

THE DIXIE RANGER

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July 2006

President's Corner

Last Thursday Fern and I returned from Copenhagen, Denmark, where we attended the International Rotary Convention. We left Atlanta the afternoon of our June Forest Service Luncheon at the Petite Auberge Restaurant. So you can see our summer is off to a great beginning.

Upon our return, and in going through lots of mail, I noticed two items that I thought you all would be interested in hearing about. Those of you who are members of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees will have already seen their newsletter. I think the editor does a great job of reporting on items of interest to all retirees. The first item had to do with the efforts of the administration to sell National Forest lands to finance the "Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act". Check it out!!

Secondly, Larry Whitfield's article on challenging Trout Unlimited regarding a recent fund-raising brochure was interesting. He felt Forest Service management on portions of the Tongass National Forest was incorrectly reported; Whit took them to task.

The good works of the people of Region Eight were highlighted regarding the hurricane recovery efforts on the National Forests in Mississippi.

I think you would like the newsletter as it reports on actions affecting the National Forest lands and Forest Service involvements. Contact the National Association of Forest Service Retirees at P. O. Box 793, Lincoln, CA 95648, if interested.

Another publication came from a friend in Missoula, Montana. This was a newspaper called "The Missoula Independent, a Weekly Journal of People, Politics and Culture". The title on the front page: "Thinning the Ranks - How and Why the Bush Administration is Dismantling the Forest Service" by Jessie McQuillan. Whoa!! In my review of the article, it looks like a major change in the organization - that is, a move away from the land and district operations. On the other hand, we all have been in a number of downsizings, reorganizations, and changes through the years. I do hope that the Chief and Regional Foresters are able to hold on to the key elements that have made our organization great through these many changes. It seems we are always having some problems with OMB from one administration to another. I am sure that you all wish the best for the Chief and Regional Foresters in their efforts to strengthen the Forest Service during these trying times.

The fire season continues to be a big problem for all the agencies as we come into summer. We wish our colleagues and friends that are still on the job, rainy weather and low winds during the next few months. This summer take time to visit family and old friends around this great country of ours. We're headed to Mexico tomorrow to help build houses for those in need. See you all at the Christmas Luncheon at the Petite Auberge in December.

Jerry Coutant, President



June Luncheon

The June luncheon was held on June 8, 2006, at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road. Jean Kruglewicz introduced the speaker, Regional Forester Chuck Myers, who came to the Southern Region in August of 2005. Prior to his arrival in

Atlanta, he was Director of Forest Management (formerly Timber Management) in the Washington Office where he played a lead role on behalf of the agency in implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Since 1979 when he began his Forest Service career on the Allegheny NF, he has held positions on the Wayne National Forest, in the Eastern Regional Office, on the White Mountain NF and on the Monongahela NF, moving to the WO in 2001.

Expressing his belief that the Region was left in good shape by Bob Jacobs, Chuck gave a very upbeat talk on the Region and stressed that things are getting done. He told us that Hurricane Katrina had left the DeSoto Ranger District (the old Biloxi, Black Creek and Leaf River Ranger Districts) and the Chickasaw Ranger District in bad shape. However, 75% of the down timber has been salvaged. Of concern to most of us, many of the changes in the Forest Service have been triggered to save money. Some have and some haven't worked out too well. Ranger District consolidations have been, once again, put into place. However, he feels enough is enough for now. There was discussion of the four areas emphasized by the Chief which are: managing off-road vehicles, forest fragmentation, fuel issues, especially in the West, and invasive species. He noted that the Forest Service is filling up with new, young employees. Amazing!! Made me feel old.

A group of 50 people enjoyed the luncheon; and, following the Regional Forester's remarks, lots of unique door prizes provided by Sid and Jeanette Haggard and the Petite Auberge Restaurant's "Luncheon for Two" Gift Certificate were awarded. Clark and Shirley Sell had decorated the tables with lovely teacup flower arrangements which were also given as door prizes. First time attendees were: Ben Cobb, Dan Price and Howard and Martha Burnett.

