



THE DIXIE RANGER

Published by the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association
Vol. XXXVIII No. 2
July 2008



June Luncheon Notes

Our SFSRA June luncheon was well attended with 47 members and two guests from the Atlanta Regional Office, Tom Peterson acting R-8 Regional Forester and Ken Arney R-8 Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private. Prior to the luncheon the Board of Directors and Officers held a brief meeting. Jean Kruglewicz, Larry Bishop, Sonny Cudabac, Mike Sparks, Dave Jolly and Jim McConnell were in attendance. The new e-mail member notification process was discussed. Feed-back is good, and this seems to be a useful addition to the SFSRA. To continue to be successful, members need to make any changes in their e-mail addresses known - either to Secretary Sonny Cudabac or to *The Dixie Ranger* Editors. When one of us receives a change, we will notify the other.

After lunch Tom Peterson, who had just been promoted to Director of Forest Management (formerly Director of Timber Management) in the WO, spoke on topics which revolve around the current Transformation efforts in the Forest Service – to reduce staff and get more money to the field if possible. He said that the RO staff have become “doers” because of reduced field staff. Transformation efforts include: sharing resources and expertise through a service center for geology & minerals in the West; the Albuquerque Center for Finance and HR; the Finance Center is working due to prior planning where as HR was lacking in prior planning and is now suffering; State & Private Forestry was touched on including the Farm Bill and redesign and integration programs focusing on our nations forests; and “Green Team” efforts including better lighting, improved vehicles, reduced travel and telecommuting - all designed to reduce carbon footprint.

Other topics covered were: Information that R-8 and the State of Tennessee are in the process of acquiring Rocky Fork, a parcel of about 10,000 acres in Tennessee. If the acquisition is successful, some of the parcel will go to the Forest Service and some to the state; Long Leaf Pine Alliance - what can be done with restoration and range and Wild Land Fire Management - with 44% of the FS budget going toward fire management. There are two bills in Congress now - one called the FLAME Act that creates a separate fund for fire suppression. If passed, this would not be seen until FY 2010. As for interest in the possibility of GAO moving the FS to the Department of Interior, Tom relayed that Mark Ray had said: “Don’t worry about it!! This wasn’t the first, or last, time this will come up.” Lastly, Tom was asked about the new RF for R-8, replacing Chuck Meyers. He said he had no news! He also said that the 35% reduction in the FS budget died, so they will continue with 2008 levels at this time.

Association business was quickly taken care of reflecting the prior BOD meeting. Dave Jolly reported a \$8640.00 balance in the SFSRA account. Great door prizes, selected by Shirley and John Lamb, were passed out to the lucky winners by Nancy Sorrells and Joyce Keith. Patriotic red, white and blue table decorations, some of which were distributed as door prizes, were also provided by Nancy.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR — DECEMBER 4th CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Colored cover pages are provided, one-time, **no-charge**, by our printers, Service Printing of Alexander City, AL. We hope you enjoy seeing old friends and associates - - in living color. The photographs were taken by Historian Jim McConnell at SFSRA luncheons in Atlanta, 2007 and 2008. Is this something you would enjoy seeing occasionally? We could use photos sent in by you, as well. Estimated costs for this addition to *The Dixie Ranger* would be \$175.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

DON BLACKBURN - Virginia - Just received the March issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. Looks like I am behind in my dues, check enclosed. Reading about Polly Brandt's death, an oversight occurred. Besides being Supervisor on the Frances Marion and Sumpter, Ray was also Forest Supervisor of the Kisatchie NF, where I reported to the Evangeline Ranger District in June of 1962 and that reminded me of the long and distinguished list of Forest Supervisors my path crossed during my Forest Service career.

Hugh Redding was NCNF's Forest Supervisor when I reported to the Cheoah RD in June of 1957. I met him in Preacher Parson's office shortly after I reported for duty. Mr. Redding's first words to me went something like this: "Young man, I hope you don't expect to be paid overtime for fire fighting, just remember, your duty hours are 24 hours a day, 7 days a week." Then he looked at Preach and said, "Maybe you can give him Christmas Day off if he lasts that long." Later I moved over to the Cherokee and met Forest Supervisor Gil Stradt. He made a lasting impression on me when he walked my legs off on a day we traversed the Cherokee side of the Slickrock Creek drainage.

