

**** DIRECTORY INCLUDED ****

THE DIXIE RANGER

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Gifford Pinchot, viewing the western North Carolina mountains", c. 1920's , *National Forests of North Carolina Photographs*, D.H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC Asheville

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President's Corner

"We're born, we live for a brief instant, and we die. It's been happening for a long time. Technology is not changing it much - if at all."

— Steve Jobs

Since most of the people who read *The Dixie Ranger* are retired, you probably remember when young men were required to perform military service after finishing school. I chose the Air Force for no particular reason. It just sounded exciting, and when you grow up in Covington, Georgia, you need some excitement in your life. I was assigned to work in Personnel (that's Human Resources for you young people) because I knew how to type. I could go like a bat on an Underwood or Royal typewriter. My four years were almost up and I was headed home. The Air Force decided to automate the personnel records and asked for a volunteer to learn how to use a card punch machine. This meant a week-long trip to Los Angeles, which sounded good to me. After my Air Force service ended, I applied for a job at Gulf Oil Corporation. They asked me what office machines I could operate. I responded "026 card punch." The person who was interviewing me said they were looking for somebody to work in their IBM department on the second shift and it paid \$15 more a month plus an additional \$15 for working the second shift. How could anybody turn down that kind of money? This was 1960 and the IBM department consisted of several tabulating machines. Stored program computers were not widely used then.

A few months later, we got some of the new computers. I remember one, an IBM 7070, being in a large room with raised flooring and special air conditioning. This was about the time that NASA was beginning their space exploration and John Glenn orbited the Earth. A man from Huntsville came to visit and explained that the computer on the space capsule was about the size of a box of oranges and had the power of the large IBM 7070. Amazing!

After six years with Gulf I moved to the Forest Service regional office. It was like going back in time. The "computer" was about a half step up from the days of the tabulating machines. But that didn't last long. We were able to convert the machine to an early computer. When I was asked to convert the Forest Service Road Design System to the Univac 1108 using the computer at Georgia Tech, this was truly a giant leap, not for mankind, but for my use of technology.

I later transferred to the Washington office and was able to help with the creation of the Fort Collins Computer Center, which had telecommunication access from across the Forest Service. After a short time in Albuquerque, I moved back to Washington and helped with the automation of the Forest Service using the Data General computers for electronic mail and file transfers. Email in 1981? People don't believe it but it is true. If I had been still working on the Road Design System, I would have been able to access the Georgia Tech computer without driving over there with my deck of cards and going back the following day to get my printouts. Unbelievable!

After the Data General project (a.k.a. FLIPS) was well on the way to implementation, I moved to the Department (OIRM) with Glenn Haney and Bill Rice. They had no automation at all. You wrote a letter on a pad of yellow paper and took it to the secretary to type, correct it, and retype. I convinced them that I had to at least have a Wang Word Processor so that I could put the document on a diskette and take it to the secretary. Later, we got personal computers. I had gone from the card punch to computers, with a couple of steps backward before moving ahead as the technology progressed. I thought I had seen it all until one day I asked for a cell phone since I traveled throughout USDA almost weekly. This was about 1989 or so, and cell phone were relatively new. Our new Assistant Secretary for Administration told me to get a beeper and use a pay phone. I can't remember ever getting a cell phone before I retired.

There are two points to my story. First, technology advances are not in a straight line. There are a few curves and bumps along the way. Second, and the one I am most proud of being a small part of, is that the Forest Service was the leader in implementing many of these advances. Many other USDA and federal government agencies, including NASA, followed the Forest Service's lead. This was due to the forward thinking people in the Forest Service from Chief Peterson down to the rangers.

"Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount."

— Omar Nelson Bradley

Sid Haggard

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Thanks to all that sent articles for inclusion in the Dixie Ranger. I was not able to get all of them in this edition, but will hold them for the July issue. Keep sending them. Thanks, Sid

* * *

A Message from the Jollys:

March is fast approaching and it is time to begin preparing the Dixie Ranger so it can be in the mail before the end of the month. But then there is a tweak of sadness as we remember that we won't be doing it this time. ☹ Then we think how nice it will be to be reading it, for the first time, when it arrives at our house in the mail. ☺ The two of us offer our appreciation to all of you who supported us as we prepared the Dixie Ranger over the past eight years. All you story tellers out there, and you know who you are, kept your articles and stories coming, giving a big assist to us while providing great entertainment. The notes you send with your dues allow retirees to keep up with what is going on in their lives. Believe it or not it has been a labor of love. It has brought us closer to many of you and all of us closer to each other. We basked in the warmth of all the compliments that came our way on many occasions from many of you. It is our wish that all of us will keep the stories and notes coming to give Sid the support he will need to keep the DR an enjoyable read for us all. It is an honor to belong to such a great retiree organization.

Peggy and Dave

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH — SPRING LUNCHEON MEETING

It's time to make your reservations for our Spring luncheon! This is a fun way to stay in touch with our fellow retirees and talk about what each other are doing. Our Speaker will be Region 8 Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa. Liz will provide an update on the Chief's five focus areas (restoration, fire, safety, community and jobs; partnerships for restoration (longleaf and shortleaf); and Region 8 2013 budget. Members and guests will gather in Atlanta at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road, at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$13 per person. Reservations are necessary **by June 3rd** 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 is important to let either Nancy or Joyce know if you find that you are unable to attend after you have made a reservation because we are charged** for the number of reservations turned in the day before the luncheon. December Luncheon will be Dec. 5, 2013.

