

The Dixie Ranger

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray Vol. XXVIII No. 1 February 1998

OFFICERS

President Bob Erickson
President Elect Jerry Edwards
Secretary-Treasurer Betty Bray

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Olen Aycock (1998)
Dan Simms (1999)
Peaches Sherman (2000)
Jimmy Walker Ex-Officio

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1998

The following officers were nominated at the recent meeting of the Association in December: Jerry Edwards, President Elect and Peaches Sherman, Director, (2000). Bob Erickson is the new President and Betty Bray will serve as Secretary-Treasurer.

Attendance at the December luncheon was the largest in a number of years—59 people in attendance. We even had our own Santa Claus. Bob Hitt and his wife, Victoria, from Boulder Junction, WI, were able to attend. Also attending were Dick and Eileen Woody from Suches, GA, and Joyce Keith who has moved back to the Atlanta area. Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill was the keynote speaker. Euriel Turner, Assistant Regional Forester, Resources, was also present.

BUY-OUT

Nearly 230 Southern Region employees earned approval for an early-out package—30 employees in the Regional Office and 196 in the field. Foresters led the list of applicants, followed by landscape architects, resource support personnel, support services personnel, and civil engineers. Employees who received the not-more-than \$20,000 were off the rolls by January 3.

Chief Mike Dombeck in addressing all employees said "I am pleased that the Forest Service was able to offer employees the voluntary buyout. And "it provided each eligible employee with an additional option in making important personal decisions about their future. It also provided management additional flexibility in addressing present and future budget and skill mix issues as the Forest Service moves into the next century. On the downside, we are not only losing some positions, we are also losing many, many years of experience and that knowledge will be missed."

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Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 1973 Hwy 34 East, Newnan, GA. 30265-1327. Printed in February, May, August and November. Dues are \$8 per year, payable in January.

Attention Forest Supervisors: There is an application form at the end of this newsletter that can be used by anyone retiring. Please make copies available to all retirees on your Unit. Thank you - Editors.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bobby L. Carter (Betty), 1501 Six Flags Rd, Austell, GA 30168
Phone: 770 941-0967

Grace Cost (Cecil), 108 Catalina Cove, Clinton, MS 39056-6141
Phone: 601 924-6600

David M. Dailey (Richie), 585 Cesarea Place, Lilburn, GA 30047-6049
Phone: 770 279-1467

Ralph Fair, 706 Edgewood, Lufkin, TX 75904-7522

Ernie Finger, 8424 Ridgemont Drive, Pineville, LA 71360

James F. Herd (Ilona), 1889 Beechwood Blvd., Gainesville, GA 30504-2656
Phone: 770 536-9479. E-mail: JHerd 16@BELLSOUTH.NET

Bob James (Shirley), 3266 Hidden Forest Dr., Snellville, GA 30078
Phone: 770 972-2254

R. Lynn Marsalis, 336 Shady Lane, Vicksburg, MS 39180
Phone: 601 638-2888

Billy Page (Cora Sue), 105 Woodland Hills Dr., Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: 601 234-9096

Briscoe Price (Tommye), P.O. Box 521, Raleigh, MS 39153

Ben Stansel (Annette), 1025 Robinhood Dr., Cleveland, TN 37317-3339
Phone: 423 479-5084

Dr. Laurence Walker, 514 Millard Dr., Nacogdoches, TX 75961-2132



The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it.

