



THE DIXIE RANGER

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July 2007

President's Corner will return in the next issue.



June Luncheon Notes

We had a great turn-out , 49 members and guests, for our June 7th luncheon at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road. President Jerry Coutant presided at the brief business meeting where the SFSRA Board's motion to change the Association's Constitution to extend the terms of officers from one to two years was presented. It passed with no dissenting votes and will be recorded as Amendment No. 11. The amendment as it now reads was printed in the last newsletter.

Tom Peterson, Deputy Regional Forester, gave a brief up-to-date on the Region.

- 125,000 acres burned in the recent drought and fire season in Florida. Other forests badly affected were in Tennessee and Virginia.

- The Forest Service is still being financed with a Continuing Resolution but Congress has authorized \$300 million over the President's budget.
- The Caribbean National Forest has been renamed El Yunque National Forest.

George Leonard, former Associate Chief and Director of Timber in the Washington Office, and currently President of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, was our guest speaker. He talked about how the public view of the Forest Service has changed over the past 20-30 years. For many years Congress wanted the FS to get out the cut and supported them in the budget and personnel. Then in the mid 80's the view changed with the advent of the National Forest Management Act and forest planning. Since then the FS has few if any new initiatives. The public lobbies Congress for things that benefit them with no outlook for the long-term health or benefit to the forest or wildlife. He said the FS must find new initiatives and start working with Congress and the public to develop support and funding.

George also talked, briefly, about the National Association of FS Retirees with their support of issues in the FS and the John McGuire Award which recognizes people who make a special effort to get the job done. Dave Jolly made the comment that the FS is losing it's grass roots support in the consolidation of ranger districts. George agreed. There was an interesting question and answer session after George's talk.

Our beautiful table decorations and many door prizes were provided by Fern and Jerry Coutant. There was also a gift certificate for DINNER FOR TWO from the Petite Auberge which was won by Larry Bishop. Nancy Sorrells and Joyce Keith presented the door prizes as the numbers were drawn.

<p>REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DATE - DECEMBER 6, 2007</p>

RESPONSE TO THE FOREST HISTORY SOCIETY DONATION

Letter dated March 19, 2007

Dear Friends,

I write today to say thank you and express my deep appreciation for your recent contribution of \$250 to the Forest History Society's annual fund. Your gift serves a significant role in allowing FHS to strengthen our position as one of the world's preeminent institutions for research, scholarship, and outreach related to forests and their use, conservation, and sustainability. On behalf of myself, the Board of Directors, and all the staff here in Durham, thank you for your support. "

The annual fund represents a valuable resource for FHS as it represents unrestricted resources that are important to considering and developing new opportunities and funding ongoing programs throughout the year. As an example, your support of the annual fund has allowed us to concentrate on the following projects:

Create and maintain a highly-acclaimed website (www.foresthistory.org), providing forest history information to more than 2 million individuals and organizations annually around the globe.

Publish *Genetically Modified Forests: From Stone Age to Modern Biotechnology*, the latest Issues Series book that traces the history of tree improvement while providing an in-depth look at both human effect on tree genetics and the real and imagined concern of genetic engineering.

On going development of two new modules of our "If Trees Could Talk" curriculum for middle-school classrooms. The curriculum is now reaching thousands of students each year with the lessons of forest and conservation history.

I thank you again for your vote of confidence in the important work taking place at the Forest History Society. Know that we pledge to work harder to remain worthy of your support.

Sincerely, Steve Anderson, President and CEO

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OUACHITA CENTENNIAL DAY CELEBRATED



On Thursday, May 10, 2007, several SFSRA members attended the Centennial Day Celebration of 100 years of "Caring for the Land and Serving People" on the Ouachita National Forest. The event was held at the Christian Motorcycle Association Iron Mountain Conference Center just south of Mena, Arkansas. The Ouachita is the largest and oldest national forest in Region 8.

Norman Wagoner, Forest Supervisor welcomed the large group of Forest Service employees and retirees. Highlights of the day included: retiree recognition, fallen firefighters recognition with a memorial presentation to families by Charles Myers, Regional Forester of Region 8. Outstanding performances were given by the Fiddlin' Foresters and the Blues Rangers who entertained with their music programs which emphasize various Forest Service missions.

The Fiddlin' Foresters are the official "old-time string band of the US Forest Service" bringing conservation and stewardship messages alive through lively and entertaining musical performances to all who value natural and cultural resource conservation on America's public lands. They provide conservation education, enhance employee morale and communicate the value of public service and federal land management in a new century of service. In 2005, they toured the country celebrating the Centennial Year of the US Forest Service. More information can be obtained on their website: fiddlinforesters.gov. Their CD *In The Long Run* is available for purchase at the Rocky Mountain Nature Association website.

