

The Dixie Ranger

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray Vol. XXV No. 1 February 1995

OFFICERS

President *Jim McConnell*
President Elect *Ralph Mumme*
Secretary-Treasurer *Betty Bray*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Grest (1995)
John Schultz (1996)
Nancy Sorrells (1997)
Bill Hess Ex-Officio

* * * *

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HUGE SUCCESS

We had 68 people to attend the last luncheon in 1994--some for the first time. Roger Eubanks represented the Regional Forester and spoke on reinventing the government and changes to be made in reorganization in Region 8. Sue Myerick from Public Affairs spoke on a Volunteer Organization to be set up and maintained by retiree volunteers. She urges all of us to give some thought to volunteering for this project.

Bob Lentz, recent retiree, showed a slide program on wood turning. Bob had on display a number of the bowls and vases he made from woods throughout the country. Beautiful work!

Harry Rossoll, at age 84, is still working! He presented his creation of Tree Bear for private landowners. Peaches Sherman and Johnny Rogers work with Harry in this endeavor.

* * * *

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1995:

PRESIDENT: *JIM McCONNELL*. Jim retired from the RO, Timber, in 1993 after serving some 33 years with the Forest Service. He started his career on the Kisatchie NF in 1956 and moved into the RO, Division of WWRM, in 1961. This is where he met Elaine, the Regional Librarian who later became his wife. In 1962 Jim and Elaine moved to Oxford, MS. In 1964, they transferred to the Witherbee RD in South Carolina. The National Tree Seed Lab (Macon) as it was known then, beckoned in 1971. In 1975 Jim became Regional Geneticist in the Division of Timber, RO. Jim has authored or co-authored many

publications concerned with cone or seed collection and the management of seed orchards or the production of superior pine or hardwood seedlings.

In January, 1995, Jim was presented with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal for work performed on active duty with the Forest Service in Region 8.

PRESIDENT ELECT: **RALPH MUMME**. A graduate of NY State College of Forestry at Syracuse in 1957 with a BS degree in Forestry. Worked one year with FS as a Research Forester in Ogden, Utah, and then drafted into the military. In 1961 became a District Forester on the Ottawa & Superior NFs in Region 9. Held positions as Center Director of the Isabella Job Corps Center and Clam Lake Job Corps Center. In 1969 became Staff Officer for Recreation on the Shawnee NF in Illinois. In 1971 went to the Monongahela NF as Deputy Forest Supervisor and in 1973 became Forest Supervisor. Held that position until transfer in 1986 to RO as Director of Timber Management. Retired in August 1994. He and wife Kathleen have four children and two grandchildren.



Please Check Mailing Address Section

There is a notice on the front of your *Dixie Ranger* address mailing label section that gives you information on the status of your dues. "Dues paid thru (year)" indicates if you are current on your dues, how far in advance you have paid your dues or if your dues have expired. In the past, a member has been carried for 3 issues after dues have expired, then if dues have not been paid after receiving the issue with "Last Issue" in red on the mailing label section, that member is dropped from our mailing list. We do not want to give up our members, so as a last resort, a post card is sent to those members who have not paid their dues after one year. If no response is forthcoming, their name is removed from the mailing list.

Dues are \$8.00 per year and payable at the first of the year. Since our newsletter is not mailed until February with status of dues, dues are sent in after that time, which is o.k.

Some of our members move during the year. Since *The Dixie Ranger* is sent as third-class mail, there is no forwarding of the DR. If you don't notify the Editors of an address change, your newsletter is mailed until dues run out. So, when you move, please notify the Editors of your new address. *Thanks.*



Note These Dates

Please make a note of these dates for the luncheons for 1995:

March 9 June 8 Sept 14 Dec 14

The luncheons begin at 11:30 a.m. with fellowship, and lunch is served at 12 noon. We meet at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Decatur Road. Price of the meal is \$9 (may have an increase in 1995). Please call Joyce Sizemore at (404) 347-4191 no later than a Tuesday before the luncheon on Thursday. The restaurant charges us for each reservation made, so if you make a reservation and cannot attend, please notify Joyce of your cancellation by at least Wednesday before the luncheon on Thursday.

* * * *

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Editors, Bert and Betty Bray at the December luncheon. In making the presentation, President Bill Hess said "During this past year, as your President, I realized that the primary key to having a successful retiree association was the distribution of the newsletter with good items.