That brings me to Ray Brandt and the Kisatchie. Shortly after I arrived on the Evangeline, Ray invited himself to an all-day ride on the District. Said he wanted to get acquainted, and make me aware of some of the challenges I would be facing. As we rode through the District, I began to notice lots of mixed-breed cattle (Brahman crosses), horses, wild hogs, and even a couple of goat herds. When I asked Ray about all this livestock, he said, "We'll talk about that later. Got something else I want to show you." Under his direction, we proceeded to the Camp Claiborne area where the Army trained infantry in WWII. As we drove through the area, I noticed former parking areas covered with oyster shell, packed as hard as concrete, only some scrawny weed growth here and there. Hundreds of old building foundations, including many with concrete-lined basements containing stagnant water, snakes and who knows what else, open sewers that dropped 6 to 10 feet into a dark abyss, and lots of active erosion. Then we drove through some adjacent mature longleaf pine stands which Ray informed me contained 50 caliber armor-piercing bullets from Army live-fire training exercises. Ray told me that he did not expect me to immediately get rid of the bullet-infested timber, restore the eroded areas, establish healthy pine plantations on the compacted parking areas/drill fields, remove the hazards involving the open sewer holes, and start planning on removal of the old building foundations. I think he was serious when he suggested that I probably could not solve all these problems in my first year, but he considered this one of my priority responsibilities. On our way back to Alexandria, he told me to keep the 3rd weekend of March (1963) open, that I would probably be busy. (His prediction proved correct, on the 3rd Sunday of March 1963, incendiary fires, the results of slow matches scattered by horse back burned across the Evangeline from Woodsworth to Gardner.) Ray was a joy to work for/with (Hans Raum replaced him after my first year on the Evangeline). I had the opportunity to work for many Forest Supervisors after I left the Evangeline: Del Thorsen, John Orr, Dick Woody in Alabama, Mike Penfold, Bob Spivey, Tom Hoots, Chip Cartwright, Joy Berg on the Jefferson. I'd like to think that first trip on the Evangeline with Ray Brandt helped prepare me for the challenges that lay ahead.

BETTY WELLS - Alabama - Just a note to send my dues and to tell you how much the piece from Margie Whitlock meant to us. Bob and I were in school and church with Margie and Buddy and my parents and the Whitlocks were close friends. It's nice to hear of "old" times as they are becoming few and far between.

JACK ALCOCK - Georgia - Here's money for 2 years dues plus \$10 for misc expenses. I appreciate the new directory and found that I still know over 200 members. Sad though to see many good friends passing away. We're fine except for the usual aches and pains. I did loose sight in my left eye last year. Glad God gave me two.

GORDON SMALL - North Carolina - Enjoyed the newsletter and directory. Always interesting to see where folks decided to retire, and it brings back memories. I had heard of Tom Frazier's passing thru a couple of sources, but not Buddy. Here's a story of our ping pong games in Russellville. We had started playing ping pong in the SO on lunch breaks. I always enjoyed the game, particularly opportunities to kill the ball, and was doing fine with the local folks (including Larry Henson). One morning I was in my office and Larry called me into the break room. The table was set up, and Buddy (then deputy on the Ouachita) was there. Turns out that Larry had arranged a wager with Alvis and had not said anything to me about it. Anyway, Buddy and I played a few games and Buddy won. They were all close games, but Buddy was more consistent and a good defender - he could return some hits that most others couldn't. I did not have occasion to have much contact with Buddy after that - we followed different career paths.

DAVE SCOTT - Oregon - OK so I forgot once again. Forgetting is one of the best things I do nowadays. Enclosed is a check for a couple years. While familiar names are becoming fewer and fewer, I still greatly appreciate *The Dixie Ranger*. It brings back memories of the good people and great times we had in our six years in R-8.

As a board member of the National Museum in Missoula, I thank SFSRA for it's regular contributions and encourage your members to become members of the museum. Input from the Southern Region is sorely needed if we are to succeed.

DONALD ENG - South Carolina - Jean and I are doing well. Best wishes for *The Dixie Ranger*. We enjoy hearing about our friends. Thanks to all who make it so enjoyable.

JACK GODDEN - Wisconsin - Margie Whitlock's tribute to her husband "Buddy" of their early career years and moves will, I hope, promote more stories from wives, widows and maybe living husbands from our age of "offshoots" of the Greatest Generation finding employment, our assignments of the 1950's and early 1960's. These years I see as an "emerging" Forest Service, with marked program and budget increases, new hires, an added work force to move timber, build roads, recreation areas, new administrative sites, some even with housing! Until all that happened, we in the eastern regions lived with what we had since establishment of the Week's Law Forest, our administrative needs and headquarters, many the results of the CCC program, developing land acquisition program and our introduction of forest fire protection.

Margie spoke of Buddy's first reporting assignment on the Talladaga National Forest with an office of four rooms on Main Street, no housing available, local citizen making an attic available to rent, needing a rope to pull their refrigerator upstairs. His next assignment found two districts occupying another four room office. I can match those accommodations with what I found on the Hiwassee District, Cherokee National Forest in 1954, headquartered in Etowah, TN. This was a new district formed from Tellico/Ocoee Districts and TVA land in 1953. For \$20/month we rented two rooms, with bath, above the local Utilities office - up 14 stairs! A piece of plywood over the bathtub provided shelving space for the few files the District had. That year we had built a "corral", gated with 6' fence on Main Street, US Highway 411, for overnight parking of three vehicles-1/4 ton "Willy's" jeep with canvas side/top, Jeep Station Wagon, 1-1/2 ton crew truck. Hilman Hargis our GS- 4 Forestry Technician who had a farm on the road to Tellico, Forest Service 1/2 ton pickup was stored in the "downtown" Tellico garage.

It had to be "frugal" times as Tom Hunt (*The Dixie Ranger's* first editor), then A.O. in the Cleveland SO denied our request to move to a former dentist office - 4 rooms with bath on one floor, even painted green, a half block from the "corral, for the staggering rent of \$30/month. Maybe utilities weren't provided giving Tom a legitimate reason. (I remember it was never too warm in the \$20 office we rented.) Tellico

and Ocoee Districts had the white painted, same floor plan, Ranger's offices and Tellico a Ranger's residence and warehouse up the river from "downtown" Tellico.

