

The Dixie Ranger

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray Vol. XXVI No. 2 May 1996

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SPRING LUNCHEON

We had 32 people to attend the March 14 luncheon. Mary Maher and Mike Sparks represented the Regional Office. Mike Sparks, Unit Leader, Forest Products, brought us up-to-date on the timber program on the Chattahoochee NF. Barbara Petty, who accepts our reservations, also attended the luncheon.

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FOREST SERVICE PREPARES FOR OLYMPICS

Race on to Finish Ocoee Site in Time for Olympics (*Knoxville News-Sentinel*, 3-18-96)—With only 16 weeks until the start of the 1996 Olympic Games, the Forest Service is scrambling to put the finishing touches on the Ocoee Whitewater Center, the site of the Olympic slalom races scheduled for July 26-28. Kayakers and canoers from around the world who have begun training on the competition channel must contend with workers installing wiring, bleachers, and tents. Construction has also begun on the buildings, trails, and bridges of the Center which are designed to draw visitors long after the Olympic competition is over.

Forest Service Worried About Summer Season (*The Anderson Independent-Mail*, 3-2-96)—Forest Service officials at the Sumter National Forest worry the influx of visitors to the forest, because of its close proximity to the Olympics in Atlanta, could result in some mishaps this summer. Beth Merz, Ranger for the Andrew Pickens District, said visitors ought to be extremely cautious, for the federal government shutdown and budget woes have impacted forest maintenance, leaving only 10 of its 60 miles of trails in good hiking shape. She also said people rafting on the Chattooga River must remember to register at one of the seven put-in points on the river before setting out.



Limits of Acceptable Change Process

Gainesville, GA—Forest Supervisor George Martin announced that the USFS is beginning the "Limits of Acceptable Change" process for Mark Trail and Blood Mountain Wildernesses on the Chattahoochee NF in north Georgia. "The challenge of managing these wildernesses is to keep them affected primarily by the forces of nature, while managing them for the use and enjoyment of the American people forever," emphasized Martin. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) is a process where the desired future condition of the wilderness is determined and where activities are spelled out to accomplish this desired condition.

The LAC process relies heavily on citizen involvement. A series of open meetings will be held for these wildernesses to work through a nine-step process. Being a participant offers an opportunity to have a say in how wilderness will be managed, to learn about wilderness management issues, and to meet a diverse group of people.

Meetings were held in Helen, GA, on April 29 for Mark Trail and in Blairsville, GA, on May 1 for Blood Mountain. Jim Herd, Chattahoochee NF Supervisor's Office, 770 536-0541, may be contacted for additional information.



You know you've become a Senior Citizen when—

—the first thing you do in the morning is to take a quick inventory of what's workin' and what's hurtin'.

OUACHITA SO CIRCA 1952

Cliff Comfort sent this photo taken in the Supervisor's Office of the Ouachita National Forest circa 1952. Rik Eriksson was Supervisor at that time. Eight Rangers are seated and seven of the S.O. are standing.



The eight Rangers seated from left to right are: Jack Logan, Al Williams, Dave Devit, Spillsbury, Cliff Comfort, Vern Taylor, Walt Seagle, and Ed Howell.

The seven standing from left to right are: Harold Johnson, Red Harkins, John Hamer, Rik Eriksson, Milton B. Ricker, Jerry Dahl and Jerry Welch. *(Many thanks for the photo-editors).*

You know you've become a Senior Citizen when—it matters less that your distant vision is fading; if you could see distant things better, you couldn't catch 'em anyway.

FAMILY HISTORY REQUEST

Elaine Schaap McConnell writes: "Now it is Elaine's turn to request help. I am trying to write a family history. My father and mother are going to have a chapter. There are still Forest Service retirees who knew them. At least one person sent you an interesting story about my father last year.

"Would you please print my request for anyone who knows tidbits about Lester and Ruth Schaap or even "angelic" little Elaine to send them to me. I'm not choosy. Send the bad as well as the good. The Forest Service was an intergral part of their lives for almost 50 years. It is still part of mine through Jim, so also include him in stories.

"Reminiscences of the early days of the Southern Region of the Forest Service are fast slipping away. Even though he was a transplanted "Yankee", Lester Schaap loved the South and chose to become a Southerner. He devoted his life to preserving and maintaining our Southern forests. Today, men such as he do not receive the credit due them. I want to preserve a small segment of our Forest Service culture in my family history. Please send me something whether it is stories, situations or places."

You may write to Elaine McConnell at 3699 Wentworth Lane, Lilburn, GA 30247-2256, phone 770 923-1681. (If you would like to share these remeberances with other retirees, let's publish in *The Dixie Ranger* - editors).