The Blues Rangers have performed to audiences all across the US and have recorded two nationally distributed CDs of original blues songs highlighting current natural and cultural resource management issues. Their songs cover topics ranging from the increasing loss of green space and the dangers of invasive species to the need for prescribed burning and the importance of being fire wise. Their interpretive program is a public outreach and environmental education tool designed to entertain and inform audiences of all ages and is used by and within the Forest Service and other government agencies to educate, inspire, and improve awareness and morale.

FIDDLIN' FORESTERS



BLUES RANGERS



BLUES RANGERS & JOHN ARCHER'S GRANDDAUGHTER

Excerpts from Joel Nitz's Tribute to the Ouachita National Forest's 100th Anniversary

I RECALL — When I Was on the Ouachita National Forest

In October 1951, Forest Service Chief Lyle Watts scheduled a farewell trip that included a visit to the Mena District, Ouachita National Forest. The Ranger was Vern Taylor; I was just starting out as Junior Forester. I felt it quite an honor to be present with the Chief and one of the best Rangers in the Forest Service.

The Ranger's office was in the basement of the Post Office in Mena. Upon entering the office, I was quite taken aback to see a pair of rattlesnake skins hanging above the door. They were the largest snakes I have ever seen. According to one of the research foresters who found them, the pair was in a mating position.

Del Thorsen was a forester working out of Mena (1936?). Vern Taylor was the District Ranger. One of Del's duties was at the mill in Forester. He scaled logs which were cut from a large area on the Ouachita. Del rode the logging train from Mena to Forester each day. After much of the old growth was logged off, the little saw mill town of Forester was shut down. The old green shacks were painted white, added to and otherwise improved. The company houses were sold to folks near and far. Over a period of a couple of years, the little shotgun houses were gradually assimilated by the community around Mount Ida. In fact, one of the Junior Foresters, Jack Welch, rented one. Loopy Lane was the Womble District Ranger at the time.

I was transferred to the New Cold Springs Ranger District with Harold Bergmann Ranger. (Harold now lives in Waldron Arkansas. We still get together after all these years.) While Oden District Ranger Ed Howell was on extended sick leave, I was appointed Acting Ranger for 8 months. My wife, Irene, our infant daughter Debbie and I were permitted to make our home on the second floor of the Ranger Station. Tony Slankouskas made his home in one of the offices on the first floor. Irene cooked for all of us - using a 2 burner hot plate, and all of her baking was done in a roaster oven.

Under Ranger Al Williams, I served as Assistant Ranger. During this time Blakely Mountain Dam was completed. As the water rose to form Lake Ouachita, the flooded logging trails were cut off, making difficult access for fire control. Al Williams was the "Old Jessieville" Ranger for the two years I served him as his assistant. We had a rash of incendiary fires during that period. Al and Evelyn had four beautiful daughters, one of which won the title of Miss Hot Springs. The Jessieville District included about 5000 acres of isolated land on the east side. This was up for exchange with Dierks Lumber Company. Details fail me, but I think Weyerhaeuser bought out Dierks, and later on Cooper bought part of what was to become Hot Springs Village. Milt Ricker and I cruised some of these tracts. Milt was one of the "oldtimers" whose background was acquisition and exchange. Milt once told me that he had attended the wedding of P.F.W. Prater from the RO in 1928.

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Before you criticize a man, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he's a mile away and barefoot.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 11th - OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST - Picnic at Camp Clearfork for employees, retirees, and family members.....See details on page 7.

December 6th - ATLANTA, GA - SFSRA Christmas Luncheon/Meeting - 11:30 at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road

September 7 - 11, 2009 - MISSOULA, MT - Forest Service National Retirees Reunion - hosted by the National Museum of Forest Service History - Details will be reported in future Dixie Rangers.

FOREST SERVICE RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees meet the last Tuesday of the month at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant at I-75 & Chastain Road, Marietta, GA, at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!

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

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, VA. They have been meeting for the last 15 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.

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.

Let us know if you would like your group listed.

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2005 Forest Service Reunion Keepsakes: The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, aka, Old Smokeys, have prepared a two-DVD set of images from the 2005 Forest Service Reunion in Portland. The DVD's include pictures and sound video of the speakers, Teddy Roosevelt impersonation, the retired chiefs panel, special music presentations - the Fiddlin' Foresters and the Four Get Ables plus many shots of the crowds. Nearly everyone will find themselves featured somewhere. These DVD's are offered at cost and are not a fund raiser for Old Smokeys. They just want to get the DVD's into the hands of those who want them. These DVDs would be great gifts for those who weren't able to attend the reunion. The cost for the set is \$15.00. They can be purchased, on line, at www.sightandsoundservices.com or from Pat McAbrey, Sight and Sound Services, P. O. Box 963, Welches, OR 97067 - Phone: (503) 622-5629. More information is available on line at www.oldsmokeys.org.

