



DIXIE RANGER

SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

Suite 850 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-9102

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our Christmas luncheon is on December 3 at the Petite Auberge Restaurant, 11 a.m. with lunch served at 12 noon. Please phone in reservations no later than Monday, November 30, to Andrea at 347-4178. Do plan to attend - it's always an enjoyable time of the year.

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We Missed You

Those of us who attended the picnic - the Al Friedrichs, the Bill Balmers, the Bob Johns, the Walt Myers, the Bill Bryans, the Bert Brays, Paul Russell and Bob Bryan - felt as though we had given a party and no one came. Honestly, there were only 15 of us there, but we enjoyed the fellowship and the delicious food anyway. For more comment on the picnic, please read Bill Bryan's letter.

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If you noticed a "Last Issue" redlined on the front of your *Dixie Ranger* with this issue it means that your name will drop from the rolls beginning in 1993. It is our policy to carry a member for one year beyond last dues paid and by the end of the year if dues have not been paid, the name is removed from the mailing list. We need you - stay with us. Dues are payable each January.



Letters From Our Members

GUY WILKINSON - Lake Charles, LA. - Congratulations on the August issue of *Dixie Ranger*. Among its many good features was Paul Russell's excellent compilation of the list of former National Forest Service employees who have passed on; also, deceased family members of employees. Many were our co-workers and some of our best friends. This excellent record should be brought up to date each year. The *Dixie Ranger* is the best and sometimes the only way Forest Service retirees keep informed.

Thankfully, Hurricane Andrew detoured at the Central LA coastline and passed us by. We "battened down the hatches" at our house then decamped at our daughter's home nearby - keeping nervous vigil by radio and T.V. until all danger had passed.

Mildred and I are enjoying reasonably good health. At age 91, I am not as spry as I used to be but we get around on our own as much as we need or want to. We still miss Hot Springs, Ark. where we lived for 20 years after retirement (wish we could have made that Camp Clearfork reunion) but it is nice to be near our daughter, two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren in Cajun country. We belong to the local NARFE but it seems strange to live in a community where there are no other Forest Service folks. We miss them.

A review of the necrology list makes me thankful for many blessings including not finding my name on it!

Season's greetings to all and especially to our shut-in friends.

GERALD V. WARD - Mountain View, AR. - I am so glad I joined the Retirees Association. The *Dixie Ranger* keeps me posted on a lot of the Retirees who I was associated with during my 33 years with the Forest Service. I spent my entire career on the Sylamore RD, Ozark NF. Started as a clerk-typist in 1958 and retired as Administrative Asst. in 1990. Retirees such as Bill Bryan, Tom Smith, Jerry Alexander, Jack Welch, Tom Hooper, Jim Sabin, Eldon Lucas and so many more bring back fond memories. So many that I was acquainted with have passed on. I noticed in the latest newsletter that Ivan Nicholas passed away. Mr. Nicholas was Ranger on the Sylamore RD in the mid-1950's. My father, Carl W. Ward, who retired in 1969 and passed away in 1978, worked for Mr. Nicholas. I remember him well and am saddened to learn of his death.

If possible, I would like to receive a copy of the newsletter in connection with the tribute to Carl Benson by Joel Nitz. Mr. Benson was a fine man and a dedicated employee of the Forest Service. He spent a lot of time on the Sylamore RD in connection with the acquisition of lands around Blanchard Springs Caverns. Several tracts had to be condemned and needless to say the Forest Service received a lot of flack because of it. Several Forest Service employees who lived around Blanchard had their land condemned.

One humorous incident I recall was when Mr. Benson asked me to make an appointment with one of these employees to meet at the Fifty Six Work Center to discuss the acquisition of his land. The employee's wife had been very vocal about their land being condemned and one could not even reason with her. She ordinarily worked during the week at a local shirt factory. Mr. Benson was hoping to talk to the employee without her being there. We arrived at the Work Center a few minutes before time for the meeting. Luck was not with us. She had missed work that day and arrived with the employee. We went inside to the small office at the Work Center. The employee's wife did not give us a chance to do much talking. She was unusually vocal that day and calling us a lot of unprintable names as well as the Forest Service. The telephone rang and I answered it. Doyle Lawrence, who was dispatcher on Green Tower, was the caller. He said "I don't know what's going on over there but it's being broadcast all over the Forest". The Forest Service radio sat on the top of an old CCC dresser. The mike had a push down button at it's base and Mr. Benson had accidently pushed it down with his elbow. Doyle, who passed away in 1989, used to like to tell this story and teased Mr. Benson and myself a lot about the incident. Since a lot of retirees worked with Carl Benson, I thought they might enjoy this story.

