maintaining the evidence of its past operations and their results. A properly managed museum can be the repository of an institutional memory.

Regarding a museum as the repository of an institutional memory immediately suggests contents beyond the display of old equipment. Certainly it should have such a display to illustrate the successive stages in the development of its operational techniques. In a Forest Service museum one would expect to see early firefighting tools and detection instruments, tree measuring devices, communications gear, personal equipment, and other items associated with managing forest land.

One would also expect a collection of records, either originals or copies, that would comprise as complete an account as possible of the legislation, regulations, administrative decisions, operational reports, research findings, important letters, and personnel appointments that directed and controlled the Forest Service's actions from its beginning to the present.

With such a record the museum could serve as a study center for historians, natural resource scientists, current Forest Service administrators, and any others hoping to benefit from Forest Service experience. Inclusions of the voluminous "Index of the National Archives", would provide a bridge to extensive related sources of information.

One would also expect an array of pictures illustrating the stages of the agency's growth and increasing knowledge and skill, pictures of people who made significant contributions to its progress, of events that changed its operations, and occurrences and developments that affected the larger society.

Another logical inclusion would be a collection of memoirs, of which there are an increasing number, by foresters and their relatives. These should also be of interest to historians because they provide in each instance a unique view of events of the past. They not only add personal flavor to inanimate records but often reveal aspects of the past that would otherwise be lost.

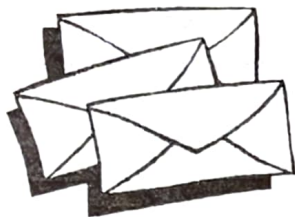
Properly operated museums have ongoing programs to highlight their contents and often serve as educational centers for the subjects they illustrate. Thus, a Forest Service museum in Missoula, with a variety of vegetational types within easy travel distance, and with the necessary facilities and adequate staff and financing, could serve as an educational and training center for individuals and organizations concerned with natural resource problems. Periodic lecture series might attract groups such as the Elderhostel organization. Federal and state agencies might use the facilities for training sessions. Private groups might find the installation attractive for their meetings. Thus, the National Forest Service Museum can promote continued sound management of our forest resources as well as serving as a repository of equipment, pictures, and records.

We should all contribute now as generously as we can and assist as asked to obtain outside funds. If a maximum effort is not made during a time of prosperous as the present, it is unlikely that we can succeed when the economy is less vibrant. The longer it is delayed, the more difficult the establishment of the museum will become.

(Dr. Wenger was at one time Station Director of the Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station in Ft. Collins, CO—*Editors*)■

READY, GET SET, GO to the national Forest Service Reunion **September 4-7, 2000** in Missoula, Montana. Lorin Hearst is the Chairperson. Keeping watching for additional information forthcoming in *The Dixie Ranger*.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

CHARLES CRAIL, Morehead, KY - In the August 1998 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*, I read where Lyman Gray asked if there were any books on the history of the Forest Service. Over the years I have acquired a number of books which contain some phase of Forest History. The following books may be of interest to Lyman and other retirees:

Breaking New Ground by Gifford Pinchot
Young Men and Fire by Norman Maclean
Forest Service Memories by numerous FS retirees
Memorable Forest Fires by numerous authors
Whose Woods These Are by Michael Frome
Gifford Pinchot - Forester-Politician by Nelson McGeary
Guardian of the Forest (Smokey Bear) by Ellen Earnhardt Morrison
The National Forests of America by Michael Frome
Alaskan Adventure by Jay P. Williams
A Well Worn Path by Jay H. Cravens
Toiyabe Patrol by Les Joslin

Keep up the good work. I really enjoy reading about what other retirees are doing. I manage to keep about halfway busy doing volunteer work for the Forest Service and several other organizations.

DON BLACKBURN, Roanoke, VA - Having just read the August *Dixie Ranger* with much enjoyment (the new format is great), and noting your request for information to use in future issues, I thought our members might be interested in a book I recently read. It is entitled *Forest Service Animal Tales*. Includes some 200 stories contributed by FS employees from all over the country put together by Gil Davies and Flo Frank whose careers were on the Klamath and other NFs in R-5/R-6. The stories contain some humor, and a lot of FS history. Many R-8 people will recognize contributors to the book, including Howard Burnett, Bob Cermack, Bob Irwin, Bob Bjornsen, Bob Spivey, Jim McConnell, Phil Kromer. If interested in acquiring a copy, write to

HiStory ink Books, P. O. Box 52, Hat Creek, CA 96040. The cost is \$22.95 each, plus \$2.50 for shipping one book. If two or more books are ordered for the same address, there is no shipping cost.

