



DIXIE RANGER

SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

Suite 901 1720 Peachtree Road; N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367-9102

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray

Vol. XXI No. 2 May 1991

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OFFICERS 1991

President Helen Thomas
President Elect Tom Smith
Secretary Betty Bray
Treasurer Gail DeBord

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1991

Lee Cromley 1993 (3 year term)
Ralph Kunz 1992 (2 year term)
Bill Balmer 1991 (1 year term)
Lee Bardwell Ex-Officio

20th ANNIVERSARY

In April, 1971, the first issue of the Dixie Ranger was issued - 3 pages. It was the beginning for the Southern Forest Service Retiree Association. A membership drive was taking place and all who signed on as members through December 31, 1971, were considered Charter Members. The only letter published in that issue was a short note from Glenn Thompson, Caldwell, Idaho. At the end of that first year, 214 members were recorded. Today we have 420 members.

The following served as officers that first year:

President: Rik Eriksson	Board of Directors:
Vice President: Red Strange	Ray Brandt
Secretary: John Cooper	Clint Herrick
Treasurer: Jim Cartwright	John Spring

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REMEMBERING ... LIGHTNING STRIKES THE ODEN

When I started to work on the Ouachita in October 1951, Rik Eriksson was Forest Supervisor over the following Districts and Rangers: Mena - Vern Taylor, Oden - Ed Howell, Womble - Allen Jack Logan, Jessieville - Al Williams, Cold Springs - Harry Wright, Kiamichi - Dave Devet, Fourche - Cliff Comfort. Soon thereafter the Forest was divided and reorganized to add two more Districts - Poteau with Joe Zary and the Caddo with Nick Kmecza. Harry Wright left and Harold Bergmann became the first Ranger on the "new" Cold Springs District. I mention this as it pertains somewhat to my story.

I first served as Junior Forester on the Mena for nine months. After coming back on annual leave, I found that I was supposed to have been transferred to the "new" Cold Springs for a week already. Rik gave me two weeks to move to Booneville where I stayed for two months before he entrusted me, while still a JF during my probationary period to become Acting Ranger on the Oden. Ed Howell had sustained a severe back injury and was at the Mayo Clinic for some time. After commuting to Oden by bus from Booneville for a month or so, Rik said I and my family could move into the Oden Ranger Station on second floor. Forester Tony Slankaukas occupied a room in the office below.

In the spring of 1953, the Oden was hit by a rash of lightning strikes. I sent Tony with a crew from the District to take care of the Bear Waller Fire somewhere above the State Wildlife residence toward old Forester community. Since the crew was out all night, I sent them a box of groceries with one of the local loggers.

In the meantime another fire showed up and since all the rest of the District personnel were on the Bear Waller Fire, I went to Oden High School and requested Principal Ode Maddox for a crew of high school boys. (Ode has since been State Senator for many years). I loaded up 5 or 6 boys and headed for the fire somewhere in the old Refuge or Game Mgt. Area.

When we got to Pencil Bluff, Tony and his crew were returning from the Bear Waller Fire. He was fuming, fussing and downright mad at me "for sending him a couple of loaves of bread and a few cans of fruit". I couldn't understand what had happened to all the groceries I sent but I couldn't argue with him at that point. (We later found out that the local logger had stolen most of the food and stashed it away somewhere along the trail to be picked up at a later date). With that on my mind I continued on our way to the fire.

The storm that hit us brought a lot of rain and the creeks were overflowing. While trying to cross one rocky stream bed the truck got stuck. The boys were reluctant to jump in the cold water to push, so I led the way and had one of the crew drive. It was a "refreshing" experience but we made it OK and I made a mental note not to return that way.

The fire was quite a distance from the road and by the time we got a line around it and mopped it up, it was so dark that it took us awhile to find the truck. The night was cold and the boys in the truck bed were shivering. I checked the map to find an alternate route back home. When I came to the creek bottom, all we saw was water, probably a quarter mile wide. The headlights gave some visibility but we couldn't see the road or the bridge, just a line of trees on either side. I put the truck in low gear and crawled along very slowly, aiming toward the middle of the expanse, hoping to stay on the road and hoping the bridge was still there.

After some time, we made it through the flooded area and went on our way. The boys were so cold that I rotated them in and out of the cab every so often. Fortunately, I knew where Leroy Shores, TSI Foreman on the Cold Springs, lived. We got to his place about 3:00 a.m. and roused him and his wife. They were generous in loaning us blankets and quilts for the rest of the journey home. The boys earned their fire pay that night.

About 20 years later, I met Don Lewis when he came to the Catahoula District (Kisatchie) as TMA. When he told me he was originally from Oden, I told him this story. Then he said that he was one of the boys I had picked up for that fire crew.

Back to the Bear Waller Fire -- it was located among a lot of rocks and a fire line was most difficult to establish. In fact a day or so later it broke out again and I had an "extra period" fire on my hands. In those days the penalty for having an "extra period" fire was an investigation and either getting hung by nightfall or facing a firing squad at sunup! Fortunately Assistant Supervisor Jerry Dahl came out to investigate the situation. Being the gentleman he always was, he didn't consider the situation warranted any drastic action for which I was most thankful.

-- Joel H. Nitz

Editors note: A round of applause for you, Mr. Nitz, for such an excellent story. Thank you for sending it in. There are other stories out there -- let's have them. It was suggested in the last issue that notations from diaries be published. If those of you who have diaries will jot down items you think would be of interest, we'll certainly print them in the Dixie Ranger. Better yet - if you wish to send in your diaries, you may send them direct to our home address - 1973 E. Hwy 34, Newnan, GA 30265 - certified if you like. We got the following note from Ed Edgette that said "Just finished reading your latest issue of the Dixie Ranger. Enjoyed it very much. I noticed that several suggestions for creating more interest in the association was offered. How about some humorous incidents that have taken place in the Forest Service over the years. Olen Aycock can furnish the details involving an unusual snake bite case that happened on the Sam Houston in the late fifties." Olen - how about it? Any old photographs that we can use in the DR? We'll return anything that you send us. Again, thanks to you, Mr. Nitz.

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LAST LUNCHEON - was held on March 28. Approximately 40 people were present. Jack Alcock brought us an interesting message regarding Sons and Daughters of Forest Service employees and Retirees. Following is a partial list of these off-spring:

Ronnie Raum (Hans), GM-401-13, Planner, R-8, RO, P&B
Kip Cloward (Wayne), GM-212-13, Staffing Group Leader, R-8, RO, PM
Jack Courtenay (John), GS-460-12, Forester, R-8, Ouachita NF, SO
Jim Thorsen, Jr. (Del) GM-460-13, District Ranger, R-8, NF's in FL, Seminole RD
Greg Hatfield (Jack), GS-460-11, Forester, R-8, Ozark-St. Francis, NF, Buffalo RD
Kim Hofeldt (Vaughn), GS-460-9, Forester, R-8, Francis Marion-Sumter NF, Witherbee RD
Mary Jo Hess (daughter-in-law of Bill Hess), GS-1082-9, Writer/Editor, R-8, RO, PAO
Glen McConnell (Mack) GS-460-12, District Ranger, R-8, NFs in NC, Cheoah RD
Mitch Gandy (Roy) GS-460-11, Forester, R-8, Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, Toccoa RD
Carolyn Holbrook (Duff) GS-807-12, Landscape Architect, R-6, Mt. Baker/Sno NF
Vicki Sell (Clark), GS-462-7, Forestry Technician, R-8, NFs in Ala, Oakmulgee RD
Debbie Brookins (Jim Sabin's daughter), GS-391-11, Telecom Spec., R-8, RO, Mgmt. Sys.
Lynn Cutter (Jack Reichert's daughter), GS-1082-9, Public Affairs Spec., R-8, Ouachita
Jimmy MacNaughton (Vic) GM-810-13, Forest Engineer, George Washington NF, SO

Jack also announced the retirement of the following: Don Eng, Forest Supervisor of the Francis Marion-Sumter NF on May 6th. Don has been the Forest Supervisor there since 1978. Dick Wengert, Forest Supervisor of the Daniel Boone NF where he has served since 1974. And Stan Adams, Director of Public Affairs Office since 1972. Stan retires on May 3.