BILL AND ANNE TUTTLE - Hartwell, GA. - Hi, greetings from Bill and I here in Hartwell, GA. We love living on the Lake and enjoy having friends and our families (Scott in Duluth and Mark in Decatur) bring our grandchildren to enjoy it with us. Daughter Cindy is in New Orleans directing a big YMCA there. So we keep busy and wish we had more hours in each day.

I wanted to share the fact that we do play a lot of golf at our pretty course here. I fell heir to being our Ladies Golf Association President this year. We have 2 Whing Dings (you Golfers will recognize them) each month.

On a recent Thursday, Owen Jamison had a hole-in-one. He was so excited, he fell to the ground in surprise. We have about 60 golfers for each Whing Ding and it was Owen's privilege to honor each of us with a "drink on him."

We had a small trophy "tucked away" for the first person who had this honor, so it was my pleasure to present him with the trophy. He was thrilled. It was a fun time for Owen and Jane and I wanted to share it with his many friends.

Now, Bill Tuttle and Phil Archibald want to do the same thing someday. Even Jan, Barbara and I would like to follow Owen's fun too. We will wait!

We are glad to be back in Georgia. Milwaukee was wonderful and we'll always have a special place in our hearts for the great people in Region 9.

Come to Lake Hartwell for golf, the lake, to fish, or to see us when you are up this way.

SARA MILLAR (Mrs. Richard H.) - Huntsville, AL. - I see by the latest *Dixie Ranger* I'm delinquent on dues. A check is enclosed to cover that. My antiques business is flourishing and keeps me out of town a great deal, so I do get behind on personal things.

JOEL NITZ - Hot Springs, AR. - This summer I had the rare privilege and most pleasant experience of visiting my first USFS District Ranger, to whom I reported in Mena, AR, October 1951 - Vern Taylor and his wife, Ellen, in Hood River, Oregon. He wore the same pleasant smile that greeted Irene and me more than 40 years ago. When I told him I still remembered the two rattlesnake skins displayed above the door in the basement of the old Post Office building, he led me downstairs and showed me one of them!

Irene has accepted an offer to teach English to kindergarten children in Salzburg, Austria, for the next school year. She was invited by a friend of ours whom we've known since our days at the U of MN. Although Irene will teach in the class rooms of public schools, she will be paid by the parents of her students. Some of the details are still vague!

We plan to depart on September 16. For those who wish to contact us there, please write to:

Joel and Irene Nitz
Samstrasse 32/14
A-5023 Salzburg
AUSTRIA

Please save my copies of the *Dixie Ranger* and mail them to my present address about the middle of July 1993.

BRUCE ALTER - Gainesville, GA. - Hope the enclosed will keep the DR coming a little longer. Good to get the word about the ones who are still going after a goodly number of years.

Sad news from here. My wife Nettie Alter passed away very suddenly night of June 3 last. Needless to say times are not as pleasant as they were around here. Lots of support from family and friends is helping to smooth over the bumps. Want to say thanks to the several people that we have heard from whom we met and worked with in the F.S. during our years with the outfit.

No plans to make any changes here for the time being anyway.

BILL HICE - Midlothian, VA. - Yes, we did it again and hope this will be the last time for awhile. We have moved into a new home - the third since retirement in 1980. We didn't want to move again, but Ruby's arthritis was getting progressively worse, making mobility in a 2-story house more difficult. We now have a small ranch which will make life a little easier - even for me, too. Somehow, stair steps seem to get higher and steeper each year.

B. H. CHUMNEY - Cleveland, TN. - I sure appreciate the work done by Paul Russell. I thought the folks might be interested in knowing that Dr. William T. Snyder, son of former retiree Bill Snyder, is now Chancellor of the University of Tennessee.

Bill Snyder was a long-time mechanic and equipment Supervisor out of the RO and the Cherokee NF from pre-CCC days until his death in 1980. He retired in 1962 after 33 years of service. His widow, Annie Laurie, 89, still lives in the home where Bill spent most of his childhood years.