I've heard stories of living in chicken coops, back sheds, rooming houses while looking for suitable housing. My wife and I with two, three, four kids lived in four rentals in four years until we moved into a Ranger's residence in 1958 on the Monongahela National Forest, on 100 acres of a tree nursery. Transfers in the 50's with our growing family usually meant a diet of beans and hotdogs until things "settled down" and we adjusted to the "big" pay increase we sometimes received.

After reading Margie's and my story, I'd hope you readers will provide "yours" to *The Dixie Ranger* - your contribution to Forest Service history. I'll believe whatever you write 'cause my wife and family lived through those early years. It's you writers who deserve commendations just by putting them in print.

MARGIE WHITLOCK - Alabama - Please sign me up for three more years. Thanks for all your hard work. I really look forward to getting *The Dixie Ranger*. But I wish there were more "remember whens" from all the old timers.

Years ago, Buddy brought home a copy of a letter that someone higher up had received from the wife of a Forest Service employee. I kept it for years and now when I want to find it, I can't. But it was one of the funniest things I have ever read. This was back in the days of the all-wool uniforms that had to be ordered from Fechheimer (? I'm not sure about this manufacturer but that's not important). This would have been in the late 50's and early 60's. Her letter was a complaint because her husband's uniform never fit (a fact which all Forest Service wives experienced at that time). One of the funniest lines was that when they received her husband's trousers, she realized that they had been made by Omar the Tent Maker. So, if anyone reading this happens to remember this letter or have a copy, I think *The Dixie Ranger* would be a great place to have it printed (would this break any laws concerning privacy or copyrights?).

As a matter of information concerning the Forest Service In Colorado: Since Buddy retired as Forest Supervisor of the Rio Grande National Forest in southern Colorado, we (my children and I) were invited to attend a memorial service in Monument, Colorado, held in the Memorial Grove on the Forest there. Each year, on the first Saturday in May, they hold a ceremony when they remember all the Forest Service employees of Colorado who had died the previous year. It was held outdoors in large open space. The Job Corps had made benches for the area so everyone had a place to sit. There was a gentleman, all decked out in his tartan, who played the bagpipes while people gathered; a plaque with everyone's name on it was placed in a rider-less horse's saddlebag and a Forest Service employee led the horse around the perimeter of the area; taps was played on a bugle, dignitaries all spoke a few words (of course, the PA system didn't work so they had to pass around the only microphone that worked!), then as the names were called out family members/or friends were given the opportunity to speak about that person. The overriding similarity of all the remarks was that the person who had died had loved working for the Forest Service and enjoyed being a part of the Forest Service family. I think that was a real tribute and something for which the Forest Service can be proud.

More information regarding this memorial can be obtained at www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/pp/grove/index.shtml

PAT INT-HOUT - Washington - Enclosed is a stipend for three more years of *The Dixie Ranger*. A great publication, but with some unfortunate news at times about some of our old-time friends and co-workers passing on. One major one to me this year has been losing Ed Ellenberg. He and his wife Marge and kids were close friends of mine and my family beginning in 1953 when I had an assignment on the Leaf River and Ashe Nursery, and Ed and his family also lived at Ashe Nursery in the government dwellings.

In later years, we both were Rangers on the North Carolina National Forests at the same time. Following that, we were staff together on the Cherokee National Forest in Cleveland, TN, for several years. Ed was a super person, serving the public both as a pilot in the Air Force during WWII and later in the FS.



I am enclosing a picture taken on the Cherokee National Forest in the early 60's in Cleveland at the Supervisor's office. I'll list the names I have, with some possible errors. Bottom row - left to right: Bob Swiger-Hiwassee Ranger, John Christensen-Ranger Ocoee, Bryce Ledford-Ranger Nolichucky, Gil Stradt-Supervisor, Nick Kametza-Ranger Watauga, L.C. Nix-Ranger Tellico, Louis Davis-Ranger Unaka. Middle row- left to right: Don Eng-Staff, Elmer Jacobs-Engineer, Ed Ellenberg-Lands Staff, Ian Loundes-Forest Engineer, Pat Int-Hout-Fire & Recreation Staff, Bill McConnell-Timber Staff, Russ Eaton-Admin. Officer, Cecil Cordell-Asst. Admin. Officer. Back row - left to right: Clark Sell-Asst Ranger Unaka, Sam Hyberger-Engineer, Don Radcliff-Business Staff, John White-Asst. Ranger Tellico, Bobby Larkey-Forester Unaka, Dick Cottrell-Asst. Recreation Staff, Earl Rayburn-Asst. Ranger, Tellico, Clyde Gurganus-Forester Watauga, John Orr- Asst. Ranger Nolichucky, Lauren Lyons-Forester Hiwassee, and Ted Woods-Forester Ocoee.

ARNEY NAMED ACTING REGIONAL FORESTER – July 1, 2008

Ken Arney, Deputy Regional Forester and former Tennessee State Forester, has been asked by Chief Abigail Kimbell to serve as Acting Regional Forester in R-8 until a permanent replacement is named. Arney has been Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private Forestry in R-8 since 2001, supervising Cooperative Forestry; the National Tree Seed Laboratory; Fire and Aviation Management, including the Southern Area Coordination Center; and the Forest Health Protection Unit and field offices.