Jim McConnell, Secretary/Historian

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

GLENN McCONNELL - North Carolina - I thought I had better pay my dues if I wanted to continue to get *The Dixie Ranger*. It is a great publication and I enjoy reading about all the folks in the "old FS". We all sure had some fun (and not so fun) times, but I wouldn't have missed them for anything. Thought I would write and let everyone know our new address. Yes, Linda and I have moved from the Cheoah RD at Robbinsville, NC, where we have been since 1990. We now reside in Mint Hill, NC, which is the same thing as saying we live in Charlotte. We are less than ½ hour from our daughter and 2 grandchildren and about 2 hours from our son and 2 grandchildren in Chapel Hill, NC. We are enjoying being able to see them much more frequently than we have in the past. Thanks for all the hard work done getting the newsletter out and keeping us all in touch with one another. *See address change in the following Changes/Additions section.*

LOUISE MORELL - Arkansas - Thank you for the work you are doing on *The Dixie Ranger*. After doing the newsletter for three years for my quilt guild, I know how much work goes into it. We have been back in Arkansas for two years now, after living eleven years in Arizona. Time to get closer to family. We are near Fayetteville but get to Russellville some. I have some health problems that preclude my doing very much traveling. *See e-mail change in the following Changes/Additions section.*

DON POMERENING - Virginia - I was the second Ranger on the Chickasawhay District at Wiggins, MS, from the fall of 1952 until my transfer to the Black Warrior RD in Alabama in about 1956. From there I was promoted to Fire Staff & Communications Officer on the Mississippi NF until transferred to R-3 into the S&PF Unit. So I was involved in planting a lot of the longleaf and other pines on the DeSoto. Much of it was damaged in a blow down on the District during a hurricane in 1955. I am now 83, still able to navigate, somewhat carefully. My wife Audry is still working full-time as a consultant for tax reporters for an accounting firm in Alexandria, VA.

JOHN CATHEY ("Big" John) - South Carolina - I see by the date on my latest Dixie Ranger that I have overlooked paying dues. Seems a lot of us forget these days. Maybe this will bring me up-to-date. All is well with the "Big John Cathey" family. Doesn't seem like it's been 12 years since I retired, but it has. These 12 years have brought 2 sons-in-law, 1 new daughter-in-law, 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Also, one heart attack, 1 cornea transplant and 1 defibrillator/pacemaker and 60 pounds of weight lost. Time sure does pass fast when you are having fun. Bernice and I had the privilege of visiting Edwin and Janelle Fraser. They are growing palm trees and Christmas trees and selling them to nurseries all over the East Coast and having fun doing it. Keep up the good work.

JOHN CHAFFIN - Arizona - A bit late, but here are my 2006 dues as well as a couple of comments since I just finished reading another fine edition of *The Dixie Ranger*. The Ellenberg's idea of a reunion celebrating the Week's Law sounds great. We were at the 50th celebration in 1961 and would certainly hope to attend the 100th. Here's also some input to Robin Shaddox's *trivia* question concerning the first R-8 air tanker use on a wildfire. I don't know the name of the first fire it was used on, but we did use it on a fire just NE of Asheville on the Toecane RD in the spring of 1962. The pilot, Bill Clark, was flying an R5 TBM air tanker out of the Maryville, TN, airport. Probably it was first used on the Cherokee NF, but I'm not sure. Our best to you two and the rest of you good R-8 people. *The trivia question referred to here was in Robin's letter in the last issue of The Dixie Ranger. See page 8 for Robin Shaddox's remarks.*

O. D. SMITH - Arkansas - I enjoy getting the Dixie Ranger even though there are fewer and fewer familiar names in there as time goes on. Pat and I are doing well. We have been working three days a week since February doing tax returns for the AARP. We only have three more weeks to go! I will miss it but will sort of be glad to have it over with. As soon as we are done with taxes, we are going to Lake Catherine State Park for a few days of camping. We want to spend some time in Hot Springs and also to go to the Garvin Woodland Gardens so Lake Catherine will be close to both of those. We have not tried that park before. In June we are going on a two-week Alaska Cruise/Tour to celebrate our 30th anniversary. We are really looking forward to it. I am attaching a "Snake Story" that you may want to use for *The Dixie Ranger*. *See "Snake Story" - on page 15.*