Alan G. Newman is the new Supervisor of the National Forests in Texas and John Yancey is Supervisor of the National Forests in Alabama. Joe Brown is the new Director of Cooperative Forestry, RO.

Lionel Johnson recommended reading "Civilian Conservation Corp - The Way We Remember It". The cover is a painting by Harry Rossoll "The Spirit of the CCC"(1938).

The Amendment regarding election of officers was approved. See copy in this issue of the Dixie Ranger.

ATTENTION ATLANTA AREA RETIREES

Here is an opportunity to do volunteer work for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The Regional Office has been given the responsibility to organize a cadre of volunteers out of the Regional Office staff and included are retirees and forest personnel that are close to the Atlanta area. Stephen P. Weaver is the Regional Coordinator in the RO. His phone number is: work (404) 347-3597 and home (404) 822-1795.

He is looking for Forest Service employees and retirees to serve as community volunteers to help on a variety of projects leading up to and through the 1996 Olympics. Most of these projects or opportunities are unspecified at this time. He is developing the resources to be available to the Olympic Committee to be called on to assist at any time. The jobs or projects are expected to be varied. Some will require only enthusiasm and hard work. Others more technical and/or advisory. Developing a resource list for immediate mail or phone contact will make the Forest Service responsive to meeting the Committee's needs.

This is an excellent opportunity to become involved in the 1996 Olympics. Please give Steve a call to offer your services.

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The following amendment to the Constitution was approved at the March 28, 1991, luncheon:

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. A slate of candidates for officers and directors for the following year shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee to the Association at its December meeting. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor provided they are present at the meeting and agree to serve if elected.

Section 2. Officers and directors shall be elected at the December meeting and shall assume office on January 1. The President-elect shall become President the year following his/her election as President-elect.

Section 3. (Same as presently worded).

Amendment No. 6, March 28, 1991.

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CENTENNIAL YEAR

The week of June 9 has been set aside as Centennial Week in the Southern Region. One main event will be held in Asheville at the Cradle of Forestry in America on June 14 and 15. On Friday, June 14, there will be hikes and tours by auto and bus of the Blue Ridge Parkway and Forest Heritage Scenic Byway, tours of the Cradle and Biltmore Estate. That evening, in celebration with the Blue Ridge Parkway there will be a barbecue and stage performance by Gary Hines. On Saturday, June 15, the Centennial observance will continue with festivities of Forest Festival Day at the Cradle of Forestry. The performance by Gary Hines is his acclaimed dramatization of Gifford Pinchot. You may dial 1-800-927-1054 and identify your needs as Centennial and they will do the rest. This promises to be fun and memorable time for all employees, retirees and their families.

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Editors, Dixie Ranger:

You are providing a fine service to Forest Service Retirees. Keep up the good work. I am interested in reading letters from people with whom I have worked and hold in high regard -- Jim Vessey, Phil Archibald, Bob Potter, Mike Kageorge, John Wernham, Arch Smith, Jim Cartwright, John Barber, Bill Berghoffen, Nathan Byrd, Milt Bryan, George James, Bob Raisch, John Tiller and others. Their letters in the Dixie Ranger help to bring me up to date on them. For those who wish to renew old friendships, the Annual Forest Service Retirees' Picnic at Scherer State Park, near Venice, Florida, is a genial way to spend a day.

USA TODAY on March 6 had a feature on "National Forests Are Growing on Tourists". They say that more than 100 million people visited National Forests last year -- twice as many as National Parks. This is good or bad, depending on just how you feel about this influx. The Pisgah is one of the featured forests -- with 850 miles of forest trails.

A suggestion. A photo or two of Forest Service groups taken in past years would be an interesting plus for the DIXIE RANGER.

-- Zim (Eliot Zimmerman)

Dear Bert and Betty:

Sorry to have overlooked my dues. Will try to do better next time. I do thank you for the reminder and keep up the good work on the Dixie Ranger.

I live on a small farm not far from where I was born, have 2 sons and a daughter. All live in Arkansas. One son is in Saudia Arabia with his National Guard Unit. Hope he'll be coming home soon.

-- Thanks again, O. L. Briggs

Dixie Ranger:

Sorry my check is late. The statement "Dues paid thru 1990" alerted me to get busy. Had my knee operated on last summer to remove a growth. I was an "out-patient" at the hospital. Entered about 6 a.m. and out before noon. The hospital charged over \$2500.00. In addition were the surgeon, anesthetist, and biopsy fees. Thank God for health insurance.

Phil Newton visited me after Thanksgiving. He came to Tallahassee to visit with relatives. He looked in excellent shape and still lively as a cat.

Still play bridge, cribbage, do a little yard work and read a lot. Will be 84 the 26th of March. Keep the Dixie Ranger coming.

--Ivan J. Nicholas

Dear Bert and Betty:

The February 1991 Dixie Ranger sure doesn't show evidence of a dying organization. Full of interesting notes from old timers such as J. D. Gay of Centreville, Ala., and James Cartwright. Then a list of new members, half of whom are my old sidekicks.

Especially of interest to me were the letter from Bill Bryan and the report of the award Walton Smith received for efforts to stop Forest Service clearcutting. Bill regrets the loss of a feeling of loyalty to the Forest Service, and Walton is trying to do something about the reason for the agency's fall from grace. I have worked as hard as I can to help Walton stop the clearcutting, and so has FS retiree Harry Wright. All one has to do is walk through a few of these mountain clearcuts to see the mistake of it. SEFES researcher David Loftis has documented that clearcutting is not achieving its avowed objective of better forests. Yet the agency continues it, and expects to retain public and retiree respect and loyalty.

One of my new ventures is teaching Appalachian Natural History for Elderhostel groups. Most fun I've ever had! Gloria helps me with it. My book, PAPER MANSIONS, has not made us rich yet, but has had some unusual effects, such as getting my sister and her first husband re-married after 40 years of separation. Two other books I have written, one about Forest Service experiences and one about religion, have not yet found publishers; not enough sex and violence, they say. My newly-begun nature column in the Cashiers Crossroads Chronicle takes whatever time I have left.

Best wishes to all my dear friends in SFSRA, especially you, J.D. -- Bob Padgett

Dixie Ranger:

I appreciate the effort that is going forth to perpetuate the goals of this publication which Tom Hunt founded many years ago, along with the help of some of his cohorts.

It helps all of us to remember those who are now deceased - such as Tom Hunt, Doug Craig, and Joseph T. McCullough who really put R-8 on the map - and at the sametime it is a ready reference as to where and who are still living, with complete address.

I think that Joe (Little Joe) Giaquinto's suggestion on some diary records would stimulate interest.

--Sincerely, Harry R. Wright

Dear Betty and Bert:

Here's my dues for the next couple of years. Also, here's dues for Sarah Agent, who was Ranger Clerk on the Evangeline RD(K.N.F.) during the 1950's and 1960's. Sarah helped train several young professionals during her career.