Behind Arney, Gretta Boley, Forest Supervisor on the Kistachie National Forest in Louisiana will serve as Acting Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private Forestry. Also, Jim Fenwood, Director of Biological and Physical Resources in R-8, will serve as Acting Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources.

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Lacher, 81, passed away after a lengthy illness on April 2, 2008, in Decatur, Georgia. She was an avid seashell collector, expert gardener and an artist. Preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Theodore V. Lacher, Sr., survivors include daughter Helen Mordente; sons Ted, Andy and Leslie; three granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren. Ted Sr. worked in Timber Management in R-8 for many years.

Edna Moor Littlehales, 86, passed away on April 5, 2008, in Venice, Florida. An ardent hospital volunteer, Edna amassed some 14,000 hours of volunteer time at Venice Hospital and at the Lutheran Hospital in Wheatridge, CO. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Edward F. Of Venice; son William of Tucker, GA; and daughter Barbara Hearst of Benton, IL; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. During Ed's career in Atlanta, Edna was active in the Forest Service Wives Club, serving as President at one time.

Lucy T. Childrey, 96, died May 21, 2008, after a brief illness. She enjoyed 13 years with the Forest Service, returning to work when she and her husband moved to Atlanta in 1962. Lucy was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Albert B. Childrey, Jr. Survivors include son, Albert B. II of Cumming, GA; daughter Merrie Ligon of Venice, FL; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Kistachie Ranger, Mike Dawson, Remembers Buddy Whitlock: When I have a bit of time, especially on a warm Friday afternoon, I retreat to my office, closing the door behind me. One of my favorite R-8 Website postings is the "Dixie Ranger". I think I have most every issue, but some are more readily available than others – technology is both a blessing and a curse. Anyway, for me, it is a trip down memory lane, and I need a good shot of that about once a month or more. In reading the most recent issue, I noted with sadness, the death of George "Buddy" Whitlock. As you know, each Ranger District Office has its own list of former Rangers, framed and on the wall. When I was on the Winn Ranger District, there was only one name, George Tannehill.

But here on the Kisatchie District, the former Ranger list includes Buddy's name, and I pause periodically to look the list over. It gives me a certain peace of mind and satisfaction and an awesome sense of responsibility to know that I am following in the footsteps of these gentlemen for whom I have so much respect. It gives me a cause for reflection. They cast a long shadow, and believe me when I say that the hollers, the work center rooms and the hilltops echo with their work ethic, their standards and their spirit. I consider myself quite fortunate indeed to be able to try and carry on after them.

Buddy Whitlock was one of those rare individuals whom the Forest Service has been creating, and molding and shaping for 100+ years. He had the character, the integrity, the fortitude and professionalism that those of my generation sought. We use the term 'mentor' a lot, and we just kinda throw it around. But Buddy was somebody I wanted to be like when I grew up. There have been others, but he was one of the first, and I will never forget him. I am saddened that I was never able to convey this to him. My condolences to Mrs. Whitlock.

We are forging ahead in the organization. I am reminded of how out of step that I am most every day. Nonetheless, I count it all honor that I am still able to work and enjoy going to work. We have a brand new generation of folks, and I am trying to give them the benefit of my mistakes and blunders. Some listen, some do not. I greatly miss many of my colleagues who are now happily retired. I am not far behind them.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

National Forests in South Carolina - Retirees from the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests met for lunch and fellowship on April 16, 2008, at George Long's Restaurant in Pomaria. George Long and his wife (caterers) prepared and served the delicious meal. Tommy and Janet Kinard made arrangements for the meeting and served as hosts.

Attendees were: Ron & Catherine Boozer, John & Ann Garrett (Kite, GA), Colette Phillips, Nancy Coker (Colette's friend), Tommy and Janet Kinard, Alvin Feltman, Don & Joyce Hair, Jimmy Shannon, Glenda & Jim Wood, LeRoy Lewis, Jim & Doris Daniel, Dave Devet, Jim & Vicki Scott, Pete Beheler, Norman & Rosalyn Runge, Mary Ann Oellien (Rosalyn's cousin from Pueblo, CO), Paul Myers, Jerry & Audrey Henderson, Duna Harrell (Bill Harrell), Frances Fink (Vic Fink), Don & Jean Eng, John & Bernice Cathey, and Dave Rosdahl.

Don Eng, former Forest Supervisor, serves as the leader of our group. Don is currently working with S/O staff to arrange a tour of the Long Cane District this fall. Several years ago, he arranged a tour of the Francis Marion Forest, at which time District staff updated retirees on present issues and accomplishments. It was a very meaningful trip.

FM & Sumter retirees meet the third Wednesday in April and October of each year. We hope you'll schedule a visit to South Carolina sometime in the near future and include our meeting on your agenda. You may e-mail Vicki Scott at cyberfogie@aol.com, or call Glenda Wood at (864) 445-4751 for further information.

