



THE DIXIE RANGER

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President's Corner

We are scattered. That may sound like a bit of exaggeration, but we do seem to scatter when we retire from the Forest Service. Many of us stay where we finished our career, and others move away to be near grandchildren, or we return to that place we dreamed about retiring to for so many years before we actually did it. In the process, we lose track of some folks we worked with and shared so many memorable experiences. Some of us join the Southern Forest Service Retirees' Association. Some of us just seem to disappear. I think some folks want it that way, and I respect that.

But, we lose track of a lot of people. Occasionally, we may hear a bit of news about someone we knew years ago. Sometimes, and all too often, we get a bit of secondhand information that they are very ill or have passed away. Then we grieve, and we reminisce.

I was reminded of this when I got an e-mail from Joe Bonnette the other day. He, Scooter Brown, Dick Moore, and Burt Anderson were trying to locate George Olsen, the former Forest Supervisor in North Carolina. I remembered George Olsen, but I could not help Joe find George. All I could do was refer him to Jim McConnell, our association's historian. Jim has many years' worth of records and knows a lot of people, but, unfortunately, he had no information about George.

That is the way things are, but it is pretty remarkable that we are able to keep up with so many of our retirees – thanks, in large part to word of mouth, and to the Internet. Sonny Cudabac, our Secretary, has done a great job forwarding e-mail messages about our many distant retirees. He has become a major source of "e-news" about us.

So, if you hear some news about a fellow retiree that we may have lost track of, please let us know. It is always a comfort to hear about those with whom we share so many memories.

Larry Bishop

President 2010-2011

JUNE 2010 LUNCHEON – MEETING

After about an hour of fellowship, followed by lunch, the 47 attendees settled down to association business. Sid Haggard introduced our guest speaker, Jim Rogers, who presented a program which included pictures and videos of the 2003 NASA Columbia disaster debris-recovery effort. Jim was the leader of the Forest Service Blue Team that worked in Texas. After Jim's presentation, President Larry Bishop discussed several items which were covered in the Board of Directors meeting preceding the luncheon. Major items discussed were:

How long should we keep non-paying members on the roster? Previously, the treasurer notified members after one year of lapsed dues via a note stapled into their *Dixie Ranger*. This will not work now, because *The Dixie Ranger* is mailed by the publisher and there is no opportunity to insert the note. Current Treasurer, Tom Tibbs, agreed that he would make an effort to contact the non-paying members via e-mail or telephone before dropping their names from the data base.

After the treasurer's report that our checking account balance is approximately \$9,700, the BOD agreed that \$4,500 could be moved to a series of laddered CDs. This allows for a rolling maturity ladder of 6-months CDs which will allow us to take advantage of potentially future rising interest rates.

Larry also presented an amendment to the association's constitution which had been discussed and agreed upon by the Board of Directors. This amendment would further clarify the definition of "member" in the SFSRA Constitution. The following amendment was read to SFSRA members by acting secretary Clair Redmond who was filling in for Secretary Sonny Cudabac and was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

Amendment No. 12 ---- A member "is a person who is a federal retiree who has been employed by the U.S. Forest Service in the Southern Region at one time or the other in NFS, S&PF, or Research".

Historian, Jim McConnell, announced that the "picture book" – a photo album of luncheon photos which he and Elaine have kept updated since October 1995 – was on a table in the back of the room. Many of the photographs are of SFSRA members who are no longer with us.

After a progress report of the FS Museum to be built in Missoula, MT, Dave Jolly reported that professional fund raisers have been hired to solicit funds. A few retirees have contributed as much as \$1,000 to this fund and many retirees have donated both money and many volunteer hours to the effort. It's hoped that there will be enough money on hand to break ground in 2011.

Ralph Mumme who has been our liaison with the National FS Retirees' Association for the past five years reported that he wishes to pass this duty to someone else interested in the job.

The meeting then progressed to the presentation of door prizes to lucky members whose numbers were called. Joyce Keith did a great job of selecting prizes and the Petite Auberge contributed a gift certificate for "Dinner for Two" which was won by Mike Sparks. There was also a \$10 gift certificate for SFSRA dues. Other door prizes were several beautiful floral centerpieces, festive pots of white mums, decorated with small American Flags. These were provided by Nancy Sorrells who always does a superb job of decorating our tables.

Correction: March 2010 *Dixie Ranger*, page 2 ---- Door prizes were selected and given out by Shirley and John Lamb. They have done a great job with this several times. Since we missed the luncheon, we appreciate being corrected. Editors

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ---- CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ---- Friday, December 3, 2010

Details will be in the November 2010 *Dixie Ranger*

"If you would know strength and patience, welcome the company of trees."

Hal Borland

R-8 RETIREES GET TOGETHER

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.

Cobb County Georgia - Retirees are now meeting at "My Country Kitchen", 2740 Summers Street, Kennesaw, Georgia. We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Good time for all with great fellowship. ---- See their photo on page 12.

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

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 19 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. ---- See their photo on page 12.

George Washington National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet for breakfast on the first Wednesday of **even** numbered months at 9:00 a.m. at the Village Inn Restaurant. This is located on US 11, a short distance off I-81 at Exit 240.

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

Francis Marion & Sumpter National Forests - Reported by Glenda Wood - The spring luncheon for Francis Marion and Sumter NFs retirees was held on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. Social hour began at 11:30 AM followed by lunch at noon at O'Charley's Restaurant in Lexington, SC. Jerry Henderson presided at the meeting, and asked Oscar Stewart to bless our meal. Those in attendance were: Bill & Barbara Bodie, Ron & Catherine Boozer, Larry and Verma Cope, Jim Daniel, David Devet, Don & Joyce Hair, Ed Hedgecock, Jerry & Audrey Henederson, Bill & Mary Holton, Tommy & Janet Kinard, Jeanne LeBoeuf, LeRoy Lewis, Paul Myers, Colette Phillips, Dave Rosdahl, Norman & Roselyn Runge, Jim & Vivki Scott, Oscar & Floyce Stewart, and Jim & Glenda Wood. Guests included Don Peterson and his son Bill (from Minnesota) and Deb Wood (from Columbia), daughter of Jim & Glenda.

This particular meeting was a somber occasion for all of us, as former Supervisor Donald Eng had died just 3 days prior to our scheduled meeting. Although he had been very ill, he made the arrangements for our spring meeting, and had looked forward to joining us. After the meal, Jerry Henderson asked if there were those who wished to share memories of Supervisor Eng, who had led our retiree group since its inception. Dave Rosdahl, Bill Bodie, and Glenda Wood shared both humorous and serious moments, acknowledging his excellent leadership and accomplishments. Supervisor Eng was a very dear friend and an inspiration to all of us. He lived a very full and productive life to the very end.

Glenda Wood reported on health concerns and those who were unable to join us for various reasons. Nora Autrey has a serious eye problem, but hopes to attend future meetings. Joyce Watts continues to experience health problems, but was ecstatic about Bryant's progress. She said he can care for himself almost independently, and his mental attitude is nothing short of amazing in coping with his latest challenges. She

was optimistic about their being able to join us in the near future. Jim Scott's wife, Vicki, is experiencing serious problems. Vicki's "Caringbridge" address is: www.caringbridge.org/visit/vickiscott, and her home address is: 127 Ralph Williams Road, Prosperity, SC 29127. Dave and Liz Adams had planned to attend the retiree meeting until the day prior, at which time Liz had been diagnosed with a serious illness requiring another doctor's appointment the day of the luncheon. Liz has returned home from the hospital and welcomes visitors. Cards may be mailed to: 215 Larkspur Road, Columbia, SC 29212-1307.