DUFFY HOLBROOK, Georgetown, SC - Thanks so much for your efforts on *The Dixie Ranger* – here are the dues.

I'm writing this by flashlight – Hurricane Bonnie took the power. We were on the soft side. I'd never seen such winds come from the west and northwest. My sympathy is with the folks in coastal North Carolina that caught the northeast quad.

Miss Eleanor and I are still working full time and loving it. Ducks have responded great on our marshes. We've had very good deer and turkey seasons. And both of our eagle nests successfully raised young. Now, if we could just get the fish started biting again, everything would be fine.

Our work consists of timber sales, prescribed burning, handling hunt leases and repairing banks and water control structures. Not much different from the old days. Best regards to all.

CLAUDE MOODY, Montgomery, AL - Here is \$16 to take me through another two years. Saddened to hear of Phil Newton and Bill Cranston passing away. Bill was the first Ranger I worked under. I was a student trainee on the Osceola in 1959. I remember Bill coming out to checkscale the marking crew. You would probably have a difficult time finding a Ranger doing that today. He seemed gruff but likeable and was my idea of what a Ranger was all about.

I spent 12 years on Ranger Districts in South Carolina where Phil was Timber Management Staff Officer. I'll always have a warm spot for Phil. Jim McConnell's tribute was on the mark. Phil's dry sense of humor is what I remember best about him. Many a tiring meeting or day in the field was enlightened by his wry comments.

BRISCOE PRICE, Raleigh, MS - Always enjoy getting the latest edition. Am more busy and occupied in activities than ever, and I can now testify that time does indeed pass faster in retirement. I tip my hat to you (Bert and Betty) for the excellent newsletter. Even though I live right here in town where I worked for over 16 years as District Ranger on the Strong River Ranger District of Bienville NF, I do not stop by the old work place very often. That is by choice. I think the people who work there are the best, but I am disheartened by where

the Forest Service, in my opinion, is today and where it seems destined. Some folks may disagree with me, and that is fine. I will always have that special place in my soul for my home turf, Region 8, and the effort in my 32 years in this region by all (or most) of my co-workers to carry out the mission or purpose of the agency. Perhaps I have trouble "coping with change", and if that is so, so be it. I am one who will not walk in lockstep with those who advocate "change is good." I wrote a letter recently to the Editor, *Jackson MS Clarion-Ledger*, and I thought I would share it with our membership. Some may agree, some may not, but that's OK. I did not have the opportunity to elaborate as length of letter to the paper is restricted, but I think most folks get the gist. The letter was printed on August 26, 1998.

"Dear Editor: This is in response to recent articles regarding the sale of University of Mississippi lands to USDA, Forest Service. I don't know how the Forest Service got into the discussion of these lands as part of the DeSoto National Forest, but if that transfer happens, it will give the University an out in this 'Brer Rabbit and Tar Baby' situation.

"Some now voice concern over how the Forest Service would manage these lands. If the agency follows its charter and mission, management will be as other National Forest lands—for sustained multiple uses. Over the years, this charter has been diluted by "peripheral" laws and policies/regulations. If those concerns are genuine and these lands indeed have regional or national attributes, perhaps they might be better suited for another another public land management agency such as the USDI, National Park Service, or USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Public involvement in Forest Management decisions is required. The idea is noble, but the process is often used by those who want to delay, appeal, or veto sound land management plans worked out by public and agency professionals. There are 'experts' in public involvement who know to delay or veto a decision through lengthy and costly appears is as good as no decision.

"The National Forests in Mississippi are some of the most productive lands in the entire National Forest System. To not manage them for purposed intended and to their potential would seem to me to be cause for public concern and review."

FRANK FINISON, Jackson, MS – Senator Lott's (R-MS Majority Leader, Senate) rise to power brings to mind a tale that happened when he was a young Congressman in South Mississippi. Lott's District covered part of the Desota NF – more specifically – Ranger Joe Duckworth's Black Creek District.