Dr. William T. Snyder, 60, grew up in East Knox County, TN, and is a UT alumnus who has been on UT's faculty for 28 years. He spent 13 of those years as a department head, the past eight as dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Snyder and his wife, Margaret, have three grown daughters, all graduates of UT at Knoxville.

VIC MACNAUGHTON - Jackson, MS. - Enclosed is my check - sign me up for two more years and one for my son, J. V. He is still working but has logged in quite a few years. The last time I talked to him he asked if he might receive the *Dixie Ranger*. I know we eagerly go through each issue for news of old friends of by gone years. You are doing a great job with the *Ranger*. We appreciate your efforts and put any balance left in my check into the kitty for general expense.

I now have maculare degeneration and am legally blind. My wife, Kay, reads each issue to me. We walk a mile each day at a nearby park and Kay does all the driving. I don't want to use too much space now, but will furnish some notes on the rest of the family at a later date. Thanks for the beautiful memories each issue invokes.

BILL BRYAN - Stone Mountain, GA. - It was nice seeing you and the very few others at the Forest Service Retirees annual picnic. It was sad there were so few in attendance. Sure it rained but with the set-up in the American Legion Clubhouse there was no problem.

With the very active group of retirees, many conflicts arise to prevent attendance, but sometimes it's just inertia. We (Bobby and I) certainly haven't been very regular in attendance but it's mostly time or health conflicts that get in our way. It would be wonderful to see a large number of people at the next picnic including out-of-towners.

I've heard comments that the location or facilities were handicaps, but I think we can make the present location a winner with a little effort. Any time I have to drive in Atlanta traffic it's a downer but unless you stay holed up in your yard or house, you really can't avoid it! The pavilion at Stone Mtn Park is a wonderful location but week-end traffic in the park is horrible. Besides the combination of entrance and rental fees and herds of people make it an impossibility. Oh for the good old days!

GEORGE F. FOX - Portersville, PA. - Just a note to make an address correction. My address as shown on Page 5 of the August 1992 issue is in error. Porterdale, PA is incorrect. Portersville, PA is the correct address - your mailing label is ok. (Sorry about that, Mr. Fox, Porterdale is better known to me. I'm sorry for the mistake.)

HATTIE MCKENZIE - Stone Mountain, GA. - Talking with you yesterday, Betty, brought back a flood of memories. I am certainly out of touch with those I left behind when I retired. Perhaps getting back into the retiree group will be fun. I'm going to give it a fling. Hope to see you soon.

JOHN AND SUE CHAFFIN - Green Valley, AZ. - (Lifted from FSX Club Newsletter) We arrived at our new residence June 28 after a rather hectic 3+ months. Last March we were touring Arizona and spent a night in Green Valley. It's a retirement community of about 20,000 retirees and/or snowbirds, 30 miles south of Tucson. After serious discussions on the way home we came back for a second look.

We bought a house (to be built), sold our house in Petaluma, and here we are.

Our 1,000-mile trip in a rental van was uneventful except that California did shake us awake one last time. We were about 100 miles east of the earthquake center in Blythe, CA, when Sue told me to quit shaking the bed so hard.

We'll be at this address until about December 10 when we hope to move into our new house. Meanwhile the welcome mat is out!

(John and Sue - check out our directory, we have another retiree who lives in Green Valley. When I was an AO for the Rocky Mtn. Forest and Range Experiment Station out of Tempe, AZ., I used to check equipment at the Santa Rita Experimental Range just south of Green Valley. It is a lovely place to live. Enjoy. - Betty)

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

William H. Arlen 5 Hickory Hollow Ln Russellville, AR 72801-7621	J. V. MacNaughton 84 Hope Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801
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Hattie N. McKenzie
4456 Cedar Ridge Trail
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

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GREEN GOES UP, BROWN GOES DOWN

It was quite a few years ago that this particular dedication of a Forest Service facility took place in Arkansas. The guest of honor was then-Chief Ed Cliff, whose part in the ceremonies was to plant a memorial seedling at the site.

Chief Cliff, wearing the ever-present pipe in his mouth, knelt to the task with seedling in one hand, trowel in the other. He paused for perhaps a long-count of five, and then proceeded with his assigned duty.

The young Ranger who was master of ceremonies took over as the Chief finished, and addressed the audience.