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An old fellow walking along a country road heard a voice coming from a patch of grass. He looked down and saw a frog sitting there who said "Many years ago I was put under a spell by a wicked witch. If you will pick me up and kiss me, I will turn into an exotic, erotic, beautiful girl who will grant your every wish and fulfill your every fantasy." The old man picked up the frog, put it into his pocket, and continued to walk slowly on. Shortly, the frog called out, "Aren't you going to kiss me?" The old guy said, "No, at my age I would rather have a talking frog."

--Bob Neelands

What's happening among our retirees—

Joe Kowal, Asheville, NC - First recipient of the Keller-Russell Heart Alumni Award. The honor was presented at the first annual Asheville/Buncombe Heart Ball, sponsored by the local chapter of the American Heart Association. Mr. Kowal is a dedicated volunteer, who has served 13 years as a volunteer leader with Memorial Mission Hospital's heart program.

Mr. Kowal had his first bypass surgery in 1982. While hospitalized at Mission, he was visited by a social worker who suggested he talk to other patients about his experience and successful outcome. "Many people are afraid before their surgery or depressed afterward," Kowal said. "It seems to mean a lot to them to hear from someone who has been through the experience and is doing well."

Mr. Kowal worked for the Forest Service in Asheville from 1936-40, then moved to Morristown, NJ, to do research on Dutch elm disease. He later worked in Washington, D.C., Gulfport, MS, and then back to Asheville in 1954 as chief of the Insect Research Division. He retired in 1967 and has done consulting work since then. He and his wife, Ginger, have been married 59 years and have three married children and six grandchildren.

Submitted by Bob Thatcher who writes: "Joe was my original boss in the FS. He hired me as a biological aide in the insect project in Gulfport in 1954. I had just graduated from the College of Forestry in Syracuse. This was my wife and children's first experience in the Deep South. I spent the next 12 months in insect surveys (ground and aerial) in seven mid-South states. Really got to know the territory and it's people in a hurry."

Karl Wenger, Tappahannock, VA - Recently appointed to the Virginia State Water Control Board. He is the former director of the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Elwyn F. Peffer, Avondale Estates, GA - Reached a 50th Anniversary with the Society of American Foresters in 1996.

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REUNION 96 - On the next page is a registration form to be used by those attending the Reunion 96 in Park City, Utah. This is open to all retirees, present employees and families. No other registration form will be mailed to you. We will not have another newsletter to get to you in time for the September 9-11 meeting. Wayne Cloward is the promoter for R-8. You may call him at 770 972-8521 for additional information.



More About Reunion 96

Forest Service Retirees

Park City, Utah September 9-11, 1996

This information will assist you in planning your attendance at Reunion 96—a national reunion of all Forest Service retirees, prospective retirees, friends, and guests. Reunion 96 is to keep the spirit of fellowship in the Forest Service alive. The Intermountain Old Timers have planned a fun-filled program. Come join us.

Reunion Agenda

Following registration, there will be a mixer Monday evening to get acquainted with new and old friends.

Chief Jack Ward Thomas will kick the ball Tuesday morning with his key-note address. In the afternoon you can choose among concurrent sessions on a variety of topics such as:

- ♣ fireside chat with the Chief
- ♣ retiree group meetings
- ♣ cowboy poetry
- ♣ retiree and spouse storytelling
- ♣ photo memories slide show
- ♣ FSX National USFS Retirees organization
- ♣ National Forest Foundation
- ♣ ecosystem management

A Grand Barbecue with entertainment and a raffle will be held Tuesday evening.

The fee for Registration is \$35 for attendees, and \$30 for spouse or other guests. The fee includes a mixer on Monday evening, all program events at the Inn, and the picnic barbecue on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday morning there will be an optional breakfast and wrap-up.

Activities

The Activities Committee offers you golf, shopping, tennis, and:

- ♣ An Alpine Splendor Tour on the Mirror Lake Scenic Highway over the High Uinta Mountains.
- ♣ Snow Basin Ski Area, owned by Sun Valley Ski Area and site of the 2002 Olympic downhill run. Review the controversial land exchange and major development plans with box lunch at Pineview Reservoir.
- ♣ Wasatch Front urban forestry with a tram ride to the top of the range
- ♣ Strawberry Lake Recreation Area, the Central Utah water development project and a Dutch Oven treat.

- ♣ Robert Redford's Sundance resort in the Provo River canyon, Mount Timpanogas, and Bridal Veil Falls.
- ♣ Tour of the 2002 Winter Olympic Sports Park.