--Elbert Hubbard

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
THROUGH 12/31/97

1/1/97 Balance Forward	\$4,712.79
Income (Dues & Donations)	<u>2,961.50</u>
TOTAL	\$7,674.29

EXPENSES:

	Projected	Actual
Printing	\$1,600.00	\$1,455.08
Postage	575.00	462.25
Door Prizes	125.00	124.05
Misc.	225.00	295.99*
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TOTAL	\$2,525.00	\$2,337.37

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1998

Printing (4 issues @ \$380 ea.)	\$1,600.00
Postage	600.00
Door Prizes	200.00
Misc.	265.00
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TOTAL	\$2,665.00

Projected Income:

177 members @ \$8	\$1,416.00
Carryover from 1997	<u>5,336.92</u>

TOTAL	\$6,752.92
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*Misc expenses include:

Xerox Copies	\$ 4.45
FSX Club, Washington, DC	200.00
Service Charge-bank	1.00
Tickets for Door Prizes	6.19
Ribbons for Printer	46.70
Speakers for Luncheons	37.65

Total	<u>\$295.99</u>
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SPRING LUNCHEON

The date for our spring luncheon is March 12 at the Petite Auberge Restaurant on North Druid Hills Road in the Toco Hills Shopping Center. We'll meet at 11:30 a. m. for fun and fellowship with lunch being served at 12 noon. The cost is \$10 per person. Reservations should be made no later than March 10. Please phone in your reservations to either Peaches Sherman 770 253-7480 or the Brays 770 253-0392.

Here are the dates for luncheons scheduled throughout the year:

June 11

September 10

December 10

For any of our retirees who may be traveling in the Atlanta area during any of these times, we would love to have you join us.

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FOREST HISTORY CENTER - Harvey Mack, Curator, writes: "Today I received the Ouachita shoulder patch from Ed Wenner. Your last newsletter generated a lot of response which almost completes our R-8 set. As far as I can tell, only the Sabina and NFs in Tenn are missing. Perhaps these units never had patches. It's a little hard to trace R-8. We only lack 11 of having a complete national set and these mostly are in R-1, 2, 3 and 4. Thanks."

WHAT'S HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE REGION:

KISATCHIE NF: Forest Supervisor Danny W. Britt retired at the end of 1997 after 36 years of service. He and his wife Claudene currently plan to remain in central Louisiana.

Dave Hammond, Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Ouachita, will take over temporarily as Forest Supervisor of the Kisatchie.

NFS IN MISSISSIPPI: Clara Johnson is the new Deputy Forest Supervisor. A native of Indianola, MS, she has spent the majority of her career working on the National Forests in California.

J. Fred Allen, former Deputy Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission is now the State Forester. He succeeds David Westmoreland who recently retired.

Recent retirements from RO: Forrest Carpenter, Deputy Regional Forester for Operations and Bob Bowers, Engineering Unit Leader.

"Get the Word" - a free email subscription available for any federal or postal employee or retiree. Visit the website at <http://www.fedweek.com/>

The View from the Top--the Regional Forester's Perspective



Photo by Jim McConnell, Retiree's luncheon, December, 1997

With nearly two months as the Region's leader, Regional Forester Estill has already made observations about the Region's operations. During her transition meeting in December, she gave Forest Supervisors, Deputy Regional Foresters and Unit Leaders insight on her personal philosophy and key priorities for the Region. Here's a summary of that message, in her own words:

Impressions of the Southern Region—
The Southern Region has a great reputation for getting things done. I'm impressed by the work ethic, leadership and sensitivity toward one another. I am concerned, however, that in getting things done, we may be leaving bloodier footprints.

Despite the lack of formal teaming, there is common understanding among employees about what's important and what needs to happen.

Personal philosophy for leading and managing today's organization—
I believe in decentralization. Decisions should be made locally. But ecosystems don't respect political boundaries. Local policies, in many cases, do not respect National priorities, Congressional intent or agency direction. We need a clear understanding of those limitations when working at the local level.

The era of independent fiefdoms is over. I strongly encourage teaming between units and Research, using the Regional Office as a trusted, honest facilitator.

Excerpts from Leadership's Ledger, Issue 1, January 1998 (with permission).

In Memoriam

Janiece Myers, wife of Retiree Chuck Myers, passed away in July of 1997.

Philip A. Newton, Sr., 92, Franklin, NC, passed away November 10, 1997. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Velma Peek Newton, a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

James W. McBride, 79, Hot Springs, AR, died November 13, 1997. Survivors include wife, Edith L., and two daughters.



LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Bill Eaton, No. Myrtle Beach, SC - We received the August issue of the DR at our new address and must say each issue seems to get better than the ones before. The Guy Cox story really gets to me since Guy was my first introduction to the US Forest Service. And Hugh Redding came next as Forest Supervisor. One of my first duties as Cox's JF was to represent him at the next Supervisor's meeting in Alexandria and report—quote "Tell the Supervisor he can chew me out anytime now—it's cooked." You see Guy had had treatment under a heat lamp on the back side for some reason or other and I guess he saw fit to advise Hugh of the fact in this manner.

I don't recall if I gave the message verbatim but what a burden to place on a green JF with less than 2 months on the job. I think I only lasted about 6 months with Ranger Cox and was transferred to the Evangeline District. Can you imagine "A first impression of the US Forest Service" under such conditions? During that short time, however, I learned many things from Guy Cox—some good and some ??—all basic though that stayed with me the remainder of my FS career. Yes, I was one of the fortunate ones arriving in Alexandria that first day. Not a large town then in '49. Everyone seemed to know Guy Cox. I had no reservations and so upon inquiring the whereabouts of Ranger Cox, was told to try the Domino parlor. Sure 'nuff, the directions were on target and Ranger Cox then became part of my FS life.

Ernie Finger, Pineville, LA - I have intended for some time now to write to you about Robert E. (Bob) Lee. We saw him off a while back to that place reserved for folks like him. You noted it in a line or so, but Bob deserved more than that. We had the Retirees Reunion at the Catahoula Ranger District yesterday and I reminded myself I'd better get on with it before someone writes a line about me. Bob was, sans that smelly cigar, one of the finest, most gentle, gentlemen I have ever known. If he ever had any bad thoughts about anyone, he kept them to himself. His every action while he was on the Kisatchie belied what the immediate Chief told the Alaska folks on his last visit there—he told them that he was their friend, but if they needed a helping hand, it was right there on the end of their arm. Everything Bob was and stood for was 180 degrees away from that. If you had a blessed moment, Bob was happy for and with you. If you had a misfortune, Bob helped you and even cried with you. In Bob's Father's house are many mansions, and there is one there just for him.

Joel H. Nitz, Hot Springs, AR - Here is an obituary of James W. "Mac" McBride. It brought to mind my association with Mac when I met him at Oden, AR, in 1952:

Oden District Ranger was Ed Howell. He had been "out of action" for about 9 months after trying to move a home freezer. He finally went to Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, to get medical help for his back. Supervisor Rik Eriksson transferred Walt Seagle from the Fourche to fill in temporarily (3 months?) behind Ed. When Walt replaced Ranger Berkley Spillsbury on the Poteau, Rik moved me from the "new" Cold Springs District, where I was stationed as a Junior Forester under Ranger Harold Bergmann, to be Acting Ranger on the Oden for about the next 6 months.

Mac was the primary Forestry Aid on the Oden, occupying one of the residences at the Oden Ranger station. Forester Tony Slankaukas also lived at Oden Ranger Station, living in one of the offices on the ground floor. My wife Irene, daughter Debbie and I lived in the upstairs loft of the station with no water and no stove up there. Irene used Tony's two burner hot plate with which to cook. She cooked for Tony also.

I have no idea of how long Mac had been on the Oden, but he continued on a few months longer after I got there. Mac, Tony and I marked saw timber with marking axes, probably the last regular marking with this tool in the Region. We finally started with paint shortly thereafter!

Somewhere about this time Mac started taking business courses at Arkadelphia (Henderson?). He was transferred away from the Oden to continue his education at various places while working for the Forest Service (Florida?). He earned his degree in accounting, I believe, and joined the professional ranks in one or more Supervisor's offices. Mac was a good example for those who wished they had gone to college right after high school. I admired his persistence in reaching his goal.