ALAN PIGG - Georgia - Here are my 2006 dues. I have been working for FEMA on the Gulf Coast as a Disaster Assistance Employee since January. It makes me proud when other agencies compliment the Forest Service on the organization and professionalism of it's employees. Here is an old picture I took of Keith Grest's Soil, Water and Air Unit in the Regional Office. Left to right: Keith McLaughlin, Bill Carrothers, George Dissmeyer, Keith Grest, Steve Glasser, Roger Frantz, Yvonne Turner, Jerry Ragus, Sadie Algieri, Kim Keys, John Vann, Jackie McClure, Don Tomczak, Dale Rapin, and Gerry Wicker. I think it was around 1990 or 1991.



JOHN MOSER - Tennessee - Thanks for taking on the Co-Editor's job, and I am sure you are aware that you will be hard-pressed to fill the Bray's shoes. They did a super job but so will you. Thanks for letting me know I was lost due to the move. It was like a Christmas gift to be notified. Good luck. *See address change in the following Changes/Additions section.*

A. P. MUSTIAN - North Carolina - As what is fast becoming the usual, I'm late again. Hopefully, my memory does not disappear completely before the end of 2007. One must wonder why the regular reminders don't seem to help.

LARRY TREKELL - Texas - Thanks for all the hard work in putting *The Dixie Ranger* together and out. I stopped by the home of Clyde W. "Buddy Clyde" Lovell the other day, as it had been a few years since I'd gotten over toward Crockett, TX. Mrs. Lovell met me at the door, and informed me that Clyde had passed away on December 26, 2002. I didn't recall seeing an announcement in *The Dixie Ranger*, so I pored over all the back issues, and there was no notice.

Buddy Clyde worked on the Neches District of the Davy Crockett National Forest for, I guess, over 40 years. He was the C&M Foreman and Rec Tech and what we used to call the "General District Assistant" out west. He was as likeable and honest a fellow as any I ever met. I was a forester on the Trinity District back in the early 60s and didn't work directly with Buddy Clyde, but had a lot of contact with him on fires, at training meetings, etc. He always had a smile and a way with anyone he met. Many of the "old Texans" will remember him well. His widow would like to keep up with his old friends and co-workers, so I told her I'd get her started receiving *The Dixie Ranger*. *Natha Lovell's address is listed in the following New Members section.*

DAVID HARRIS - Virginia - I appreciate your taking the time to locate me and send me the back issue. I really enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and offer my "thank you" for a job well done. I am enjoying living in a condo - no leaves to rake, no gutters to clean, no shrubs to trim, no snow to shovel, no garden to work, and no grass to mow!! Traded it all for golfing and fishing full time, along with Virginia Tech football in season. *See address change in the following Changes/Additions section.*

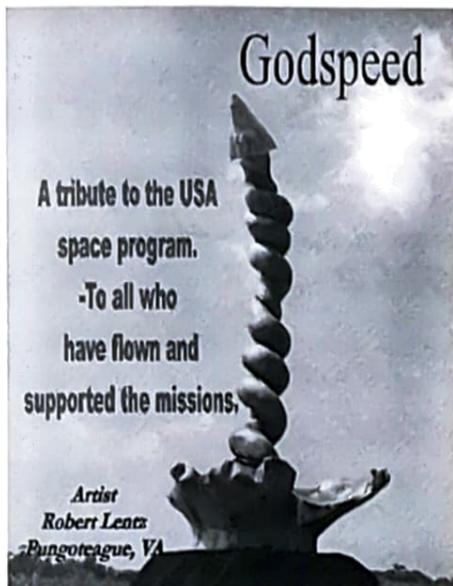
FERN NILSEN - Wisconsin - Enclosed is \$10 for membership in SFSRA. I've enjoyed your newsletter over the years being involved in the R-9 Newsletter and I want to continue. After 22 years, I'm retiring again. It was enjoyable. It was good seeing you in Portland. You are doing a super job! *Fern is the Betty/Bert Bray of R-9. See the following New Members section.*