Retirees agreed to meet the second Wednesday of April and October. However, the fall meeting this year is scheduled for the third Wednesday, October 20, 2010. Please mark your calendar and join us if you're in our area at that time. You may contact Vicki Scott at cyberfogie@aol.com or (803) 364-2504, or Glenda Wood at (864) 445-4751 or at tanner2010@centurylink.net for further information.

**These retiree gatherings are great photo opportunities. We look forward to receiving yours!
Also family celebrations, especially anniversaries - share your good times with SFSRA!!**

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THE SNEEZE

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencement, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED !!!! The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, "God Bless You". And he walked off the stage... The audience exploded into applause.

This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval. This is a true story; it happened at the University of Maryland. Internet

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

TERRY JONES - Georgia - Here are dues for three years. We are doing fine here in Rome, Georgia. We are enjoying watching our grandchildren grow up and are very involved in their lives. I lost a gall bladder and a kidney to surgery last summer and hope to have a more fun summer this year. I had the gall bladder removed after an attack put me in the emergency room. They did a cat scan to figure things out and discovered a cancerous tumor on my right kidney. If they hadn't done the cat scan on the gall bladder, the tumor could have grown for years before symptoms occurred. Guess I was lucky they found it. I enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and keeping up with everyone and look forward to future publications.

LYNN NEFF - Alabama - Couple years of dues enclosed; happy I have nothing for Jim McConnell. Greetings from the satsuma belt of Baldwin County. Alabama is the 13th state where we've received our mail. What a great place to live. It was a cold winter, but the satsumas and lemon trees survived. There are a few Forest Service retirees in the county and we get together several times a year.

GEORGE HEDGES - Alabama - Please excuse my tardiness with dues. Thanks for your continued efforts as co-editors of *The Dixie Ranger*. I'm still staying active with a personal service contract and fire details. Thanks again for *The Dixie Ranger* which normally isn't put down until I've read it cover to cover. Please find enclosed a check to get my dues up to date.

DAVE SCOTT - Oregon - It was good to see you folks at the Missoula reunion. Here are a couple years dues. I see the President's letter talks about who is eligible to be a Dixie Ranger. We had the same discussion out here and decided just about anybody could be a member as long as they had some relationship to forestry. What's most important is that they be good friends.

BILL KANE - Georgia - Here are membership dues for the SFSRA and *The Dixie Ranger* for two more years. Thank you for all your time and hard work. We really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger*.

KAY ERWIN - Louisiana - Here are my dues for a couple years. Seeing the picture of the fellows at the I&E Training Workshop in Alexandria, LA, in November 1967, even though I wasn't in it, brought back some old memories. I was working on the timber staff in the SO and June Terry was working fire communications. Bill Martin was our fearless Cessna pilot. Since I had spent 4 ½ years on the "Burning Vernon" Ranger District, I guess they thought I knew something about fire. Anyway, we were having a high fire danger period and Bill and I were flying fire patrol, him flying and both of us observing. We were near Homer in NE Louisiana, Caney Ranger District, when June called me, "Kay, your wife just called and said to tell you she had lost your couch at home." Now what do you do about a lost couch when you are 2000 feet in the air at least a hundred miles from home? To make a long story short, she had located it by the time we got back. She had gotten it recovered and that was the problem.

JOHN BARBER - Virginia - You do a great job with the newsletter – and I really appreciate the directory. It lets me know who is left of my associates. Most of my career was in research, from 1951–1976 when I became Associate Deputy Chief, WO, for State and Private Forestry. Then in 1980, I retired and became EVP for the Society of American Foresters, retiring in 1985 to become a community volunteer here on the family farm in the Northern Neck of Virginia, many miles from any National Forest.

SHIRLEY HERBERT - Georgia - Here is my check for next year's Dixie Ranger. For almost twenty-five years I worked in I&E/OI. The picture of the I&E workshop in Louisiana in the last edition was like an "Old Home Week" visit for me. Brought back many happy memories.

GERALD WARD - Arkansas - Here are my dues for 2009 and 2010. Sorry to be late, but this will catch me up and then some. Summer is here again, and it's time for the snakes and chiggers. Lots of jokes about these vermin could be told by the woods crews. Who would have ever thought the Forest Service would have fallen from a top agency in the government to somewhere near the bottom. So many good men who

worked for the agency can't believe what has happened. One morning we woke up and found that the people who made the decisions and made the Forest Service the good agency that it was, no longer had that power. They were second-guessed by "self appointed experts", courts, administrations and other organizations, and it will take a long, long time for it to recover, if ever. It seems we are shot down on nearly every decision made by the people who run the agency until they are afraid to make the decisions. Can't say that I like it, nor do most folks. It's just another job for them and they can't wait until they too can retire. Well, I've said my two cents worth and could say a lot more. I'm glad I worked for the Forest Service and worked during the time, in my opinion, it was the greatest. Had a nice visit by Tom Fair and his wife last fall. Others come by to visit the Sylamore District and come by or give me a call. Have a good summer.

RICHARD AMES - Georgia - It looks like someone paid my dues thru 2012! I do not recall sending in a check from 2009 on. But then, there are a lot of things I don't recall these days! Thanks to my unknown benefactor (if there is one!). But for sure, here is a check for a couple more years. My wife and I are still enjoying good health. No problems other than normal old age stuff. I am distressed to hear of serious ailments hitting those I worked with, and my thoughts are with you. Sonny is doing a wonderful job with keeping us informed of the good, bad, and sometimes eye-opening news. I appreciate him. Lots of fruit on the trees this year. I could buy several bushels of peaches for the price of the spray needed to keep the bugs and disease away. Oh well. Take care everyone.

CHRIS EPPS - Arkansas - As usual, I am late with my dues. Here is a check for three years: Past, present and some future. All is well here in north Arkansas. I enjoy reading about the people that I have known down through the years. Keep up the good work.

DON SKREHOT - Texas - Here are dues for a couple more years. Please change my e-mail address and delete my wife's name. Melba passed away in July 2009.

DONNA McLAIN REYNOLDS - North Carolina - So sorry I'm late with my dues. I do enjoy and look forward to each Dixie Ranger and want to thank Dave & Peggy for the time they give to it to make it so interesting! Also, thanks to Jim McConnell for compiling the "In Memoriam" and to Tom Tibbs for taking care of dues. You are all doing a good job. Thanks.

ED SWENSEN - Georgia - I was reading *The Dixie Ranger* November 2009 issue, a number of readers talked about sending in their membership dues, so I stopped and looked at my address label. I'm one of them (08). No reason, just don't remember. So enclosed is a check for \$50 for 2009 thru 2013. I'm planning to be around in 2014 but not sure the mind will be working.

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Will Rogers, who died in a 1935 plane crash with his best friend, Wylie Post, was probably the greatest political sage this country has ever known. Here's some of what he has to say about **Growing Older**.

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Fifth ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you're old.

IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Jim McConnell

Donald E. Blysm, 84, passed away on March 8, 2010 at his home in Seminole, Florida. Born in Lafayette, Indiana, Don was a 34-year career forester with the US Forest Service. He began his career fighting forest fires in the Pacific Northwest while a forestry student at Purdue University. He went on to participate in the supervision of national forests in Alabama, Arkansas and North Carolina. He was assigned to the Forest Service Washington, DC office and also served on the staff of the Secretary of Agriculture where he was in charge of evaluating management systems in the Forest Service and other agriculture agencies nationwide. Don is survived by his wife of 61 years, Jean R. Blysm; three children: Thomas Blysm, Donna Maddrey and Barry Blysm; along with 6 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and a sister, Mary E. Vandergraff. Don was a member of SFSRA

Carol P. Nichols, 71, passed away March 23, 2010 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She was born in Roswell, NM and came to the Ouachita National Forest from another federal agency. Carol worked with Ed Outlaw in Law Enforcement, then joined the recreation team headed by Earl Littlejohn. There she worked tirelessly to maintain a standard of excellence in the Recreation Program and Earl praised her work ethic. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Joseph Nichols; one son Danny Joseph Nichols; and three grandchildren.

Ruby L. Little, 56, passed away April 3, 2010 in South Carolina. She was born Sept. 26, 1953 in Columbia, SC. She was the daughter of Nannie Y. Robertson and the late Creighton Robertson of Winnsboro, SC. Ruby was employed with the US Forest Service for 25 years, a career she loved. A graduate of Winnsboro High School and Midlands Technical College, she was a loving and devoted mother of two children. Ruby is survived by her son Christopher Lance Little; brother John Robertson; sisters Peggy Sims and Virginia Robertson. She was predeceased by her daughter Lisa Royals.

Donald W. Eng, 80, passed away April 11, 2010 after a long battle with colon cancer. Don was born October 12, 1929 in Duluth, Minnesota. After graduating from the University Of Minnesota with a BS in forest management, he attended the Harvard University School of Forest Production and the University of Montana School of Administrative Leadership. Don's career included positions with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service. Assignments were located in Idaho, California, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and South Carolina. After 38 years with the Forest Service, he retired in 1991 as Supervisor of the Francis Marion and Sumter NFs in South Carolina. Following retirement Don operated a forestry consulting service and led three outdoor adventures courses through the University of South Carolina's Continuing Education program. Among his career awards, Don received recognition as an Elected Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, the Forest Service Chief's National Stewardship Award, the USDA Superior Award for Hurricane Hugo Recovery Efforts and the USDA Forest Service Merit Award for Continuous Outstanding Performance and Leadership. His career affiliations included the Society of American Foresters (Missouri chairman 1970-71), South Carolina Forestry Association, Forestry Council of South Carolina, Federal Executive Council (president 1985), Clemson University Department Of Forestry Advisory Committee member 1985-1991 and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation. Always an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hiking, he played an active role in encouraging the establishment of Saluda Shoals Park. He was a faithful member of Trout Unlimited for several decades, serving as president 1987-88. Don is survived by his wife Jean; children Dwight, Doreen, Darilyn, Daleen, Derek and Dean; 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Don was a member of SFSRA

Lewis John Zolnik, age 88, died peacefully on May 1, 2010 at his home in Chamblee, Georgia. Lewis retired from the Forest Service after 44 years of dedicated service. He served in the US Army for 40 years of active and reserve duty. His grade on Army retirement was CWO-3. He served with the 8th Armored Division in the European Theater of Operations in WWII which carried him through seven countries. Lewis is survived by his wife Isabelle; daughter Juliana Kohl; and sons Lewis Jr. and Stanley; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sisters Stella C. Hadeka and Wanda P. Madrak; brother Stanley;

and several relatives in Poland. Lewis' parents came to America from Poland in the 1920s, shortly before he was born. Burial was at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, Georgia. Lewis was a member of SFSRA. (An Editorial note: I worked in the RO many of the years that Lou did. We would meet in the hall and later at SFSRA luncheons after both of us had retired. Lou always had a smile and a sunny disposition. He was a delight to talk to and I always felt better after chatting with him. Jim McConnell)

Peter L. Lorio, Jr., age 83, passed away at his home in Alexandria, Louisiana on May 12, 2010 of complications from a long-term illness. Pete was born in New Orleans on April 10, 1927 and attended Jesuit High School. He served in the Marine Corps between WW II and the Korean War. After completing his military service, he received his bachelors degree in Forestry from LSU and a masters degree in forestry from Duke University. Pete first worked with the Standard Fruit Company improving production of banana plantations in Central America. After receiving his Ph.D. in silviculture and soil science from Iowa State, he joined the Forest Service and spent the rest of his career at the Southern Forest Experiment Station In Pineville, LA. Pete was the leader in research projects on the southern pine bark beetle. He received national and international recognition for his work in this area and retired as Scientist Emeritus. Pete was married to Maria del Pilar Collins of La Ceiba, Honduras for 52 years. They had six children, 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He also derived enjoyment from the fruits of his garden, anything LSU and his dogs.

Myrla (Mickey) Colvin Jones, passed away peacefully on March 16, 2010 in Decatur, GA. She was the wife of Dick L. Jones. Mickey was born April 6, 1937 in Provo, UT and married Dick on August 6, 1960. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their son Chris Jones; grandson Alex Jones; and a sister Julie Corbett of Dallas, Texas. A second child Jamie Lee Jones is deceased. A memorial service was held on March 19th in Decatur, GA. Dick is a member of SFSRA

Charles Kelley Sigler, age 77, died peacefully on March 21, 2010 in Elkins Lake, Texas. He was born in Providence, Kentucky and is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ann Ward Sigler. During the Korean War, he joined the Navy and was stationed in Hawaii where he worked on airplane engines and was a hard-hat diver. He earned his BS and Masters degrees in Forestry from Oregon State University. He worked with the US Forest Service in Oregon, Kentucky, Louisiana and Texas. He retired as District Ranger of the Raven District in New Waverly after 22 years and then enjoyed working for Walker Brothers Lumber Company for the next 20 years. Kelley and Ann loved to travel. They visited as many exotic locales as possible and enjoyed learning about other cultures and meeting new friends. During their travels, they explored South America, China, Europe, Indonesia, Africa, Tibet and Easter Island. One of their favorite adventures was the year they spent in Australia.

James "Wes" Harvey, died from cancer on May 30, 2010 in Tacoma, Washington. He spent the early part of his career in the Southern Region where he worked on several national forests and as Project Forester on the Y-LT at Lexington, Mississippi. He later transferred to the Forest Service office in Ogden, UT. Wes was one of the employees who took advantage of the "early outs" which took place during one of the Forest Service's austerity eras about 10 -15 years ago. Anyone knowing more about Wes may want to send it to the Dixie Ranger.

Willard Arthur Schlesselman, 82, of Lufkin, Texas died on June 25 2010. He was born May 25, 1928 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He retired from the US Army and the US Forest Service. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Schlesselman, of Lufkin and one son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Quanah Schlesselman of Idabel, Oklahoma. He also leaves two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Ronald Nugent of Alexandria, Louisiana and Stacy and Brad Dominy of Alto, Texas; one sister and brother-in-law, June and Don Firnhaber of Phoenix, Arizona. Bill and Elizabeth have seven grandchildren: Justine Pipes, Steven Michael Jude Schlesselman, Anne Schlesselman, John Schlesselman, Dylan Nugent and his wife Lindsey, Kydie Marmon, and Ty Marmon. They also have three great-grandchildren: Corbin, Tristan, and Ella Nugent. Willard was a member of SFSRA

Ann Marie Schruender, age 74, died March 31, 2010 under the care of Hospice at Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, Onancock, Virginia, from complications of a hereditary neurological disease. She was the wife of Bernard J. Schruender for 52 years. Bernard worked for the US Forest Service, and Ann set up housekeeping 12 different times - in Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Maine and Wisconsin. Upon retirement they lived in Wachapreague, Virginia. Ann was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, with degrees in home economics and education.