There was a large magnolia tree on Joe's District and the Congressman's local constituents thought it of national significance. They contacted the Congressman and proposed, among other things, a four-laned boulevard to "The Tree" and large portal signs at all major entrances to the State.

Ranger Joe and I met with Lott and his constituents at New Augusta and after coffee departed for The Tree. We traveled in the Congressman's van, Joe and I occupying the back seat. I lit up a Salem (smoking was not a No-No then) and used the ash tray. What I did not know was that Trent's children used the ash tray to dispose of candy wrappers. Known only to Joe, a nice little fire started in the ash tray. Joe started out with the burning ash tray only to be met at the door by TV cameras. "Smokey Bear was caught in the act." Joe did what any good Ranger would do, he shoved the fire in his pocket and bit his tongue until he could get out of sight.

The end result of the meeting was a small parking lot, a short trail, a sign and one singed Ranger.

JIM WENNER, Hot Springs, AR - Retired Ouachita NF Supervisor Alvis Owen maintains a home here in Hot Springs. When I saw him last Spring, he implied he would not be long for this world. He claimed his ticker kept acting up to where he frequently needed emergency help. We reviewed old times and looked at his book of letters from his retirement party.

In May I attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Blanchard Caverns which Alvis was instrumental in developing. *The Stone County Ledger* contained many articles about Blanchard development, picturing Alvis in his younger days, and giving him due credit for his efforts. I bought an extra Anniversary Issue for him.

But when I tried to deliver it I was told he moved to his daughter's in Dallas. I "knew" he must be going "down hill." Poor, feeble, deaf guy. When I asked his neighbor for his address she said he was as spry as ever. After he visited relatives in Florida, he went turkey hunting in Oklahoma! And since June he has been in Alaska with a bush pilot nephew. I'm told they fly to remote places to hunt and fish. So much for "going down hill." He's still the Alvis we all knew in "the good old days."

HOWARD BURNETT, Deale, MD - I certainly enjoyed the luncheon last Thursday (Sept 10). It was so good to see both of you, Peaches, and all the other old friends there. Martha and I really are glad we could attend. Thank you for

all the work involved in planning events like that, and thanks to all the others who also helped.

In the last *Dixie Ranger*, you asked for comments about columnizing (is that a word?), text alignment, and so forth. Isn't it great that computers give us a chance to even ask such a question? I think I prefer two columns, and right and left justification. I also prefer the vertical line between columns. However, I think all of this is "small potatoes," and am pleased to get my *Dixie Ranger* any way you decide to produce it. I am just glad you do such a good job of producing it!

At the luncheon, the need for support of the National Forest Service Museum came up. I was glad to hear SFSRA is considering making a donation. However, please stress to all members that lots more support is needed. A hundred dollars from the Association will simply not let any of us off the hook! The Museum needs two things from each one of us:

1. Become a member, and support the Museum. Its \$20.00 per year for an individual, tax deductible. Other classes of membership are also available. Members get a quarterly newsletter that is always informative. (Do you know the origin of FS dinnerware? Or of FS playing cards? Or the real history of the use of bull-dozers for fire fighting?)
2. Donate all those old copies of special project reports, photos, books, working papers, tools, or what-have-you, that we all have tucked away in our cellars and attics. Maybe even force yourself to sit down and record the history of your program, or the story of a special effort you participated in. When you are gone, so is the memory, and so is history.

Karl Wenger's words, printed elsewhere, make an eloquent case for a National Forest Service Museum. The Board of Directors is hard at work. They have a 36-acre site near the Missoula Airport, and have cooperative agreements with several "sister" groups to participate. Collections are growing. But support is needed and mandatory if progress is to continue. Send your twenty bucks now to: National Forest Service Museum, PO Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806-2772.

To borrow a line from our local church: "WHAT'S MISSING: MUSE_M."

The Southern Region has played a strong and important part in the Forest Service's history, and we should be proud enough of it to be sure we are fully represented at the Missoula repository!