MELVIN ANHOLD - Virginia - Looks like my membership ran out in 05, so here's a check to cover me through 08. Life is good, just came back from six weeks in Florida. It's hard to beat, especially during the winter when the snows pile up in Virginia. I really enjoy reading the Dixie Ranger so keep it coming.

JOHN COURTENAY - Texas - Here's some dues money - I sure don't want my subscription to run out. I enjoy it too much for that. We're doing fine here in Texas. Jeanette just came home today from hip replacement surgery. Still hurts some, but she hobbles along with her walker. Our Wednesday afternoon Go-For-A-Ride Club is thinning. We're down to Dave Oats, Ralph Fair, Bill Schlesselman and me as regulars - but we still have fun!

TERRY JONES - Georgia - Sorry to take so long to get my membership to you. Seems like I stay as busy in retirement as I did working. Linda and I moved to Rome, GA, to be near our grandkids. My granddaughter is now 7 and my grandson is 5 and they keep us hopping pretty good. I am doing some contract work on the Human Resource move to Albuquerque. Looks like that will go into operation by the first of the year, so there is still a lot to get done by then. I am enclosing dues for two years. Thanks for helping us all stay in touch. I enjoy reading the issues and keeping up with everyone.

BOB LENTZ - Virginia - Thanks for continuing *The Dixie Ranger* Newsletter after all the years the Brays handled it. I have worked with some NASA folks on aerial photos over the years and was impressed with their dedication through the high-highs and the low-lows. I'm attaching one of the latest projects that might be useful for the newsletter. You can be the judge.



Quoting from NASA News, Goddard Space Flight Center, Press Release No: 06 - 08:

"The NASA Wallops Flight Facility and local artist Robert Lentz will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first flight of the space shuttle with the unveiling of the sculpture "Godspeed" at 10:00 a.m., April 14, at the NASA Visitor Center..."

"The Lentz sculpture depicts a shuttle orbiter rising into space above its contrail. It is made from the woods of sassafras, cedar and holly, and measures 25 inches in diameter and stands 55 inches high. Lentz made the sculpture as 'a tribute to the U.S. space program and to all who have flown and supported the missions'. Lentz, a resident of Pungoteague, VA, specializes in wood turning and sculpture. He began woodworking at age 8. After 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service, he retired and now devotes full time to his art. His works are featured in art and newspaper publications."

JOANN WEBB - Florida - We had a great 16th "Old Smokey's" Reunion at Silver Lake Recreation area on the Apalachicola Forest April 8th - had 62 people there. Several who had never been before - Pete and Nancy Avers, Don and Bobbie Hughes, George Gibbs, Harland and Ann Welch. We had three old Rangers who were on the Wakulla District: George Gibbs, Jack Edwards and Dick Bonyata. And.... we have a celebrity. Harland Welch is in the movie "Pirates of the Carribean", coming out here in Florida on July 7th!! Harland was our head Engineer back in the early 80s. I'll be leaving for Australia the first of September for two months to visit my daughter and her family - can hardly wait.

Nora Autrey-SC

Bob Dodson-FL

Mary F. Pullium-GA

Dan Bacon-GA

Mary Hoover-AR

William Roach-AR

Thelma Cabaniss-AR

Ray Johnson-GA

Salvo Verucchi-AR

Willa Carswell-NC

Ruth Kageorge-GA

Along with their dues payments, the members listed above wrote notes to say they enjoy keeping up with their fellow retirees through *The Dixie Ranger*.

JIM WENNER - Arkansas - This would be a good article for the next Dixie Ranger since we can use input (stories, participation, etc.) from Ouachita retirees wherever they now reside. Also, all are invited to upcoming events. Spread the word.