Doug Mattox, died on June 23, 2010. He was a retiree on the James River Ranger District, George Washington National Forests and worked on fires in several states. Survived by his family, Aileen, Donna and Dewayne, Doug's home was in Covington, Virginia.

Dick Zweig, 91, died in March 2010. Dick was a retired Forest Service employee, having worked in Kentucky and in the Regional Office in State and Private Forestry.

Melba Skrehot, Lufkin, Texas, died in July of 2009. She is survived by her husband, Forest Service retiree Don Skrehot. Don is a member of SFSRA.

Two Forest Service Employees Die in PA Plane Wreck: The Forest Service is mourning the loss of two Morgantown, West VA based employees who were killed in a plane crash on June 21, 2010. **Rodney Whiteman**, 46, of Morgantown and **Dan Snider**, 29, of Pentress were killed when the Cessna plane in which they were passengers crashed in a residential area in Lock Haven, PA. They were conducting an aerial pest survey. The plane took off from Clarion County, PA and was supposed to land at the airport in Lock Haven. Instead the plane crashed in a Lock Haven neighborhood about 300 yards from the runway. It hit the porch of a house and a number of cars before crashing and catching fire. The plane's pilot who was not a Forest Service employee also died. Witnesses reported hearing the engine sputtering and seeing smoke trailing from the aircraft before it crashed and caught fire. Snider was a biological technician who had worked for the Forest Service for 9 years. He assisted in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina as part of a Forest Service chain saw crew. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and a son Lee. Whiteman, a forester, worked for the Forest Service for 24 years, and, as a firefighter, often assisted when large wildfire broke out in the western United States. He is survived by his wife Megan and a daughter Haley.

The Dominion Post, Morgantown, West Virginia - Wednesday June 23, 2010

Read this very slowly ... It's pretty **Profound**: Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine. I got to thinking one day about all those people on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back. From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word 'refrigeration' mean nothing to you? How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched television?

We'll go back and visit the grandparents when we get the baby toilet-trained. We'll entertain when we replace the living room carpet. We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college. Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter, and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer. One morning we awaken and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of 'I'm going to', 'I plan on', and 'someday, when things are settled down a bit'.

When anyone calls my 'seize the moment' friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of rollerblades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord. My lips have not touched ice cream in 10 years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a triple-decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy!

Now...go on have a nice day. Do something you **WANT** to...not something on your **SHOULD DO** list. If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say?...And, why are you waiting?
Internet

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SANDRA AHERN

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HERB MANSBRIDGE (VALERIE)

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BOBBIE TEMPLETON

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Cherokee NF - Cleveland TN

JAMES VAN VACTER (LINDA)

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TOM FERGUSON (SANDRA)

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WINSTON WOLFE (OUIDA)

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E-Mail: wowolfe@suddenlink.net

ALLEN YOUNG (NANCY)

133 South Dry Well Road
Natural Bridge, Virginia 24578
Phone: (540) 2912608

Additions and Changes to the March 2010 Directory

Anderton, William – Change town: Feming Isle and new e-mail: williamanderson@att.net

Blankenship, Charles – Add wife's name: Kay

Cromley, Lee – Change e-mail addresses: cccromley@yahoo.com and lccromley@bellsouth.net

Fox, Walter – Change e-mail: foxyforester@windstream.net

Hayne, Chris, Jr. – Change phone number: (251) 955-1336

Hemingway, George – Change address: 3324 Indian Trail; Eustis, FL 32726-2318
phone: (352) 602-4438; e-mail: georgehemingway@comcast.net

Hewitt, Shirley - Change - address: 114 Lakeview Bend Circle; Jefferson, GA 30549; phone: same

Hitt, Robert – Change address: 8480 Roswell Road, Apt. #315; Atlanta, GA 30350; phone: same

MacNaughton, Jim – Add phone: (540) 433-9379; change e-mail: smokeyjim@comcast.net

Mumme, Ralph – Change e-mail: ralphmumme@att.net

Neff, Lynn – Change e-mail: jneff@centurytel.net

Roth, Marie – Change address: 1225 New Hampshire Court; Mocksville, NC 27028
phone: (336) 745-5537; e-mail: same

Sims, Dan – Add wife's name: Dorothy; change phone: (770) 962-5205; e-mail: dansims@gmail.com

Skrehot, Don – Delete wife's name; change e-mail: joyus33@suddenlink.net

Stewart, Frances – Change apartment number to #315; zip code: 30329-2543

Swensen, Edmond – Change city to Dunwoody ; all other info is the same

Wood, Glenda & Jim – Change e-mail: tanner2010@centurylink.net

Dues (\$10/yr) and any changes in your address, phone numbers, e-mails send to Tom Tibbs, 627 Oak Lane, Marion VA 24354. Changes can also be e-mailed to Tom at gtibbs6@embarqmail.com .

Death notices/obituaries send to Jim McConnell, 3699 Wentworth Lane, Lilburn GA 30047-2256 or via e-mail to Jim at elanjim@bellsouth.net .

Any stories, articles and/or photographs you would like published in *The Dixie Ranger* still go to Dave & Peggy Jolly, 128 Wind Trace, Alexander City, AL 35010 or via e-mail to djollysr@comlinkinc.net .

Keep your stories coming!!! They are the backbone of our newsletter. Any notes, letters, etc. which you include with your dues payments to Tom will be sent on to the Jollys. Tom, Jim and the Jollys will forward all changes and death notices to our Secretary, Sonny Cudabac, so that he can continue to communicate Forest Service news, activities, deaths, etc. via his members' e-mail list and, most importantly, keep the 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 .

HUMOR FOR LEXOPHILES (Lovers of Words)

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.
A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.
The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
A bike can't stand alone. It's two tired.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

Record Attendance - 17 Cobb County Retirees Gather for Breakfast on March 30, 2010



L-R: Jerry Ragus, Ed Tarvor, Bill Hughes, Tim Kolnik & Son, Clair Redmond, Bill Speer, Keith McLaughlin, Alan Pigg, Larry Bishop, Sam Halverson, Sonny Cudabac, Jean Kruglewicz, Ray Johnston, Jim Spano, Bob Wilhelm and Greg Lynch

Jefferson National Forest - 31 Retirees and Spouses Attended the April 14, 2010 Luncheon



Seated L-R: Kay Blankenship, Paul Timko, Alan Young, Charles Blankenship, Jimmy & Doris Short; Standing: Gary Brunk, Don & Wilma Blackburn, John Hinrich, Charles Rozier, Brenda Ayres, Irene Timko, Marian Hudson, Nancy Young, Donna Wilson, Linda Oberlander, Liz Belcher, Frances Runyon, Dave Harris, Clara Cordell, Bob Broadwine, Jerry Buchanan, Leon McCaleb, Bob Lockhart, Jo Ann Martin, Jerry Simmons, Dick Martin, Barbara Simmons, Harold Mason and Bill Amos