Others on the Ouachita at that time were Supervisor Rik Eriksson, Ass't Supervisor Jerry Dahl, Rangers Cliff Comfort, Fourche; Vern Taylor, Mena; Dave Devet, Kiamichi; Nick Kmeccas, "New" Caddo; Al Williams, Jessieville; Jack Logan/Loopy Lane, Womble. The Forest had just been redistricted from 7 to 9 districts. "What goes around, comes around!"

Billy & Cora Sue Page, Oxford, MS - Talked to Sandra Ahearn recently and she gave me your address. We miss *The Dixie Ranger* and need to get it started again. If you happen to have any old copies, please send those to me also. Billy and I are both fine and are thoroughly enjoying retirement in Oxford. He still fishes frequently in Oklahoma and I am selling real estate. We also enjoy our daughter and grandson, John David, who live here in Oxford. Please add us back to your mailing list.

Marv Meier, Wausau, WI - Do enjoy hearing about the retirees and appreciate those of you who keep it running! We are settling in for Winter after a trip to Lincoln, NE, (Thanksgiving) with our daughter and grandson. The bit of history on the Kisatchie was particularly interesting because I was down there in May to do a review as a Volunteer.

Gerald V. Ward, Mountainview, AR - I think someone previously informed you about the death of Richard A. Mills. Richard had been retired less than two years. He was District Ranger on the Sylamore RD for 17 years. He was a good boss and we really miss him.

I have read with interest Guy Cox's experiences, especially on the Sylamore. When I went to work for the Forest Service in 1958, there were still remnants of the old Wildcat Ranger Station. Also, there was a sign designating the spot. The old Push Mountain Tower still has his name on a lot of the steel. I suppose this was put on there when the steel was shipped.

When I first went to work, there was a confidential report written by Forest Supervisor Henry Koen about the effort to open part of the Sylamore RD for homestead purposes. The report was quite lengthy and gave a blow by blow description of this effort. There were well known influential men involved. In fact, in later years, a couple of them went to work for the Forest Service. Mr. Koen made several trips to Mountain View and other communities in the area in an effort to get support to stop the homestead plan. Eventually he was successful. Guy Cox played an important part too. One thing I remember from the report is that it took two days for Mr. Koen to make the trip from Russellville to Mountain View. He spent the night at Leslie, AR, then came on in to Mountain View the next day.

I don't know whatever happened to that report. I suppose the Ranger at that time disposed of it or sent it to the Supervisor's Office in Russellville.

Although I was quite small, I can remember the CCC Camp (Camp Hedges). They had free movies on Sunday and Wednesday nights and local people were welcome to watch the movies. In the summer the movies were shown outside. They had a stage on which the screen was set and the seats were hewed-out logs. In the winter the movies were shown in the recreation building. I can recall that one night the regular projectionist was absent (I suppose on leave). Several of the enrollees were gathered around the projector trying to thread the film. Eventually they had to give up and we went home much disappointed.

When WWII broke out, the Camp was closed. In 1942 my dad started working for the Forest Service. A lot of buildings were moved to military bases. Several of the buildings were left. The Sylamore

RD Work Center was located there. In 1946 several Forest Service families in addition to the State Game Warden were allowed to move into the existing buildings and for the most part that is where I grew up. In 1961 we constructed a new work center at Fifty Six, AR. I did the appraisal work on the remaining buildings at Camp Hedges and they were sold to the highest bidder. The site became a recreation area and renamed Gunner Pool Recreation Area. Very few things remain of the CCC era. Except for a sign, most campers would not know that the area was once a CCC camp. Some 2200 men served at Camp Hedges plus 170 officers. Now and then we meet someone who served at Camp Hedges.

Keep up the good work with *The Dixie Ranger*. I enjoy hearing from other retirees I used to know.