Northeast Atlanta - Retirees meet the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast. Spouses are welcome. The address is 2299 Main Street. The cafeteria is next to the railroad tracks. Main Street is in front of Tucker High School. If you get lost, just ask anyone - everyone in Tucker knows where Matthews Cafeteria is located.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at "My Country Kitchen", 2740 Summers Street, Kennesaw, Georgia. Same day (last Tuesday of the month) and same time (9:00 a.m.). Good time for all with great fellowship.

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. They have been meeting for the last 17 years. No dues are collected and only rarely are there programs or expressions of professional concerns. For information, contact Charles Blankenship at (540) 774-6272.

George Washington National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Village Inn Restaurant. This is located on U.S. 11 a short distance off of I-81 at Exit 240.



From a church bulletin: Potluck supper at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE RETIREES REUNION - September 7 - 11, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn
3720 North Reserve Street
Missoula, Montana



Mark your Calendars - Next Retirees Luncheon - December 4, 2008

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road, Atlanta. We gather at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. Due to the increase in food costs, the cost of our meal has increased to \$15 per person. It's still a bargain when you consider the convenience of the location; that we have a very nice private room; the food is always good; the cost includes tax and tips; and they provide us with a gift certificate for Dinner-for-Two door prize to be given at the December luncheon. Reservations are required by Monday December 1st and can be made by calling Nancy Sorrells at (770) 469-5799 or Joyce Keith at (770) 277-5841. Leave a message on their answering machine if you do not reach one of them. It's always a very festive event and a fun way to stay in touch with your fellow retirees – and the door prizes are great!

The Disappearing Rangers

by John Marker, NAFSR Representative
for the *OldSmokeys Newsletter* - Spring 2008

Forest Service retirees are rightly concerned about the low visibility of Forest Service personnel in their communities. In Fiscal Year 2002, the Forest Service had 15,348 FTEs working in the National Forest System. In Fiscal Year 2008, it had 11,156 FTEs in the National Forest System. That's a 32% reduction. For Fiscal Year 2009, President Bush proposes reducing the FTEs in the National Forest System by another 11% to 9,973. George Leonard shared this information.

Chris Pyron, who was part of the review team looking at unit consolidation efforts within the Forest Service, provided this example of the sad state of on-the-ground National Forest System staffing. A consolidation in one region created a district some two million acres in size staffed by 10 FTE positions. From a management standpoint, in my view, that is virtual abandonment of the land.

Retarded Grandparents

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school. One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bikes and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore.

They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it's all OK now, they do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There's a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on.

At their gate there's a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. My grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too. When I earn my retardment I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

Forest Service Ranks High in Publics' Positive Perceptions

Washington Post, Federal Diary, Tuesday, January 29, 2008

In a survey of public perception of government agencies, these came out on top.

U.S. Postal Service	83
National Park Service	79
U.S. Forest Service	75
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	72
Federal Bureau of Investigation	65
NASA	65
Census Bureau	63
Food And Drug Administration	63
National Institutes of Health	63
Federal Aviation Administration	60

Source: GfK Roper Consulting, based on interviews with 2,002 adults in August and September, 2007.

Chief Kimbell Quashes Proposed NEPA Consolidation – For Now

U.S. Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell on February 20, 2008, announced a decision "not to pursue" a proposal to consolidate work performed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 "at this time." Under the proposal, NEPA functions would have been removed from individual national forests and assigned to six "service centers" where forest planning would be standardized.

"Rather, we will focus energies toward completing other efficiency-gaining efforts including Washington Office-Regional Office-Northeastern Area Transformation." Chief Kimbell wrote "These ongoing efforts will increase agency effectiveness in the near future."

But the proposal, which alarmed many Forest Service retirees, isn't dead. "At a later time, we will revisit recommendations from the NEPA Feasibility Study," she continued. "We, however, expect local managers to consider the Feasibility Study as they seek to increase NEPA efficiencies."

"Several significant factors prompted this decision," the Chief explained. "Language in the recently-enacted Omnibus Appropriations Act directed that we not use any funds for further competitive sourcing activities. At a time when we are in the midst of ongoing Transformation efforts and the continuing transition to the Albuquerque Service Center, we want to avoid additional disruption and confusion that could come with over-hauling our critical NEPA processes."

★ ★ ★

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift, you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong, you cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer, you cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred, you cannot help the poor by destroying the rich, you cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn, you cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence, you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

Abraham Lincoln

ADVICE

by *Jim McConnell*

I never gave up giving free advice when I retired. Shoot - the pay is nothing compared to then and neither Elaine or Bridget the cat pay any attention. Back in December, I was perusing the bookstore when I found a 365 day calendar of Irish wisdom. I should have known better, but I bought one for \$9.95. Each day I peel one off and most of the time I am rather disappointed. One, however, caught my attention and imagination. For Monday, April 7, 2008, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, our 35th President is quoted as saying: "**Forgive your enemies, but never forget their names.**"

I don't know about you, but my problem is my memory ain't what it once was. Even so, may God forgive them but make them limp so I'll know them by the way they walk. I think this is currently known as an euphemism (careful language in the age of political correctness). Now I wonder if that is why arthritis makes me limp occasionally.



THE RANGER'S NEW CAR

by *Mike Sparks*

Now, I've told you other stories about my tenure on the Winn Ranger District of the Kistachie National Forest but this one is, I believe is one of the most embarrassing tales I've told thus far.