June 3, 2010 - Southern Forest Service Retirees Association Luncheon



Larry Bishop & Jim McConnell



Carolyn & Keith Grest and Fern & Jerry Coutant



Virgil and Nancy Sorrellis



Bruce & Weeta Baldwin



John Allen



Jeanette Haggard and Jackie Rogers



Mike Sparks and John Allen

Wayne & Wanda Miller



Elaine McConnell & Fern Coutant



James & Joyce Keith



Sheila Barron hands out door prizes
Dave Jolly watches



Ralph Mumme and Tom & Killian Smith



Ann Tibbs and Peggy Jolly with John Lamb

Part 3

LOOKING BACK by *Jim McConnell*

(Parts 1 and 2 are in the Nov 2009 and March 2010 issues of *The Dixie Ranger*)

Most of my class, 1956, at LSU stayed for advanced degrees or went to work with forest industry. Industrial forestry was big and there were lots of jobs available. Most of us took the civil service exam but somehow I had one of the better scores. I received a letter from the Forest Supervisor on the Kisatchie National Forest and since I wanted to be fairly close to home at that time, I quickly accepted it and went to work on the Catahoula Ranger District in June of 1956.

Since the US Army got a hold of me in 1958, it was not until June of 1960 that I went to Atlanta for the Management Induction Training. Notable in the class were Arch Kennedy, Charley Blankenship, Jack Williams, Joe Duckworth, Gray Leinback, Jerry Marsh, Monte Seehorn, George Gibbs, Charley Gresham and Tom Price. No wonder the Forest Service was so good until we retired, most of us in the early 90s.

In June of 1952 Newsweek magazine published an article about the Forest Service. I have given quotes from it in Parts 1 & 2. Part 3 will conclude the series. I feel whoever wrote the article hit the nail on the head when they talked about how and why the Forest Service was among the top federal government agencies at the time. I am concerned because, it seems, it has dropped to the bottom in recent years. Most of us are too far away to know why.

"The Ocala in North Central Florida is another fire hazard. There are a few islands of longleaf towering above a sea of feathery-foliaged sand pine. The sterile white sand is so worthless a soil that much of the Ocala remained in the public domain until it became a national forest. Yet Forest Supervisor Frank Rasor and his rangers now have the Ocala paying its way, largely through sand pine for pulp."

"Another of Rasor's forests, the Osceola, west of Jacksonville, is rich in slash and longleaf, the sources of naval stores. At the adjoining experiment station, researcher Al Snow has developed a revolutionary way of milking these trees of their sticky wealth. He merely chips off the bark and releases torrents of gum with sulphuric acid spray. The savings are: half the labor formerly involved, plus valuable butt logs free of the usual turpentine scars."

"The Forest Service has a few enemies, mainly disgruntled hunters, livestock raisers, lumbermen, and others who feel that their special interests rate higher than 'the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run'."

"Most people who have dealt with the foresters would, however, endorse a statement made by H.O. (Hoss) Stabler, one of the original Pinchot boys, who retired five years ago to his Maryland woodlot."

"A fellow forester asked Stabler what he considered his greatest contribution to forestry. The veteran tilted back in his chair, pursed his lips and replied quietly: 'For a considerable period, I helped the American people get their money's worth'."

I think many of us need a little pickup from the torment of seeing the Forest Service slip so low. Even if this article predates many of us, it is good to know what we inherited and I, truly, believe we carried on the tradition in every way. I remember my first ranger telling me to charge any overtime I worked to experience. And that's the way it was!!!

(Editors' note: We think many of you may share our feelings that Jim has provided much enjoyment to our readers with this series of articles, and we, for two, hate to see the series end. It's so great to read good things about the Forest Service, an agency in which we have felt so much pride to be a part of during our forestry careers - our Forest Service family.) New members - if you would like copies of the first two parts, let us know and we will send them to you,

Margie Whitlock sent the following memory provoking letter: It is a copy of a letter written by a Forest Service wife to The Fechheimer Brothers Company in 1979, concerning the ordering of a Forest Service uniform. "If there is only one person reading *The Dixie Ranger* who remembers what this was like, it will be worth the space to put it in the next issue. I remember going through some of what is detailed in this letter, but I would have never been able to put it into words as cleverly as Beverly Stiger from Montana. (I have been saving this letter since 1979!)

"Since the next issue is going to have Part 3 of the journey through the Forest Service, 'as we knew it', I thought this might add a light touch to the issue. I realize it's a little over two pages long, but it is very funny, even down through the P.S. and the cc's.

"I called Beverly Stiger to ask permission to have you print this in *The Dixie Ranger* and she said, 'Of course!' Not only did she give us permission to print her letter she sent me 3 more letters, one that she wrote to a Ranger was particularly good. District people will get a kick out of it. I will send them to you later to use if you choose. I hope you can find the space to print this letter of Beverly's and I certainly hope there are others who enjoy it as much as I did."

Mr. A. J. Moore
Government Services
The Fechheimer Brothers Company
4545 Malsbury Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

June 25, 1979

Dear Mr. Moore:

Our unfortunate experience with the Fechheimer Company began in November of 1978 with an order for Forest Service uniform shirts, pants, hat, and tie. The tie and hat were shipped in December, but by themselves, didn't constitute much of a uniform, much less keep the chilly wind out, so they occupied a space on the closet shelf while awaiting the rest of the order. Various correspondence concerning the order resulted in a long reply describing your Company's problems in filling orders since you had received so many at once.

Well, it would seem to me, Gentlemen, since you have been providing Forest Service uniforms for many years now, that when you accepted the contract again this year and someone told you the F.S. uniform had been changed and everyone would be ordering, nation-wide, didn't anyone anticipate a flood of orders? Under the circumstances, good business practice would indicate that you needed to beef up your staff a little.

Be that as it may, the pants finally arrived sometime in February. They had been constructed by Omar the Tentmaker out of wrinkley old army tent material left over from World War II, and if a "western field jean" looks like that to you Ohioans, God help you if you ever run into a cowboy! They were indeed 32 around the waist, and the pantlegs were indeed 31 inches long. However, the crotch length was about 24 inches and hung to the knees. (I wonder where you ever got fly zippers long enough - possibly from old army sleeping bags.)

We promptly returned the pants, after several weeks of waiting for written permission to do so. Then we thought we'd beat the system and order the same from Nudelman's. Mr Fechheimer and Mr. Nudelman obviously have lunch together and both sublet the pants contract to the same tentmaker. Nudleman's pants were cut the same way. Being tired of paying postage both directions and waiting weeks for these creations, we gave up and I remade the pants. There was enough material left over from the seat to make another pair entirely. And I took four inches out of each leg.

So, anyway, then we had tie, hat, and pants; no shirts, of course; you still had them backordered. They finally arrived in April, complete with crooked arm patches - but if he holds his arm like his elbow is broken and bends over a little to the left, you hardly notice it.