"You probably were wondering," he said, "why the Chief paused for a few moments before planting the seedling. It wasn't an act of reverence for the occasion as you might think," he continued.

I was standing right next to the Chief, and I heard him saying softly to himself, over and over, "Green goes up, brown goes down."

Everyone but the Chief laughed. I think he would have, but I had the impression that his teeth were stuck, embedded in the stem of his pipe.

No report available on the young Ranger's career ladder from that point on.

-- Robert N. Neelands

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth D. Henderson, Supervisor of the Chattahoochee-Oconee NF, 55, died August 27 of a heart attack at his home in Gainesville. Ken was born in Spindale, N.C., on May 2, 1937. He graduated from NC State University with a degree in forest management.

He began his career in Georgia 28 years ago, working on a survey crew with the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station. His assignments with the FS included: Cherokee NF, District Ranger, Seminole RD in FL; Center Director, Schenck Job Corps Center in NC and Deputy Forest Supervisor, NFs in MS. Ken also worked in the Regional Office in Atlanta and was FS of the Shawnee NF in Illinois before coming to Gainesville.

Ken is survived by his wife, Roemelda, and two sons, K. Tod of Evansville, Ind., and Tyler R. of Manhattan, KS., and daughter Tanya of Hot Springs, N.C., and his parents.

Willie G. Lunsford, retired Mechanical Inspector, 83, died following an extended illness in Gainesville, GA, on August 5. Mr. Lunsford, a native and lifetime resident of Union County, had retired after 30 years with the Forest Service.

He is survived by wife, Birdell, of Suches, GA.; daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Bud Braddock; son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Jane Lunsford, all of Gainesville; grandchildren, one brother and four sisters.

Denton H. Bloomer, 83, died September 5 in Atlanta. He had been ill with pneumonia. Mr. Bloomer retired from Lands and Minerals in the RO. His body was donated to Emory University.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, a daughter, Johanna Laite, of Houston; a stepdaughter, Jan Payne, of Atlanta, and three sisters.

Myrtle Maxey Thomas, 92, of Norman, died August 26 in a Hot Springs hospital. She was born on November 16, 1899 at Birch Tree, MO. She was married on October 20, 1920, to Paul O. Thomas, who preceded her in death on October 7, 1991.

Survivors include one son, James Maxey of Hot Springs, two daughters, Elizabeth Gill of Norman and Frances Swindle of Glenwood; seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one sister.

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CHELATION THERAPY

One very interesting subject at the picnic was Al Friedrich's concern about heart surgery and the fact that very few people have heard about a technique called "chelation therapy".

Chelation (key-lay-shun) is a chemical process by which a metal or mineral (like lead, mercury, copper, arsenic, aluminum, calcium, etc.) is bonded to another substance. It is a process basic to life itself and goes on naturally in our body at all times. The chelation that we do artificially uses a chemical (EDTA) instead of the natural chemicals of the body. Chelation is one mechanism by which such common substances such as aspirin, antibiotics, vitamins, minerals, and trace elements work in the body.

Chelation as a curative measure is a treatment by which a man-made amino acid called ethylene diamine tetraacetic (EDTA) is administered to a patient intravenously, prescribed by and under the supervision of a fully-licensed physician (possessing an M.D. or a D.O. degree). The EDTA in solution bonds with metals in the body and carries them away in the urine. It is routinely used in lead poisoning cases.

What Al is excited about is the recognition that the treatment is effective in reducing plaque build-up in the arteries. Invading substances, cholesterol for example, contribute to build-up of these artery blockers, which in turn leads to high blood pressure and often, ultimate heart attacks.

By-pass surgery is the current treatment-of-choice by surgeons. (Al has gone through that once). However, there is a growing corps of physicians who believe Chelation therapy could forestall the need for the more dangerous and expensive by-pass procedures.

Al has access to reprints of articles, and a book Forty-Something Forever which go into great detail on the subject. He can be reached at his home (404) 887-4704. Al and his wife are both currently taking the treatment series.

A REMINDER

Please make your reservations for the Christmas Luncheon by Monday, November 30. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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The *Dixie Ranger* is published 4 times a year - February, May, August and November. Dues are \$5.00 per year, payable in January. If moving, please notify Editors of your change of address.

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Happy Holidays to you and yours - from the Officers and the Board of Directors.

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