100 YEARS OF CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE

Dear Ouachita National Forest Retiree:

You're invited to a celebration! The occasion is the 100th Birthday of the Ouachita National Forest, which occurs in December of 2007.

2007 promises to be an exciting year of celebration in the 1.8 million acres of the national forest. We invite and encourage you to help us plan activities to celebrate our centennial.

Staff from across the forest developed the following mission statement for the centennial.

"Involve employees (current and retired), local communities, partners, elected officials, and media in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Ouachita National Forest in ways that are fun, educational, and inspiring."

Following is a listing of several events/activities planned to commemorate the Centennial.

1. Calendar of Events for 2007

Ouachita National Forest Employee Day (spring 2007)
Ouachita Heritage Days in Mena - date to be announced
Hot Springs National Park 175 Years of Public Service (throughout April)
February Mail-Away Edition of the Hot Springs Sentinel Record
National Trails Day - first weekend in June 2007
Owa-chito Festival - 3rd weekend in June 2007
Glenwood Sawmill Days - date to be announced
Arkansas Tourism Conference - March 2007
Oklahoma Tourism Conference - October 2007
Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair (Ft. Smith) - fall 2007
Arkansas State Fair - fall 2007
County Fairs - as scheduled
Oklahoma District Office Opening (Broken Bow, OK)
Archeology Month - March 2007
Yell County Festival

2. Family Association's Centennial Cookbook

Please send your favorite recipe(s) for inclusion in the cookbook to Debbie Ugbade here at the Supervisor's Office or email dugbade@fs.fed.us. You can also fax your recipes to 501-321-5305. We would like to share some of your memories of the Ouachita along with your recipe(s).

3. Oral and Video History Collection

There is a rich history of the forest that needs to be documented and retained for the future and we need your help. Dave Hammond has agreed to help Darrel Schwillling coordinate the history collection. Please contact Darrel at 501-321-5253 if you would be interested in sharing your favorite memories or events with others.

4. 2007 Annual Forest Picnic

In past years this was a favorite event for employees and retirees.

5. Ouachita Centennial Web Page

We will be developing a Centennial web page to share information about planned events. The page will be located at www.aokforests.com

We need your help as we plan for the Ouachita National Forest Centennial. This will provide an excellent opportunity to be involved in an event that will never come again in our lifetime. As retirees, you provide an extremely valuable historical perspective on the Forest and the Forest Service in general. We would like to be able to contact you by e-mail as much as possible. If you have an e-mail address, please send it to Darrel Schwilling at dschwilling@fs.fed.us

Please join our Forest family in making the celebration of the Ouachita National Forest Centennial a huge success. I'm looking forward to our Centennial and meeting and visiting with you as opportunities arise.

Sincerely,

/s/Richard L. Rosemier
RICHARD L. ROSEMIER
Acting Forest Supervisor

NORMAN WAGONER NAMED OUACHITA FOREST SUPERVISOR

Norman Wagoner, a seasoned veteran of the Forest Service, has been named to oversee the more than 1.8 million acres of the Ouachita National Forest. He comes from the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota where he was the Forest Supervisor.

"I am really looking forward to the opportunities and challenges the Ouachita and Region 8 have to offer. Both the Ouachita National Forest and Region 8 have such rich heritage and highly regarded leadership," said Wagoner. "It is going to be exciting to serve on and with such high caliber teams."

In addition to his experience as Forest Supervisor on the Chippewa, Wagoner has also served as a District Ranger on the Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest. His career experience includes assignments in Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado and Wyoming.

"Every morning is the dawn of a new error." From the Internet

"If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito."

Betty Reese

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
(Details will be in your November Dixie Ranger)

DECEMBER 14, 2006

RETIREE GET-TOGETHERS

Ouchita 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.

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

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.