The most recent issue of the Dixie Ranger brought back several fond memories for Dona and me. I'd like to cite two.

Tom Smith mentioned that he joined the F.S. team in 1958. I first met Tom that year when he came to the Andrew Pickens RD (Sumter NF) to help us lay out logging roads. Thanks for agreeing to serve our retiree's association as President Elect, Tom!

The Andrew Pickens is also where Frank Palmer spent his career. We enjoyed Frank's letter in the last issue. Frank, I recall that you were the last R-8 timber marker to switch from the old Forest Service marking axe to paint. If I'm not entirely accurate on that, I know that I'm correct in saying that you were the best Forest Service apple grower in R-8!. Best wishes to you all!

-- Odom McDaniel, Jr.

Dear Bert and Betty:

Oops! I thought I had enclosed a check for dues with my last letter but my check-book stubs do not bear that out. So, being optimistic, I am anteing up for four more years. Other than being forgetful, I seem to be in pretty good shape.

You do such a good job with the Dixie Ranger. How I do enjoy reading it! Just as Bob Neelands wrote in the latest issue, I perused the new directory from A to Z and it was a trip down memory lane. So many wonderful associations are recalled.

Reading Bob Potter's letter reminded me of the timber damage survey of Hurricane Gracie in which Bob, Art Collins and I participated. That must have been in 1959. We worked out some new principals for coordinating aerial and ground surveys that were then applied in bark beetle appraisals. I developed great respect for Bob's mental capacity and followed his career with interest. He should write a book.

I was glad to see so many letters in this last issue. We do need to hear from each other.

--Sincerely, Jim Cartwright

Dear Editor:

You asked for it so here tiz. I retired in 1985 following a career of 28 years with the Service. I knew I didn't want to sit on my butt for the next several years, so I went to work. First, I taught school at four local high schools as a substitute teacher. (Believe me, you can get an education by teaching in our high schools today ... I mean the teacher, not the students). Next I worked as a prison guard at Fulton County Jail in Dekalb County. That job didn't last long as I didn't feel comfortable having to go into cells of 40 to 50 men milling around and treating me like I was their slave as I passed out meals and medicine. Next I tried selling insurance for A. L. Williams. I hated the night work, but learned that most insurance companies are a bunch of rip-off specialists.

Lee Bardwell and I tried going into business for ourselves. After a year of that, we decided that the initial costs were eat ing us up, so we dumped it.

After about two years of the above jobs, I went to work with Eli Giaquinto as his assistant. He was the Executive Director of the Lawrenceville Housing Authority. About a year after I went to work there, Joe retired and I became the Executive Director and began a four and a half year stint as chief cook and bottle washer. The work ranged from dealing with drug cases to providing housing to those seriously in need of a place to live. The work was very interesting, but extremely stressful. Many nights I slept very little knowing that a court case was coming up the next day in which I was going to evict a family. It wasn't the adults I was concerned about because they deserved the eviction. The kids were the real point of mental stress and pain.

About three months ago I discovered by means of a general physical that I had cancer of the prostate. The operation is over now, but I am currently undergoing radiation treatment. As soon as I get well, I plan to look for another job. My doctor said the stress associated with the Housing Authority job was very likely part of the reason I contracted the cancer.

In closing, let me pass on one piece of advice to every male retiree. According to my urologist, every male over the age of 55 should have an annual checkup for prostate cancer. The new sonogram does a superior job of detecting the cancer in its early stages. By the way, it beats the goose you are accustomed to by your local doctor.

--Don Ashworth

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is my 1991 dues check. I enjoy reading the Dixie Ranger. I know several that have been mentioned. I retired from the Kisatchie National Forest, Vernon District in 1976. Thanking you kindly.

--Robert Bates

Dear Editors:

With pleasure I have read and reread my first issue of Dixie Ranger. Since lack of member participation in correspondence is the stated plight of SFSRA:

In 1985, at age 64, I retired after 31 years of federal service; the last 18 on the Ozark-St. Francis NF, and all totally without distinction.

Each year since retiring I have taught a 3-hour course of forest ecology to fishery-wildlife majors at Arkansas Tech University and have enjoyed it immensely. No - ole Hooper has not set back Arkansas' higher education 20 years. Not even 10. I have used the R-8 Wildlife Habitat Management Handbook as partial text, and the Ozark NF as a field laboratory where we examine current and past silvicultural treatments and assess results from an ecological viewpoint. This, after stating the purpose, method and expected results, makes for a great game of show and tell that I can conduct without great classroom teaching skills. Forest Service propaganda is not intended, but I really believe the FS TM program, tho not perfect, is much better than the general public knows. I say so and generally feel confident the students agree. At least they are better informed than most.

For the past two summers I have worked with a team of botanists on Fort Chaffee Military Reservation doing environmental analysis with the Land Condition and Trend Analysis procedure. We install and monitor permanent vegetative transects that are used to assess current conditions, and over time, the environmental impacts of military operations.

I have kept close contact with the Ozark NF, doing considerable volunteer work and even some on a gainful basis. Seems there's greater appreciation and demand for my botanical expertise these days than when I was a FS employee. However, the FS job was more fun and more gratifying then than it could possibly be now. Particularly here in Arkansas where most FS effort is spent defending it's management practices.

Since leaving Russellville and my tennis partners I have played tennis only a couple of times and have golfed only three or four rounds each year. I do still fish, and get my greater kicks wade-fishing Ozark smallmouth streams. If fishing is slow then I enjoy botanizing the stream banks, or just watching wildlife. At other times there's ZIP with an opponent. At 70 all these are more fun than reading the obits.

My travel has been limited to infrequent visits with our three elder youngens and families in Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. The spouse, Jo, visits more frequently and has on occasion gone to Vegas to squander my hard-earned cash.

--Tom Hooper

Betty and Bert:

Your latest Dixie Ranger is the best yet! And the Directory was most welcome. Thanks, thanks, thanks to both of you. Here's my 91-94 dues check.

Phil Archibald's prodding got the cover off my typewriter, and Don Morriss' claim to fame was a challenge. No, Don, I never met Gifford, but Edna and I were treated to one of the famed baked apple and gingerbread receptions hosted by Mrs. Pinchot at their home on DuPont Circle in Washington, D. C.

We were very young to be in the Washington Office, a fact that Mrs. Pinchot recognized as we approached her in the reception line. She asked Edna, "Is this your husband?", then drew her aside for a lecture. It was over 40 years ago, but Edna was embarrassed enough to remember most of it. Here it is as close as Edna can recall:

"He looks like a nice young man, but if he is ever going to amount to anything, it is up to you. You can do it. I did it. Look at my hair! I dyed it barn red to get attention years ago. And I got the attention, and I got Gifford elected as Governor of Pennsylvania. So it is up to you. Do it!"

By that time she was getting pretty tired, so she left the reception line and presumeably toddled off to bed, as we never saw her again.

You know, Mrs. Pinchot was right! The small successes I had in my Forest Service career were due in large part to Edna's help. She didn't dye her hair, but she helped in many, many other ways.

We just celebrated our 15th year here in Florida - the longest time we ever lived in one place. Our Forest Service years were good, and these are even better. We run a string of crab traps and do some charter fishing in our little boat. Edna is usually at the helm while I handle the lines and the fish. Our last trip was our 748th in the "Old Forester", (FCC radio call sign Whiskey Easy Xray 9877).