My Ranger at the time was Kenneth Crawford. This was the second time I had worked for him. The first was when he was Ranger on the Tenaha Ranger District of the Sabine National Forest in East Texas. So we were comfortable working with each other. However, as this tale unfolds, our relationship was to be severely tested.

A bit of background is in order here. Now I've told you stories about the Catahoula National Game Preserve and how the Cajun folks loved to camp out there during the one-week hunt for deer. They also hunted the "wild boar", rabbit, squirrel or anything else they could place in their pot hanging over the fire in the evening.

This particular year, the Forest Service and the Louisiana Wildlife folks had come to a disagreement regarding management of the Preserve so it then fell upon the Forest Service to enforce the rules and regulations in the Preserve so most of the District personnel were paired off and assigned various tasks during this week-long hunt. There might be as many as 12 hunt camps with over 100+ folks to manage. The camps had to be inspected to insure compliance with regulations as well as checking hunting licenses and permits.

I was most fortunate to be paired up with Horace "Hoss" Alexander, one of the senior technicians who had been on the District for 40+ years. He knew every acre of that District. I believe it was a Monday evening when we ventured forth on our mission. We arrived at the first camp when it was nearing dark. The camp was well lit with lanterns and the campfire was burning brightly, cooking something in a black kettle suspended by a metal tripod. As we approached some of the men, we were quite surprised to find that this camp was made up of deaf men. They were using sign language to invite us to "supper".

Now I was again fortunate to find out that Hoss was fluent in sign language, having been raised with a sibling who could not hear. What a relief. We checked the permits and licenses and all was in order. Now Cajun folks are some of the most hospitable on the face of the earth so we could not leave until we

had some of their "kettle contents". To refuse their hospitality was an insult. Hoss knew what to expect but my naivete clicked on and I walked boldly up to the kettle with my paper plate. The meal that night consisted of rice stew with squirrel meat. Now when they cook a squirrel, they cook ALL of the squirrel. They were neatly skinned and the innards removed but that was all. There they were, a bunch of naked squirrels with their eyes shining in the light of the fire. I managed to get a spoonful of rice and a piece of meat and quickly left for the vehicle with Hoss close behind. He only had a bit of rice on his plate and some coffee heavy flavored with chicory.

And so we went into the night. By 10:00 p.m., we had checked most of the camps and at each one, we were encouraged to partake of the "vittles" so by then, our stomachs could hold no more. We agreed this would be our last camp to check so we ventured forth and again, found a group of wonderful, hospitable folks who wished to share their supper. Now this group of hunters had the good fortune of killing a wild hog that day and they had processed part of it into something they called "souse meat" or "head cheese". Now that's a gelatinous conglomeration of meat removed from parts of the hog which we won't mention except to say that some of it comes from the hog's head, nose, etc. It's made up of the "trimmings" and "leftovers". But it's really good when prepared with all sorts of spices such as they had used. We could not eat any but agreed to take some home so they wrapped up a couple of bundles for us. Hoss was wise and held onto his but I placed mine in the trunk of the car. Bad Mistake.

Now I have not mentioned yet that this car we were driving was a new Forest Service vehicle which had arrived that day. It looked and smelled like a new car. It was assigned to the Ranger, air conditioner and all. But since the Ranger was on vacation, we commandeered it for our mission as the air conditioner was a bonus during the warm Autumn night.

When we arrived at the work center, we parked the vehicle, removed all of our gear and left. However, you guessed it, I left the souse meat in the trunk and the vehicle sat there in the hot Autumn sun until the Ranger returned the following week. He was happy to see his new car had arrived and was anxious to drive it. I was sitting in my office when he returned, quite disturbed wanting to know what was that smell in his car. Then, I remembered. Ugh-Oh! Now I went out to remove the offensive item from his car and when I opened the trunk, it was as if I had broken the seal on a bag of stink. The aroma was strong enough to peel the paint off the car.

Now this wasn't the first time I had created a problem with Ken's vehicle. When I worked for him in the Tenaha Ranger District, his new Forest Service truck arrived, as you would guess, when he was on vacation. We were always short of vehicles so I had to travel to the Dreka Work Center and I got into his new truck. Along the way, I encountered a herd of cattle along the roadside. Now some parts of East Texas had an open-range law and it was not uncommon to see cattle grazing along a roadside. The range cattle were streetwise in their grazing habits along the road and were used to vehicular traffic. However, the cows I encountered were not familiar with open range...they had gotten out of their fenced pasture. So...when I got near the herd, one of them panicked and ran in front of me and I hit the heifer, caving in the front end of the Ranger's new truck. That's the only reported accident to my credit. There were some others that went unreported but we won't discuss those in this forum.

Shortly after the souse meat episode. I left the Winn Ranger District to move to South Carolina. I'm sure the Ranger was happy and confident that I would never again work for him and that his next "New Forest Service Vehicle" would not be ravaged by me. I don't know if he ever got rid of the stink in his new car. Years later, I was still afraid to bring up the subject with him.