LUNCHEON DECEMBER 10

Our Christmas luncheon is December 10th at the Petite Auberge restaurant on North Druid Hills Road in the Toco Hills Shopping Center. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. for fun and fellowship and lunch will be served at 12 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$10. This time of the year is especially enjoyable because so many of our retirees attend this luncheon and renew old friendships. We elect new officers during this time also. Nancy Sorrells does a fantastic job with the decorating and selection of door prizes. Do join us . We're looking forward to seeing you there. Reservations are a must. Please call either Peaches Sherman 770.253.7480 or the Brays at 770.253.0392. Reservations must be made no later than Tuesday, December 8. ■



CHECK THIS, PLEASE

Would you please turn to the address label on this newsletter? Do you see the parentheses () after your name? The last two digits of a year indicates the end of the year through which your dues have been paid. If the year (97) is shown after your name, this is the last issue of *The Dixie Ranger* that you will receive. We usually carry a member for one year because, after all, anyone can overlook paying his dues. But if dues have not been paid by the end of the year beyond the expired year, you become a lost member to us as your name is deleted from the mailing list. We do hate to lose contact with you. So, to stay a member of the Association, please keep your dues current. With the exception of a few, you all are doing a great job with your dues and I thank you for that. Sure makes my job easier – *Betty* ■

FS-Today, a collection of news items about the Forest Service is now on the Breaking News page of FS Retirees Home Page <http://www.fsx.org/news> ■

The following were actual classified advertisements:

“Christmas sale—handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person.”

“We will oil your sewing machine and adjust tension in your home for \$10.”
(From the American Legion Magazine)

JUSTICE AND A SPECIAL AGENT

Back around 1975, the Forest Supervisor and Staff of the National Forests in Alabama were planning a management team meeting. Since law enforcement was a current concern on the Forest, the FS/Staff decided to ask Special Agent Warren Cagle to speak at the meeting. This led to some discussion of experiences some of the persons present had had with Warren, in which they mostly came out on the short end. In fact, it was widely recognized that Warren enjoyed pulling a good one at someone else's expense. It was unanimously decided to have Warren turn out on the short end during the meeting.

During the week of the meeting, a fishing trip was arranged for Warren, complete with an alleged complimentary fishing license from the state of Alabama. Warren, replete with guide furnished by his good friends on the NFs in AL, fished on a popular lake in the Conecuh NF. In another boat close by, Dick Woody and Bill Martin (AO) observed while maintaining wet lines themselves. Warren caught a large bass of which he was very proud, and which caused him to proclaim to everyone within hearing his fishing prowess (with his usual modesty, of course).

The green vehicle approaching the edge of the lake went unnoticed to everyone until two officers of the Alabama Game and Fish Division called out, "Anyone had any luck?" "One of us

caught a good 'un", shouted Warren immediately as he stood up in the boat with his bass held high. "Bring him over here and let me see him," said one of the officers. As the boat touched the shore, Cagle noticed Captain's bars on that officer's collar, indicative of the regional commander for south Alabama. "Let me see your license", said that same officer. Warren whipped out his "complimentary" license and proudly handed it to the Captain. The Captain looked at it carefully, then pulled out his own billfold, from which he removed a small piece of paper. "Mr. Cagle", he asked, "do you see these bars on my collar? "I'm a Captain in the Game and Fish Division, and if I want to fish this state, I have to have a fishing license. See here, this is my license. Now, Mr. Cagle, if you want to fish in this state, you have to have a license too." Looking to the other officer, he asked, "Do you think we can find someone to go Mr. Cagle's bail?"

The last question couldn't have been phrased better. In Warren's training courses, he had often told FS trainees that it wasn't necessary to tell a person that he/she was under arrest. He would say that something less inflammatory, such as "Do you think you can find someone to go your bail?" was much better. So, upon hearing this, Warren knew he was in trouble. He, for once, had few words to say. His

complexion changed; in fact, he became very, very pale. Dick Woody and Bill Martin became very, very amused, so much so that Woody had to bite his hand to keep from laughing out loud. The urge to laugh was so severe, in fact, that Dick actually damaged his hand by having to bite so hard. The urge was just as strong to Bill Martin, but he took less severe actions to suppress his mirth. A shore-side observer, noting the severity of the situation in which Cagle found himself, thought that he had better find some assistance for him. He immediately radioed Bill Bodie, the Forest's Timber and WILDLIFE staff officer. Bodie, in his anguish over Warren's situation, outraced Fire (and Law Enforcement) Staff Don Blackburn, also in anguish, to the scene to attempt a diplomatic plea for Cagle's release. As Bodie arrived, he noted two FS officers and two Alabama wildlife officers in various stages of laughter; some rolling on the ground, others clutching their midsections in uncontrollable cramping. A very pale Warren says to Bodie, "I was about to think I was going to need your help." Bodie replied, "I never saw you before in my life." At this, the four