23rd ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA RETIREES

The 23rd Annual reunion of the National Forests in Florida retirees will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Doe Lake Recreation Area, Seminole Ranger District, Ocala National Forest.

Come early, bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the day relaxing and visiting with friends. Cost is \$15.00 per person, for a "homestyle" catered meal.

For additional information contact Terri McDonald at 352-625-1663 (home) or 352-454-5385 (cell) or e-mail: tmcd1663@aol.com.

R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

Northeast Atlanta - Retirees are now meeting for breakfast the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the IHOP Restaurant, 4205 Stone Mountain Highway, Hwy 78, at 7:30 a.m. The restaurant is located in the Killian Hills Village Shopping Center between Pet Smart, Home Depot and the Sports Authority just west of Killian Hill Road. Spouses are always welcome.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at the Kennesaw Whistle Stop Cafe, 1200 Earnest Barrett Parkway, Suite #10, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Good time for all with great fellowship.

Cherokee National Forest - Retirees meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in Cleveland, Tennessee, at the Golden Corral on Stuart Road Paul Huff.

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 several 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 on US 11, a short distance off I-81 at Exit 240.

Highlands - Robbinsville - Franklin - Murphy North Carolina Area - Retirees meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch on the last Wednesday of every month in Franklin. Contact George Lynch for the location as it may be in a different place each month. George's e-mail is georgelynch@verizon.net. His phone is (828) 369-9722.

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Glenda Wood reports:

The spring meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2013. Decisions will be made at a later date regarding a meeting place. If you're traveling in our area and decide you're able to join us, please come - with or without reservations. For further details, please contact either Vicki Scott (803) 364-2504 or e-mail cyberfogie@aol.com or Glenda Wood (864) 445-4751 (leave message if not home) or e-mail tanner2010@centurylink.net.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO DIRECTORY

*** Is your information in the March 2013 Directory correct?**

If not, let Tom Tibbs know so that we can publish the correction in the July 2013 Dixie Ranger and before the next directory comes out in March 2014.

All changes and additions are reflected in the March 2013 Directory.



A FEW OF THE MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS

Francie Mizell (Roger's daughter) – South Carolina - writes:

Thank you for helping me bring Dad's *Dixie Ranger* subscription up-to-date. He and my mom are soldiering on with Mom determined to care for dad at home for as long as she can. Your cards, calls, and emails are such an encouragement to them. Thank you for continuing to think of them.

Rex Mann – Kentucky – writes:

I would like to add my voice to those who compliment the organization on a job well done. Reading the *Dixie Ranger* helps keep this widely scattered retiree community in touch with each other. Anita and I are still in Kentucky and will likely remain here the rest of our days. I stay very busy with American Chestnut Restoration and we're moving ahead. A sizable group of Daniel Boone retirees are currently splitting shingles to replace the roof on historic Gladys cabin in the Red River Gorge.

John Courtenay – Texas – writes:

I'm gradually getting used to living alone now that Jeanette is gone. I keep busy with bowling, volunteer work at Forestry Museum, hospital, Boy Scouts, and Lufkin Treebound. I appreciate Dave Jolly taking the time to call for information for Jeanette's obit. He made one minor error. Barbara and Rick Olds live in Nacogdoches, Texas not Natchitoches, LA. An easy mix-up. Keep the good work going and find an editor as good as the Jolly's (if such exists).

Max Swilling – Georgia – writes:

Thanks to all of you who keep the association alive and publish the *Dixie Ranger*. Here's payment for 2 more years. I'm hoping to be around that much longer. Was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in November 2010. After 55 treatments I'm doing well enough to continue to care for my wife, Eleanor, who has been wheelchair bound for over 10 years. We are so blessed that we can be together and mostly independent of outside help. We have many in our family and friends willing to help. I tell them they can when the time comes. But, as long as I'm able, I want to care for both of us. Blessings on all of you and the members in 2013.

Michael Dawson – Louisiana – writes:

Really enjoyed Don Blackburn's Bull story in the November 2012 issue. Some of the ol' hands from the ol' Evangeline told me that Don used to keep a picture of a rattlesnake on his wall. It was somewhat subliminal, in that it kept conversations in his office to a minimum. A minion would bring a problem into Don. After only a few minutes, the minion would look at Don and look at the rattler, and back again, and they would decide that they didn't have a problem after all. Don't know if this is true, but does make a good story and certainly goes to the heart of human nature...

Hurston Nicholas – Georgia – writes:

Nick and I continue to enjoy each day and love hearing from old Forest Service friends. Son, Allen, is Supervisor on Shawnee National Forest, so still have a connection to great group of folks. Nick enjoyed everyday spent with Forest Service.

Mike Anderson – Kentucky – writes:

Bobbie and I are doing well and still enjoying retirement. Have a motorcycle and a trike with a trailer that we enjoy seeing the country from. Thank you all of keeping the *Dixie Ranger* going. We look forward to it always and love reading about folks we worked with over the years.