Edna recently received national recognition by the American Hospital Association and was featured on a national satellite TV show from Chicago for her innovative community service program by a hospital Auxiliary. She conducts Estate Sales. Mom and Dad move to a retirement community with all their worldly possessions. Eventually one dies and the other goes "back home" to live with a relative. What to do with all the lifetime possessions? Just call your friendly Venice Hospital Estate Service representative and your household goods will be sold so the house can be put on the market. She and her crew have grossed over \$300,000 in sales in the past 8 years, part of which accrues to the Auxiliary and is pledged to the hospital to benefit patient care. Edna just received her 7,000 hour volunteer recognition award.

Last month we lunched with Don and Robbie Hughes and the L. C. Nixes on Longboat Key. In September we go to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, for the Forest Service centennial reunion. And as always, we summer from Memorial Day till Labor Day at our camp on Skaneateles Lake, one of New York's finger lakes. Come see us.

--Ed Littlehales

Dear Betty:

Here are my dues for 1991. Looks like it will be some time before I get to come back to the Club luncheons. But I do want to keep in touch.

I've been almost blind since the first of November '90. I have glaucoma, cataract surgery, lupus (which effects my eye) and completely blind in one eye since I was 5 years old. I have been at my daughters for 5 weeks - came home last week - still can't see to read. The F.S. means so much to me. I've always felt like all you good people are part of my family, that's why I want to keep in touch. I'll get back as soon as I can.

You and Bert are doing a great job. Congratulations.

--Sincerely, Lucile Isbell

To: Bert and Betty:

Appreciate you doing a "swell" job editing the "Dixie Ranger". In reviewing the directory I find myself among strangers. This is due to the Lord's Blessings. Am living on borrowed time, 10 years past 70. Retired from the USFS in '65 and now continuing my 25th year as forestry consultant. Don't like house and yard work but enjoy cruising timber. Had the pleasure of first working under leadership of Capt. I. F. Eldridge, Director of Timber Inventory. He was the only forester who could make a speech on statistical data and bring it alive. He was equally competent on challenging employees to have curiosity on what lies across the swamp.

Wish to pay tribute to three of my superiors who left this planet recently, Doug Craig, Red Strange, and Norman Hawley. Good friends that will not be forgotten.

--Arthur Steedley

Dear Bert and Betty:

Thanks for the reminder that it is dues time! Inclosed is my check to cover my dues for a few years. I look forward to receiving each issue of the Dixie Ranger and enjoy getting news of our Forest Service friends.

Thank you so very much for the great job you are doing.

--Sincerely, Iris Craig

Dear Bert and Betty:

Enclosed is check for dues for a few years. Your last issue of the Dixie Ranger was great. Lots of letters. Nice to hear about old friends. Seems the new directory brought out a lot of letters - even though many were changes or corrections of address. We recently had visitors for a long weekend. John and Betty Wernham and George "KG" Brown and Margaret. KG is former I&E Chief of R-9. Owen and Jan Jamison shared the board and room. Good time had by all. Perhaps Harry Rossoll will be able to paint the official portrait of the acrocanthosaurus dinosaur - but can he pronounce it?? Hope that our members who don't already belong to the National Association of Retired Federal Employees will join. They do a lot for us including the saving of our COLAs. Sorry we missed the last meeting.

--Best regards, Phil Archibald

You and Bert are doing a real good job as our Dixie Ranger editors. It is good to hear from So. F.S. Associates via their letters, notes, etc., as printed.

I am a December 31, 1965 retiree. We moved from Atlanta to our present home in the spring of 1973. We hated to leave our Atlanta friends and Southern working associates. We are both o.k. and enjoying the State where we were both born and educated. Verla in northern Idaho and me in the Southwestern area. Still driving and getting about. We will soon reach the 87 and 90 "milepost".

Our very best to all

--Sid (Mac) & Verla McLaughlin

Dear Bert and Betty:

Bob Neelands is right, skimming through the 1990 Directory is a guided tour down memory lane. Page upon page recalls the names of dozens of fine folk. What a joy to recall them, the many places and experiences!

Out here in the great southwestern frontier we don't get to see many FS friends any more since Little Rock is off the beaten path. So, it's real good to be able to keep up in the Dixie Ranger.

I'm still working full time at Little Rock's oldest museum - the Arkansas Territorial Restoration. None of the visitors on my tours leave Arkansas without appreciating the blessings of our forests - past, present, and future. My skills have expanded to include candle-making, dutch-oven cookery, and flint and steel fire starting. Pretty good for an old ranger, huh?

Here's my check for four more years of good news about good people in the Dixie Ranger. Thanks to you, Betty and Bert, for doing such a good job for us.

God bless you both

--Carl and Mary Jane Hoover

Dear Bert and Betty:

Thanks to Phil Archibald's push (remember me, Phil?), I'll try to scratch a few lines and send it along with my renewal. I still see quite a few names from the past in the Dixie Ranger and enjoy reading about them.

As for me, I retired in 1979. What started out as "doing a house lot or two" worked into almost a full time job in private surveying for several years. Actually I worked harder in the 1980's than I had for several years in the Forest Service. Ha! But "ole Arthur" has about gotten my legs and I "officially closed out" my surveying the first of the year - still do an occasional house lot. We can't quit, can we, Jack (Kirby)?

Winnie Maude and I have been doing a few bus tours the last few years (can't drive the land trips). We made one 14-day trip through the Southwest, one 13-day trip through the West and into the Canadian ice fields, one up the Blue Ridge Parkway and several shorter ones - Florida, New Orleans, etc.

For those of you who might remember the family way back then - Martha, our daughter has been teaching high school English for many years in the local school. She and Sonny, her husband, have 2 children - Trey, a junior in high school and Haley, a seventh grader in junior high. They are both A students and as you might guess, the "apple of our eye". After finishing school at USM, Ken worked for several years in the pathology department at University of Mississippi Medical School in

Jackson. He transferred to a private lab in Albuquerque, New Mexico, about two years ago.

Keep up the good work.

--Ralph Posey

Dear Editor:

Inclosed is a check for 1991 dues. You are doing a fantastic job on the newsletter. I always enjoy having someone read it to me as I have lost my sight and can no longer see to read.

Keep up the good work.

--Mary P. Joyner

Dear Bert & Betty:

Hope to see some of you good folks at the 100th FS Celebration in Glenwood Springs, Colo., this fall. I hear it's developing into a good event.

You may not have heard that John Sandor is Alaska's new Director of Natural Resources. The environmentalists wasted no time before shooting at him, but I'm sure he can take care of himself. (I've forgotten when John was in R-8).

We were wine-tasting today and one of the wineries representative was from Alexandria, La. He knew about the Kisatchie and several landmarks - Castor Plunge, Valentine Lake, etc. One of the best times we've had in a long time. Not too many people out here know of such places.

Our best to all

--John and Sue Chaffin

Dear Bert and Betty:

The need to send some dues has finally gotten me to sit down and write. Hello, old friends! Martha and I hope you are both well and as satisfied with life as are we! We would love to sit down with you both and learn of Diane, and of all your boys, Bert.

We are "retired." I work two days a week for The American Forestry Association, one day for the National Association of State Foresters, and one day for the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (which coordinates two-way radio frequency assignments so all outdoor agencies aren't stepping on each other's messages).

Our big venture for this year has been Martha's opening of "Kids' Stuff, Ltd.", a small store selling kids clothes, toys and accessories, sizes new-born to 14. We are learning the retail business, and meeting goals so far.

Our kids are all relatively near. Charlene is in northwest Baltimore; Alex is in Fairfax, Virginia, and David is in Virginia Beach, going to Old Dominion University and about to get married.