On February 19th we ordered the field coat, thinking we might cover up his old uniform shirt with that and get by. Not so. The coat got backordered too. We ordered the jacket liner,

thinking he could wear that in the spring and at least it would be the right color. The jacket liner arrived in early April. Only it was sized wrong. A men's size 38 Regular was sized to fit a Boy size 10 Extra Slim. It had to be returned also, and remember, this takes countless letters back and forth asking and receiving permission to return goods. I also found out through this correspondence with Mr. Moore that the coats run very full and the liners very small, so no way do you order the same size if you want it to fit the same person. Now, any dummy should know that a Size 40 Long liner would be the one that would fit under a size 38 Regular coat, right? Well, we can all hope. Maybe we'll never know. The replacement liner has never been shipped.

The coat arrived in late May, after the cold weather was over, but miraculously, it fit, so we counted our blessings and are hanging onto it for dear life! In fact, some day I'll probably bury him in it, it means so much after all the trouble to get it. But then, that would probably require endless reams of written permission too, so I'll tell you what. When the time comes, I'll send it back to you and save you the trouble of disposal instructions.

And that brings us in a round-about way to the purpose of my letter. Where is the liner? Will it arrive after he has retired, or what? Is it going to arrive at all? If not, please refund the money. Our checks for all this stuff have been very promptly cashed, indicating that your banking department is working overtime regardless of what the rest of you are doing.

If you can't send the liner, you might try using the truckers' strike as an excuse. I'll probably buy that line. On the other hand, perhaps it would be easier to pop a refund check in the mail. So far as I know, the mails still go through. At least 'way out here amongst the cowboys and sagebrush, it do.

I am sure by this time, with all the complaints on the fit of your uniform trousers, and all the sad-eyed cowboys wandering aimlessly through the western stores, carrying baggy tent jeans and trying hopelessly to match color, the Lee, Wrangler, and Levi people are busy duplicating the necessary colors. It won't be long before we can count on clothing that will fit properly and be so close in color, even the gnomes at Fechheimer can't tell the difference (except for the absence of the baggy seat, of course). I'll bet Levi will even make a jacket liner, and I'll even go so far as to say we can get it in less than 4 months. If we had our money back.

Please process the order or the refund immediately.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Mrs. Beverly W. Stiger (Wife and cohort of E. M. "Sonny" Stiger, who throws up his hands, shoves the baggy britches and backorder slips in my capable hands, and shouts, "Do something with these g-d things!" As he stomps out the door in a pair of Wrangler bluejeans.)

P.S. You've got to admit, the tale of woe presented is indeed incredible. The Bear, himself, would find such goings-on with Government suppliers a serious matter.

The above letter in no way is meant to reflect the opinion of the Management, only that of the Labor Force in the Stiger establishment.

B.W.S.

Cc: Divisions of Contracting, Personnel,
Business Mgmt., Purchasing, or the
Chief, himself, if he's interested
U.S.F.S., Washington, D.C.

Harry, the Personnel Man
Helena National Forest

THE BACK BONE OF THE FOREST SERVICE

by *Mike Sparks*

I was most fortunate during my career to be mentored by good people. But the most valuable teachings I received were from the realm of the Forest Service technicians.

My first Summer job was on the Boston Mountain District of the Ozark-St Francis National Forests, then headquartered at Van Buren, Arkansas. The work center was at Mountainburg, some 40 miles away. I was hired by Pat Thomas, then Wildlife and Range Staff Officer on the Ozark-SF. My job as a Summer student was to inventory the grazing resource on the District to determine the feasibility of a cattle grazing program. My courses at Arkansas Tech in biology and plant taxonomy led to my recommendation to Pat by Dr. Dwight Moore, my taxonomy professor.

When I arrived, I met the Ranger, Duane Routh, the ass't ranger, Roger Dennington and a forester by the name of Bob Boardwine. They knew very little of my task but relied upon Pat Thomas' instruction to me. I was given a forest worker as my guide and woods tutor. I've mentioned him before in my writings. His name was Cleston Serratt..we just called him Cless.

Cless was an old "mountain boomer" who lived up the "holler" with his family. I've told you before of the tricks he pulled on me and the fine Dinner his wife prepared for me. During the Summer, he taught me woods lore that I had never heard about. Such things as "how to identify Ginseng" and why you don't walk in the woods with your hands in your pocket. Never step over a log, step on it and jump or go around it "cause there may be a serpent on the other side".

His teachings were invaluable to me and he learned things too...how to estimate how many "grams" a sample of Bermuda grass weighed when clipped from the random plot although he didn't rely upon scientific proof to determine if a cow could live on the grass in the area. He knew by instinct cause he had raised many a head of cattle in his life. Unknowingly, he helped determine with great accuracy how many head of cattle would thrive on the District.

My next experience was as a Summer student working on the Piney Ranger District of the Ozark-St Francis National Forests. The Piney is now gone but certainly not forgotten by us older folks. My Ranger was Bill Bodie of whom I've written many tales before. I learned a lot from him about "people management". He assigned me that Summer to work for the TSI foreman...a man named Dickey Athey. Dickey was always fair in his delegations....that's why on my first day on the TSI crew, he gave me the dullest, most used up tree injector on the District. I thought perhaps he just didn't like students because by the end of the first day, my injector blade wouldn't cut through hot butter because it had hit so many glancing blows and landed on rocks. By the end of the first week, I had earned a better tool because I learned how to use it. I recall one instance when we were at the lower end of Indian Creek, about 3 benches below the truck (½ mile or so) when we ran out of herbicide. He asked if any one wanted to volunteer to go to the truck to retrieve another 5 gallon can (which weighed approx 40 pounds). Nobody spoke up so I said I would go. Now I was still the new kid on the block so I headed up the mountain with Dickey on my tail. Guess he was afraid I would get lost. But he let me "tote" the juice back down the mountain and all was well. I had earned a bit of respect among the crew. Dickey and that crew of 12 men taught me a lot that Summer. When I left to return to school, Dickey wished me well and said..."Now you've learned how to use a tree injector...that's good because someday you'll have to oversee the work of others and now you can do that because you know how it's done and what's required." That statement has served me well in my career.

The next Summer, I worked again on the Piney but this time with the timber marking crew...two old mountain boomers by the name of Mickey Cochran and Doyme Curtis. I've told stories about them in the past. I grew to love these guys and considered myself quite privileged to be in their company, especially on a rainy day when it was raining and we had to stay in the vehicle cause "we can't mark timber today, the tally sheet might

get wet". Or if we finished a payment unit at 2 o'clock, "We'll start the next unit tomorrow". They would hand me the keys and tell me to drive to the work center at Dover via Clarksville which was out of the way by a long shot. Yes, we wasted some time on those days but other days, we made it up and added some. If we lacked half a day to complete a parcel of timber, we might work twice as hard and long to finish it. I recall something Mickey said which proved true... "You may not think you earned your pay today but tomorrow, you may think you didn't get paid nearly enough for the work you put in but remember this young feller...it all evens out over time". How true.

I began my professional career on the Womble District at Mt Ida, Arkansas, near Pine Ridge where Lum and Abner told their funny stories on the radio. The Ranger was Warren Hilgemann, the ass't ranger was Donald Hurlbut and I was one of three trainee foresters hired by then Supervisor of the Ouachita NF, John Tom Koen.

My first few months, as I've told you before, were not oriented toward forestry work. I did the monthly "truck books", the gasoline inventory, safety plan and other menial tasks but it taught me patience and humility. Then I got to work with the timber marking crew...Bill Cobb, Clovis Price, Preacher Black and others of the gang. They taught me the finer art of timber marking and after 6 months with them, I could stay up with the best. Except I could never outdo Bill Cobb in numbers of trees marked in a day. Their first goal was to accomplish the job they were assigned in the shortest time possible with unerring accuracy.