Jim Wenner – Ouachita writes:

ONF sees winter storm damage, but not bad as 2000

By: Mark Gregory/Managing editor - The Sentinel-Record

The Ouachita National Forest suffered some damage as the result of the Dec. 25 winter storm, but the damage wasn't nearly as bad as it has been in the past, the U.S. Forest Service says. "We had some assorted trees down across roads" that were cleared using either bulldozers or chain saws, said Tracy Farley, public affairs team leader for the Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis national forests. "There may be still some more of that to do for a couple of weeks, but it wasn't nearly as bad as it has been in the past," Farley said. "So we feel fairly fortunate," she said. Specifically, the damage from the Christmas Day winter storm wasn't nearly as severe as the damage brought about by the Dec. 25, 2000, ice storm, which damaged some 340,000 acres of national forest and blocked 2,600 miles of road. Likewise, the impact to the public was minimized simply because some recreation areas are closed during the winter. "A lot of our recreation areas close in October for the season," Farley said. Asked whether the areas will reopen as usual this year, Farley said, "I'm not aware of any significant damage. It's just mainly some trees across some roads." The Forest Service had already barred some overnight camping in developed recreation areas on an interim basis beginning last May as it studies potential flooding risks in the aftermath of the Albert Pike Recreation Area flood, which killed 20 people in June 2010. As far as timber damage, Farley said the Forest Service is still making assessments, and will continue to do so over the next week or so, checking for any significant damage. "But we're not aware of any at this time," she said. Most Forest Service offices were closed the day after Christmas because of the snow and ice, and some employees may have lost power for a short time, Farley said. "We feel fairly fortunate this time," she said.

Jim Wenner – Ouachita:

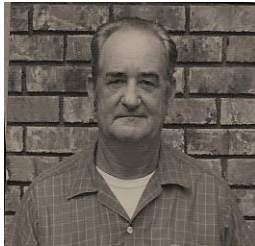
Ouachita FS Retirees celebrated Christmas on December 18 with breakfast at Hot Springs Cracker Barrel. Thirty retirees and spouses shared stories of the good old days.



ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

MEET SARGE

contributed by Roger Dennington



Over the years our agency has produced many heroes. Some like Pulaski gained national fame but for most the heroism is known more locally. In the 70's a national hero joined our ranks and brought his fame with him from his prior military service.

Jake W. Lindsey, better known by his co-workers as “Sarge”, worked for the Service as a Forest Technician on the Chickasawhay Ranger District of the National Forest in Mississippi during most of the 1970's. Jake was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Truman on May 21, 1945. Perhaps because his was the 100th occasion of that honor to be awarded for service in WWII or maybe because of his extraordinary degree of heroism, his ceremony site was the House Chamber before a joint session of Congress.

The official citation reads:

For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on November 16, 1944, in Germany T/Sgt. Lindsey assumed a position about 10 yards to the front of his platoon during an intense enemy infantry-tank counterattack, and by his unerringly accurate fire destroyed 2 enemy machinegun nests, forced the withdrawal of 2 tanks, and effectively halted enemy flanking patrols. Later, although painfully wounded, he engaged 8 Germans, who were reestablishing machinegun positions, in hand-to-hand combat, killing 3, capturing 3, and causing the other 2 to flee. By his gallantry, T/Sgt. Lindsey secured his unit's position, and reflected great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.



Jake Lindsey shaking hands with President Truman after receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. General George Marshall is standing behind Lindsey. Courtesy of Truman Presidential Library

Jake's ceremony is the only time since its inception the Congressional Medal of Honor has been presented before a joint session of congress.

On the Chickasawhay, Jake worked as a Forest Technician primarily with silviculture crews. His military bearing was always evident. His responses were always “Yes Sir” or “No Sir” in a manner that conveyed respect and a determination to carry out his “orders”. Only once do I recall Jake messing up. In the 70's we were really bearing down on quality control throughout the reforestation program and were confident all the district personnel knew what was expected and were consistently carrying it out. On one particular day we gave our crews an early morning heads up that the Supervisors Office Siviculturist (Robert Taylor) would be on the district to look at our tree planting operations. Jake was leading a three person mechanical tree planting crew. When we arrived at the planting site we had to park and walk about four hundred yards to the crew truck. Jake had seen us drive up while he and the crew were at the truck loading the tree planter with seedlings. In his haste to get the operation back engaged in planting trees, he left a broken bundle of seedlings open and exposed. When we walked up to the truck there were the unprotected seedlings and Jake and his crew about hundred and fifty yards away busy planting seedlings. Later, when asked why he left the seedling bundle open and not covered with the tarp, he said “I didn't want us caught not busy planting trees”.

In the late 70's the Older Americans Act funded employment of unemployed elderly folks from Greene County. We established a special work center in the county, hired a total of forty folks and put Jake in charge. He ran the program with the efficiency of a top sergeant. Occasionally we would have to remind him that these folks were elderly and not young troopers in the military. The Older American crews accomplished a lot and came to admire and respect Jake for his leadership.

In hindsight I regret not spending more time after hours with Jake. He had a ton of stories but you would have to ask the questions—Jake was never one to start a conversation about himself. Stories like the good nature kidding John Kennedy directed at him at the annual Medal of Honor Banquet after sending him, a Southern Boy with the 101st Airborne Division, to quiet the unrest on the Ole Miss campus in the fall of 1962. Or, when Jake and Audie Murphy mustering out of the army together and Jake deciding Hollywood wasn't for him when

he was asked at the screen test “if he could ride a horse”. Or, how he got busted from Sergeant to Buck Private not once but twice. Or, how he was given a battlefield commission to a lieutenant but refused it so he would remain one of the boys as a sergeant. Or, how he petitioned General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs to permit him to be reassigned to a combat unit in the Korean War, a request granted because of his personal acquaintance with Bradley!