The tours, including lunch and bus fare, will be \$20 or less.

"On Your Own" Activities

The Park City area is rich in places to visit, history, fun, shopping and a wide variety of specialty shops in historic Park City as well as the large outlet mall nearby. Art galleries, live theater, restaurants, bicycle rentals with an excellent system of trails, free bus transportation around town, and much more. An activities desk will be staffed with committee members to help make arrangements. You can call the Park City Visitor Bureau at 1-800-453-1360.

Accommodations at The Inn at Prospector Square

Early hotel reservations will assure accommodations at the Inn at Prospector Square at a special discount rate of \$53. Varying accommodations (studio, hotel, studio loft) are available at the same price.

Identify yourself with the Forest Service retirees group. Make reservations directly with the Inn at Prospector Square 1-800-453-3812, fax 801-649-8377. Reservation deadline is July 8. Advance deposit policies are in effect at this resort community. Other hotel accommodations, camping and recreational vehicle parks are also available.

Park City is about 40 minutes from the Salt Lake airport and transportation services are readily available.



Mail to: George Roether
 2790 Buchanan Ave.
 Ogden, UT 84403
 phone 801-621-7824 fax 801-393-1529
 email 75233.513@compuserve.com

Yes, I (We) plan to attend the Reunion 96 festivities—Send the Registration Packet:

NAMES: _____
 Street _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone _____



The Mail Box

ELDON & DOT LUCAS, *Russellville, AR* - Here is my check for \$48. This should cover me through the year 2000—hope I live that long. I enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* each time it arrives, since it allows me to keep up with info about many of the people that I worked with in Region 8.

Dot retired from teaching private piano lessons this past year but she is still into music. She is the organist at All Saints Episcopal Church, plays keyboard with a 9-piece Jazz Band, "The River Valley Jazz Re-Union" and also plays keyboard in a 2-piece combo called "Dot an Eye." They play for private parties, weddings, receptions, and non-profit fund raisers. Seems she is always busy.

I, on the other hand, can't even seem to keep the radio in tune, but she does allow me to carry her electronic keyboard and other equipment. I stay busy taking care of rental property, keeping up my yard, playing golf and trying to beat the Stock Market. So far, so good. It is an excellent way to supplement federal retirement. Seems like we both had more spare time before we retired than we have since retirement. It seems like there are not enough hours in the day or days in the week to get things done.

We took a leisurely trip to San Diego last May to see our new granddaughter "Haley". Had a good trip and really enjoyed the scenery. I had forgotten how beautiful the Western Country really is.

It was interesting to read, not too long ago, where the Forest Service was trying to hire some new people. The ad said "Only unqualified people need apply." Is this new Washington Policy? It would seem that once they were trained they would no longer qualify for a job!!!

JOHN MOSER, *Cleveland, TN* - I sure don't want to miss a copy of *The Dixie Ranger*, so am sending dues through '98. I always enjoy reading about Forest Service friends—but not when it appears in the O/B section.

Leoan and I are visiting the Hess's on June 13 to attend the F.S. fellowship and lunch at the Petite. Would like to see Eli-Helen, Clark Sell, and others attend the lunch so we can visit with them.

Clark invited me to the Jim Vessey Classic back when—but haven't heard from him for years. Guess he is waiting until I turn one hundred so I can shoot my age.

Bob and Betty Lusk will be back in the Tenn hills in late July. We plan a get-together with their friends in Cleveland during their stay. If you are interested—please call or write me.

BRYAN WATTS, *St. Mathews, SC* - Joyce and I both enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* so much. Joyce retired from the NPS last July. She worked in the SO of the Francis Marion & Sumter for many years before transferring to the NPS. Her memories include Supervisors Paul Russell, Ray Brandt, Del Thorsen, John Orr and Don Eng.

The letter from Tom Hooper was nice. Tom and I never worked together but we did take the entrance exam together and reported for duty the same day. We also graduated from the same college.

If any of you are driving to Charleston, SC on I-26, just exit at #129 and take US 21 towards Orangeburg for 5 miles—we're on the right. We'd love to have any of our friends stop by.

Don Peterson who's now retired in Minnesota came by in February. Good to see him again.

WALTON R. SMITH, *Franklin, NC* - Enclosed is check for \$40 which should carry me to 2000 if I make 90 years old. Must be optimistic.