We moved to Deale 4 years ago, and enjoy a view of Chesapeake Bay, plus crabbing from the dock all season, plus boating and fishing in the spare time. (What's that?). This is the last really rural area within 35 miles of Washington, but it's starting to fill in slowly but surely. Would be pleased to have you guys visit!

--Sincerely, Howard Burnett

Here's a couple years dues and some extra for George Wasson if he has not subscribed. George and Bonnie live in Denham Springs, LA from April to October and spend the winter in Panama City where George can look through a big picture window at that beautiful beach and water. Talked to Bonnie last night when we got word about John Tom Koen's death. She said they were fine and George was enjoying the Spring break activity on the beach! As most know, George had a setback with a second stroke some time ago but they are making the best of everything.

Robbie and I are fine and enjoying a busy retirement. Spent two months tent camping in Europe in '89 and again in '90. Flew over and back both times on "Space A" military flights. It was quite an experience. One has to have a real good sport for a wife to make the most of that kind of travel...and I'm lucky that way. We met people from all over the world who were also camping and keep up with a number of them. Trying to figure a way to get to New Zealand, now!

We spent 5 winters in the Bahamas on our 44' sailboat but recently sold it so we are between boats now. Plan to have another and do more cruising soon. Live in a little house on the water in Port Charlotte and the welcome mat is always out for Forest Service friends.

Keep up the good work with the Dixie Ranger ..we are always anxious to receive it.

--Don and Robbie Hughes

Enclosed is a check for dues through 1993. Bert, I think you and I may go back a ways to the early 1960's in Marianna, Florida, where I was with the Southern Forest Experiment Station under John Cassady. Weren't you his neighbor?

--Don Skrehot

(Don - good to hear from you. Yes, we were neighbors back in 1960. John recruited me into the Forest Service - Bert).

Bert and Betty:

According to the note on the last issue, I must be about 4 months in arrears on dues. Here's a check to keep me in good standing for a couple more years.

Not much news from here. I keep busy with Boy Scouts (Scoutmaster) and other doings. Jeanette does volunteer work at the hospital and we travel some considerably. They say you're not really free until the kids all leave home and the dog dies. Well, we made it. Kids beengone for some time and the last beagle passed on this winter. Seems strange not to have a beagle in the back yard after 40+ years but really it's a relief.

Keep the Dixie Ranger coming. We enjoy it. --Yours, John Courtenay

Dear Bert and Betty:

Enclosed is a check for the next few years membership in SFSRA. As you see, this action appears very optimistic about the future. I am getting to the age now where I am considering not purchasing green bananas any more.

The wife and I always enjoy reading the Dixie Ranger. Even though we finished our last 17 years in R-6, we still have fond memories of our first 14 years in R-8 and all the good people we worked with.

I read Phil Archibald's letter in the last Dixie Ranger with his many good suggestions for more participation by members. One additional suggestion I might add for consideration would be a section of the Dixie Ranger devoted to what I would call, Past Memories, or Recollections. Here, members could summarize a few short descriptions of events of the past that might be of interest to some of the members. They could be trivia, or if some prefer, items of more significance. Peoples names could be highlighted for drawing attention. You could also request these items on a separate sheet from any letters for ease in editing. For example:

PAST MEMORIES

Of Pat Int-Hout

In '62 lying awake half the night on a big campout with Duff Holbrook and Ed Ellenberg listening to an unknown creature howling and screeching from the top of Little Fodderstack on the Tellico District. It's identity was never determined.

While working with Ranger Bruce Alter on the Tallulah District in '56, being unfortunate enough to be on the Little Persimmon Creek gravel road at the same time one of the local moonshiner lads was trying out his '51 Ford with a Lincoln transmission and rear end to see how fast he could take the curves with a full load on board.

As expert foresters, working with Phil Archibald in Gainesville, to fell a tree in his yard directly across the neighbor's fence.

In the early '50's working with Ranger Joe Zary and being called off a weekend fishing trip with Ed Ellenberg to help suppress over 50 fires set from one end to the other of the Leaf River District, many of which became Class E fires.

While working for Ranger Alvis Owen, out of Gloster, Miss., on the southern pine beetle outbreak in the early '50's, flying under the Natchez, Mississippi bridge while on a beetle detection flight. (Unapproved flight plan, of course, and aircraft inspections were unheard of).

In the fall of '49, working for Ranger Herb Rice on the Delta District, driving a dozer to suppress a large portion of a Class E fire on the northeast end of the Delta District. A few weeks later it all went under several feet of water.

In 1954 falling in a gator hole on Lake Saline while marking tornado blowdown timber with Ranger George Tannehill, Grady Crooks, Oscar Bice, Nub Whatly, and Walt Bullock on the Winn District.

In 1950 working with Ranger Joe Couch, D. Webster Dukes, and Rube Childers on the Strong River District, developing an outstanding radio communication system in a surplus jeep by attaching a rod to the fender for an antenna, using friction tape to fasten an SX radio set to the steering column, and using ear phones for the receiver. It worked well under 10 miles from a main station but was somewhat cumbersome with the head set wires when turning rapidly in sharp curves.

Again we certainly enjoy reading about many of the old gang in R-8.

--Warm regards, Pat Int-Hout

IN MEMORIAM

John Tom Koen, Sr., 77, of Albuquerque, N.M., died March 17. Mr. Koen was Supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest from 1958 to 1968. He is survived by his wife, Hazel, of Albuquerque; one son, John Tom Koen, Jr., of Rio Rancho, N.M.; two daughters, Melinda Burnette of Hot Springs and Judy Dixon of Charlotte, N. C. Mr. Koen was buried in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Hot Springs and Jack McElroy of Tyler, Texas, officiated.

Harry Nadler, former State Forester, Kentucky, died February 2 in Louisville. Mr. Nadler retired in 1976 as Director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Ed Howell, Lake City, Florida, died November 16, 1990, as a result of a car accident near his home.

Dr. Gene Shoulders, research silviculturist at the Southern Station, died in March. Dr. Shoulders retired in 1990.

Shirley Brooks, retiree from the Pisgah NF, died on April 6.

P. F. Wallace Prater - "Wally" Prater, 85, died February 20 at his home in Tallahassee, FL. A native of New York and a graduate of the College of Forestry at Syracuse University, he had been a professional forester with the U. S. Forest Service for 34 years. He had lived in Tallahassee since 1962. During his career he started a new Ranger District in Oklahoma; a new Forest in Georgia, and a new Division of Personnel in Atlanta, GA. His employment with the Forest Service included Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, Oregon and Pennsylvania. Survivors include his wife, Lucille of Tallahassee; two daughters - Anne Barfield of Reynolds, Ga., and Norma Jean Prater of Montgomery, AL.; and two brothers.

* * * * *

NATIONAL FOREST RESEARCH YIELDS MANY NEW TRAILS

Through cooperative research by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Forest Service more than 30 rail-trails have been pinpointed in National Forests in the eastern United States. That number is expected to increase steadily as information arrives from other forests around the country.

A flurry of recently unearthed rail-trails in National Forests expands the total number to more than 300 and highlights the important role of the U. S. Forest Service in the rail-trail movement. An RTC Program intern said "The response has been overwhelming". The intern has been working with scores of Forest Service personnel to obtain information about the existence and location of these rail-trails. Many of the trails have been open to the public for years and are just now being recognized as rail-trails.

Several of the more spectacular rail-trails identified, virtually all on former logging railroads, include the Nordhouse Dunes Trail System in the Manistee National Forest of Michigan, the Wilderness Trail which runs through the Pemigewasset Wilderness in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Lye Brook Trail which intersects the Appalachian Trail in the Green Mountain National Forest near Stratton Pond, Vt. The Virginia Creeper Trail, located in the Jefferson National Forest, is the best-known Forest Service rail-trail.

--Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Vol 6, No. 2, Apr-June 1991

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sarah Agent
P. O. Box 154
Tioga, LA 71477

W. A. Schlesselman
215 Sunset Blvd.
Lufkin, TX 75901 (409) 634-9798

Tom Hooper
4115 Chaffee Drive
Ft. Smith, AR 72904

Winston T. Smith
4151 Linda Lane
Lilburn, GA 30247

Edwin Manchester
191 Ranger Road
Murphy, N. C. 28906

John J. Stransky
1533 Redbud
Nacogdoches, TX 75961 (409) 564-5677

James L. McConnell
3699 Wentworth Lane
Lilburn, GA 30247

George Wasson
26654 La. Hwy 1032
Denham Springs, LA 70726 (504) 664-7324

Changes to the Directory:

Page 2 James E. Brewer - new address: 121 West Arch Street, Ironwood, MI 49938

Page 7 Bill Hice - change zip code to 23112

Carl Hoover - change address to 39 Saxony Circle

Page 12 - Herbert E. Ochsner - change address to: C/o Shuford, Box 1530,
Ashville, N. C. 28802-1530

Page 16 - Harry Wright - add phone # (704) 526-3428

Page 14 - Don Skrehot - change name to Englewood Drive from Engiewood

Another new member: Robert C. Thatcher
12 Bevlyn Drive
Asheville, NC 28803 (704) 684-6627

* * * * *

Our own Bob Hitt is featured on the cover of the Elderhostel Catalog, No. 10 for International Winter/Spring 1992. From reports made by Bob and others in the Association who have attended an Elderhostel program, this is the way to go.

* * * * *

LUNCHEON



June 27 - Petite Auberge Restaurant, Toco Hills Shopping Center - gather at 11 a.m., lunch at noon. Please call in reservation by Tuesday, June 25 to Andrea Csergei at 347-4178. Andrea is now in the Regional Forester's office.

September - keep Thursdays clear until we can firm up the date for the picnic. From the recent questionnaire at last luncheon, a Thursday about 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall was preferred for our annual picnic. Watch for date in August issue of the DIXIE RANGER.

Personnel



Retirement: Don Eng, Forest Supervisor, Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests, after 38 years of service, on May 3. Don and wife, Jean, will remain in S. C.

Stan Adams, Director, Public Affairs Office, RO, after 34 years with the Forest Service. Stan retires on May 3. He has been the Director of PAO since 1972.

On May 6 Stan will become the State Forester of North Carolina.

Reassignments: Bruce Jewell, Assistant Director, PAO, WO, has been reassigned to Director, PAO, R-8. Bruce is returning to R-8.

Retiree Bob Youngs, former Director of Forest Products Lab, is now the Director for School of Forest Products at VPI.

* * * * *

Season passes are available from the District Ranger office on the Ouachita National Forest for day use areas in selected areas. The \$20 day use pass is a decal placed on vehicle windshields. All occupants of the vehicle may use the specified forest day use area throughout the year at no additional cost. Campground use is not covered by the season pass. The pass covers swimming, picnicking, and parking fees at the following areas: Cedar Lake near Heavener, Okla; Shady Lake near Mena, AR; Charlton near Mount Ida, AR and Lake Sylvia near Perryville, AR

* * * * *



Several years back Louis (Andy) Andrew entered the freshman class of Colorado State University at Ft. Collins, where he met and courted a Miss Edna Johnson. Time passed and they lost each other until 1989 when Andy decided to attend his 50th class reunion. He was delighted to find his past sweetheart and they became immediately smitten with each other. Andy went back to Colorado several times and finally convinced Edna to visit Greenwood as his fiancée. Everyone was thrilled to have a chance to meet Edna. Friends decided to have a drop-in on January 19. Their home was beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and an array of food to tempt any palate. Upon arrival, everyone was shocked to find the couple was no longer engaged, but married. Edna and Andy along with friends had driven to Greenville on the 17th of January and married in the First Presbyterian Church. Ms. Edna Johnson became Mrs. Andy Andrew sixty-one years after their first date!

The newly weds plan to spend a portion of their time at 103 Northhampton, Greenwood, S.C., 29569, and the remainder in Fort Collins, CO.

Andy retired as a Soil Scientist from the Long Cane RD approximately 17 years ago. His home phone number in Greenwood is (803) 229-7148.

* * * *

Hi Good People:

Check enclosed. At my age I may not be around long enough to get back what I pay for. Never mind, my ultimate destination will carry no forwarding address.

You may want to run the enclosure in the event you feel some of our retirees do not realize the way present day forest managers are under attack by the self-appointed environmentalists. Unfortunately, they represent organized groups who are well-heeled. And this is harmful.

Foresters and specialists in related natural resources are being falsely vilified for bad management, ecology ignorance, forest destruction and all the other bad outdoor manners they can think up about us.

Never mind that we help provide one of the major needs of modern man. Our weirdo critics and self-appointed "experts on everything" seem to prefer living in caves, reading the morning news from a rock instead of newsprint, and reverting to the only logical substitute for T.P. discovered by our early ancestors - corn cobs.

Unfortunately, professionals are taking this beating without fighting back. To cave in and admit defeat is to admit we are wrong. I can never buy that. There are too many places where you and I have the living proof of forest management vs forest preservation.

They talk, we act. They have criticism, we have accomplishment. They make noises, we make showplaces. They lean on rhetoric, we stand with examples.

Should you publish this it might stir up enough resentment among those best qualified with their lifetime experience. Could it be the incumbents do not take a stand because they are unsure? Not us retirees. We have been there. And for every argument they have on paper and on the signs they wave, we can give them dozens that are alive and well.

Thanks for all you do.

--Hal Bush

Here's Mr. Bush's article:

A QUICK LOOK AT CONTEMPORARY LAND MANAGEMENT
or
IS CONTEMPORARY LAND MANAGEMENT ALL THAT BAD

This past summer with wife Marge, I made a trip northward from my home here in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to attend a school reunion and visit parts of Canada I had missed in my early days there as a timber cruiser. Enroute we passed through several northeastern states.

Throughout the trip my attention focused on land use. After a career in the business, good and bad land management is easy to spot. As in other professions, the eyes seek out telltale symptoms, and the terrain holds back few secrets.

Believe me, our lands within eyesight over the many miles we logged looked good. I saw not one single instance of visible land abuse, in either country. Forest canopies everywhere looked unbroken. If there were timber devastation I saw it not, and except for reading I still operate without glasses. I saw one or two trucks hauling logs and really looked for more, since it seemed we passed through as much forest as farm land.

In scanning these millions of acres rolling by you may say I never got out of the car. But that is no so. At one place, my old school forest, we walked through new timber cover that I helped establish 60 years ago, with pine and spruce propagated from seed in the school nursery. The land we reforested was barren of tree cover, due to the initial logging followed by fire.

Bad management? Land mismanagement? You got it. But the first timber harvest occurred when timber land seemed endless. Abundance naturally led to waste. Lack of protection led to devastation. We didn't cry over spilled milk. Instead we planted, among the weeds, brush and bracken fern, in holes dug with mattocks. Protected from fire the new forest grew and now stands fresh and tall. Surplus growth is being removed by selective logging for forest products. Good management? You got it. Plantation forestry? You bet, but it works great.

So why must we listen to this uproar about destructive cutting of trees for human needs. How else are we to produce the fiber to supply the wood using industries. Can it really be possible that the environmental extremists expect forests to be left untouched for the single purpose of providing cover for propagation of spotted owls, cockaded woodpeckers, mountain lions and such?