Jake never told me about his Korea War exploits but a report of his death in the July 23, 1988 issue of the LA Times mentions it under the headline ONE-MAN ARMY IN TWO WARS WAYNESBORO, Miss. — The Medal of Honor winner whom Harry S. Truman envied even more than his own presidency has died of a heart attack at the age of 67. Jake W. Lindsey, nicknamed the "One-Man Army" for his World War II and Korean War exploits, died Monday at his home here. For his actions in those two conflicts he was awarded 16 medals and was the 100th U.S. infantryman to receive the nation's highest military honor. After retiring as a staff sergeant in 1963, Lindsey spent 10 years with the U.S. Forest Service.

Jake died July 18, 1988 and is buried in the White House Cemetery in Wayne County Mississippi. A section of Mississippi Highway 63 running through the DeSoto National Forest is named in his honor. An American hero is gone but not forgotten.

CHARLIE HUPPUCH –Virginia- writes:

I enjoyed Horace Landrith writing about his description of the characters in the R.O. Lands Staff. Since I worked in Lands in 1979 and Phil Etchison was my boss I thought I should describe some of my experiences. Phil, during those days ran an excellent but intense program that purchased thousands of acres of land for R-8 forests under the L&WCF program. I considered Phil a great boss even if he was a little unusual. He always seemed to have interest in opportunities for my career training. Like the time Mount St. Helens blew up and he recommended that I be dropped into the crater without a parachute. I suppose the best training he offered me was the following letter I received from the Chief's Office. 6140 Training & 5410 Appraisals Please extend our congratulations to Charles Huppuch upon his acceptance in this new six week course entitled “Appraising Rural Property in High Crime Areas”. Since training is being provided him to enable his entrance into the appraisal field, we feel this course is one of the best available. Before formal acceptance will be granted him, please have him certify that he completed the intensive self-defense training that is provided by your Regional law enforcement people. This form was submitted with our letter of March 9. We admit Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, is not the best place for a training session, however, it is highly suitable due to the (1) rural environment and (2) the high incidence of crime. Also, the course dates are not the best! The December 17, 1979 through January 26, 1980 dates provide a period of high crime incidence. Missing the holiday season for others has not been a problem as the other attendees enjoyed the training immensely. Please have Mr. Huppuch submit all forms sent with our March 9 letter by May 18.

Signed Richard J. Flanigan Training Officer. Phil was disappointed that I turned this training down because of a prior commitment.

“Success is being able to hire someone to mow the lawn while you play golf for exercise.”

Jim Flanders – Husky Daddy

Submitted By Mike Dawson, District Ranger Kisatchie RD, KNF

We all know one. We all know a visionary. In fact, you may actually **be** a visionary yourself. If you've ever used the phrase: "There's just gotta be a better way..." ; you could be a visionary. Just like, you may be a redneck if you've ever uttered these words: "Well, just jiggle the handle!"

Visionaries come in all sizes, shapes and forms—friends, neighbors, spouses, forest supervisors. They share many characteristics and attributes, but it's safe to say that they are generally just a bit annoying, and most annoying if they are the forest supervisor. Evidently **Mr. Jim Crouch** of the Ozark NF was such a person—a visionary, I mean.. And I should add that a visionary needs minions, go-fers, as it were, in order to carry out the vision. For example, you've all heard of the TMA and ORA and FMO, etc. At one time, I was the KFC forester. IF there was a meeting of any kind, somebody had to go pick up the chicken. And that would have been yours truly. One day, sometime in the mid'80's, Mr. Crouch cornered three of his minions in the break room. They were undoubtedly swilling coffee and solving the problems of the world. The three, **Jim Flanders, Carl Minehart and Bruce Taylor**, were captive to the future of standing timber volume determination by use of a hand-held data recorders. Heaven only knows where Mr. Crouch obtained the concept of a self-contained, computer-based, portable machine that could receive information, download it and then spit it back as boards, weight, etc. But he saw the future, and he saw three visionary-carrier-outers right in front of him, and it wasn't like they had anything to do or like that. I suspect most of us can vividly recall learning the art of standing volume estimation. For some years, the predominant methodology was sample tree measurement. Simply put, trees were measured on a set frequency (1 in 20, 1 in30, etc.), and the total volume estimated based on this sample. It was all recorded on paper. Any self-respecting marking crew guarded these with their very lives. And at the end of the sale, they spent whatever time necessary to make good, crispy copies, and the original was sent off to **Kathy Cooper**, who key-punched everything in. Within six weeks, we received a lengthy computer printout, with reams and reams of data. Technological change does not politely knock on the door, asking to be let in. Most of the time, it kicks the door open, rearranging the status quo and dope-slapping everyone in the room. Imagine an era without supermarket scanners and television remote controls. The television remote control is the device that separates us from the primates, in my estimation. Imagine a world in which you actually, physically had to get up and change the channel! Over a forty+ year career, I have observed many square pegs driven into very round holes, people in the wrong job at the wrong time and wrong time. Don't look at me all holy. We all have. But Jim Flanders was born for this time and place and this breakthrough. Flanders and I go back to 1971, when he worked for the Corps of Engineers on Lake Greeson in Arkansas. My first Ranger, **Bobby Kitchens**, had given Jim a copy of some tally sheets. After he had gone, Bobby's comment to me was.."You'll see him again. The Corps won't move fast enough to suit him." Yes indeed. Jim and co-conspirators did much in the way of research, without the internet, I might add, and came with someone called the Husky Corp, out of somewhere in Florida. Jim said it took him a couple of days to figure out what the **QWERTY*** keyboard is, because the little manual kept referring him to this part of the data recorder. By the way, they were painted white, somewhat square and heavy and durable, and had this cute little paw print on the front. The second wave of data recorders were much more compact and easier to carry about. Like any article of technology, the day it gets broken outta the box is the same day it becomes obsolete. I suspect if we could locate these today probably could get them to work, but like everything else...newer, faster, more compact, more apps, whatever an app is... The next big thing was selling this to the people on the ground. The really hard part. Hard to break nearly 50 years of tradition, plus the innate human natural response to avoid newfangled gadgets. I have often wondered how the agency would have done this in the year 2012. At the risk