Bob Williams, Reunion Committee Chair

INVITATION TO RETIREES

The Ouachita National Forest Family Association invites you and your family to participate in their Centennial Picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 11, 2007, at Camp Clearfork. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Picnic activities will conclude around 3:00 p.m. Clearfork has a fully-equipped dining hall, three staff cabins and eight bunk houses. The cabins and bunk houses will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 10th through noon, Sunday, August 12th. Tent camping is also available for the weekend.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments (ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, relish, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes) and paper goods will be provided by the Family Association, please bring your favorite foods, such as chips/dips/baked beans/salads, etc.

We will have contests for the best homemade ice cream and best dessert. Other planned activities include watermelon seed spitting contest, fishing (bring your own equipment), volleyball, and horseshoes. Please let us know what additional events you would like to have included in the day's activities.



Richard Fitzgerald Receives 50-Year Service Award
Pictured with Secretary Johanns and Chief Kimball

After 50 years, Dick Fitzgerald is going strong and still enjoys his work. He first went to work for the Forest Service on the Mt Hood NF in 1954 as a summer student in the lookout tower on Mt Lowe. He was hired full time in 1957 as junior forester on the Collowash District, again on the Mt Hood NF, where his bosses were Roy Bond and Norm Gould. He continued his career as timber management assistant on the Zigzag District in 1964; then, he moved to the Wenatchee NF as district ranger on the Ellensburg District in 1967. In 1972, he went to the regional office in Portland where he worked in silviculture; then, back out to the Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF in 1975 where he served as staff director for timber management. Then, believe it or not, in 1978, he traveled all the way to Atlanta, GA, to become Mr. Silviculture, for the southern region. All of this done in his first 25 years; in 1982 he left his heel prints all the way from Atlanta to Washington DC and another 25 years in what used to be called Timber Management, first as AD for Silviculture and next as AD for what is now called Forest Products. Congratulations Fitz, you are making a career that all of us honor and respect.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

PHYLLIS CLOUTIER - Alabama - Well, here I am, late again with my dues. Thought about them in January and, I guess, just as quickly let them slip my mind. I'm enclosing two years dues so I won't have the same problem next year! Really enjoyed the article by Mike Sparks in the March 2007 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. Was sad to read that Mr. Woody passed away. He was Forest Supervisor in Alabama when I began working at the SO there.

WILMA GROSENBAUGH - Florida - My March Dixie Ranger just arrived. Since it says my dues are only paid through '07, the enclosed check is for two more years. I always enjoy reading the DR and better pay some dues while it is on my mind. Thanks.

DON KIGHT - Kentucky - Sorry we are late with the dues. I am enclosing a check to pay for 3 years. We enjoy keeping up with old friends from our Forest Service travels. We especially enjoy when friends like Jack Reichert, Steve McCorquodale and Bud Johnson come for a few days fishing on Laurel Lake. The Trout and Walleye continue to be good. The Laurel Lake Forest Service outing, the week before the Kentucky Derby has dropped off in attendance, probably because of our age. Last year it was attended by Harry Bullock, Dick Wengert, Steve McCorquodale and myself.

BILL LEICHTER - Virginia - I notice that I have a "07" after my name so enclosed are my dues for another three years. I look forward to each copy of *The Dixie Ranger* and read it from cover to cover as soon as I receive it. I extend my thanks for the great job you do in the preparation of it. I hope the consolidation of Ranger Districts and National Forests is over for a few years. I don't know how this move has been received by the public in other areas, but here in the mountains of Virginia it has upset the public greatly in the areas of closed Ranger Offices. The wife and I stopped to eat in a restaurant in New Castle back in November. The closing of the District there was the main topic of discussion. The main comment I overheard was, "They say they are serving the people and managing the land but how can they when there is no one here to do that service". Another comment I heard was from an elderly gentleman who said, "They think everyone has a computer and they don't need to be here to sell wood permits". Of course over the decades the National Forests have gone through such gyrations several times, and I am sure one of these days the outfit will go through another expansion period and most of those offices will be reopened to "serve the people" as was originally intended. Again thank you for the great job you are doing.

GEORGE GIBBS - Kentucky - Just realized I'm about to become another absentee, so - here's \$50 to keep me on the address list. Finally made it back to the NF's in Florida Reunion a year ago, missed this April, but will try to make it again next year. It was great to be with four "old" Wakalla District Rangers. Next, I'd like to make it to the December SFSRA meeting in Atlanta. With any luck, see you there. On top of FS reunions, went back to Raleigh, NC, for my 50th from NC State "College" (now University). Time flies. Only saw three members from the 60 or so who made it back - none with FS ties. Keep *The Dixie Ranger* coming!!