"It gives me great pleasure to present this certificate to honor Bert and Betty Bray for the tremendous work they have accomplished in putting together the newsletter. The 'behind the scenes' work activities such as gathering and compiling information, sorting, editing, many phone calls and endless hours of work result in an excellent newsletter."

As a footnote, when awarded the presentation, Bert said Betty deserves 95% of the award. Fortunately they have agreed to continue serving in 1995. They need your help so please keep the news items heading their way.

Bill Hess

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

George Washington National Forest Supervisor Wayne Kelley believes a merger with the Jefferson National Forest will eventually be approved. In the proposal, a joint supervisor's office for the two forests will be Roanoke, VA, the current headquarters for the Jefferson, and a regional service center will be in Harrisonburg, VA, the current headquarters for the George Washington. "I have every confidence that the merger is the right thing to do," said Wayne Kelley. Kelley and Jefferson National Forest Supervisor Joy Berg will go to Washington in November to propose the plan to Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas. --from *Daily News-Record*, 10/7/94, (Harrisonburg,VA)

As *The Dixie Ranger* goes to press, the above proposal has no opposition.

In the WO—proposed changes still pending are to have 5 Deputy Chiefs at the National level. Changes for the Regional Office are to have 4 Regional Directors: NFS, S&PF, Operation (Adm) and Research. There will be no Regional Forester as we know the position today. These 4 Regional Directors will operate on a team approach.

There are proposed realignments for Region 8—remove Texas and Oklahoma and realign with Region 3; and Virginia will go to Region 9.

Proposed changes outside the Region—the Regional Offices in Juneau and Missoula will be eliminated.

* * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Russell L. Chipman - former Cherokee National Forest Supervisor, died October 3, 1994, in Montgomery, AL. He was a graduate of Iowa State University and retired from the Forest Service in 1971 after 35 years of service. He also served on the NFs in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and North Carolina before becoming Forest Supervisor of the NFs in Alabama. From there in 1966 he took over the post as Forest Supervisor of the Cherokee NF, TN.

George F. Fox, died on May 2, 1994. He worked on the Mississippi NFs and the Kisatchie NF. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

Viola L. Meltz, 88, died December 1, 1994, in Atlanta. She retired from the Regional Office, Div. of Fiscal Control.

Neal H. Raum - died June 13, 1994, in Coeur d'Alene, ID, after a long illness. His career began in California on the San Bernardino Forest, and included positions of Assistant Regional Forester in Denver, Associate Deputy Chief in Washington, and as Regional Forester in Missoula, MT, in 1963. He retired in 1971.

* * * *



Welcome New Members

Sandra Y. Ahern, 3219 Stewart Road, Monroe, GA 30655

Peter Avers, (Nancy) 5248 O'Malley Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30088

William C. Anderton, 1930 Keswick Pl. Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30243

Esta Childers, 1415 Oakridge Circle, Decatur, GA 30033

Joe Duckworth, (Mary Jo) 1120 West College Ave., Wiggins, MS 39577

Philip B. Etchison, 200 Green Road, Alpharetta, GA 30201

Dade Foote, 1483 Bubbling Cr. Rd., NE., Atlanta, GA 30319

Marvin Meier (Joleen), 4201 Swan Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401

Donald L. Monk, HC Box 14-J, Oden, AR 71961

Johnny Rogers, P. O. Box 107, Redan, GA 30074

Josephine (Peaches) Sherman, P. O. Box 991, Alpharetta, GA 30201

Nancy Sorrells, 5331 Deep Springs Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30087

William D. Walker, 105 Chad Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901

■ Please make the following changes to the Directory:

William H. Arlen, add 70 to 5—705 Hickory Hollow Lane

Malcolm G. Edwards from Hoschton to 2951 Glen Haven Dr.,
Gainesville, GA 30504-5509

Ed Edgette, P. O. Box 63, Russellville, AR 72811

John and Shirley Lamb from Clarkston to 1487 Candleberry Ct.,
Lilburn, GA 30247

Hattie N. McKenzie from Stone Mountain to 5555 Forest Falls
Dr., Loganville, GA 30249

Kathleen W. Smith from Huntington, TX to 5109 Northway,
Apt.704, Nacogdoches, TX 75961-1439

John F. Welsh, 107 Treasure Ln., Ormond, Beach, FL 32176

■ Please make the following corrections to the Directory:

Add an s to Jay Craven—the name should be Jay Cravens

Change Ed Ellenberg from 910 to 140 Meadowview Dr.