of sounding snarkey, I suspect that today it would be very much akin to the mating of elephants: All done at a very high level, and lot of trumpeting and shouting and commotion, but any tangible results would be two years in coming. Letters would perhaps appear on a regular basis, using such words as strategic, cohesion, collaboration, seamless, rollout, framework and initiative. Perhaps there might be a naughty list, and the ever-constant threat of disconnecting the miscreant from paycheck. Ah, but I digress...But ol' Jim Flanders was a lot smarter than that. A good salesman knows the territory. I clearly recall our training... and his opening statement: "Ya can go back to paper tallying, if you want to. But after using these little gizmos, I just don't think you will want to..." I think we all took a page from his playbook when presenting these to our troops. I know I did and I know I lied whenever I told my folks that they could go back to paper tally. It's rare in any large gummit agency that one person can effect a change in a way of doing bidness, with little fanfare and with spectacular but muted success. Such is the case with one Jim Flanders, who pioneered the data recorders within Region Eight. But what makes this endeavor so special is that it was ground up, not stuffed down into an unwilling gullet. When ground pounders see a good idea, and they know it will improve their lot, then they glom onto it and before long it becomes standard. The hand-held data recorders came right on the heels of the Data General computers (DG), and broke down the door for what would come next—a bevy of hand-held devices for measuring, counting, weighing every and all things natural resource. I think Jim got a cash award for his work on this sea-changing device. I think it was \$137.33**. I don't know this, but I suspect that the Husky Corp sold a lot of these little things, and probably made a lot of money. There is no way to measure in dollars the impact these little devils made for the agency. We continue to hear about efficiencies, cost effectiveness and doing more with less. But this was the real deal, a quiet revolution, a sea change. I just want it for the record before everybody forgets mgd *You will have to figure this out on your own...think about the keyboard and the placement of fingers*This was Jim's part of \$450 split three ways. Think the Region gave him a larger cash award at a later date..

* * *

Mike Sparks sent the following article. He received it from Harvey Benson, retired from the Kisatchie NF.

And then it was Winter. The seasons of our life.

You know...time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... the Winter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well...seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that Winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is. My friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some in worse shape than me...but, I see the great change... not like the friends I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore....it's mandatory! Cause if I don't do it of my own free will... I just

fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that the Winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last. This I know... when it's over, it's over.

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but, indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. Do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

Remember: It is health that is real wealth...not pieces of gold and silver.

Life is too short to let even one day be frenzied or frazzled or frittered away. Life is too short not to take time to do the things that will hold the most meaning for you.

So let yourself float like a leaf on a stream, relax with your memories and let yourself dream. Throw out your list that's impossible long, and dance a few steps to a favorite song.

Turn off the news and go find someone real who'll listen and talk and affirm what you feel. Life is too short and flies by if you let it... so choose what you want everyday... and go and get it.

And then it is Winter.

You know... time has a way

P.S. A special thanks goes out to a friend who forwarded this wonderful email message to me. I hope you will enjoy the message just as I have. Harvey Benson

* * *

When Thomas Jefferson presented his credentials as U. S. minister to France, the French premier remarked, "I see you have come to replace Benjamin Franklin." "I have come to succeed him," corrected Jefferson, "No one can replace him."