National Museum of Forest Service History



Architect's Drawing

By Dick Bacon, Museum Director

Building materials will play a unique role in telling the Forest Service history story in our museum. Forest products building materials will be visible to visitors throughout the museum building. Companies that worked with the Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, WI) -- in developing new building materials -- are being asked to provide in-kind donations of building materials. Efforts are underway to obtain greater national involvement in the museum construction. We are asking many people to help with building material acquisition. Timber framing will be used in the construction of the lobby. An exciting opportunity involves securing 24 posts of different species from across the United States. Efforts are underway to acquire these posts. Plaques will be placed on each of the posts to identify the specie and describe where it came from. Visitors will have a self-guided brochure containing information about construction of the museum.

These posts should come from locations with a tie to the Forest Service, such as National Forests, Experimental Forests, State Forests, and Tree Farms where the Forest Service has provided State and Private grants. (Plans are for six of these posts to come from the Southern Region. *(Editors)*)

One section of the museum will use small-diameter timber trusses. The large exhibit gallery will feature glulam trusses. Walls and ceilings will use SIP (Structural Insulated Panels) — all products developed by the Forest Products Laboratory.

There are also opportunities for individuals and organizations to provide some handcrafted items. Plans are to have a handcrafted main entry door, and a unique steel entry gate at the entrance to the museum grounds.

The design process is in the Design & Development Phase. The Missoula Support Committee is meeting with Architect Stan Zimet of OZ Architects twice monthly. We selected a mechanical system that uses the earth's heat for heating and cooling at our last meeting. The next phase is preparation of Construction Drawings.

Forest Service employees and friends, retired or not, are a very creative bunch. We would like our museum visitors to witness this creativity for themselves.

The museum capital campaign to raise \$10 million is underway. We have raised \$1.2 million. Tentative target date to begin building construction is July 1, 2009.

For additional information contact: Dave Stack, VP - (406)541-6374 - nationalforest@montana.com

Your History - Your Museum

As we go to press with the Dixie Ranger, I feel compelled to make another plea to move more of you to join our National Museum of Forest Service History. There is a saying, that it is "Your (our) History — Your (our) Museum". The people volunteering in Missoula are working hard to make it happen for all of us, as well as the public. As we approach people to ask them to help us with donations to the capital campaign they almost always want to know how many members we have. Right now all we can say is 805! The look on their faces seems to say "only that many"?, even though they don't say it out loud. Then we say something like, "I think we don't have more members because we don't have a museum yet, but when the museum is built we will attract many more, and we need your help to make it happen".

You can see from the article we have lifted from the Museum newsletter that things are happening. One of the benefits of being a member, aside from knowing that you are supporting it's development, will be receiving the newsletter which will keep you up-to-date on progress, and give you an opportunity to make your own ideas known about what might be done. Also, the newsletter contains articles of interest to those of us who enjoy reading "old-timer" stories relating to lifestyles and projects of days gone by. Jim McConnell and I contributed an article that was published in the August 2007 Museum newsletter and later published in the November 2007 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. There will be more chances to contribute stories and other information that tells of the Southern Region's part of that history, and there are some of you who surely have tales to tell or perhaps some things you collected along the way that would be better protected in the museum.

One exciting aspect of what is being planned is the "virtual museum" which will allow anyone who wishes to go on-line to virtually visit the museum from the comfort of his/her own home or office. Another, is the opportunity to construct exhibits so that they can travel -- to places like the Cradle of Forestry in America at Biltmore, North Carolina; Grey Towers in Pennsylvania or to the Forest Products Lab at Madison, WI. Also, there are several locations around the country where we have small local museums where an exhibit or group of exhibits could be sent so that people can see how things have been done by the Forest Service, in other locales, without having to travel long distances.

The Forest Service has a wonderfully storied, important history, that most of us are very proud of. It should be safeguarded, documented and made available to the public. We have been an integral part of that history and as such have a very large stake in seeing that it is well done. Our membership could very well have made contributions over more than half the time the agency has been in existence. Think about it and clip the application, fill it out, write a check and send it along to the museum. I just bet you will be glad you did.

Dave Jolly

Web Site: www.nmfs-history.net

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National Museum of Forest Service History – Membership Application

Fill out, detach and mail to : NMFSH, P. O. Box 2772, Missoula MT 59806-2772

Mr Ms Dr Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ New Renewal GIFT

Membership Categories Annual Dues

Individual	\$30 or more	Sustaining	\$300 or more
Family	\$55 or more	Organization	\$100 or more
Student	\$15 or more	Life	\$1000 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more		

Old Things

by Jim McConnell

My 365-day Irish folklore calendar came up with an item for Monday, May 19th, 2008. It was a quote by Oliver Goldsmith (Goldsmith was an Irish poet and writer long ago – 1728 to 1774, just before the time of the American Revolution). His quote on the calendar was, "I love everything that's old: old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine." Imagine that from, what we consider, so long ago. I sure agree but since I now have time to ponder life in general, I came up with a few more old things I love now. They are not in order of importance but just as they came into my mind. Maybe you can help by adding a few.