– Let us know if you would like your group listed. –

THE TRIVIA QUESTION

by *Robin Sabdox*

Here is more information on the trivia question about when and where air tankers were first used on wildfires in Region 8. I thought they were first used on the Cheoah Ranger District in 1962 on a fire we had on the west side of Nantahala Gorge. Since talking to you, I spoke with John Chaffin in Arizona and he also used the tanker on a fire in 1962 when he was Ranger on the Tocane RD. So, I don't have the answer – maybe there is someone still around who was in Fire in the RO who knows.

On the Cheoah fire, Tom Thrash was Ranger, I was assistant Ranger. Our towerman on Joanna Bald Tower, Rube Carver, reported the fire. Three of us took off in a jeep with hand tools and a pack radio. The fire, which was on the west side of the Gorge was difficult to get to. We finally abandoned the jeep and started walking. We still had a long hike through rough terrain left to reach the fire. The towerman, Rube Carver, called and said since the Region had been pressing everyone to use the tanker, we should maybe use it on this fire.

The tanker was based at Maryville, TN. Chaffin said the pilot's name was Clark. He made his first drop long before we reached the fire. His second drop an hour or so later, came just as we reached the fire. He came downslope from the top of the mountain, made his drop and kept going – down, down, down.... I thought he wouldn't be able to pull up and out of the Gorge. He finally pulled up, and I heard later that he stripped some of the prop gears. It was a pretty close call. *Interesting bit of history - Let's keep these kinds of tidbits coming.*
Editors

"The roots of violence are wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principles."
Mahatma Gandhi

"We can do no great thing; only small things with great love."
Mother Teresa

NEW MEMBERS - - - - WELCOME

LARRY BISHOP (Gail) - 2483 Circlewood Rd., Atlanta, GA 30345-1949
phone: (404) 982-9898 e-mail: lmacbishop@hotmail.com

BEN COBB (Joyce) - 80 Fox Glove Dr., Covington, GA 30016
phone: (770) 385-2981 e-mail: jamesbcobb@bellsouth.net

MIKE EFIRD (Betty) - 474 Milligan Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083
phone: (404) 292-0161 e-mail: befird@bellsouth.net

GERRY FARMER (Fran) - 126 Northbay Place, Madison, MS 39110
phone: (601) 898-3760 e-mail: gfarmer629@aol.com

PUDDIN GARRISON (Steve) - 869 Parkstone Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30083,
phone: (770) 469-3491 e-mail: puddin.garrison@comcast.net

SHIRLEY HEWITT - 101 Redbud Road, Jefferson, GA 30549
phone: (706) 367-1498

TERRY JONES (Linda) - 111 South Cloudview Rd, Rome, GA 30161-3914,
phone: (706) 232-3151 e-mail: tjones02@netscape.com

JACK KELLEY (Libby) - P.O. Box 524, Jasper, AR 72641
phone: (870) 446-2452

NATHA LOVELL - 1054 S. H. 7 East, Crockett, TX 75835

BRUCE MACKO (Theresa) - 56 Sagewood Cove, Brandon, MS 39042
phone: (601) 825-3488 e-mail: bokcam@aol.com

FERN NILSEN - 2400 E. Bradford Ave. #502, Milwaukee, WI 53211-4168
phone: (414) 964-0416

DAN NOLAN (Meryl Hunter) - 6653 W. Gould Dr, Littleton, CO 80123
phone: (303)730-8753 e-mail: dnolan829@yahoo.com

DON PRICE (Beth) - P. O. Box 893, Centre, AL 35960-0893
phone: (256)927-5409 e-mail: firedonR8@tds.net

STEVE RICKERSON - 149 Co. Rd. 1150, Riceville, TN 37370
phone: (423) 744-8587 e-mail: SteveRickerson@wmconnect.com

KAYE SHELTON - P. O. Box 84, Benton, TN 37307
phone: (423) 338-5910 e-mail: KayeShelton@bellsouth.net

THOMAS M. (MARQ) WEBB, JR. (Laura) - 161 Spring Creek Drive,
Pineville, LA 71360-4506 phone: (318)640-4303
e-mail: twebbbubba@yahoo.com

CARY WILLIAMS (Ann) - 16 Duff Street, Columbia, MS 39429-8115
phone: (601) 736-3548 e-mail: cawilliams@bellsouth.net