IN MEMORIAM

Ina B. Combs, 92, of Hot Springs, passed peacefully into the care of her heavenly Father on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012. Faith, family, and friends were the foundations of her life. Ina was a career-long federal employee and long-time Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church. Born March 8, 1920, in Wagon Mound, N.M. to Walter M. and Bertha Cates Shultz, she was raised in Thalia, Foard County, Texas. Ina married William Grady Combs in 1940. They made Hot Springs their home in 1944 where she became a devoted member of First Baptist. Ina began her 35-year career as a proud federal employee in 1946 at the U.S. Public Health Service. In 1953, she transferred to the Department of the Army's Army-Navy Hospital. In 1960, she joined the Ouachita National Forest at their Hot Springs Headquarters, retiring in 1983. Throughout her career, she received numerous awards and citations for outstanding service. She taught Sunday school at First Baptist for 40 years, serving as director of the third grade department. She was also active in the Gleaner's Sunday school class and the Mission Action Group. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a brother, Isaac Shultz, and a sister, Helen Tedford. She is survived by a son, Ben Combs and his wife, Kay; grandchildren, Christopher Combs, Kathleen Combs, and Melissa Drennan; great-grandsons, Reece and Whit Weatherton, all of Little Rock; a beloved niece, Sherry Boyd, of Abilene, Texas; a stepson, Ed Combs and family, of Fromberg, Mont.; a stepdaughter, Loy Combs Young, of Dana Point, Calif.; and a special caregiver and friend, Sue Godwin, of Hot Springs. If you worked on the Ouachita before 1983, you knew what a warm, friendly person Ina Combs was. She moved to the "new" federal building sometime before 1965 with other old-timers Eva Evans and Verna Heingardner. She was in that conglomerate called "Administrative Services" headed by Sam Lafever. Later, when "personnel" became an identity she joined that crew, where she stayed until her retirement in 1983.

Geniece Launius, 79, of Mount Ida, Arkansas, passed away March 2, 2013. Geniece was the wife of DeLowell Launius. Delowell was District Ranger on the Bayou District of the Ozark-SF National Forest at Hector, AR, from the early 1960's until about 1990. Geniece was a member of the Jesus Name Peace Tabernacle where she was instrumental in the beginning of the prayer shawl ministry. A very creative person, she loved crocheting, quilting, and painting. She is survived by her husband, Delowell, four children and their spouses, three siblings, eleven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

JOSEPH "SID" McKNIGHT, 91, passed away April 15, 2012. Sid was a graduate of Colorado A&M College and earned a graduate degree in forestry from Yale University. He was a lieutenant in the US Navy and served as a pilot in the Pacific during WWII. In 1946 he began work with the US Forest Service where he became Assistant Director of State & Private Forestry in Atlanta. He retired in 1974 as Director of Cooperative Forestry in Washington, DC. He did consulting work with his own firm in Atlanta with wood-using firms and non-industry landowners. He served as Editor of the Southern Journal of Applied Forestry for 13 years and was inducted into the Georgia Foresters Hall of Fame. He was an SAF member starting in 1947 and was elected a Fellow in 1971.

T.W. GREEN, 92, passed away on Friday, November 23, 2012. T.W. was among the first soil scientists employed by the Forest Service and began his work there in 1959 at the Regional Office in Atlanta. He retired as Regional Soil Scientist in 1976, having spent all of his Forest Service career in Atlanta. He also retired as a Lt. Colonel from the US Marines Corps, serving as a fighter pilot in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Along with T.W.'s legacy as a builder of the Southern Region's soils program, he passed his love of natural

resources on to his sons, Terry of Lawrenceville, GA, and Frank of Macon, GA, who followed in his footsteps, both working as specialists in programs of water quality and forest management. Evelyn, his wife of 63 years preceded him in death in 2008. In addition to his two sons, he is survived by a daughter, Valerie Grasso of Woodstock, GA.

FLOYD G. "PETE" BEHELER of West Columbia, SC, died on December 15, 2012. Mr. Beheler had a lengthy US Forest Service career. He served as Equipment Inspector for many years on the Francis Marion and Sumter NFs and was headquartered in the Supervisor's Office, in Columbia, SC. He had been in declining health for a long time. No other information is available at this time.

JIM EVANS, 89, of Sulphur Springs, TX, passed away peacefully at his home on January 8, 2013. He was born in Georgia on November 26, 1923. Jim lived in New Mexico for 41 years, residing in Bosque Farms and Albuquerque. His wife Mariah preceded him in death in 1994. He was a decorated Army combat veteran of War World II in Europe and in the Korean conflict where he served as a tank company commander. At the peak of his federal civil service career he served as the National Director of Law Enforcement for the US Forest Service, retiring in 1976. He also retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Lt. Colonel. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion, VFW and NRA. His memberships also included the 3RD Infantry Division Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the Retired Officers Association, and The Amigos, the Southwest Forest Service Retirees Association. Survivors include three daughters: Bobbie Miller and Ken of Sulphur Springs, TX; Jan Philpot of Hiram, GA; Karen DeLise and Steve of Glen Mills, PA; son, Duane Evans and Karen of Falls Church, VA; sister Geneva Brock of Decatur, GA; brother Alec Evans of Wrightsville, GA ;and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Bobby Ray Evans. Memorials may be made to Meal A Day, 150 Martin Luther King Blvd., Sulphur Springs, TX.