Add Kythe M. Sears, Briarwood Nursing Home, Atlanta, GA

* * * *



FLORIDA USFS RETIREES' POTLUCK PICNIC

April 6, 1995

Oscar Scherer State Park, US 41, Osprey,
Florida

Bring your own utensils, beverage and food
to share at noon.

Contact: John S. Maslack, 2065 Oyster Creek
Drive, Englewood, FL 34224



The Mail Box

PETE AVERS, Stone Mountain, GA - Here are my dues for my initial membership to *The Dixie Ranger* and FS retirement ranks. Nancy and I are initially spending about half of our time between our small farm in Michigan and Stone Mountain. All of our children settled in GA., so we have them to keep us busy here and the farm keeps us busy while in Michigan (warmer months up there).

JOHN AND SUE CHAFFIN, Green Valley, AZ - I was surprised to see that Dinnie Lambert is a funeral director. He's evidently forgotten he almost had training for handling cadavers when he was Ranger on the Cherokee. Seems he and Rose Mary were responsible for getting judges for the annual school baby and bigger kids contest. He talked Randall Miller, Sue and I into coming down and being the judges.

Everything went well through the first 3 age groups and then Sue pointed out that we hadn't picked any boys, and we were going to pick one in the last group, period. Our selection of a cute little redheaded boy received very little applause and some mumbling. As we walked down the hall the natives weren't particularly friendly and Dinnie rushed us on out. Later, he explained that we'd picked the Principal's son and the Principal wasn't too popular at the moment anyway. We didn't help the Lambert's popularity too much either.

Our old wine tasting group in Petaluma, CA, met in Hattiesburg, MS in October to taste some Mississippi wine at Tom and Jeanette Price's. (Tom and Jeanette were former members of the group while in R5). The best time was spent touring the old Leaf River RD with Tom. I was JF there (Del Thorsen was DR and Joe Giaquinto was ADR) and Tom followed me a couple of years later. We also had lunch at a country store owned by one of Virgil Bond's daughters. He was Lookout at the Paret Tower and a good one. Later, we found a plantation that I helped plant. It is fun to go back sometimes.

Got a call from Wayne Cloward in November as he passed through enroute to his home in Las Vegas. Hadn't talked with him in over 25 years, but knew that voice immediately.

HELEN SEARS TYLER, Decatur, GA - In the June 1994 *Dixie Ranger* you omitted my mother, Kythe M. Sears, from the Directory.

My mother is beginning her third year in Briarwood Nursing Center, unable to read, but you have been kind enough to send *The Dixie Ranger* to me. She should be in the Directory and not me.

In September my mother celebrated her 100th birthday.

(Helen, thank you for calling this to our attention. Her name will appear in the next Directory. Congratulations to your Mother on her 100th Birthday! —Editors)

MERNA (Mrs. William E.) CLARKE, Oden, AR - Thanks for continuing to send *The Dixie Ranger*. I do enjoy hearing of people we knew. I was sorry to hear of Al Williams passing but enjoyed Evelyn's letter in the last issue.

And it was good to see Phil and Barbara Archibald names in the paper. They were good friends and next door neighbors when Bill was in Atlanta.

Everything is still going good down on the farm. And the children and grandchildren still make life very interesting.

JIM WENNER, Hot Springs, AR - Seeing the list of retirees in the September *Dixie Ranger*, and scanning the 1994 Directory, makes Doris and me glad to belong to SFSRA because it's like old times with old friends. Every issue makes us want to exclaim things like: "Al Frederick, your move to Tallahassee will make you miss that big garden next to Lake Lanier." "Leon Powell, hang in there on the GW for what you feel is best." "Mel Anhold, you old scoundrel, remember our first trip to the St. Francis?" "Bob Neelands, no, you still cannot have that Roliflex from ole' R-7." And on and on.

We are still following Don Hughes' advice to fly military retiree Space-A, i.e., available empty seats on military aircraft. Spent ten wonderful days in June on the windward side of Oahu, Hawaii. That's the side opposite the tourists and with the natives. We hope to return Mid-September to Germany, this trip to Berchtisgaden in the Bavarian Alps, with side trips to Munich's Oktoberfest and music in Vienna.