KEITH GREST - Georgia - Enclosed are dues for 2007 and 2008. We won't be at the June luncheon since we will be on a western RV trip with our youngest granddaughter. This is an event that we take all our grandchildren on when they turn 8 or 9. Isabelle has been packed and ready to go for months. Our trip will take us to many of the national forests and parks in the West. We hope to show Isabelle all the neat critters and landscapes of the West that we can. Plus throw in a few western chuck wagon shows and dinners. See you all in the fall.

JOE NITZ - Arkansas - I hope you got my message through Jim Wenner. Broke my right hip. Got replacement in January - still use a walker and couldn't attend the Ouachita's 100th.

WALT ROBILLARD - Georgia - Haven't written in a loooooooooooooooooooooong time, probably last time was when I renewed my dues. So here are two more years, for people my age are you planning on 6-month renewals? Hit 77 years hard this year. Does not seem I have been retired 20 years now. Each year the memories get a little dimmer. Names seem to go. Travel 100,000 miles a year plus and have visited FS offices from the East to the West. So many unhappy people. All looking to retirement. How horrible they are wishing their life away. I would like to take this means to let FS retirees know my wife of 54 years, Sarah, died last July 2nd. Then in December, I had a stroke that set me back about 5 days in bed, but I am on the road again and still in the field. Had to buy a new compass, my old one became demagnetized, like I am. Still doing my windjamming because I never did get into golf and fishing. I told Mr. Vessey that when I first went into the RO in 1960 and never did play more than one game. I published two more surveying and law books and am watching my younger grandson study surveying at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. My best to all the old folks and their creaking bones.

JIM HELMS - Alabama - Just talked to John Allen and caught up on some of the news from the past twenty-three years. Was saddened to hear that Ernie Eller had passed away. I had heard of Wayne Ruziska's death. So I decided Mary Love and I had better get back in touch through *The Dixie Ranger*. John gave me your address and the dues rate. So I am sending my dues for this year. We have been living in Greenville, AL, for the past five years. We are Pastoring Call to Life Worship Center. When I retired from Fire Aviation Management in 1984, we had already started a Church in our home in Snellville, GA. We were there until 1989 when we moved to a Ministry in Franklin, NC. In 1992, we moved back to Lake Martin (Dadeville, AL). We lived there until 2002 when we moved to Greenville. We still have our home on Lake Martin and will someday move back, it is our home. We have a daughter and two grandchildren living in Marietta, GA, and a son and three and a quarter grandchildren in Tjian China. Sounds like our Gypsy life in the Forest Service. I still miss the Forest Service as we knew it, but before I left I saw things changing and knew it would never again be the Family I loved. Anyway, we have missed hearing about all our friends and cohorts that we shared so many wonderful days with. I still remember our time on the Trapper Creek fire and seeing you Dave sitting on top of that pile of sleeping bags in Cow Creek Camp. We were all in shock from the day before.....

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Tomorrow is one of the greatest labor-saving devices of today.

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for the first question.

A Yawn is an honest opinion openly expressed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Keith Argow

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CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO DIRECTORY

Ed Cook

new address: 5084 Longview Drive West
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new phone: (706) 781-1908
new e-mail: xecook@windstream.net

Harold Greenlee

change area code to (843)

George Hemingway

new e-mail: gbhemingway@bellsouth.net

Vaughn Hofeldt	new address: 2327 W. Leewynn Drive Sarasota, FL 34240-9669
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Paul Timko	phone: (540) 977-2107

LIFE

The most useless thing to do.....worry.
 The greatest joy.....giving.
 The greatest loss.....loss of self-respect.
 The most satisfying work.....helping others.
 The ugliest personality trait.....selfishness.
 The most endangered species.....dedicated leaders.
 The greatest "shot-in-the-arm".....encouragement.
 The greatest problem to overcome.....fear.
 The most effective sleeping pill.....peace of mind.
 The most crippling failure disease.....excuses.
 The most powerful force in life.....love.
 The most dangerous pariah.....a gossip.
 The most incredible computer.....the brain!
 The worst thing to be without.....hope.
 The deadliest weapon.....the tongue.
 The most power-filled words....."I can."
 The greatest asset.....faith.
 The most worthless emotion.....self-pity.
 The most prized possession.....integrity.
 The most beautiful attire.....a smile.
 The most powerful channel of communication.....prayer.
 The most contagious spirit.....enthusiasm.

IN MEMORIAM

Melvin L. Anhold, 76, of Bridgewater, Virginia, passed away on April 24, 2007, at his home. He was born in Chicago, IL, on October 25, 1930. Mr. Anhold served his country in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from Utah State University in 1961, he worked as a forester for the U.S. Forest Service for 25 years, in Utah, Arkansas, Georgia, and Virginia. He was active in his community and loved traveling, camping, and Elk hunting. Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Mary; five children; and twelve grandchildren.