JOHN R. MIDDLETON, 69, of Russellville, AR, died January 17, 2013, at his home. He was born November 12, 1943, at Henryetta, OK. John was a 1961 graduate of Henryetta High School and went on to earn a B.S. in Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma and a M.S. also in Meteorology at the University of Wyoming. After graduation he worked for awhile in Lybia and for the Bureau of Reclamation in Alaska and Montana. John began his Forest Service career in 1982 on the Ozark NF in Russellville, AR, as a computer specialist where he was instrumental in getting the Data General system up and running on the forest. He spent all of his career there, retiring in 2006. He was a volunteer at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center and was an avid hunter. He was a member of the Russellville Christian Center. John was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Mildred; a son Terry John Middleton; and his brother, H. Joe Middleton. Survivors include his wife Linda; a son Kevin of Yukon, OK; six daughters Laura Middleton of NY City; Mischelle Coffman of Pottsville, AR; Melissa Pate of Conway, AR; Latricia Olmstead of Edmond, OK; Robin Wilson of Danville, AR; and Deborah Norfleet of Hot Springs Village, AR; a brother Robert Middleton of Sunrise, FL; a sister Paula Backwater of Kenwood, OK; fourteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

JERRY STEPHENS, 68, of Somerset, KY, passed away on Sunday January 20, 2013, at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital. Jerry was born in Oklahoma City, OK, on July 16, 1944, to the late Allen and Maxine Ballard Stephens. He loved hunting, fishing, flint tapping and being in the woods. He graduated from Oklahoma State with a bachelor's degree. As District Ranger of the Somerset Ranger District, Jerry was committed to excellence in resource management. He was a leader in mined-lands restoration. Jerry was appointed as Liaison by the Southern Region to develop wildland firefighting crews with the Eastern and

Western Bands of the Cherokee Nation as well as other tribes of Oklahoma and Arkansas. Of special note was his work with Native American tribes. He worked to promote understanding and appreciation of Native American cultures to employees of the Daniel Boone NF. He is survived by Earlene, his wife of 48 years; a son Vince (Shannon Burton) of Somerset, KY; daughter Deana Osborne of Somerset, KY; sister Fran (Charles) Ogle of Eufaula, OK, and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter Sabrina Alys Stephens.

CHARLES EDWARD “CHUCK” DOOLEY, age 80 of Powder Springs, GA, died Saturday, January 26, 2013. Chuck graduated in 1952 with a BS in Biology from Texas College in Tyler, TX. After serving two years in the Marines, he went back to college at North Texas State University where he earned a Masters Degree in Counseling. He began his career with the US Forest Service in 1963 at the New Waverly Job Corps Center in New Waverly, TX. In 1969 when the Center was closed, Chuck transferred to the Regional Office in Atlanta where he worked in Job Corps Management. He then moved into Personnel (Human Resources) Management in staffing and recruitment. When Chuck retired in 1997 he was the Director of Human Resources Management for the Southern Region of the Forest Service. He was preceded in death by his daughter Kristi Felice Dooley and sister Erma G. Ford. Survivors include 5 daughters: Edwolyn Dooley-Higgins of Marietta, GA; Alesia Carroll of Plano, TX; Ann Mills of Kennesaw, GA; Mary Dooley of Marietta and Earnestine Dooley of Kennesaw; son John Dooley of Powder Springs, brother Hank Dooley, Sr. of Fort Worth, TX; and several grandchildren.

RICHARD “DICK” WENGERT, Winchester, KY, passed away January 28, 2013, after a 3-year battle with cancer. Dick attended Perdue University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Forest Management. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the Army and sent to Korea for 2 years. One of his final jobs as a sergeant was to give the American servicemen, who had been held as prisoners of war in North Korea, U.S. clothing when they walked across the “Freedom Bridge” into South Korea and freedom. On arriving home, he married Patricia Kerr, and together they raised 4 children as they traveled the U.S. with his job as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service. His 39-year career began in 1950 as a smokejumper and ended with his retirement in 1993. His final assignment was as Supervisor of the Daniel Boone National Forest where he served with distinction for 18 years. His many other assignments included District Ranger on the Womble RD of the Ouachita NF in Arkansas, where Forest Supervisor John Koen dubbed him “the Boy Ranger”; District Ranger on the Witherbee RD of the Francis Marion NF in South Carolina; back to the Ouachita as Director of Timber Management in the SO and Deputy Forest Supervisor in Georgia. During his career he served for 24 years as a member of or as Fire Boss of the National Fire Overhead Team. In retirement Dick enjoyed traveling, especially their yearly motorhome trip to Alaska. In 1996, forestry pulled at him once again and he started a business as a consulting forester. Woodworking was one of his retirement hobbies, building cradles and rocking horses for his grandchildren. He taught his grandchildren to respect nature while enjoying it to the fullest. Among the many professional recognitions Dick received was being elected as a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters where he was a lifetime member. Some of the other memberships he enjoyed were the League of KY Sportsmen, Purdue Alumni Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Korean War Veterans Association and the National Rifle Association. He was also a member of the American

Chestnut Association and Ducks Unlimited. Dick is survived by his wife of 7 years, Ione; daughter Deb Hansen and her family; sons Rich and Bill Wengert and their families; sister Mary Metzger; and sister-in-law Emma Wengert. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years; daughter Cindy; and his brother Jack Wengert. Graveside services and burial were in St. John Cemetery in Fort Wayne, IN.

L. C. NIX, 92, of Highlands, NC, passed away February 1, 2013. L.C. was born in Haywood County, NC, and was married to Ellie Wilson Nix who passed away May 5, 2011. He was a World War II US Air Force Veteran and a member of the Highland First United Methodist Church. He was a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Forestry and received his master's degree in 1950. During his long career with the Forest Service, L.C. was District Ranger on the Highlands District of the Nantahala NF in North Carolina and Director of Lands in the SO on the Ouachita NF in AR. He served in the Atlanta Regional Office in Lands and Minerals and was group leader for special projects in Programs and Land Use Planning when he retired. He is survived by four sisters: Beatrice Butler of Hendersonville, NC; Thelma Smith of Bishopville, SC; Betty Woodall of Clemson, SC; and Audrey Tindall of Bishopville, SC; and one brother Bill Nix of Thomasville, NC and a number of nieces and nephews. L.C. was preceded in death by his wife and three brothers: Charlie, Ernest and Paul Nix; and sisters Dorothy Campbell and Beulah Templeton. Donations in L.C.'s memory may be sent to The Four Seasons Hospice, 171 Hospital Dr., Suite 600, Highlands, NC 28741.