Ouachita Supervisor Mike Curren supports the retirees in this area and we recently concluded that we'll have coffee, lunch, a show-me-trip, or a full-fledged party depending on how many of you contact him, or me to show your interest.

Keep publishing. DR's reports on our lives ties us together.

JACK BOREN, Alexandria, LA - Enjoyed the September 3 issue. Lots of good stuff. Is President Bill Hess the same Bill Hess from Kisatchie days. Gotta be.

See Angie Mule' around Alexandria from time to time. Talk with Ernie Finger and Kay Erwin once in awhile. Have a story about Angie and Chief Ed Cliff when he was here to dedicate the Alexandria Forestry Center in '64, but don't know if I should tell it or not. Will have to check with Angie. She and the Chief were together in Alaska or someplace.

Hi Joel: Your discussion of "Instructors Training" brought back some memories. When I joined the "outfit" (as Joe Couch used to call it), back in Nov. '63, one of the first things Supervisor Hans Raum wanted me to do was put on a Law Enforcement training program. Well it seems as though Ivan Nichols, Timber Staff, was the Kisatchie Training Officer, and if'n you hadn't taken "Instructors Training", you D----ed sure wouldn't train on the Kisatchie. I have always believed that Nick had had a bad experience with it and wanted everyone else to suffer. Especially a non-Forester, like a new cop on the block. Anyway, I got shipped off to the big puzzle palace in Atlanta and did "it" in some horrible, smokey, smelly, someone elses hotel room in, I believe it was the Cabana or some such other den. Can't recall who was in the class or the instructors. I selected classification of fingerprints as my topic and since the other guys were all foresters I came through in pretty good shape. No one knew what I was talking about. But when I got back I agreed with Nick if you ain't had it you can't do it.

I did my Lippert's writing course in New Orleans, of all places. It was interesting cause Dr. Lippert's methodology was very similar to the style used by Special Agents in my old USAF outfit, OSI. It mostly made sense, cut out all the hackneyed questions, phrases and just say what you mean. Joel, I don't remember that part about no "free feeling" but maybe that was because we were in New Orleans.

Due to a bunch of problems with our motorhome, we didn't get to make our annual summer trip to the North Country. Last summer we spent going to Yellowknife, NWT, Canada. Long way from Alexandria, LA. One of these days we hope to make one of the luncheons.

LEONARD J. McNEAL, Morehead, KY - Thank you for carrying me after I forgot to pay my dues. I appreciate it.

Since retirement I have worked on fires a good bit. This summer has been no exception. I have worked more on fires since I retired than I did before I retired. I have more time, and am more available. Since retirement I have been to Cody and Jackson, WY, Boise, ID, LaGrande, OR, Las Cruces and Alamogordo, NM, Fairbanks, AK, Missoula and Libby, MT and a good many places within the Region. I never fail to run into some old friends that I haven't seen for a number of years. I just love it. And they pay me for it too.

I really appreciate getting the DR. You do a great job on it. It never fails that I will see a name or a story that will remind me of other stories (some that are best untold) that will keep me chuckling for days. It's wonderful, Keep them coming.

BILL BRYAN, Stone Mountain, GA - I was amazed at the length of the list of recent FS Retirees in the last *Dixie Ranger* (maybe not truly amazed!)

There were 21 or 22 FS retirees at the August breakfast at the Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, GA—the noise level check indicated 50+. In looking around the tables I could not help but think of the years of service and the span of service — Paul Russell and Rik Eriksson stretching beyond my ken with Jimmy Lunsford and other recent retirees on the other end of the time line!! The breakfast provides a great opportunity to visit and exchange lies and to do some net-working. Ya'll come—last Tuesday of the month, 7:15 a.mish.

I was saddened by the death of Mack Little. He was one of my J.F.'s while I was Ranger on the Bayou. He did a great job pushing the marking crew and really came up with quality and quantity production!

Bob Neeland's "A Photographer's Woes" really brought back memories of Dan Todd. I was Assistant Ranger on the Pisgah in 1957 when the Forest Service hosted a national women's club or organization on the Pisgah. Dan Todd arrived with all his equipment and fuss and feathers. Ted Seely, the Ranger, usually handled the I&E (dates me!) and he was going to squire Dan around during the making of the motion picture LAND OF THE SKY which may be still around in someone's files.