aforementioned officers erupted in laughter again, and one wildlife officer said, "We've already had to tell the #\$\$*the truth—he got so scared we were afraid he was going to have a heart attack!" Warren then made a very severe threat to the well-being of a certain FS staff officer, a threat for which said staff officer, in a magnanimous display of courtesy and class, has seen fit not to bring, to this very day, charges therefor.

It turned out that the "complimentary" license was not as good as Warren originally thought. It was further revealed that the original conspiratorial plans included an actual trip to jail, from which Warren would not have been bailed until after all other meeting participants finished their evening meal together, and no leftovers remained.

For once, Special Agent Warren Cagle wound up on the short end, and laughter was at his expense instead of his reward for having done someone else in. Justice had been served on a very deserving Special Agent.

A. Nony Mous (except to me-Betty)

IN MEMORIAM

Roger W. Rich, age 71, of Snellville, GA., passed away August 7 in Round Rock, TX, while visiting his son. He is survived by his wife, Helen, three sons and two daughters. Roger began his career with the Forest Service in 1959. He completed his career working as a flood and water specialist and retired in 1984.

Mrs. Alva Williams, of Reno, NV, died June 10.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Millie Ahern
2982 Briarcliff Rd NE #521
Atlanta, GA 30329-2545
Phone: 404.327.9524

William E. Balmer
3682 Sexton Woods Dr
Chamblee, GA 30341-2052
Phone: 770.451.1185

Henry "Bill" Brown
111 N. Polk St
Mena, AR 71953
Phone: 501.394.4664

W. V. (Mac) McConnell (Millie)
1023 San Luis Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32304
Phone: 850.576.7774

Lynn Smith (George)
6393 Forest Haven Lane
Riverdale, GA 30274
Phone: 770.991.0665

Please make the following changes of addresses in your Directory. Underscoring indicates the change.

Richard and Mary Ann Ames, P. O. Box 283, Turnerville, GA 30580

Bob James, 6030 Summer Circle, Dawsonville, GA 30534 - Phone: 706.867.8020

Carl E. Ostrom, 2233 Sequoya Ln, Prescott, AZ 86305

Jack Reichert, 1009 Devonwood Dr., Andalusia, AL 36420 - Phone: 334.427.1724

Please add these e-mail addresses to your list:

John Allen - allen706@g-net.net

Ron Couch - writer@rio.com (delete temporarily)

Walter Fox - foxyforester@alltel.net

G. Stanley Gere - sgere@abraxis.com

Eli "Joe" Giaquinto - egiaquinto@aol.com

Bob Larkey - blarkey@meginc.com

Jim MacNaughton - smokey@vaix2.net

Louise Morell - lmorell@ctaz.com

Jack Reichert - jmreichert@alawep.com

Jim Wenner - dorjim@snp.com

What's Happening Personnel-wise in the Forest Service:

Bob Joslin, Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, will answer the call of the West and retire to the state of Wyoming at the end of 1998. Bob, before transferring to the WO, was Region 8's Regional Forester.

Larry Payne, a 28-year FS veteran, has been named Assistant Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry.

Jose Cruz, has been selected as the National Director for Fire and Aviation Management. Cruz replaces Mary Jo Lavin, who retired in July.

Joe Carbone, Environmental Coordinator for the RO's Land Management Planning Staff has accepted the National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator in Washington. He began his new assignment in July.

Marc Bosch, threatened, endangered and sensitive species Program Manager for Region 8 has accepted an assignment to the WO for the national program.

Charlie Richmond, former Deputy Director for renewable resources at the Rocky Mountain headquarters in Denver, is now the Forest Supervisor of the Ozark-St. Francis NFs in Arkansas. He replaces Lynn Neff who accepted the Forest Supervisor's position for the Kisatchie NF.