Vera Thorsen, Minneapolis, WI - I am still taking trips with the Elderhostel program. This past spring I went to the Golden Isles of Georgia (4 islands) and it was great being back in the South. Will be going to Florida to visit Jim and family this winter. Hello to all my Southern Forest Service friends!

David Scott, Portland, OR - Everything is fine here. We sit around enjoying and counting grandkids.

We came to R-8 from the West and we are back here now. I guess we are true Westerners. However, our tour in the South was a true highlight in our career. I wish everybody could have the opportunity. We saw so much great country and met so many great people and hopefully learned much. Some of our teachers were T.W. Green, Charlie Hensley, Dan Bacon, Frank Finison, Winston Smith and you, Bert and Betty. Our thanks to all. *The Dixie Ranger* is a first class publication.

Briscoe Price, Raleigh, MS - I am now ready and qualified to join this fine organization. Wrapped up 32 years of service as of January—last 16 as District Ranger here on the Bienville NF. Decided that with this round of buyouts, no reason not to take it and join the ranks of those who have gone before me and tell me how good retirement is. Wife, Tommye, and I plan to continue to live in Raleigh. Know that there are many out there who had a tour on the Bienville, either at Raleigh or Forest. Now, the Bienville is again one Ranger District (since 1995) with the Ranger's Office in Forest—so I probably have the distinction of being the last District Ranger to work and live in Smith County. Folks ask what I plan to do in retirement—my reply is similar to that of many others—what I want to, when I want to, and how I want to.

Edwin H. (Harry) Collins, Oneco, FL - Always good to receive *The Dixie Ranger*. Betty and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary (October 19, 1947) with a 10-day cruise, New York to Montreal, Canada. A beautiful trip this time of year.

M.L. (Hoppy) Hopkins, I feel like I am going to make it another 20 years. However, the F.S. taught me one thing "be conservative" so here are my dues for only the next three years.

And to all those traveling retirees who may come through or close to Hortense, GA, stop in and visit with Janie and me. We're just off of US 301. We sure enjoy *The Dixie Ranger*.

John H. Courtenay, Lufkin, TX - Here's \$20, plus \$10 for me, to activate a couple of folks who should be members—Ralph Fair and Larry Walker. Nothing new with the Courtenays. I stay busy with volunteer stuff—Boy Scouts, Forestry Museum, etc.

Had a nice visit last month from Paul Sweetland. We acted like the walrus and the carpenter and talked of many things—most of them about the fun times we had working together in the 70's.

Keep the D.R.'s coming—they're great.

Mary and Don E. Williams, Mountain View, AR - Here is our check for renewal for another year. We enjoy the DR so very much.

Don has had a rough year healthwise. In July he had a dissected aortic aneurism with complications that followed. His aorta split and he was in pain for a week before it was diagnosed properly. Eight weeks in the hospital, loss of appetite, loss of weight, complications, etc., took a toll on him. He is doing much better now but recuperation is slow. After medicine adjustment his appetite has returned and he is gaining weight.

John and Sue Chaffin, Green Valley, AZ - The year on the address labels is quite helpful in telling me it's time to pay up so we won't miss any of your outstanding productions—thanks for your continuing great efforts with the D.R.

We had a nice tour of Italy, France, Belgium and Holland last spring. Venice, Florence, Normandy and Belgium were our favorite stops. We drove everywhere but Italy. A word of warning. AAA road maps of Europe don't have all the roads or towns. Sue is a good navigator but we still saw and visited several unplanned places.

This fall we played in the annual FS Reno Classic then went to Sue's home in Missouri, my 50th high school reunion in Oklahoma and had a great 4,000 mile trip—until we arrived home. Our house was flooded from a broken water pipe in the toilet tank. Two months later we're finally back to normal with all new carpet and a newly painted interior. It's all nice now, but we don't recommend this approach to decorating.

Incidentally, I enjoyed Guy Cox's writeup. The Vernon was my first district as Ranger and Guy was always willing to lend an ear and give good advice when called upon. I'm also glad Dick sent that to you.