Ted came in late the first evening sucking on his bent stem pipe and looked sidewise at me and said, "He's your's, Bill!." It was a great experience. Bob didn't understate the fuss budget bit!!

The first scene shot had me walking up to a yellow poplar with my paint gun in hand, properly uniformed and hard hatted (I think). My instructions were to walk briskly up to the tree and mark it with yellow paint. About 6 takes were necessary because Dan wanted to really see the paint splatter. After the last take I was paint-splattered from head to toe!

Next we went up on the Blue Ridge Parkway to take scenes of the purple rhododendron in full bloom. The first scene was to be a tight close-up of a rhododendron bush. Nature's bounty wasn't enough for Dan. He started breaking off blooms from adjacent bushes to make a "dense" arrangement. All I could think about was being arrested for vandalism by a National Park Ranger—and my shortened F.S. career!

Next Dan wanted a scene with blooms waving in the wind. It was windy but Dan wanted more action so I was assigned as his windman to gently sway the bush as Dan shot the scene. A mile or so down the road (Parkway) Dan clambered to the top of a 100-foot vertical rock cut to set up a location to take pictures of the buses in the tour moving along the Parkway.

He spent about an hour fuss-budgeting the camera position while I patiently waited below. Suddenly Dan yelled "Bill, where will those buses be by the time I get down from here?" Of course, Dan planned to leap frog ahead for additional scenes. My truthful answer, "Dan, they'll be pulling into Waynesville." To Dan's credit he did make a quick decision—the perch shot was eliminated.

I also wore a Smokey Bear suit in a waving scene—I don't know what they are made of now, but that sucker was hot and heavy.

I actually enjoyed working with Dan. Patience was the order of the day in dealing with Dan.

My actual first experience with Dan was posing in a group shot in front of the old Peachtree-7th Street Building during a J.F. orientation meeting in 1952. The F.S. almost lost Dan that time when he stepped out on Peachtree completely oblivious to traffic—I suspect Dan had a guardian angel!

Sorry about the length of the letter but *The Dixie Ranger* always brings back a flood of memories. You two continue to amaze me with the quantity and quality of the contents of *The Dixie Ranger*. Thanks a million.

BOB JOHNS, Stone Mountain, GA - Why do I continue to pay this kind of money for a newsheet that only comes out three times a year, you ask? I'll tell you why...everything at the Bob Johns' house comes to a halt for at least an hour when *The Dixie Ranger* arrives. (I'm a slow reader!)

RUSS DALEY, Norcross, GA - I've been quiet for awhile, but there are, as they say, extenuating circumstances.

I know now how true the saying is that there is no such thing as minor surgery if you are involved. I had to have cataract surgery and everyone assured me it was a "piece of cake." Well, my cake must have fallen during cooking because it has been six months since the surgery and I'm not seeing any better. The next move is a laser procedure to take care of some cloudiness in the lens. The doctor said it was the hardest cataract he has seen in his years of surgery.

Then, Vonceil had to take me to the emergency room in the middle of the night because I was having severe pains around my rib cage. The medics were sure it was heart trouble. They put me on a heart monitor and took enough blood to take care of the holiday blood shortage in Atlanta. I kept telling them I had none of the well publicized symptoms of a heart attack. I just hurt. After a couple of days of finding nothing, they decided on a stress test. I was so tired from blood loss and lack of food that I could not do the treadmill, so they shot some drug into my system that had the same effect on the heart as the exercise.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with my heart! They don't know why I hurt, but there are still a couple of tests they want to do. End of medical report.

All is well otherwise, and we keep on the move when possible. When we go to New York to see our daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren, we have to cover the state. There's a grandson and family in the eastern part, a granddaughter in Albany, daughter in the Adirondack Park and a granddaughter and her family in Penn Yan in the Finger Lakes area.

We also spend time in South Mississippi where Vonceil's folks live. In our opinion, they are ruining the Gulf Coast with the gambling boats. (*Russ, did you read in The Atlanta Journal, January 4, where the Biloxi Belle casino is going to close and the Gulfport Palace casino is in bankruptcy? Maybe they all will close—Betty*)

MERLIN DIXON, Homasassa Springs, FL - I've been writing some of my "funny stories" to put in my autobio—and am working on the one about being kicked out of the Russian Embassy in Sri Lanka when I was over there writing a Wildfire Management Plan for that country in '83, when the present civil war began.