Dr. Jerome Thomas, former Air Resource Program Manager for the Eastern Region in Milwaukee, Wis., became the Forest Supervisor of the Francis Marion-Sumter NFs in October. He replaced David Wilson who accepted the position of Forest Manager of the Savannah River Institute.■

SFSRA MEMBERS MEET WITH CHIEF



President Bob Erickson, Ralph Mumme, and Jim McConnell (left to right) met with Chief Mike Dombeck (second from left) at a reception in the Regional Office in Atlanta. The Chief addressed the group, along with RO employees, about current issues and directions. Chief Dombeck said the public desires are for education, the economy, law enforcement and protection of natural resources. What the public wants, gets funded. It's the Forest Service's job to explain our programs and benefits so that the public desires natural resource management. The Forest Service has a lot of support, but a lot of work is still to be done.

FOND MEMORIES OF ARKANSAS

Blanchard Caverns Development

One of my first projects in the Southern Region was planning coordinator for Blanchard Caverns. This proposed development was on the Ozark National Forest, Arkansas. In 1966 I had transferred from the R-7 regional office in Upper Darby, PA., to the Atlanta regional office. The Blanchard Caverns project was assigned by a dubious Frank Mayfield, my new boss in the Recreation Section. Alvis Owen was Ozark National Forest supervisor at the time. Alvis pleaded for just a few hundred thousand dollars to open the Caverns to the public. Alvis wanted action so he moved ahead, surveying the parking lot and drilling the first shaft. From that vertical shaft a horizontal tunnel was later extended outward to the two subterranean rooms of the first tour.

What to do with the old cabins and the contractor who operated them was a big decision to be made. The contractor wanted to build a motel on what is now the picnic/swimming site near Shelter Cave. We spent many days exploring the site and along Sylamore Creek looking for alternative sites for a resort and campgrounds.

In 1970 I transferred to Recreation Staff on the Ouachita NF where Alvis had moved to be its supervisor. I kept in contact with Bob Strosnider, Ozark Recreation Staff. Bob kept me informed of Caverns progress: construction of

elevators, underground trails and lighting, and a beautiful new entrance building.

The Forest Service officially opened Blanchard Springs Caverns on Saturday, July 13, 1973. Don Williams, Ranger Jack Griswold and Supervisor Larry Henson led a special tour for Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert W. Long, Forest Service Chief John McGuire and Southern Regional Forester Max Peterson. The dedication drew about 6,000 spectators. Senator John McClellan cut the ribbon held by Arkansas Governor Dale Bumpers. Lynn Young became Caverns Administrator, assisted in public affairs by Buddy Corbett.

Ozark Folk Center State Park

Concurrent with Caverns discovery and development in the 1960's was a revival of traditional folk music and crafts in Mountain View, Arkansas. Saturday night events held in the courthouse square were crowded, and (some felt) unorganized. Within a few years mountain folkways clearly needed a permanent home. Federal grants, loans and support from many sources resulted in a "living museum" atop a hill at the edge of Mountain View. It's mission was to preserve and perpetuate the cultural and musical heritage of the Ozarks. It opened to the public in May 1973, ahead of the Blanchard Caverns dedication.

Today at the Ozark Folk Center, sprightly sounds of fiddles, autoharps and dulcimers, the alluring aroma of down-home cooking and the sight of master craftsmen explaining their art are all common at this most unusual state park.

Blanchard Caverns-Ozark Folk Center 25th Anniversary Celebration

A great "Reunion" was held May 1-4, 1998, in Mountain View, Arkansas. This was the 25th anniversary of both Blanchard Caverns and the Ozark Folk Center. About 100 Forest Service folks returned to reminisce about their times as construction and maintenance workers, administrators and tour guides. Bob Reeves, a tour guide in 1973, and Caverns Administrator for the past eleven years organized the event helped by Geologist Don Williams, original Caverns project leader.

Lynn Young came from Denver where he is in RO Public Affairs. Bob Strosnider returned from his old Kentucky home. A tour guide then, now a museum curator,

came from St. Louis. Attendees who have retired to Mountain View included Jack Griswold, Sylamore District Ranger in '73; Buddy Corbet, public affairs at the Caverns; and Don Hurlbet from the Russellville Supervisor's office. Karen Hughes came from Ohio. Do you remember Karen? She was in the Seventh Street Office before transferring to the Caverns; she later transferred West, then to R-9 where she recently retired.