Stacie DeWolf, Region 1, Timber Management Staff, died when her bike was hit by a car on her way home on April 19, 2007. Mike Sparks writes: "Some of you folks may remember Stacie who came to help Region 8 with a STARS training session years ago. Truly a great loss to the agency and to her friends."

Marguerite L. Dunn, 95, died April 22, 2007, at her residence. She was a life-long resident of Tallahassee. Marguerite retired from the U.S. Forest Service where she was a personal assistant with 27 years of service. Survivors include a daughter, Kay Yent; a grandson, Robert; and several nieces and nephews.

Coy Furr, 97, of Hayesville, NC, died May 13, 2007. He was a combat veteran of the U.S. Army in the European Theater and was a recipient of two Purple Hearts. Mr. Furr was a retired U.S. Forest Ranger for 45 years. Surviving are four daughters, Connie Watts, Gail Bolton, Kathryn Oana, and Renee Grindstaff; a son, Ronald; 12 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Dr. John L. Gray, 86, died May 25, 2007, in Arkansas. He earned bachelors and masters degrees in forestry in 1941 and 1942 from Penn State and Yale, respectively, and in 1969 a Doctor of Forestry Degree from Duke University's School of Forestry. He joined the U.S. Forest Service in 1977 as Director of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies located at the historic home of Gifford Pinchot, retiring there in 1982 to become a part-time forest and forestry policy consultant. He and his wife, Mildred, moved to Arkansas in 1986 where he served as a Senior Associate of Winrock International and chaired committees for the Arkansas Wildlife Federation and the Arkansas Division of the Society of American Foresters. Dr. Gray was elected as Fellow in the Society of American Foresters and was a Charter Member of the Arkansas Foresters Hall of Fame.

Robert "Bob" Johns, 84, of Stone Mountain, GA, passed away April 24, 2007. Bob worked for the U.S. Forest Service Regional Office in Atlanta in Engineering where he retired in 1976. He is survived by his wife, Wanda; daughter, Connie Plemmons; sister, Pat Mallace; and two brothers, Alfred and Moe Johns.

Tommy and Pearl Jones - Larry Trekell writes: I am writing to deliver the sad news of the passing of two of our own. I received a note dated April 3rd from Rebecca Longley, daughter of Tommy and Pearl Jones. It informed me of the passing of Pearl on March 18, 2006, and of Tommy on March 19, 2007. Pearl was the Postmaster at Groveton, TX, the seat of the Trinity Ranger District of the Davy Crockett National Forest, when my wife, Johnnie and I transferred there in November of 1962. Tommy was the timber marking crew foreman. On his crew were Frank "Goober Earl" Stewart and Wilbur Owens. All have now met that "inevitable appointment".

Tommy was born and raised near Timpson, TX, and besides his career with the USFS, drove a bus for Greyhound or Continental Trailways (I can't recall which), and served in the 144th Infantry Regiment, Company D, during World War II.

I have a priceless memento from Tommy. It is a big, old, bone-handled Case pocket knife which he found at a logging set one day when doing sale administration. Rube Sessions had bought a big pine sale on the Trinity for the high bid of \$12.80 per MBF, had cut one unit, and had contested the volume. Tommy was assigned to go scale every log from then on, before it was loaded to leave the set. He scaled on Saturdays, among other days, and found the knife one Saturday, but was unable to locate the owner. I had been assigned to a weekend visual traffic count, a boring job on some FS roads that experienced light traffic. Tommy had a pistol that needed new grips. He wanted me to carve him some walnut grips, so I carved them while I sat watching to count traffic. I had admired that knife, asking him what he'd take for it, but he didn't want to sell it. A week or two after I delivered those grips, which I had carved at no charge, we were at a district safety meeting when Tommy walked up and held out a closed hand. I held my open palm under it, and he dropped the knife in my palm, saying, "That's for carving those grips."

I visited Tommy and Pearl just prior to her death, and gave him a copy of my book, Mind What I'm a Tellin' Ya, and shortly got a copy of his book by mail, Civilian Soldier - A Diary of the 144th Infantry Regiment, Company D, in World War II. On that visit, I had taken the knife to show him and to ask if he remembered it. I said, "I've brought something to show you." Before I could pull it out, he responded with a nod and a grin, "I know what it is." And he did. Memories live on, don't they?

James R. "Jim" Leinster, 76, died May 4, 2007, in Hendersonville, NC. A native of Concord, NC, Jim was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving during the Korean Conflict. He was retired from the U.S. Forest Service and was an avid coastal fisherman. Preceded in death by his wife Mary, who died in 2005, Jim is survived by a daughter, Laurie Leech; son, Jimmy Leinster; four grandchildren; twin sister, Ann; and one niece.