Many of the names in *The Dixie Ranger* are strange to me but familiar ones come up now and then. After all, I have been retired for 27 years and have spent much of my time managing Waldee Forest, 180 acres of Southern Appalachian hardwoods on a continuous selection system of harvesting that the Forest Service taught me in the thirties and I have been practicing on my land for over 50 years. It results in high quality timber, good water, clean air (except what comes in from the West on the jet streams), good recreation, and abundant wildlife. We have had summer forestry students from most of the eastern forestry schools spend a day or two on Waldee Forest studying continuous selection harvesting, grading standing trees, grading logs, sawing for grade on the sawmill, and grading the lumber. This is supplemented by practice marking for selective cutting. The University of Kentucky with about 20 students is scheduled for this summer.

We appreciate the good work that all of you are doing on *The Dixie Ranger* and we especially like the stories of long ago happenings. I'll have to contribute a few one of these days—things about John (Shorty) Cooper, John Wasilik, Loopy Lane, Ray Shirley, Jim Cartwright, and many, many others. (*Don't wait too long, Mr. Smith, we could use them now—editors*).

DON & BOBBIE HUGHES, Port Charlotte, FL - You folks sure do a good job with *The Dixie Ranger*—please keep them coming. If it were not for you and the private professional publications we would lose track of everything. Other than tax info, the last time I heard from OPM or the F.S. was when I retired 13 years ago.

The welcome mat is always out here in Port Charlotte—but it might be a good idea to call first. Between a motor home, a boat, and occasional trips Military "Space A", there is over a 50% chance we won't be at home!! Always said we better do it while we can!

Finally gave up the sailboat and now have a slow trawler—planning a trip to the Bahamas next month. Be back before hurricane season, then to the cool mountains in the motorhome when it gets so hot in S. Florida. Last fall, we went to England and Scotland "Space A"; rented a car for a 3-week tour of beautiful Scotland and then spent two weeks on a "Narrow Boat" on the old canals in England. You operate the boats and most locks (even draw-bridges) yourself. They furnish everything except the food and the cost is relatively reasonable (about \$1500 for a 43 ft steel diesel-powered boat for the two of us or about \$2000 for a 60ft for two couples). Sounds long, but the boats only have a 6 ft 10 inch beam. Most of the locks are barely over 7 ft wide. Our trip took us 109 miles and 130 locks on canals and the Avon and Severn rivers past Stratford-on-Avon, Tewksbury and Worcester. Would be glad to share our experiences and info with anyone who might be interested.

Bobbie and I are fine and in good health (knock on wood!). See the Littlehales in Venice occasionally, also the Woody's and Nix's in the mountains each summer. Always good to see old F.S. friends and to hear from them in the DR and cards at Christmas.

Bet a lot of folks have E-Mail addresses—you folks have enough to do without disseminating members addresses, but I bet you have one. If so, that might be a way to encourage more to write in. Just a thought. (*We haven't gotten into that yet, Don. I feel that we don't have enough hours in the day to do all we want to do now and with E-Mail, that would open up another world. If anyone has E-Mail and would like to let others know their address, we'll publish in The Dixie Ranger. Just let us know. Thanks, Don - editors*).

JIM HEFNER, Athens, GA - Hello Betty, and all you folks who do such a fine job getting out *The Dixie Ranger*. It's pay up time again so here is a check for '96 & '97 plus some for postage.

Each issue of *The Dixie Ranger* brings us news of FS folks we have been unable to keep up with. It's great so see all the things we "old timers" are doing to keep the world going around, but the sad news is a reminder that we are "old timers" and time keeps moving on.

Andree' and I are still in Athens and busy keeping up 70+ acres and 3 houses plus my old home place in Hendersonville, NC—lots of hard work but great fun. Hope to make it to the June luncheon.

GERALD V. WARD, *Mountain View, AR* - Sure enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and to learn about friends I used to work with. I usually start reading the newsletter on my way back from the mail box.

I'm sorry to hear that Bruce Kilgore passed away. Bruce and I were enrolled at Arkansas Tech in the early 50's so I knew him before we started to work for the Forest Service.

We have several retirees now that live in and around Mountain View. I think all of them worked at one time on the Sylamore District.