If "plundering" and "devastation" of our resources is going on in this part of the world it is not apparent. Nor does it make much sense if we are to be blamed or held responsible for destruction of the tropical rain forests. And who can be sure it is as bad as reported. But another matter entirely is cutting of the temperate rain forests of Alaska which happens to be under our control. We can correct this practice, and should. But that is another story. Stay tuned.

From GEORGIA FORESTRY/SPRING 1990 submitted by Walt Fox

MOUNTAIN PROJECT MAY EMERGE AS ROLE MODEL

Site preparation in excess of 300 acres initiated by a single, non-industrial landowner with no outside financial assistance would be rare in most sections of the state. However, in the North Georgia mountains it is unheard of - especially when such acreage is site preparation for planting pines.

The case in point is a 546-acre White County tract located in rugged mountainous terrain near Cleveland. The land was bought almost 40 years ago by Charles Gay, a Camden, South Carolina businessman associated with a national trucking firm. Gay, who lives in South Carolina, has given power of attorney regarding the entire project to Walter Fox, a consulting forester based in the nearby town of Martin. Fox is no stranger to large forestry operations, he became a private consultant after 30 years with the U. S. Forest Service.

"This project is unusual for a number of positive reasons," Fox said. "From my standpoint, it is unusual for a landowner to follow advice of the consulting forester almost to the letter to accomplish designated goals. The result is that this is turning into an abbreviated synopsis of Recommended Best Management Practices for Forestry in Georgia (Commission manual for Best Management Practices)".

Fox believes that in time, the mountain project may be recognized as a role model of sorts. He gives the following breakdown or project guidelines: 16 acres mechanical thinning of 10-year old natural loblolly stand, 50 acres site preparation for white pine planting, 270 acres site preparation for loblolly pine planting, and 130 acres of hardwood preserved for game habitat. Thus the total area for planting pines is 320 acres.

Another impressive factor Fox points out is that 140 acres have been left as a carefully preserved buffer zone to protect the scenic Tsnatee River and tributary streams running through the tract. Since the buffer totals more than 25 percent of the tract, it is obvious that streamside management is a priority. Although this environmental concern will not produce immediate financial rewards, downstream neighbors and future generations will profit for many years to come.

Fox emphasized that this is not a totally preservationist project, but a well managed, carefully considered plan to establish that frequently elusive blend of environmental protection with timber production, game management, etc. "It offers a classic example showing that timber production can coexist harmoniously with such environmental factors as protection of the flood plain, and even preservation of certain historic aspects."

* * * * *

Phil Briegleb, former Director of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, until his retirement in 1971, submitted the following editorial which appeared in Western Forester, May 1990.

CENSUS PORTENDS NEED FOR ACTION

The 1990 Census of the United States is being compiled as of April 1. Final figures for this inventory of people are not yet available, but this event stimulates foresters to speculate on what's ahead.

The American Demographics Society estimates that 6,400 people are being added to the U.S. population daily. So we can expect many more people wanting more commodities, services, amenities, opportunities and a good environment.

The prospect of many more people wanting more of those good things, but no more bills and taxes, is a challenge to foresters and to our entire nation. Worldwide, the problem is greater. For example, the population of India is reported to have increased ten-fold, from 80 million to 800 million in 40 years. Demographers attribute much of the accelerating increase to the development of life-prolonging wonder drugs, such as penicillin, that started about 1937.

This dilemma comes at a time when differences of opinion on priorities among timber interests and extreme "environmentalists" is probably at an all time high. Should we have forest resource conservation through wise use as proposed by Gifford Pinchot, or through preservation as pushed by John Muir? Of course we have long had some of each. But apparently the present trend is away from wise use to more preservation.

For example, on the Willamette National Forest in 1977, 36 percent of the total land area was allocated to non-harvest categories such as wilderness and research natural areas. Ten years later in 1987, non-harvest allocation had moved to 49 percent. And now 53 percent of this most important timber producing national forest is reserved from timber harvest. This trend is continuing and could worsen. The economic impacts of such trends should not be ignored. They are not ignored by those who understand them.

For example, in fiscal year 1989, the payments to Oregon counties from national forests totaled \$622.5 million, of which 99 percent came from timber stumpage sales. About three times this amount went into the U.S. Treasury to benefit taxpayers.

Forest management, along with agriculture, is a "basic" rather than a "service" industry. Therefore, the contributions of timber to the economy through other industries, such as construction and paper, are many times greater than the figures shown above.

Some "preservationists" say that expanding recreational use of forest land can make up the economic losses caused by a declining timber industry in the Northwest. Recreational uses of forest lands have expanded and probably will continue to do so. But before counting on major contributions to the economy from this source, we should study the current status of contributions from forest recreation.

In fiscal year 1989, user fees collected on recreational sites by the Forest Service in Oregon and Washington were reported to total \$2,270,692. But the cost to maintain those sites was reported to be \$6,300,000. Apparently, recreation on the national forests is a bargain for the users, but not for non-user taxpayers.

Another problem is that many of the most popular recreation sites are being over-used and are deteriorating. This includes some wilderness areas, established campgrounds, observation points and interpretive sites. So, foresters and forest users in the Northwest - along with taxpayers - all have major problems.

The problems and potentially constructive solutions should be studied more intensely. And the most promising solutions should be activated before too much time and too many much needed, multiple values are lost. Who knows, a really ingenious forest biologist might learn to propagate northern spotted owls in abundance.

Let's find out. Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than information." Surely, but we need much more of both. And much more constructive action, soon!

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN REGION

The National Forests in Region 8 are younger than their western counterparts, but we certainly have a stake in celebrating the agency's conservation achievements. In fact, our Region's accomplishments are probably the most dramatic in terms of land reclamation.

Before the Forest Service and state and private cooperators were managing the forests here, much of the South's woodlands were stripped and dying. Harvesting and farming took a heavy toll, and wildfires burned several million acres a year between 1890 and 1933.

The first National Forests in the South were formed by withdrawals from public domain. The Arkansas National Forest was created in 1907 (and renamed the Ouachita in 1926) and the Ozark National Forest in 1908. Florida's Ocala and Choctawhatchee National Forests were created in 1908 also. Part of the Bankhead in Alabama was withdrawn from public domain in 1913.

These were the limited public holdings in the South until passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 that opened the door for purchase of lands to protect watersheds and serve as demonstration forests. When the Southern Region (R-8) became an administrative unit in 1934 we had 11 National Forests in 11 states: the Alabama, Cherokee, Choctawhatchee, Kisatchie, Nantahala, Ocala, Ouachita, Osceola, Ozark, Pisgah, and Unaka.

Two years later in 1936 we had our greatest year of expansion: 15 new National Forests. The lands acquired for these forests have been characterized as "The Lands Nobody Wanted" (from the book of that title, Shands and Healy, 1977). In general, they were cutover, abandoned and/or tax-delinquent properties, purchased from willing sellers.

The Civilian Conservation Corps program (1933-1944) was the muscle that enabled the Forest Service to convert those unwanted lands into today's healthy forests. In fact, many agency history buffs say there would be no Southern Region had there been no CCC. Progress in reclamation directly paralleled the growth of the program as CCC enrollees planted millions of trees, fought fires, battled erosion, and built roads, bridges, and recreation areas.