Hermine Pegram Love, 95, passed away on March 20, 2007, in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she had lived since 2000. Having been born and raised in North Carolina, Hermine married Leon Christian Love in 1936 and moved to Tallahassee, FL, where she lived for 60 years. She was employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Fiscal (many young foresters, as well as district rangers coming through, were taught proper fiscal procedures by her) and retired after 32 years of service. An avid gardener, she was a hall-of-fame member of the Tallahassee Garden Club. Her son, Bill, writes that, "She was a feisty old lady. An avid Florida State University Seminole supporter who often had her home open to FSU students. She touched many lives...." Survivors include her son, Dr. William Pegram Love, daughter-in law Cheryl, and grandsons William and Steve.

Randall Miller passed away June 6, 2007. He was a former Cherokee National Forest Law Enforcement Officer.

Charlotte Mink, 81, passed away June 19, 2007, in Elizabethton, TN. She was a support services specialist on the Watauga Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest where she retired in 1992. Charlotte was preceded in death by a daughter, Betty Jane Miller, and a brother, John Barrow, and is survived by her husband, David; son, James; and one grandson.

William "Bill" Oettmeier, Jr., 68, passed away March 28, 2007 at his residence in Griffin, GA. He grew up in the company forestry town of Fargo, GA, and graduated in 1960 with a B.S.F. degree in forestry from the University of Georgia. Mr. Oettmeier was the President and General Manager of Superior Pine Products Company. He has the very unusual distinction of being the only person to serve as president of the Forest Landowners Association twice and as president of the GFA twice. His service to forestry, his state, and community are unparalleled. Among many honors he has received, he is a SAF Fellow and a member of the Georgia Hall of Fame. Survivors are his wife of 44 years, Patricia; two daughters Lisa and Gina; and four grandchildren.

Chester C. Robinson, 83, of Conyers, GA, passed away July 4, 2007. Mr. Robinson was a U.S. Navy Veteran serving in WWII. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science Degree. After 34 years as a soils scientist, he retired from the U.S. Forest Service Regional Office in Atlanta in 1984. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kate, and is survived by two daughters, Lynn Morris and Gayle Monk, and three grandchildren.

Mary Lee Smith, wife of the late Lewis J. Smith, died June 18, 2007, in Clarksville, GA. Lewis was District Ranger on Arkansas, Florida, and Georgia forests – maybe others. He was killed in an auto accident on August 4, 2000. Mrs. Smith is survived by three sons, L. J. (Jay) and Leland Smith of Clarksville, GA, and R. Eric Smith of Raleigh, NC.

Special thanks to Wilma Hooper and other members who provided obituary information.

MULTIPLE SETS, SOMERSET DISTRICT, 1963

By *John Archer*

I was Assistant District Ranger on the Somerset District, Cumberland National Forest, at the time. Everett Towle was District Ranger. I got a call from Everett one night about 10:30 pm that there were fires down on Day Ridge in McCreary County. We loaded up in the truck and headed that way. On the way down, George Freeman, the tower man on the Buck Knob tower called us by radio. George said for us to be careful. His phone conversations were being monitored as he rounded up people. The tower phone was on a party line. I think that party line covered every telephone in that part of the county, about 17 phones.

In those days the Forest Service had no law enforcement, at least that I had heard of. If there was, he would have been in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, the regional office for the Cumberland National forest. I got the 45 auto out of my briefcase and cranked a shell into the chamber. It was OK to carry a pistol in those days. At least we would be ready if some one tried to get rough with us.

There were four fires, all pretty small. Three were beside the road and easy to handle with the men that we had that showed up at the fire. Our pumper did the job on one while the men raked a line around the other two. The fourth was a problem as it was below a 100-foot cliff. The local boys on our crew were having trouble finding a way down the cliff. I stood on top of the cliff and watched the fire get bigger and bigger. We hoped that no one would get hurt trying to get to it. Finally someone found a chute in the cliff and with the help of a rope got to the fire. Quickly, they raked a ring around it.

We went home and got a couple of hours sleep before heading back to Day Ridge. This time I had the pumper which was my regular truck. We watered all of the ridge top fires out quickly and went to the one that was below the cliff. We had four men on it doing mop up, but needed water down on the fire. The ridge was pretty narrow and solid rock, so I backed the pumper to the edge of the cliff and dropped the hose and nozzle over the edge. The guys grabbed it, I started the pump, and we began to put water on the fire. They got about half of it watered out before we ran out of water. I disconnected the hose, tied the disconnected end to a bush so it wouldn't fall over the edge, went to get water, filling up at a mud puddle, and returned. The hose was reconnected and we started to pump more water. Someone came by and said that we had another fire up on Highway 90 and needed the pumper. I tried to pull some hose up the cliff, but wasn't strong enough. We had never seen a motorized hose reel at that time, which would have been handy. The pumper had only two sections of hose left when it was ready to go. The other part of the hose was tied to a bush to keep it from falling below the cliff. That pumper worked on two other fires that day with those two sections of hose. All of the fires were close enough to drive right up to them, and we didn't need much hose. When I got the pumper back to the cliff fire, it was out and there was help to get the hose up the cliff.