WALT FOX, *Martin, Ga* - The photo and article about the 1959 Roan Mtn. Festival sure triggered a memory of past times. In 1955 I was the assistant Ranger to George Vitas on the Toecane District of the Pisgah NF where the Roan Mtn. Rhododendron Festival took place. Early in 1955 George was detailed to the Washington Office to work on material for the 50th USFS birthday celebrations. That left me in charge of the Festival. The previous year (1954) I had traded positions with Merlin Dixon—he to the Y-LT and me to the Toecane. So, my Festival experience was very limited as was my career experience (3 1/2 years). George Vitas, as those of you who knew him, was always right. The only way to do anything was his way!! He spent considerable time before he left for the WO telling me what to do and not to do at the Festival. One of the big No-Nos was to keep vehicles off a large grassy meadow close to the primitive (at that time) parking areas. Due to the press of other business the first day of the Festival, I was late arriving on the mountain. My Forestry Aid told me at once that gravel was being brought up from the Tennessee side of the area and being placed for a driveway into the meadow mentioned above. Well, I had some choice words to offer and went charging over to the area and stopped a couple of gravel trucks. Some "guy" in a FS uniform came strolling up and asked me just what I thought I was doing (no uniforms required for us peons at that time). After telling him that I was responsible for all activities associated with the Festival (which I was), I asked who the hell he was. John Spring, Forest Supervisor of the Cherokee NF. I looked quick for a hole to crawl into—zilch!! At that time I had been told that a Forest Supervisor sat on the right hand of God.

What to do?? Fortunately, John was a great guy and he graciously called off his trucks and men when I explained what I had been ordered to do. The Festival went on with the help of the Cherokee crowd. John and I laughed about the incident over the years. But, at the time I sure was embarrassed and thought my career was a goner.

In 1959, (at the time a Ranger in Texas) I was asked to detail back and be in charge of the Festival but begged off due to imminent birth of our daughter.

Lots of fun years. And thanks to both of you for keeping the forum intact. There are many more fellows (and gals) who can share experiences if only they will.

BOB POTTER, *Mocksville, NC* - Thanks for keeping us "FS Alumni" informed about each other and about our past. I especially find the "Changes to the directory" to be helpful.

I had a wonderful three-week ski vacation and reunion during Jan/Feb with four former FAO forestry colleagues with whom I had worked in Rome, Italy, 1966-69, at FAO headquarters—one from Germany, one from Rome, and one from England. The former, from Germany and Rome, are third generation foresters. We had a great time reminiscing and up-dating our information about the status of families and mutual friends. We skied around two villages, Livigno in Italy and Pfunds in Austria. I then traveled by train to Frutigen, Switzerland, a small village in the Berner Alps where my host and skiing companion was also a friend from FAO. The skiing, the food, the wine, the conversation and companionship made for a memorable trip.

DOUG SHENKYR, *Rockville, MD* - How time flies. Here are dues for another year. It's always a pleasure to read the news of those we knew and worked with, but at the same time sad to hear of those who have passed on.

We still spend our summers at our home in Minnesota. Anyone passing that way should stop in. We're in Hackensack, MN, 50 miles north of Brainerd on Hwy #371. We're on Murray Street at the top of the hill, brown garage along street, brown house with bittersweet shutters, and elderly tall man mowing front yard. You can't miss it.

P.S. If anyone sees Clark Sell tell him I'll send him 32 cents if he'll write and let me know how his golf game is.

KAY ERWIN, *Alexander, LA* - I'm not much on writing because my wife says I have the worst hand writing she's ever seen but maybe you can decipher some of it. I'll try to do good.

Thought I'd let you know I see retirees Ernie Finger, Carl Milhelm, Jack Boren and newly retired Bill Lackey ever once in a while. We all are doing okay but sure agree with Bob Neelands' you know you've become a senior citizen when...

Don't know how many readers would remember Sarah Agent here in Alexandria. Years ago she was clerk on the Evangeline RD. I'm sitting here looking at her obituary. Sarah passed away Friday, March 8, at the age of 83.

LES OLIPHANT, *Rescue, CA* - Enclosed is a check to get me un-delinquent for this year and to cover next year. Bert, I, too, have fond memories of both Emory Hunnicutt and Asheville.

Also, I have fond memories of Betty's smiling face when I first came to 7th & Peachtree. She was one I could count on to help me find out the mores of the RO. Talk about culture shock coming from being DR at San Augustine, TX, to the "big town" was bad enough. But I came to work for Dorothy Smith in S&PF (Doug Craig only thought I worked for him). Dorothy's unofficial prime "duty" was to "shape up" all former DR's to get them in tune with the real (her) world. In honesty and fairness though, I have to admit that if I had Doug's job Dorothy is exactly the person I would want in her job. She was really a gem once I gave in. Both of you are doing a superb job and lots of us are real glad you are the editors.