JAY CRAVENS, Milwaukee, WI - I have been preoccupied off and on during the past year with the completion of my book, *A Well Worn Path*. My publisher turned the manuscript into galley proofs, which were proof read, returned, corrected, returned to me for a final look and preparation of an index for the 500 pages. The final went to the printer last September and I am patiently waiting for the final product. It does require much patience to work with a publisher, but after all, the writing, revising and rewriting the manuscript and working with reviewers and a literary agent has taken three years.

Gwen and I spent a pleasant month in England last Spring. Hertz still considers me qualified to drive one of their cars on the left side of narrow English byways. Gwen continued her research and writing her family history from the 16th century to the present. While she is in record offices and libraries translating wills and records that were written on parchment, I look at British forestry. I learned that several species of butterflies were nearing extinction as the forests matured and closed in on their habitats. Markets for baskets, thatching and woven fences have practically disappeared and the environmentalists stopped clear-cutting of species of trees that reproduce by sprouting (coppice management). Now the environmentalists and butterfly-lovers are approving plans of the British Forestry Commission to create and maintain openings for butterfly habitat—at a cost of \$600 to \$800 per acre!

Other travels took us to Alaska (SAF), Arizona, Colorado, Iowa (55th High School Reunion), Minnesota (family reunion), Nevada, New Mexico (USFS retiree roundup) and Utah (hiking club). I hiked 60.5 miles in the western mountains, including Zion & Rocky Mountain National Parks Wilderness areas in the Dixie and Prescott National Forests and BLM last year. My physician says I should have a stress test if I persist on hiking in the high country. I tell him hiking above 10,000 feet is better than any of his high priced stress tests.

I did a little consulting work, too, for the Banzhaf Company. I completed a street tree inventory for a nearby city (78 species of trees) and provided forestry services for a number of our clients. In SAF I have served on the awards committee and just became chair-elect of the International Forestry Working Group. So I manage to keep busy. I'll let you know when the book is published.

* * * *

Harvey Mack, Curator and Historian, Cleveland NF History Center, thanks Bea Cagle, R-8 retiree, by writing "Your package arrived safely and your donations are valuable additions to our historic collections. We did not have a 25-year award like yours. All during my career from 1939 to 1973, the awards were by decades. My first two, 10 and 20, had the Dept. of Agriculture plow. While I was in the Washington Office I found a 40-year pin with a ruby in it and sure wish that I still had it for our collection.

"Your training certificates for 'Better Letter' and 'Talking with People' are unique to our collection as we have received nothing like them. Many of our displays focus on training and manuals so your certificates will present another aspect of the training programs of the FS. I think that the FS has consistently been a leader in training its employees.

"The Southern Region Newsletter is another kind of memorabilia that we greatly appreciate as they reflect lots of history. Very few have been saved. Last year we received copies of a 1938 and 1939 California Ranger newsletter and they are fascinating to read. I belong to the retiree associations of 4 regions and save all their newsletters. We can glean lots of important history from them, particularly when retirees send in stories of the past.

"We greatly appreciate your interest, support and valuable contributions to our historic collections. It is people like you who are responsible for our success in the development of an historic heritage for those who follow in our footsteps."

(Please note: Several of you have asked about Region 8's enthusiasm regarding the Museum in Missoula. Our President, Jim McConnell, has written to the Director of the Museum asking a number of questions that need to be addressed before SFSRA can respond to your questions. We hope to have some answers by the next Edition of The Dixie Ranger—Editors)

* * * *

RETIREE SERVICE CENTER OPENS

On September 30, 1994, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) opened a Federal Retirees Service Center in Asheville. Bob Thatcher, former Assistant Station Director-South, is the Coordinator of the Center, which is the first of its kind in Western North Carolina.

The Center will assist Federal retirees and their survivors with problems on entitlement to survivor benefits and filing for death benefits; life and health insurance; designation of beneficiaries; disability compensation, income tax withholding; and annuity checks (nonreceipt, amount, direct deposit, COLAS, and effects of change of marital status).

The Center is located in the United Way Community Services Center at 50 South French Broad Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801. Volunteer service officers can be called at 704-255-0697 during the office hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Friday. When the Center is closed, appointments can be made by calling the telephone answering service at 704-684-6627.