Everett called the FBI for help with our incendiary problem. Our experience with FBI agents would be that they would look at the fire, fill out a report and that would be the last time we would see them. The agent we got this time was different. He didn't wear a tie, just a sports coat and plaid shirt. Also he had an attitude that if we don't get the arsonists, they will know that we are after them and would think twice before starting another fire. I wasn't a part of the investigation, but Everett said he got right in some of the suspects faces and let them know that they might end up in jail if more fires started in that area. Part way through his investigation, he got a call that one of the ten most wanted was over near Hazard, Kentucky, and he wanted to go for a day or so, but would be back. Everett said, "Go". He returned in a couple of days and continued the investigation. He didn't get the arsonist but he must have been close, as we had no more fires in the area while I was on that district.

★ ★ ★

Fire Stories

By John Welsh

Mr. Welsh writes: Although I'm no longer a member, I ran across these stories that you may want to put in *The Dixie Ranger*. I'm 80 and hanging in there - with 4 houses to keep up.

- -

When the APW (Accelerated Public Works) Program started on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, I was District Ranger on the Buffalo Ranger District. The normal fire load, mostly accidental, of the five to seven fires jumped to thirty to fifty fires per year because of the hiring of crew members. Also, the wild hog elimination program was just getting started.

As the results of the vast increase in fires on my district, Fire and Information Staff Officer, Jack Hambrick, paid me a visit to solve the problem. He asked me if I had a plan as an I&E effort to reduce the fires. I told him that my plan did not include I&E because those setting the fires were angry as to who was hired and who was not hired. Also, the ones running hogs on the open range were angry.

I proposed, instead, a plan that may be more effective. I told Jack to contact Fort Smith Army Base to see if we could have or borrow a 105 MM howitzer. I would put the gun on Highway 7 and point it to the ridge where we had several sets and when we saw smoke, shell the Hell out of that ridge! He did not think much of that plan.

I then told him of my other plan, which was to put purple dye in the helicopter that we used to aerial spray hardwood with, and when we saw a smoke, spray the area with purple dye! When a purple person came out of the woods, we would have the arsonist! He didn't like that plan either, but apparently, even though it was made in jest, it had a positive reaction. I later heard that one man told another man not to set any fires that the ranger in Jasper would spray him with purple dye!

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When I left the Buffalo Ranger District and went to the SO, and worked under Land Staff Officer Carl Benson, Fire and I & E Staff Officer, Jack Hambrick told me that he would not call on me to go to fires as overhead because of all the fires I had on the Buffalo RD. It became obvious that I was never called to go to any fire because of Hambrick's promise.

When Blanchard Springs Caverns was rapidly being developed, Jerry Alexander was placed under Hambrick to do the I & E Work.

One day when I got my Red Card with my qualifications as a firefighter, I went to see Hambrick and fun him about the card. Jerry Alexander said that he never saw me go to any fires and asked Jack why I got a Red Card. Jack said, "You don't know who you are talking about!" because I most likely had more fire experience than anyone on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests.

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When I was a brand new Junior Forester on the Womble Ranger District, Ouachita, National Forest, under Loopy Lane District Ranger in 1953, Eston Fryer and I were returning to the Work Center at Mt. Ida, Arkansas, just west of the Hickory Nut Mountain Tower road and the highway, we found a small fire just off the highway. Eston grabbed a rake and I got the backpack water can and we both attacked the fire. We held it to less than 1/10 acre. It could have been a very serious fire had it gone all the way up to the Hickory Mountain Fire Tower.

Since it was my very first forest fire, guess what it was called...The Virgin Fire!

Book Review

By Jim McConnell

I am old enough to remember Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. I was seven years old and all the adults were glued to the radio. I was gently told, "Go away, we won't be going to church or Sunday school today." I wondered why some of our neighbors had come over to listen to radio on a Sunday morning. My dad worked for the Border Patrol, and for the next four years it was almost 24/7 work for him because we lived in New Orleans and the Lord only knows all the stories that came out of that town at war. We lived four city blocks from the levee and I can remember seeing ships that had been torpedoed lying along the battre, the land between the levee and the river. The merchant ships were waiting to be repaired or scraped. My Mother never knew it, but we sneaked aboard a couple.