Les, your comment about the Peachtree 7th building reminded me of the time when I was the receptionist for the Forest Service, out in that front hall where I could see everyone who stepped out of the elevators on the third floor. One day I was occupied at my desk and didn't look up when the elevators opened. When I did look up there was this little gentlemen standing at the counter asking for information on the Chattahoochee NF. I, all of a sudden, got the giggles (very undignified for a receptionist!), but this man was one that I had seen riding his bicycle up and down Peachtree Street. Those of you who remember him will recall that he had buttons all over his jacket (I like IKE, etc.) and his pants legs were inside his socks and he was not the cleanest person to approach my desk. I could not hold my laughter in and before I would let him see me laughing, I excused myself to step inside and get Mary Henderson to come out and wait on him for a moment until I could get myself together so that I could give him the brochures that he requested. I saw him many times after that still riding his bicycle on Peachtree Street. I never did find out if he rode his bike to the Chattahoochee! - Betty

AGNES LEE, *Bowie, MD* - I truly enjoy getting the *Ranger*. There are few names I recognize anymore but it keeps me up with the news of the Region. Bill and I used to know most of the people mentioned in the *Ranger* but that was a long time ago. Thanks for all your efforts, brings back fond memories.

JACK McELROY, *Tyler, TX* - *The Dixie Ranger* is a fine publication. It's the thread that keeps a lot of old retirees together. Keep up the good work.

George Stevens letter about Tom Hunt and "The Missing Hooch" brought back memories. George is correct when he stated that Tom was the object of many practical jokes. Here's one.

During my 1960 tour in the Regional Office, I was in Tom's car pool. That summer Tom and Yvonne were planning their annual vacation to Wisconsin. For weeks Tom related to his fellow car-poolers--in detail--what was planned. We knew the exact day and hour they were leaving and returning. Just before they were scheduled to return, one of the fellows got a "For Sale" sign from a local realtor and erected it in Tom's front yard. They were due back on a Friday night. Assignments were made to car-poolers and others to call Tom on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the hour and request to purchase his home.

I drew 6 p.m. on Sunday. I called and asked "I notice that your home is for sale and..." Tom abruptly interrupted and said "The G...D...place is not for sale!!! Understand!!!" And slammed down the receiver. It was evident that he had had several similar calls.

The car pool picked him up Monday morning expecting Tom to relate his week-end experience. Not a word was said about the "For Sale" sign. He went into great detail about the wonderful Wisconsin vacation. We all knew that he suspected he was riding with a car load of culprits and he wasn't about to make our morning by letting us know how successful the prank had been.

Despite Tom's crust and Irish profanity we believed that he enjoyed the attention.

DON & JEAN ENG, *Columbia, SC* - I know it is time for me to ante up and send you some money so you can keep up the good work of getting *The Dixie Ranger* out. We enjoy reading the news about Forest Service retiree friends.

Jean and I are enjoying our retirement being active with family and friends, traveling, and being involved in community activities and the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests' retirees' group. I continue to do a limited amount of natural resources consulting work and teaching adult continuing education courses at USC on nature and outdoor recreation.

Our retirees group has been meeting twice a year for lunch to keep our kinship alive and support for each other. Lately, we have had about 20 to 30 retirees at our meetings but that should increase with the large number of recent retirees. Please greet R-8 retirees for us. The FS is still important to us.

FLOSSIE SWARTHOUT, *Lake Ridge, VA* - Since I moved to this address I have not received *The Dixie Ranger*--no fault of yours, but I have missed it. Please credit my "account" for the amount of the enclosed check and change my address.

In August '94, I moved to the Westminster Lake Ridge retirement community. After nearly forty years in Falls Church, VA, it has been a bit of doing to pull up roots and make the necessary adjustments. I'm still in the process but this is the best thing I could have done. I'm not too far from daughter Nancy and her family in Winchester, VA, and get back pretty often to see friends and church family in Falls Church. At least fifteen good friends of long standing were already down here. The *Ranger* will keep me in touch with Forest Service family and friends—bless you for keeping it going.

DONALD PETERSON, St. Joseph, MN - Here is \$16 for two years of *The Dixie Ranger*. Please keep it coming—it's highest priority reading! It's good to read about those I knew and what they are doing.

Enjoyed visiting Bryant and Joyce Watts at their country home on a recent trip to South Carolina. Also had a good visit with Don Eng and Dave Rosdahl. The 80 degree weather the end of February in Columbia really contrasted with the frigid weather in Minnesota! Finished refurbishing my land lines and checking my "Sumterland".

Here in St. Joseph I try to take care of my family. The oldest son is a senior in college, second a senior in high school, daughter in 10th and son in 8th grade. Aspen cutting on my "Scandia Land" helped the deer browse situation during the cold, 24 inches of snow, winter. Did power saw work yesterday cleaning up after the logger and making firewood. Will have to lay off now until after the spring thaw to keep from rutting the roads. I really enjoy the woods, especially with son, Bill, a budding Wildlife Biologist.