We all toured the Caverns, attended a reception at the Folk Center and heard lots of folk music. Jack Griswold was master of ceremonies Saturday night at a cookout by Shelter Cave on Sylamore Creek. The Regional Forester attended and spoke to the gathering.

Doris and I camped in our 5th wheel next to the Folk Center within walking distance of most of the festivities.

*- Jim Wenner, Ouachita
National Forest Planning-Recreation
Staff Officer, Retired*

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Precious Memories of Arkansas by Jim Wenner

The Y2K Bug - What it is and what does it mean?

Final Installment of Junior Forester on the Sabine by Larry Walker

A Book Review

By Jim McConnell

Hollows, Peepers, and Highlanders (subtitle, *An Appalachian Mountain Ecology*) by George Constantz. If you worked in the Southern Region of the Forest Service for very long you probably spent some time in the Appalachian Mountains. If you were lucky you got to work and live there. If not, you probably spent some time vacationing in the mountains. These highlands under their green blanket have undergone a long and complex evolution. George Constantz, Ph.D. in zoology, leads you into areas of this region that I bet you have never considered or much thought about. Now that you have retired you can stop and smell the flowers. This book will help that enjoyment. The book contains 30 chapters and is very readable. Most are short, concise and very informative. Dr. Constantz builds his case with the history and background of the region. Have you heard of the Brevard fault; do you know about the Asian connection? It's all there in the first section of the book. The second section is about

little things—little things that may seem unimportant but are fascinating to know. Chapters on The Improbable Lady's Slipper, Sexual Decision of Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Love Among the Frogs, Copperhead's Year, Oaks and Squirrels and Highlanders. When you read the section on Highlanders you'll know why real forest management is so important to the region. Even today vast areas of hardwoods are slowly evolving into white pine stands. The last section of the book goes into what Dr. Constantz feels are the lingering ecological problems facing the region. They are: forest fragmentation, lack of land use planning, acid deposition and exotic species. These environmental problems, he feels, are changing the highlands forever. He doesn't preach but gives his knowledgeable opinion. You should find *Hollows, Peppers, and Highlands* at your library or bookstore. Cost, softback is \$14.00. It was published by Mountain Press Publishing Company, P.O.Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806, of all places. Phone 406.728.1900 or 800.234.5308

"Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best."

— Unknown

THE MODERN VOLGA BOATMAN

My adventure on the Volga River is one now shared by thousands each week, but our experience was that no more than two boats holding about 260 people each were in any smaller port at any one time. We were never "falling over each other" because of overcrowding, except in the two big cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. And the boat served as our hotel the entire visit.

First, it helps to understand sightseeing in Russia if you realize EVERY city has a Kremlin (a wall, usually with guard towers, surrounding the place). The most elaborate one, of course, is in Moscow, and the wall section facing out onto Red Square houses hundreds of tombs of fallen heroes (and not a few villains) including their unknown soldier, and of course, the body of Lenin in an underground mausoleum, open to viewing.

A half-day was spent in Red Square, after riding three different subways so as to see the artwork in the various stations. These stations honor their heroes. Another half-day was used touring the inside of the Kremlin, especially the portion of the Armory used as a national museum. It is impossible to describe the value of the riches located here. Just imagine carriage wheels encrusted with emeralds, diamonds and rubies, and you have a starting point.

The fourth day we sailed down the Moscow River, the Moscow Canal (through its eight locks) and entered the Volga. Here we visited Uglich, and saw its Cathedral, its Kremlin wall destroyed by Tatars, and its statue of Lenin with a seagull on his head. Uglich is famous for the murder of Tzar Fyodor's half-brother Dmitry, allowing brother-in-law Godunov to ascend to the throne.

We visited Kostroma, about 118 miles downstream from Rybinsk Reservoir, a body of water Stalin used to inundate hundreds of cities and villages. At Kostroma we visited a Cathedral, saw a wall destroyed by Tatars, and saw a huge statue of Lenin with a pigeon on his head. We also visited a kindergarten and were entertained.

Back upriver to Yaroslavl, where we visited three Cathedrals, saw a Kremlin wall destroyed by Tatars, and saw a statue of Lenin with evidence that birds had been there, but I don't know what kind.

We spent an entire rainy day docked at Irma, winter population nine, but with a tourist shop, beer bar, and park. Too small for a Kremlin.