It was long about this time that the tree marker certification program began, about 1969. Bob Wiese was new to the Forest in the capacity of silviculturist but he also ran the certification program. When we took our test, we had 25 sawtimber trees and 25 pulpwood sized trees to measure both DBH (diameter breast height) and merchantable height. Bob Wiese took our papers when we finished and began grading them. Now we didn't know much about Bob's management style so Bill was looking over Bob's shoulder when the grading began. Weise stopped, dropped his pencil, looked over his shoulder at Bill and said... "I can do a *&%\$ of a lot better without you looking over my shoulder". Bill Cobb "wilted" and we all skulked out of the Seed Orchard office to await our fate. A couple of us had to retake the pulpwood test but Bill Cobb passed both parts with flying colors. His score is probably still the highest ever recorded.

Another technician at Mt Ida, who taught me a lot, some of it not related to Forestry, was Bob McClane, also known as "The Round Man". Anybody who has worked on the Ouachita knows the tales about Round Man. One morning early, the Ranger needed to speak with Bob so he called him on the radio. Ranger asked him where he was....the reply came back... "I'm at Opal", now that's some 30 miles away. Now everyone knows that Bob loved fox hunting and had some of the best hounds in the South, particularly one named "Well Pulley". The Ranger looked out his window to the highway and there went Bob, with Well Pulley in the back of his truck. Evidently, Bob had run his hounds the previous night and had to retrieve them the next morning. Ranger said "I'll have to speak to Bob about his fast driving".

In 1970, I was reassigned to the Mena RD in Mena, Ark. The Ranger was Dave Jolly, the timber assistant was Jim Abercrombie and the resource assistant was Victor Gaines. Later, Dave left and Barney Sherrer took charge. I was in charge of the District Reforestation and TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) program, working for Jim Abercrombie. I supervised Ray Wiseman, the TSI Foreman. Ray, like many older technicians at that time, had worked for the CCC (Civilian Conservation Program) and had done many different projects varying from tree planting to constructing recreation areas following the depression. These men were "jacks of all trades" as the expression goes. There were other technicians whom I respected and learned from on this District. Ray Hooper, the timber sale administrator, had also worked with the CCC. The engineering technician was Nolan Gann, a wonderful friend. Nolan saved me a lot of grief one day when the Page fire had just started...a rip snorter starting from a hot-box on the KCS railroad. A half mile long front, it started its climb up Black Fork Mtn. I was dispatched to the fire and was the first to arrive. I drove to the top of the mountain to survey the situation and met the fire plow arriving. I instructed him to unload and began plowing a line "downhill". Nolan arrived just then and said in very calm words, "Mike, do you think it's wise to plow downhill as the wind could change and the fire could break over and catch the tractor and operator in a

"V"? I realized how sensible that was and we hauled our little tails back downhill to begin a flanking maneuver. Now if Nolan has not been there, I might be living with some really bad memories today. Sure, I had "college training" but that was no substitute for on the ground experience that day which Nolan had. Thankfully, nobody was injured on that notorious fire except Johnny Head who sat on a hot shovel.

These technicians I've mentioned had experienced hard times....most came through the Great Depression, World War II and helped rebuild the country. They were part of "The Greatest Generation" as described by Tom Brokaw in his book by that title. They were dedicated to their families, to their job, and to their God and along the way, managed to have a lot of fun and adventures. I count myself as very privileged to have been associated with them. They were then and are now, the backbone of the Agency.

I will tell you more about my relationship with the technicians in another story as this one is getting a bit long.

News Release: USDA Forest Service Announces Fee-Waiver Dates - On June 2nd Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell announced that the Forest Service will offer two fee waiver weekends during the summer of 2010 in addition to other annual fee waiver events at standard amenity fee sites. The first fee waiver weekend will be (was) June 5-6. These fee waivers will be offered in cooperation with other federal agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). "The Forest Service is working to ensure as many visitors as possible have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors and take advantage of the many recreational activities national forests have to offer," said Tidwell. "By waiving fees, everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the wonder and rejuvenation of recreation on national forests." Fee Waiver dates for 2010 are as follows:

National Trails Day - June 5-6

Back-to-School Season - August 14-15

National Public Lands Day - September 25 - this fee waiver is offered every year

Veterans Day - November 11 - this fee waiver is offered every year.

Traditionally, fees are not charged on 98 percent of national forests and grasslands and over two-thirds of developed recreation sites can be used for free. Many recreational opportunities such as camping, sightseeing and hiking can be enjoyed throughout the year at no cost. The Forest Service is glad that we can help Americans better afford recreational opportunities and we hope this will encourage people to get outside and reconnect with those special places we call National Forests. The Forest Service operates about 17,000 recreation sites. Of those sites, approximately 6,000 require a fee at recreation sites which provide visitor services, needed maintenance/repairs and recreational facilities and services. The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land and includes the largest forestry research organization in the world.

Tennessee Governor Contributes Funding for Recreational Trails

The Forest Service recently received an \$80,000 Recreational Trails Program grant from Tennessee Governor, Phil Bredesen. The funds will be used to purchase a Sutter 500 Trail Dozer to restore and sustain more than 50 miles of equestrian and ATV trails on the Cherokee National Forest. The Forest Service in cooperation with various trail clubs will make improvements on the Houston Valley Horse Trail and Buffalo Mountain ATV Trail Systems in the Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District. The work will consist of restoring designated trails, including clearing, removing berms, filling ruts and troughs, reshaping backslopes, excavation, reshaping trail tread, restoring drainage and other trail structures, constructing check dams and removing protruding rocks, roots and stumps.

"THE CHIEF'S DESK...PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS" - July 16, 2010

FIGHTING FIRE ON THE TALLULAH

by *Billy Page*

I was on my way to a fire that our tower man reported as being near Tiger, a small community south of Clayton. Being the new assistant district ranger on the Tallulah District, Preach Parsons the ranger had dispatched me, a fire plow, and a small crew to take care of the problem. It was springtime, windy, and sage fields were the primary fuel. Upon my arrival I immediately saw that the fire was greater than we could handle and so I put in a call to Preach for reinforcements. Preach who was at the office and having somewhat less than full confidence in his new assistant, growled in reply something like "just go on and put out the fire and come on back to the office."

This didn't set too well with me because I figured by this time the folks on the adjoining Chattooga District – where I'd been assigned the past 7 months in heading up the Southern Pine Beetle suppression work – were dying of laughter about now. We went to work with our limited resources trying to save several residences in the fire's path. It was touch and go for a couple of hours but we finally got the upper hand. In the meanwhile, I hadn't been in contact with Preach, but I did notice the arrival of another fire plow with additional manpower.

Later while walking the fire line, I noticed a group of people close by a couple of houses that had been scorched by the flames. Their attention was focused on someone lying on the ground. To my surprise, after shouldering my way through the crowd, there lay Preach, white as a sheet. A couple of housewives were attending him. They had his head propped up with pillows, were wiping his face with wet hand towels, and fanning him. Nearby lay a healthy pine top he had been using to keep the fire from getting to the house. By this time Preach was conscious and could talk. In kneeling down to better check on his condition, I mentioned that we should call an ambulance just as a safety precaution. His answer was a firm "NO, just put me in the truck and take me to the house." We got him on his feet and I drove him home and that was the end of it. For various reasons Preach wasn't about to report an accident near the end of his career, I don't think he had ever reported one.