Best wishes to all Southern Forest Service people.

JOHN & SHIRLEY LAMB, Dawsonville, GA - OOPS, I forgot to send you a change of address. So, it is my fault that we didn't receive our last *Dixie Ranger* in time to attend the luncheon. I always look forward to seeing everyone there.

This time we might not have been able to make it anyway because Bill Hess and I were camping in the Okefenokee Swamp. We fished diligently, but failed to make a dent in the bass population of the swamp. Not even one bass. If the fish were as cold as me they stayed in the warmest hole they could find and ate hot food only. It is hard for me to believe the story about that fellow from New York who survived for forty some days without food or shelter.

Red and Vernelle Ketcham came by for a visit the last week in January. They were able to get together with several old friends. Red and I went to breakfast with a group of FS retirees in Tucker. A great time was had by all. Lots of catching up and reminiscing.

Shirley and I moved to Dawsonville on the shores of Lake Lanier. The few warm days we had after we moved in last fall were great, but the winter weather pretty much kept us off the lake. We are looking forward to warmer weather to resume our water related activities. We were out two weeks ago, but that was obviously premature. Won't this winter ever end? After spending three recent winters in Vermont I thought that Georgia winters would be a piece of cake. They actually are, but maybe I'm expecting too much. I want that beautiful Georgia spring, now!

You can see by our Area Code that calls to the Atlanta Metro area (meaning friends, children and grandchildren) are all long distance. Our phone bill has increased significantly.

JAMES B. CARTWRIGHT, Charleston, SC - *The Dixie Ranger* arrived March 6 and I spent the rest of the afternoon reading it through twice. The memories that filled my mind would fill many issues of the magazine. It was good to see the picture of old friends sent in by Howard Burnett. I promptly ordered a copy of Jay Craven's book. It has not arrived yet but I look forward to reading it.

When the Francis Marion was split in two, July 1, 1946, Doug Craig was ranger of the new Wambaw and I was his assistant. The only office space available in McClellanville was one room upstairs over Ward's drug store. That served the purpose for several years. There was no rental property for families. People gave up some rooms in their homes for make-do apartments. Houses were on pillars. Frozen water pipes were a common occurrence. We loved the town and the people.

Prescribed burning had not yet been practiced but was about to begin. Years of fire protection had resulted in a thick undergrowth that was almost impenetrable. A new shirt would be threadbare in a month from friction with bushes.

My previous experience had all been on mountain forests. Now I was forbidden to use my marking axe and had to use a paint spray gun instead. I did not like the change. The hand-carried paint guns had to be refilled frequently. Carlton Wells, guard and game warden, modified a commercial 2-gallon spray can to operate as a paint gun. It was carried on the back by shoulder straps and took only a light squeeze of the nozzle to deliver a shot of paint. Soon we were all equipped with them.

One morning Doug and I drove out to the I'on Swamp timber sale. J.P. Brown, with whom I had worked on the Ouachita, was marking timber there. We came up on him, his pickup parked beside a car belonging to the timber operator. J.P. had filled his paint gun and pumped up the pressure. He gave it a few pumps too many. The nozzle flew off of the hose and it whipped back and forth as it

sprayed yellow marking paint all over the car. J.P. was working frantically with kerosene soaked rags to try to clean off the paint before it dried. We gave him a hand.

The Francis Marion was due for a new timber management plan. John Wood was assigned to do the cruising for the necessary data. Mostly he worked alone. Any one working with him had to extend himself to the utmost to keep up. John plowed through the underbrush like a bulldozer. One afternoon when I was with him a spike twig hit me in an open eye. Tears were flowing and my eyes were both tightly closed. John had to lead me out of the woods for I was so blinded. Thank goodness I was not alone.

John built a cat boat from scratch. It was a little beauty. John and Ruthie went sailing at every opportunity. I was quite interested in the construction and watched it from the first layout to final launching. My little daughter took her first dancing lessons from Ruthie.

Joe Riebold was forest supervisor and Al Shadduck was timber management assistant. The Francis Marion management plan was the first one for a national forest to be based on even-aged management and clear cutting. Joe had pressed and argued for this authority and was finally granted it in a "here's the rope, go hang yourself" manner. It was hailed by forest industries and taken as an example. I don't think Joe ever got proper recognition for the conversion to this method of silviculture on the part of the Forest Service. He did not invent it but was first to adopt it. If anyone wants to argue with that statement, let's hear from you.