Enough, I found a book written by William B. Breuer entitled The Air-Raid Warden Was A Spy. Sub-title-And Other Tales From Home-Front America in World War II. I thought it would be interesting reading because this was my WWII. I did not expect to find several references and stories of the Forest Service. You may be interested and most of what follows is quoted from the book.

It was near midnight on April 20, 1942, when the US Forest Service District Ranger J. B. Fortin was patrolling the mountains near his base in Brevard, NC. Suddenly, he looked up to see "Perhaps twenty fires" break out on Sunburst Mountain. The veteran forester had never seen

anything to compare with the sight that greeted his eyes. Radioing his headquarters, he exclaimed "All twenty started at almost the same time. It had to be saboteurs!" This strange happening was no isolated event in western NC. A series of forest blazes continued for a week and wiped out thousands of acres of valuable timber that was earmarked for Army-camp construction.

In September 1942, the Japanese submarine I-25 was approaching the dark shore of Oregon. Housed in an improvised deck hanger was a light reconnaissance plane. The pilot was not necessarily expected to return from a mission, but the aircraft was equipped with pontoons to make it possible to touch down near the submarine.

Under the veil of night, the pilot of the sub-carried airplane took off from the water, headed inland and dropped two incendiaries near Brookings, OR, a short distance from the California boarder. Small blazes were ignited, but US Forest Service rangers rapidly extinguished them before major damage occurred. For nearly three weeks, the I-25 cruised along the coast and the Americans never knew that the enemy had started the forest blazes.

In May, 1945, in Oregon an American family went camping in the mountains. The wife and children meandered into nearby woods. The husband heard his wife call to come and look at the strange objects they had discovered. After he had taken two steps, an explosion rocked the area. Along with three Forest Service men, the husband dashed into the forest and was greeted by a horrible scene. The five children, chopped up and bloody were dead, the wife was barely alive, but died later. The family had a unique but tragic distinction: they were the only casualties from enemy bombing on home-front America. Because of wartime secrecy, citizens would not learn until months later that the NW United States was under attack by ingenious bomb-laden balloons launched from Japan into the high-altitude jet streams.

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BROKEN FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

This information is important as we all join in the effort to conserve energy. It appeared in a recent **HELOISE** column in our newspaper.

Because FLUORESCENT bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, major manufacturers suggest the following cleanup method for broken bulbs: You should not pick up the pieces with bare hands. Instead, wear protective gloves (disposable); open the windows and doors for ventilation **at least 15 minutes before starting cleanup**; and do not vacuum up any residue or small pieces of glass. The small particles should be removed with a damp paper towel. Place all the broken pieces in **two** sealed plastic bags, even the paper towels. The larger, longer bulbs are more hazardous than the small, compact bulbs, but both should be cleaned up with caution.

The package containing the bulbs warns that they contain mercury and should be disposed of properly, but does not mention the precautions for cleaning up a broken one. They suggest using duct tape to pick up stubborn little pieces, and you must wash your hands well after handling the bag. **Do not burn the bulbs!** Information on disposal is harder to find. You should call your trash company to see if there is a collection site in your area. You can also call the US Environmental Recycling Hotline at 877-EARTH-911. You enter your ZIP code, and there will be information for your state. It takes a while to go through the prompts, be patient. It's important!

FOREST SERVICE WORKS TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The Forest Service awarded a half million dollars in matching challenge cost-share funds to improve children's health and make a closer, active connection between America's youth and the outdoors.

In a noon ceremony, on May 22, 2007, at the USDA Whitten Building, officials presented awards to 24 Forest Service applicants and their partners from around the country. The awards, matched dollar for dollar by agency partners, will top \$1.5 million. The project will help improve children's health, combat obesity, and connect kids to the land in a hands-on-way.

"This opportunity is important to us for a lot of reasons," said Gail Kimbell, Chief of the Forest Service. "We can help address troubling declines we see in the mental and physical health of our children. At the same time, we can inspire future conservation leaders, who can perpetuate the critical role nature and forests play in the quality of life for Americans."

Studies show a growing chasm between children and nature, which has led to drops in physical and outdoor recreation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, headquartered in Atlanta, GA, about two-thirds of young people, grades 9 -12, do not engage in recommended levels of physical activity.

More than 250 groups vied for the awards. The Forest Service sought proposals focused on underserved and urban youth; recreation and conservation education; solid, broad-based partnerships; and innovative techniques. Most of the projects, resulting from the awards, will take place on national forests, which offer a myriad of outdoor recreation and educational opportunities across the country.

Keynote speaker, author Richard Louv, whose scientific research supports the Forest Service program and led to the book — *Last Child in Woods* – drew attention to the distance between kids and nature. Nature, he said, is as essential to children's health as nutrition and adequate sleep.

Co-hosts for the event included the American Recreation Coalition, The National Forest Foundation and Reserve America.

News Release 0711, USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

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