From a public use standpoint, probably the most significant impact of the southern National Forests has been and is the demonstrated capability of properly managed forest lands to produce large volumes of high quality timber in combination with other forest resources. Providing over 23 million visitor-days of recreation annually, critical habitat for several threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species, water for domestic and industrial uses, forage for domestic animals and timber, these forests are living proof that multiple use resource management really works.

by Sharon Young, DOWN SOUTH, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 1991

FOREST SERVICE HISTORY BOOK AVAILABLE

The USDA-Forest Service announces the availability of reprints of 100 Years of Federal Forestry, a pictorial history of the agency, first published and sold out in 1976. The Forest Service history and centennial coordinators sponsored the reprinting this year commemorating the centennial of the National Forest System, which originated with the Federal Forest Reserve Act of 1891.

To illustrate the text, retired Forest Service employee William W. Bergoffen selected over 450 photographs from the half-million in the Forest Service collection, housed in the National Agricultural Library and National Archives.

The publication focuses on the period from 1876, when Congress supported the first appointment of a forestry agent in the Department of Agriculture, to 1976, when the nation celebrated its bicentennial and 100 years of Federal forestry.

A copy may be ordered by writing The Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Copies are also available from the U. S. Government Bookstore, 2021 3rd Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203. The cost is \$12 per copy (includes handling costs), and checks should be made out to Superintendent of Documents. Order by title and stock number 001-000-03668-8 and allow four to six weeks for delivery.

* * * * *

The last page of this issue contains a mail-in Registration Form for the Sharing Memories and Visions Centennial celebration in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Some of you have mentioned attending. The registration form may be helpful to you.

There is also a National Forest Service Museum Benefit Dinner to be held on Tuesday, October 1, 1991, during the centennial celebration. The cost is \$50 per plate, of which: \$20 pays for the meal and \$30 (tax-deductible) goes to the National Forest Service Museum. This includes a \$20 annual individual membership which expires December 31, 1992.

The place: Ramada Inn, 124 West 6th Street, Glenwood Springs. Two short blocks west of the Reunion headquarters at the Hotel Colorado.

Ted Schlapfer is Master of Ceremonies. Some dignitaries (former Chiefs, Regional Foresters, etc.) are expected. The program includes a 30-minute illustrated talk by Ed Heilman, Sec-Treas of the Museum Board discussing the concept, plans and progress.

Space is limited, so make your reservations early with Anita Kline, P. O. Box 1064, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601. A \$5.00 deposit is required for all reservations. Make checks payable to National Forest Service Museum.

* * * * *

REGISTRATION FORM - MAIL IN

SHARING MEMORIES AND VISIONS REGISTRATION FORM

September 29 - October 2, 1991
(Sunday - Wednesday)

(Please print or type)

Last Name _____ First Name & Initial _____ Spouse or Guest Name _____
 Mailing Address _____ Home Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 ___ Current Employee ___ Former employee/Retiree ___ Other ___
 Position (current or last) _____

Region and Duty Location (current or last) _____

Unit Mailing Address _____ Work Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

REGISTRATION FEES *

Early Single	\$35	if postmarked by July 31	\$ _____
Early Couple	\$45		
Single	\$45	if postmarked after August 1	\$ _____
Couple	\$60		
Late Single	\$56	if postmarked September 1 or after	\$ _____
Late Couple	\$74		

* Events included in the registration fee:

- General session, entertainment and barbecue on Monday, September 30
- One Bernard Fernow and one Gifford Pinchot program
- General session on Wednesday, October 2
- Regional hospitality rooms

OPTIONAL EVENTS AND FEES

Tours Require An Additional Fee
 Second line is provided if two persons register on this form and do not want to take the same tours.

Tour on October 1	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
Tour on October 2	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
Tour on October 3	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
	Tour Number _____	\$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

White River National Forest Association

Mail registration to:

National Forest Service Reunion
 P. O. Box 1064
 Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation requests must be in writing and postmarked no later than August 30 for a full refund. A \$10 cancellation fee will be retained for written cancellation requests postmarked between September 1 and September 14. There will be no refunds after September 15. Any excess registration money will be donated to the White River National Forest Association, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

Registration forms will be processed only when accompanied with proper payment.

Register for tours now; they are first-come, first-served. Each requires a minimum number of participants if we have to cancel tours, we will refund your payment.

Registration packets and materials may be picked up Sunday, September 29, 1991, at the Hotel Colorado, Reunion Headquarters, 625 Pine Street, telephone 945-6511. There will be an Activity Desk in the Hotel Colorado lobby.

If you have any questions, please write to National Forest Service Reunion, P. O. Box 1064, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602 or call Anita Kline, reunion coordinator in the White River Supervisor's Office at (303) 945-2521

A BED AND BREAKFAST CLUB

Would you travel more if it cost less and was more enjoyable? Would you travel more if:

- You could avoid high cost motels that break your budget?
- For \$15.00 a night you could relax and be comfortable in the home of friends?
- Your \$15.00 includes a good breakfast to start you on your way in the morning?
- You know the background of your hosts is similar to your own, even if you have not formally met?

In addition, you would be paid \$15 a night for providing bed and breakfast for travelers who also have a background in natural resources management.

Richard Guth, a former Public Information Officer for Region 1, is starting a Natural B&B Club. Members for this club are being recruited among those who have retired from, or still serve natural resource management agencies.

Requirements for joining the club are: First, you or your spouse must be at least 50 years old; and second, you need to have an extra guest room in your home so that you can accommodate fellow club members when they travel your way. The annual fee for joining is \$20, with the second year increasing to \$45 per year.

The procedure for arranging stays with fellow Natural B&B members is simple and no third parties are involved. Members are provided annually with membership cards and a confidential membership directory that lists the names and addresses of members. After setting their itinerary, members consult the directory listings and contact other members who are convenient to their destination points. Often this contact is done over the phone but other members have preferred to write well in advance of their trip.

Potential members are screened through application and photographs. Before being accepted as a Natural B&B member, each applicant completes an application form which includes two references. These references are contacted to verify the suitability of the applicant for membership - areas discussed include the safety, comfort and cleanliness of the home as well as the hospitality of the hosts. To ensure ongoing hospitality and comfortable accommodations, members use comment cards during their travels which note outstanding hosts and guests.

Would you be interested in a Natural Bed and Breakfast Club? If so, please write to us at our home address - 1973 E. Highway 34, Newnan, Georgia 30265. Bert and I may serve as Area Representatives if there is enough interest in compiling a membership list.

* * * * *

Howard Burnett's nice letter reminded me of a travel incident I still chuckle about. He, Jerry Rocket and I were helping State Forester Paul Cramer with a project at College Station, TX, and were waiting at the airport for our Davis Airline flight to Dallas. Cold sober, but feeling silly, we started kidding each other about the probable age and condition of Davis' planes.

Sure enough, instead of the modern C-99 listed, the plane that approached was an old C-18, with a 2-digit I.D. number. I said "I told you so -- pre-WWII." The plane taxied up to our 'walk-on' gate and a grandmotherly type disembarked, hugged her waiting daughter, and said "Oh Lord, what a flight!" Whereupon, a well-dressed male business traveler directly behind us said, "The hell with this", ran to his car in the parking lot, and drove to Dallas.

Jerry ended up in the co-pilot seat, and for the first time ever, according to Davis, we had to abort our Love Field landing and go around again because a pilot of a large jet objected to our landing across his landing pattern.

So nice hearing from Howard and Martha Sue.

-- Bert

* * * *

A REMINDER

The luncheon on June 27 - please call in reservations to Andrea by June 25.

* * * *

A very special thank you to all of you who wrote and submitted articles for this issue of the DIXIE RANGER. There is always a degree of excitement when it comes time to type the newsletter. We know how you feel when you hear from dear, old friends -- the Editors.

* * * *

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