DON & MARY WILLIAMS, Mtn. View, AR - The past year has been quite different for us in that Don was hospitalized four times last year in regard to a heart-by-pass and complications. Then in August I had a hip replacement followed by complications. So far this year we both are doing much better, but where is the strength we "old" people used to have?

Don retired from Washington, D.C. in 1981 and we have settled in this little but interesting town. Before that Atlanta was our home, and we enjoyed that town very much.

LUCILE ISBELL, Union City, GA - I just noticed I have not paid 1996 dues and for the life of me I can't remember if its \$8 or what! If it's more please let me know.

I wish so much I could be with you good retirees, however, I doubt if I'd know too many. I'm a real shut-in—don't go any where except when Jean (my only daughter) takes me to the doctor or maybe to a family gathering at her house. But I'm thankful to be alive and my mind is good (except slow) but after all, I'll soon (Dec. 15) be 90—that's not young!

I have so many happy memories of the Forest Service, especially of the retirees association. I love each one. God Bless!

JUDY NICHOLAS ENTEMADI, *Tallahassee, FL* - In every issue there is news of at least one forester and his/her family that I remember. It is really amazing—so I keep up the membership inherited from my dad, Ivan J. Nicholas. I work for the Florida Department of Education (continuing a family tradition of public service) and am working on a Ph.D at Florida State University in Adult Education. "Nick's" granddaughter, Lily Elizabeth, is completing her junior year at Stephens College, Columbia, MO.

CARLOS GRIGGS, *Silver Springs, FL* - Margie and I are at home on the Ocala NF. We have been working in the yard and garden.

Douglas Peebles and I went riding around on the Seminole RD last week. We visited Carl Hornbeak and Paul Greer at Moss Bluff. Carl was doing spring cleaning in his yard and getting along fine. Paul has been working in his garden and is also doing well.

We visited Tom Williams in Altoona. He is planning on spending some time in the Rockies this summer. He's doing well also.

Marge and I are planning on spending some time in the New England states and Nova Scotia this summer and back to the East Coast near Marineland this fall to do some surf fishing. From there back home on the Ocala NF for the winter.

Mack Kilgore has been in the hospital with a serious heart condition and needs your prayers.

DINNIE F. LAMBERT, *Monticello, MS* - Thanks for the red "1995" on my last *Dixie Ranger*. Had no idea how long I was paid up for. Here's my check for 3 more years plus a little. (Didn't know how long I was good for 'cause I really don't remember what I had for supper last night)—anybody else know what that's like?

I really look forward to getting the DR. Many others have said "you guys are doing a super job". But what could anybody expect with two super people like you!!! Thanks very very much.

Things are fine with us. Rose Mary still teaching high school math in Prentiss. I'm still a funeral director. Sometimes work days and nights 4-5-7 days in a row. Then have 2-4-5 or 6 days off.

Inky (Dinnie, III) still in France. Doing well. Works with computer programs, training Int'l transfers (they call it Expatriation) for Rhone-Poulanc-Rover Pharmaceutical Research Company. The French Co. bought the U.S. company that makes Malox about 5 or 6 years ago, that's where the Rover comes from.

No. 2 son, Nevin, is near Harrisonburg, VA. Our "mountain man" of whom we are very proud, too. He makes custom made cabinets and plays the finest blue grass music.

People ask what I do with my time since I retired. Wow!! I reply "I don't know how I had time to work." Between the funeral home part time job and trying to keep up, much less stay ahead of this place in the woods, I can assure them I'm busy. Thank God! I wouldn't last long without something to do.

I really miss all of my old FS friends. But have almost no contact any more. We're a long way from any of them and any retiree "clubs." Sad, really sad, to see some—no all—of the "obits" in the DR. Makes us all think and remember with prayers.

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NEW DIRECTORY—

An updated Directory is enclosed in this newsletter. Please read it carefully and notify me of any corrections that should be made. Try as I might to avoid errors, the devil sometimes sneaks into my keyboard.

♦ ♦ ♦

UPCOMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Book reviews by James L. McConnell.

A Tribute to Charles (Chuck) J. Sobiotes, by Jack Godden, former R-7 and R-8 employee, now retired.

"Mr. Whitfield, I Don't Believe We're in Kansas Anymore" by George Stevens.

Years Ago - A Look Back - articles from *The Dixie Ranger* 20 years ago.

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A special thank you for your dues. You all have responded so well to our dues notices. I'm going to write to those of you via first class mail who did not respond as another gentle reminder and to check the address I have for you. As many of you know, *The Dixie Ranger* is not forwardable mail. As long as dues are paid, I keep mailing the newsletter to the last address I have on hand. So, should a move be on your horizon this year, don't forget to send us a change of address card.