The Center will serve Federal retirees in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties in North Carolina.

--SE-SO News, July-September 1994

* * * *

The "Palmetto" Shield. Can you identify this shield? This question appeared in the National Forest Service Museum Newsletter, January 1993, Vol. 4, No. 1, 400. Many of you may not have seen it. If you can shed some background on this shield, please write to the Editors.

The Forest Service has been, by design from the beginning, a decentralized outfit. This has allowed and resulted in variations from "standard" practices. When local units obtained standard items from local sources, variations occurred, sometimes by design and sometimes accidentally. This was true for a great many items, including locally obtained stencils used to mark canvas goods, sleeping bags, blankets, etc.

Here is an example of a local variation. This particular example was found on the exterior canvas cover of a 1930's vintage kapok-lined sleeping bag which turned up in southern Oregon in the late 1980's.

Some observers have commented that the tree in the center of the variation looks like a palmetto tree. This may or may not be apparent to other observers. For what it's worth, the palmetto is the official State tree of both Florida and South Carolina. This may or may not be relevant to this quiz.

Can you identify this shield?



Standard FS Shield



Palmetto Shield

* * * *

RETIREMENTS

Washington Office:

Lamar Beasley, Deputy Chief for Administration, December 2

Regional Office:

Paul Baerman, Fire & Aviation, January 6

Chuck Steele, Director, Lands and Minerals, September 2

Dave Courtney, Management Systems, January 3

June Jones, Personnel, January 1

Richard Greenhalgh, Planning and Budget, September 16

Anita Hargrove, Timber-Silviculture, December 16

Forests:

Alabama

Wallace Graham, Recreation & Fire Staff, September 17

Chattahoochee-Oconee

Supervisor's Office - Kirby Brock, Deputy Forest Supervisor
Ben Sanders, Staff Officer for Fisheries, Wildlife & Range
Monte Seehorn, Regional Fisheries Biologist

Oconee District: Ros Goolsby and John Moore, October 15

Daniel Boone National Forest

Dick Brantigan, Logging Engineer, January 3

Moe Weaver, Silviculturalist

Robert K. Strosnider, Recreation & LMP Staff Officer,
September 2

George Washington NF

Ruth Ann Craig, SO

Steve McCorquodale, Deputy Forest Supervisor

Ouachita

William D. Walker, Staff Officer, Timber, Soil, Water & Air

Francis Marion & Sumter NFs

Colette Phillips, SO, Resource Assistant, Timber

William H. Hayes III, Forest Engineer & Recreation Staff
Officer, SO

Paul R. Myers, SO, Engineering

Andrew Pickens District: Jim Abercrombie, Timber-
Silviculture, September 3

NFs in Texas

Harry Switzer, Staff Officer, Lands & Recreation, SO, January
3

(Note from Editors - If anyone reading these names can get in touch with these recent retirees to sign them up for the SFSRA we would certainly appreciate it.)

BUDGET FOR 1995

Printing (3 issues, 4 possible)	\$1,120.00
Postage (88 per issue, stamps, plus permit for bulk rate)	447.00
Door Prizes	100.00
Misc.	100.00
TOTAL	<u>\$1,767.00</u>
Projected Income-181 members @\$8	\$1,448.00
Carryover from 1994	2,101.50
TOTAL	<u>\$3,549.50</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
JAN-DEC 1994

1/1/94 Balance Forward	\$1,427.97
Income (Dues & Donations)	2,688.00
TOTAL	<u>\$4,115.97</u>
Expenses	
Printing	\$1,566.41
Postage	374.45
Door Prizes	73.61
Misc.	0.00
TOTAL	<u>\$2,014.47</u>
Balance 12/31/94	\$2,101.50

* * * *

People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them.

George Bernard Shaw

* * * *

Please Note: For those of you who asked, here's a new mailing address for Hans R. Raum: 1217 Seven Lakes North, West End, NC 27376. His phone number is 910-673-7506.