The most amazing single sight was the Transfiguration Cathedral on Kizhi Island, in Lake Onega. It, the church, has twenty-two separate cupolas, covered by thirty thousand hand-hewn aspen shingles, that tend

to change color as the sun shifts. Stay with me now—no nails, and reportedly built by one man using an axe as his only tool. His name was Nestor.

In St. Petersburg, clones of our boat, all built in East Germany, tied up side-by-side, so that at any given time we might pass through three of them getting to ours. On our trip through the Hermitage I saw all new stuff, compared to what Betty and I had seen before. And this time we visited the beautiful

Catherine summer palace at Puskin, and Petrodvorets, with its fantastic gold covered fountains and monuments.

In summary, great trip, food mediocre, guide services outstanding, services on board great, strenuous at times, but a little 88-year-old lady who has been in EVERY country in the world never faltered. And she was one of my pinochle-playing buddies all the way across the country.

— Bert Bray

The Real Unsung Heroes Who Help the Forest Service Accomplish its Mission

By Katherine Allen, Retiree, Crawfordville, GA

It was my privilege as Assistant Director, Washington Office, Human Resource Programs, to provide national leadership for the last 8 years of my 35-year career to the people programs in the Forest Service. These education and training programs are designed to help participants by touching and influencing their lives in many positive ways.

My experience as Budget Officer for Administration helped a great deal for several of the programs did not enjoy specific budget set aside dollars and had to be financed from general administration as well as the benefitting FS program. While Recreation received the most benefit, you will see that the FS couldn't get the total job done without the help from this "extended workforce." These programs are on-the-ground in local communities all over the country!

During FY 1997, there were 134,792 participants who accomplished work for the Forest Service valued at \$116.4 million! This was the first year that SCSEP achieved its 20 percent placement goal.

I thought you might enjoy a capsule update on accomplishments, by program, for I'm sure many of you reading this newsletter were involved with one or more of these programs during your career in the Forest Service. And, since retirement, may have even done some volunteer work. Programs are alive and thriving!

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

- helps low income, age 55+ get skills and jobs
- serve over 5500 per year
- FS has operated since 1972
- **Placed 24 percent in jobs**
- \$39.9 million value of work for FS
- almost \$25 million in funding from Dept of Labor (DOL)

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

- summer jobs for ages 15-18
- last year 632 hired
- work valued at \$1.9 million
- FS has operated program since 1971
- line item funding stopped in 1982

Hosted Programs

- State or other orgs. Provide funding; FS provides work
- 7,793 participants last year (includes Federal Bureau of Prisons)
- work valued at \$15.9 million

Job Corps Program

- 18 Centers; 16 coed on FS land
- 8, 904 students, age 16-24, last year
- 83 percent placed in jobs
- FS has operated since 1965
- value of work for FS of \$20 million
- Funding of \$95 million from DOL
- Administered by National Field Office in Golden, CO

Volunteers in the National Forests (VIF)

- you may volunteer to help with any program except law enforcement
- last year over 112,000 volunteers
- 129 international volunteers
- value of work to FS last year - almost \$39 million
- Program has been in FS since 1973

Forest Youth Camps

- 1 camp in Colorado jointly funded by National Forest Foundation
- 25 men and women ages 14-20
- value of work to FS \$62,000
- Operated program since 1993

For more information on each program, as well as how one applies, you may access the internet at www.USDA.gov. From there click on Agency; then Forest Service, then Administration; and then Senior, Youth and Volunteer programs. ■

Special note from Editors - Some of you know that Bert and I have been trying to sell our house for the past three years due to the highway being widened and this area going commercial. We finally have a tentative contract on the house pending approval of a commercial loan to the buyer. We are in the process of throwing out many, many years of accumulated treasures; choosing color schemes for a new house; getting this newsletter out; taking a two-week cruise the end of October; and having the family in for Thanksgiving. With the move there will be some down time on our computers. This may make the February issue of *The Dixie Ranger* not arrive until late in March. With this in mind, please make a note now that the March luncheon is the 18th at the Petite Auberge. Only those in the Atlanta area will receive a post card as a reminder. Thanks for bearing with us!

- Bert and Betty Bray

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NOTE: Please make reservation for the luncheon by December 8th. Phone Numbers appear on page 12.

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