RICHARD KNOX, 80, from near Moulton, AL, passed away on February 19, 2013. Richard began work for the Forest Service on the Bankhead National Forest in Alabama in 1952. He was a Forest Worker doing reforestation work. He retired in the middle 1980's. He was buried on February 21, 2013, at the Center Cemetery in the Bankhead National Forest.

* * *

Death notices/obituaries should be sent to Sunny Cudabac via e-mail at scudabac@mindspring.com

Stories, articles and photographs that you would like published in *The Dixie Ranger* should be sent to Sid Haggard, 10139 Malcolm Dr SE, Covington, GA 30014-5105 or sidhaggard@att.net

Keep your letters and stories coming!!! They are the backbone of the newsletter. Any notes, letters, etc. you include with your dues payments to Tom Tibbs will be sent to Sid. Tom and Sid will forward e-mail changes and death notices to Sonny Cudabac, so that he can continue to timely communicate news of Forest Service employees -- activities, deaths, etc. via his members' e-mail list and, most importantly, keep his list up-to-date. If you have not given Sonny your e-mail address and would like to be on his mailing list, you can do so at scudabac@mindspring.com.

* * *

There is nothing wrong, says Sam Levenson, with using four letter words in explaining the facts of life to children – words like love, kiss, help, care. give. . . .

Report of the Treasurer Southern Forest Service Retirees Association

Membership Status: As of January 19, 2013, there are 394 members and organizations in the membership database. Of 394 members, there are 32 members that are in arrears with dues dating back to 2011 and 76 members dating back to 2012. This leaves a total of 286 active current members with dues fully paid. Of the 286 members in good standing, there are 2 non-dues paying members with 10 year free memberships and two additional members with lifetime membership status. There are also 5 non-dues paying retiree organizations that receive our newsletter. This makes a total of 277 dues paying members in good status.

Members Paid: 2011 - 32; 2012 - 76; 2013 - 132; 2014 - 86; 2015 - 40; 2016 - 10; 2017 - 6; 2018 - 1.

Budget Income: Based on the membership status of 277 members at \$10.00 per membership, our annual income would be \$2770. This is the worst case scenario. Some of the members in arrears for 2011 and 2012 will probably pay their dues that will provide additional income.

Estimated Expenses for 2013:

Dixie Ranger Printing, Mailing, Misc Costs:		
Dixie Ranger Printing (1280 copies)	\$1000	
Directory Printing (420 copies)	260	
Envelopes (1332)	325	
Address & Mail	105	
Postage	615	
Miscellaneous Postage & Supplies	237	
Sub Total		\$2542
NFS Museum SFSRA Pledge	500	
Forest History Society Membership	250	
Sub Total		\$750
Constant Contact Computer E-Mail Services	168	
Sub Total		\$168
Luncheon Costs: Door Prizes & Decorations	302	
Invited Speaker Travel	220	
Compmed Meals for Speakers & RO Personnel	52	
Sub Total		\$ 574
<u>Projected Grand Total</u>		\$4038

If all members in arrears paid their full dues this would add approximately \$1720 to our projected income of \$2770 and would give a total income of \$4490. It appears that it would be possible to break even if everyone of the 108 members in arrears renewed their memberships. Please note that no inflation factors have been included in this analysis. Prepared By: Tom Tibbs, Treasurer Date: 1/22/13

* * *

Annual dues of \$10 were due January 1, 2013. Check your address block, on the back or last page of *The Dixie Ranger* or if an envelope is used for mailing, it (the date) will be on the address area, just beyond your name. This date is the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if yours shows "2012", you are paid through December 31, 2012. Dues payments and any changes in your address, phone number or e-mail address should be sent to Tom Tibbs at 627 Oak Lane, Marion, VA 24354. Any changes in your information may also be e-mailed to Tom at gtibbs6@embarqmail.com

If you do not plan to use this form for your own personal use – dues or changes – please pass it on to a prospective Southern Forest Service Retirees Association member.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR EXTENSION
Southern Forest Service Retirees Association**

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City / State: _____ Nine-Digit Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Retired from: _____

Membership Dues (\$10 per year) – Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership in the SFSRA includes:

Three issues per year of *The Dixie Ranger*, issued in March, July, and November.

Membership Directory, issue in March of each year.

The opportunity to become published as an author when articles are written for
The Dixie Ranger.

The most economical way to stay in touch with friends and co-workers.

Notification of what's happening in the Forest Service.

Current e-mail notification of Atlanta and nearby areas events/activities/deaths, etc.

Mail completed application with payment to

Tom Tibbs
627 Oak Lane
Marion, VA 24354

Southern Forest Service
Retirees Association
10139 Malcolm Drive, SE
Covington, GA 30014

Prst Std
Postage Paid
Permit #30
Alexander City, AL

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