Our door is always open to any of you good people who venture out to the Southwest.

Howard Burnett, Deale, MD - In the last *Dixie Ranger*, I particularly enjoyed some of the reminiscences of how things were in the earlier days. History is of more interest to me now, and I am told that is true of many of us who have reached a time to be reflective. I have been in contact with Gil Davies and Flo Frank who are putting together a book of "Forest Service Animal Tales." I know there are enough stories from the days ending free range in R8 to fill a whole book—and they are great stories, too—I sure hope many of them make it to the Animal Tales book. And plenty of other animal tales, too. The only thing wrong with the previous books was that the Southern Region was poorly, or not at all, represented. What are we, chopped liver?

Life on the shores of the Chesapeake continues to be satisfying. One of my real challenges these days are people who discover a forester in their midst, and bring me a leaf or twig and want to know what kind of tree they have. This area was settled over 350 years ago, and there are all kinds of unusual species that have been brought here, so it's a task to figure some of them out. We even have two incense cedars shipped from California in the 1870's, which look like native red cedar at first, but are now bigger and an unexpected find. My old Dendro book keeps getting a good workout, but I really need a book on how to identify ornamentals, too. Can anyone recommend one that I should acquire?

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Coming in the next issue:

Photo of Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC.

Re-Starting a Rusty Engine by Bob Neelands

The Birth of a Firebreak Plow by Hob Howard

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Listen Up New Retirees and Long-Time Retirees:

Do you wish you had something to do?. Are you not busy enough? This may be just what you are looking for if you answered yes to those questions. Wisdom Employment Services, a newly formed division of LifeSpan Services, Inc., specializes in placing retired executives and professionals over 55 years of age in interim positions for short term projects. Wisdom was founded on the premise that *ability is ageless*. Candidates become employees of Wisdom and are leased to companies. If interested, you may call Judy Boyce, Director, 404.373.0005.

Book Review by Jim McConnell

Technically this is not a book review. It is comment on a magazine, not just one article but the entire issue of the magazine. Evergreen magazine is published bimonthly by the Evergreen Foundation. To quote their literature, "The Evergreen Foundation exists for only two reasons: to help restore public confidence in forestry, and to help advance public understanding and support for scientifically based forest policies and practices."

The October issue of Evergreen magazine is all about forests and forestry in the eastern hardwood region. It is one of the few magazines I have read cover to cover. There are articles on Touring America for Forestry which describes the region as it is now. It tells how it differs from the western US; how it was cut over and is now in the hands of many small ownerships. Dr. Ed Buckner from the University of Tennessee describes the first 12,000 years in another article. Doug Maclerry writes about white settlement and how the forest has proven to be remarkably resilient in the face of enormous human pressure. Another article talks about the eastern hardwood forest today, another on important hardwood trees. Outstanding graphics relate the eastern hardwood industry. A long article by James Petersen tells about Mary Wirth, Public Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager, B.A. Mullican Lumber and Manufacturing Co., Maryville, TN, who says,

"The warning lights are flashing all around us. Our ability to control our economic destiny is being taken from us. It is time to learn from the West, pull together, acknowledge our situation and take appropriate action. Too much is at stake to let what happened in the West happen here."

I think my favorite article is by Dr. Allen Houston from the Ames Plantation, Grand Junction, TN, who says,

"The problem with leaving forests 'to nature', as many seem to want to do, is that we can't control the outcome. We get what nature serves up, which can be pretty devastating at times. But with forestry we have options, and a degree of predictability not found in nature."

Dr. David Loftis tells about the problem with oak regeneration in shade and alternatives for hardwood silviculture.

Copies of the magazine, October 1997, can be obtained for \$2.00 plus shipping from The Evergreen Foundation, 500 Cirrus Dr., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97504. Phone 503 770-4999. They will also happily send you an application for membership. It's a bargain and you will certainly enjoy the magazine.