A TRIP WITH A BLITHE SPIRIT



Some years ago, four headed out for was to "impact" (a the King Mackerel endangered list.

of us from the RO Florida. Our intention staff-meeting buzzword) species onto the

One member of the Johns (RO Engineering could be described as a "blithe character." Probably the blithe-est you would ever meet in this world—or any other, for that matter.

expedition was Bob via the Kisatchie) who

We traveled in my car, a Valiant old lady in good shape except for two flaws. Her rear fender had suffered from an uncalled-for attack from a hip-high brick wall at the entrance to my driveway. This vicious assault had left the fender deeply gouged, and had made the gas-tank cap a squished blob. Thus, a rag flag fluttered from the empty socket all the way to Florida.

We stopped for gas at a little country-store/gas station. A very dignified silver-haired gentleman of the geriatric persuasion waited on us (shows you how long ago this was). And, since I had searched Atlanta, unsuccessfully, for a replacement gas-tank cap, I was delighted to hear him say that he "might possibly have something that might do" to solve the problem.

There was a little garage area behind the gas-pumps, the walls of which were lined to the ceiling with shelves containing countless dusty boxes of parts. You would bet that up there probably were parts for a Pierce Arrow. The old gentleman struggled to move a heavy wooden ladder to the first tier of shelves ("No, I don't need any help"), and slowly ascended, inspecting each box-laden shelf as he slowly crept upward.

Three times he wrestled the great ladder into position, and mounted it to diligently search the shelves above. Finally, at what must have been near the absolute end of his endurance, he came down holding a small box. He couldn't quite stifle a small grin of pride. "Try this," he said casually, handing the little box to Bob. After opening the box and removing the wrapping, Bob tried the cap in place. Miracle! It not only fit perfectly, but was an exact color match.

But Bob slowly removed the cap from the spout, rewrapped it, put it back in its box, and handed it back to the old man. Rather sadly, Bob said to him: "We wanted one with a rally stripe."

I'm not too sure that the old fellow would have survived the shock if Bob hadn't given him a big laugh and quickly pumped his arm to restart his heart. The stunned expression slowly gave way to a thin grin, but you could see it was an effort.

Next we went to the little store next door for a couple of replacement six-packs of Milwaukee Kidney Rinse. In there, in a big cage, was a resident parrot. Bob to parrot: "Can you talk?" Parrot to Bob: "No, can you fly?" (I'm not making this up).

Would this happen to anyone else? Probably not—you're in a different world when you're in the company of a blithe spirit!

P.S. The mackerel survived nicely!

Bob Neelands

* * *

WHAT'S IN A NAME

The following is a true story of how careers can be made or lost. What's in a name? Sometimes it's what's not in a name that makes a big difference.

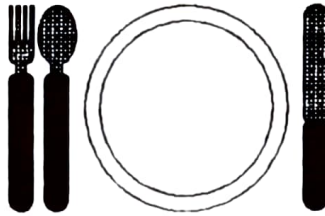
Now that they are re-inventing the Forest Service, I don't know how things go, but a few years back there was a standard procedure for evaluating people for possible promotions. The RO Department heads would gather on a regular basis to go over a list of candidates. The folks from Personnel would bring up names. There would then be a discussion about the good and bad points of a particular person. Then a decision was made as to whether to rate the person as ready for promotion.

On this particular occasion all went well until one name came up. There was dead silence in the room. Nobody recognized the name. After a few minutes of head shaking, somebody asked what the middle initial stood for. The listings had always been first name, middle initial and last name. When the middle name was given, there was a sigh of relief. Everybody knew him by his middle name. He was one of those listed as ready for promotion. A friend told him what happened and suggested that in the future he make sure his middle name was used in all personnel matters.

He must have taken the advice because several years ago I heard he had been made Deputy Regional Forester and just recently the Chief announced his movement to another top job.

The announcement gave his first initial, middle name and last name.

Russ Daley



A Reminder - Luncheon on March 9 at 11:30 a.m. at the Petite Auberge restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center. Please call Joyce Sizemore (404) 347-4191 to make reservations no later than March 7. Looking forward to seeing you there.

"It is to the United States that all the freemen must look for the light and the hope of the world. Unless we dedicate ourselves completely to this struggle, unless we combat hunger with food, fear with trust, suspicion with faith, fraud with justice—and threats with power—nations will surrender to the futility, the panic, on which wars are fed."

-- General Omar Bradley

Dixie Ranger
So. F.S. Retirees Association
Suite 850, 1720 Peachtree Rd. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30367-9102

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit #259
Decatur, GA 30030

Dues Paid Thru _____