Some of you may remember Preach. He was a man of intense pride in the way he ran his district. He always insisted on 100% goal achievement in a timely manner. He wanted his district to be first in everything. He knew what was on those 1300-4's and your job was just to get it done, if you didn't it was no fun explaining to him why.

I learned to love Preach Parsons. He was a fair and honorable man. To me he was "Mr Forest Service". He knew how to deal with people and possessed real expertise in running an organization. He was one of the last "non-professional" rangers - that is, those without a forestry degree, having come up through the ranks from the days he worked for the well known "Ranger Woody" back in the 30's in North Georgia. He had unlimited tales from those days. I tell you for a fact, he taught me many valuable lessons that I later utilized on my own two districts. He was the Forest Service manifested.

Now back to the fire. On that day a pattern was set as to how Preach and I worked together on fires. He usually positioned himself in the office in the dispatcher's role while making sure of the adequacy of support resources, and I was fire boss on the ground. From that day forward over the three years I worked for him, I don't remember him refusing one of my requests from the fire line.

.....

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign..."Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust".

DAVE DUBOW: "YOU ARE FIRED!" (Well Maybe...)

by **Mike Dawson**

District Ranger, Kisatchie Ranger District

It was that famous mogul and part-time real estate magnate, Donald Trump, who became notorious for uttering the words..."You're fired!" That expression became a buzzword in the pop culture for a time. And like most buzzwords, it sorta faded out of fashion. That's what buzzwords are supposed to do, come into fashion and just fade away.

I am currently working on a list of Forest Service buzzwords that used to be, and then became irrelevant (like me) as a new buzzword would arise to replace the one in vogue. For example, now everything has to be seamless, kinda like a linen suit. If you cannot express your proposal and throw in the word seamless, then it just ain't gonna happen. At most every gathering of the bosses, it's just considered almost heresy to NOT use the current buzzwords. And then once somebody starts using the fashionable buzzwords, then everybody starts trying to out-buzz each other. It is quite humorous to watch.

One of the most egregious acts I have been guilty of is formulating a nonsensical response at the end of a Forest Leadership Team meeting (think Ranger/Staff meeting here), using every buzz I could think of into one incoherent, rambling statement. It was great fun. Only about half the crowd got it, but what a hoot! In fact, if any of your readers can think of some out of fashion buzzwords, just lemme know. Ah, but I digress...

Speaking of The Donald, his hair just continues to take on different hues. It looks more like a kind of orange pelt now. (Footnote #1) You would think that with the gettus (money) The Donald has that he could well afford a better rug-maker. No matter. Before anybody ever heard of The Donald, we had our own version-- Dave Dubow.

I had the privilege of being on the receiving end of a Dubowesque-critique at a very young and impressionable age. I have not forgotten it. And I'll wager that another person has not forgotten, one Bill Hughes, now retired but was one of the first Landscape Architects the outfit hired on.

Dave was the Kisatchie Timber Staff Officer in the early 1970's. And he epitomized what a Timber Staff Officer should look like, walk like and talk like. When he came into a room, you just wanted to stand up and salute. He sported a number two haircut, a crisp uniform and an air of invincibility and confidence. And a down-east 'Jersey accent that cut like a knife. He could have made a statement that the world is flat, and nobody would challenge him. It would be an understatement to say that he cast a very long shadow.

We were reviewing a Compartment Prescription on the west end of the Winn National Forest one fine spring day. At that time, the SO staff and substaff were expected to actually come out onto the ground with the District staff and actually see what was being proposed and where. As they say in California, what a concept!

I was the first victim up, and had prescribed natural regeneration by seed tree for a 35-acre stand along a major highway. I happen to be a supporter of natural regeneration in the ol' Ernst Brender (Footnote #2) mode. Another story. The Dave was NOT much on anything that was not a clear-cut, with an accompanying planting of improved loblolly. Uncomplicated simplicity at its best, which quite properly describes The Dave himself.

It was an unfair fight, obviously. But I gained some support from an unlikely ally in Mr. Hughes. After a one round of verbal assault, Bill Hughes piped up..."We manage more than just timber, Dave." Actually, this concept was a revelation to me at the time.

The Dave was stunned for just a moment, but very well held his own with respect to improving forest health, FS policy and his own idea of how things should be. In the meantime, I searched frantically for a stump hole to lower meself into.

At the end of the dissertation, The Dave looked at me with about the same view one has when scraping something offensive off the bottom of one's loafers, and said.. "We have ways to dealing with people like you.." I asked my boss at the time, Jim Hutchins, what he meant by that. "Forget it". He sagely said.

Later on, Mr. Harry K. Erwin, the timber sale guru, opined that The Dave could not actually fire me, but just wanted to. And he only wanted to at that particular time. Then he grinned. "Don't worry about it, kid. Hey, it's an honor to get threatened by Dave Dubow." I would learn later that the SO staff thoroughly enjoyed the show being put forward. Glad somebody did. (Footnote #3)

Dave went on to become the Regional Group Leader for Timber Sales. He was well placed in that position. I had great respect for The Dave. He knew what he was about, was comfortable in his own skin and always supported his people very well. About the only valid criticism is that with his New Jersey accent and all, just never could learn to pronounce the word 'hog'. It always came out "HAWg." Alas, we are not all perfect.....

Footnote #1: Alvin Womack asked me one time, right in front of everybody, if I had real hair or just a bad toupe. I was forced to admit that the white mop up on top is really attached. Some people would have been insulted...

Footnote #2: I believe I have stated in the recent past that all foresters are at heart silviculturists. They very well identify with the establishing, growing and tending of forest stands and vegetation. Mr Ernst Brender was one of the pioneers of natural pine regeneration, and was one of our lecturers in the first few classes put forward to certify silviculturists. Even though he had been in this country for years, he still had an elegant and intriguing German accent. I thought he was way too cool. Every time Dr Brender lectured to us, I drifted back in my subconscious to the 19th century, and the days when the Forest Meister ruled his fiefdom throughout the great forests of Western Europe. Ah, but I digress...

Footnote: #3: Mike Sparks straightened me out on what happened afterward. Although this compartment prescription went in with natural regeneration, after it had been sold, Dave was able to modify the contract, and tacked on the seed trees as additional timber, per agreement, of course. End result: a clear cut. In terms of the niceties of the timber sale contract itself and the legalities thereof, that action is debatable.

WHO ???

- Couldn't work in the pharmacy because the bottles wouldn't fit into the typewriter.
- Got excited when she finished a jigsaw puzzle in 6 months because the box said "2-4 years".
- Was trapped on an escalator for hours when the power went out.
- Couldn't make Kool-Aid because 8 cups of water wouldn't fit into those little packets.
- Couldn't learn to water ski because she couldn't find a lake with a slope.
- After losing in a breast stroke swimming competition, complained to the judges that the other swimmers were using their arms.
- Told her blonde friend to hurry when trying to get into their locked car using a coat hanger because it was starting to rain and the top was down.
- When asked what the capital of California was: answered "C".
- Hates M & M's because they are so hard to peel.
- Baked a turkey for 4 days because the instructions said 1 hour per pound and she weighed 120 lbs..
- Couldn't call 911 because there was no "11" on any phone button.

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