Old doctors that would listen; old women, they were so young and beautiful and we loved them; old men, they have so many stories to tell; old-time radio programs; old-time music that wasn't so loud; the old-time Forest Service, need I say more; old-time candy, a nickle would go a long way; old-time food, especially if a microwave was not involved; old-time politicians, you knew where they stood on an issue; old-time cars, even with a foot clutch and gear shift on the steering column, they were a piece of work; old relatives, they were so full of stories (and I think they are all true), knowledge and good advice, did we listen?; old tools, I'm a history buff and old tools showed how hard our ancestors worked to make a rather simple living (e.g. crosscut saws, broad axes and pull knives); old pinball machines, the ones that had real balls and only cost a nickle to play; Friday nights, we would gather and play penny poker (I won't name names but almost all of them are still around).

And then there are the things I don't love being not so old. New books, gosh some are so well written and how do the authors think of those plots; young girls, gosh, they are pretty and most of them are so polite; power lawn mowers, can you remember the old push mowers?; new medicine, I worry about the long-time effects of some of the mixtures but the old days of taking two aspirin and going to bed are long gone; health insurance, I can remember my dad taking several years to pay for a hospital bill for a serious illness my mother had, circa 1948 or 49. Come on and help me out.



Bert Bray sent us this great keyboard trick! This really does work... Try it!!! This is for everyone over 50 whose eyesight isn't what it once was.

"I just found out about this. Thought I'd pass it on. It's very useful when trying to read small e-mail print (especially in the early hours). If you hold down the Ctrl key on your keyboard and turn the small wheel in the middle of your mouse, the print size will change - it will either get larger or smaller - depending on which way you turn the wheel. Please pass this on to others who may find it useful."

Knowing Who to Thank

It was a busy morning, approximately 8:30 a.m. when an elderly gentleman, in his 80s, arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated that he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 a.m. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would be able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors and got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress the wound.

While taking care of his wound, we began to engage in conversation. I asked him if he had another doctor's appointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he

needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I then inquired as to her health. He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. As we talked, and I finished dressing his wound, I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now,

I was surprised, and asked him, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled as he patted my hand and said, "She doesn't know me, but I still know who she is." I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, "That is the kind of love I want in my life." True love is neither physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be and will not be. Peace is seeing a sunset, and knowing who to thank.

The Internet

This is Why We Love Old People, You Can't Beat Experience!!!

A Farmer stopped by the local mechanic shop to have his truck fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home.

On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem - how to carry his entire purchases home. While he was scratching his head, he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?"

The farmer said, "Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there but I can't carry this lot." The old lady suggested, "Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket, carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?"

"Why thank you very much," he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home. On the way he says "Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time." The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't have your way with me?"

The farmer said, "Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens and a goose. How in the world could I possibly do that?"

The old lady replied, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens."

The Internet

Thoughts to Ponder

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Experience is wonderful. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the real world.

Ozark National Forest Nursery at Fairview 1928-1929

Compiled by Smoke (Michael A.) Pfeiffer

Big Piney Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

A woven wire fence was erected around the 0.9 acre site in 1928. It consisted of 39 inch No. 9 woven wire with nine bars or strands fastened on to locust posts spaced 8 feet apart. No barbed wire was installed but was purchased nevertheless.

A deep well six inches in diameter and cased was started and drilled as far as 500 feet, but given up and abandoned because of not finding water. An automatic 54 foot quick change line sprinkler was purchased but not installed due to lack of water. Carpenter tools, plumber tools, nursery tools, and seed were also purchased. No buildings were erected and no water systems were installed.

The report indicates that a decision was made sometime in 1929 to abandon the Fairview Nursery location due to the lack of water. "The cost of producing the 1-0 stock is high, due to the failure to find sufficient water at the nursery. A truck had to be hired every time the seedlings were watered to haul the water. Also it took considerable time and money to water the seedlings after the water was hauled to the beds. This had to be done by hand. As observed from the weather data for the year, it was a very dry one and the seedlings needed considerable water." (Bryan Report, page 9)

The report also discusses the labor cost of \$2.50 to \$3.00 a day near Lurton and the value of using the young men at Tech.

"At the Ozark Nursery located on the Arkansas Polytechnic farm it is suggested that the labor be obtained from the male students who reside there. The boys are all anxious to work and from their past records, on fire suppression work, are entirely satisfactory. There are always sufficient boys in the summer months who are taking a summer course at the school to supply our labor needs at the nursery. It is recommended that we use the Tech. Boys for our nursery labor at the Ozark Nursery." (Bryan Report, page 8).

It should be noted that this occurred during the 1920s before the stock market crash, the Great Depression, the dust bowl and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The National Forests had already seen, and began acting on, a need to renew, replenish, and restock the cut over lands they had inherited only 20 years before.

References Cited

Bryan, Philip H.

1930 Annual Nursery Report for Fairview Nursery, 1929. (10 typed pages with four appended photos). Submitted 11 January 1930.

☆☆☆

An Amateur photographer was invited to dinner with friends, and he took along a few pictures to show them. The hostess looked at the photos and commented, "These are very good! You must have a good camera."

The photographer didn't make any comment, but as he was leaving to go home, he said, "That was a really delicious meal! You must have some very good pots."

Tom Ellsworth and Good Clean Funnies

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Published in March, July and November. Dues are \$10 per year, payable in January. Mailing address: SFSRA, 128 Wind Trace, Alexander City, AL 35010-8772. E-mail: djollysr@comlinkinc.net