CHANGES and ADDITIONS — MARCH 2006 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

THELMA CABANISS - correct spelling of last name

JOHN CHAFFIN - new e-mail: chaffin@laposadaqv.net

GERALD COUTANT - new e-mail: coutfj@bellsouth.net

SIDNEY HAGGARD - new address: P. O. Box 648, Covington, GA 30015-0648
(temporary) Same phone #

DAVID HARRIS - new address: 4621 Heather Dr. SW #103, Roanoke, VA 24018-1993
same phone #

NORM HEINTZ - new address: 442 Hiawatha Farms Rd., Monticello, FL 32344

VAUGHN HOFELDT - new address: Waterside Retirement Estates, 4540 Bee Ridge Rd. # 338,
Sarasota, FL 34233 e-mail: vkhofeldt@earthlink.net

BOB JAMES - new e-mail: bjandsjames@aol.com

JEAN PAUL KRUGLEWICZ - new e-mail: jpkruglewicz@bellsouth.net

RAYMOND MASON - new e-mail: maso2959@bellsouth.net

GLENN McCONNELL - new address: 6711 Pine Lake Lane, Mint Hill, NC 28227
e-mail: glennmc@bellsouth.net

LOUISE MORELL - new e-mail: lou472m@pgtc.com

JOHN MOSER - new address: 4544 Waldon Pond Lane, Corryton, TN 37721
phone: (865)688-5027

JAMES NAYLOR - new e-mail: jimnaylor@tds.net

JERRY ROCKETT - new e-mail: jvrockett@msn.com

MARIE CRAIG ROTH - name correction

JOSEPHINE (PEACHES) SHERMAN - new phone # : (770) 252-3441

DONALD STRODE - phone # : (540) 463-4137

Members Not Located (Dixie Rangers returned): **Ben E. Carpenter Jr.** - Blairsville, GA
James O. Haynes - Alexandria, LA
Archer D. Smith - Eastover, SC

Forty-one members have not paid dues for 2006. Please check your mailing label. It shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows (05), your dues were paid through December 31, 2005, and are **due** for 2006. A red mark beside the (05) means you owe dues - \$10.00. Dues and any changes to your mailing address (please use nine-digit zip code), telephone number and/or e-mail address should be mailed to:

SFSRA, Peggy Jolly
128 Wind Trace
Alexander City, AL 35010

THE DAYS OF DISTRICT FOREST FIRE WARDENS

by Jack Godden

This might be the first in a retirees' newsletter about the National Forest Fire Wardens, of their past service in fire prevention and suppression, and their efforts in "greening up" the established National Forests here in the east. The District Fire Warden system became a thing of the past as our field organization expanded and National Standards on physical fitness, protective gear, training, and fire safety became established in the early 1970s. To some, this invoked a sigh of relief from administrators who couldn't find the time to maintain "key contacts", didn't have the time to "sit and whittle" or have a "Coca Cola" together. I cherish my times with those Wardens during my assignments in the 1950s and 1960s. By their demise in the 1960s and 70s we lost friends in these mountain and hill communities, becoming just another government agency to some who once knew us as "good" or at least "fair" in our day-to-day management of **their** National Forests.

I can't say where the idea of Forest Fire Wardens originated. Having served on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire and Maine, I think it may have been sparked by the Society of Protection of New Hampshire Forests shortly after the passage of the Weeks Law in 1911. New Hampshire and Maine had an elaborate system of Special Deputy Forest Wardens in the 1920s. They were given badges and a card-carrying membership that was recognized by State Law in the enforcement of forest fire laws, burning and campfire permits, and the recruitment of firefighters, as needed, on any forested lands in the state, including the National Forests. The idea of the Forest Fire Warden System in the original Eastern Region (R-7), would then have spread to the states in Regions 8 and 9 as National Forests were established.

My first experience with the National Forest Fire Wardens would come on the Cherokee NF in 1954. I found them on our list of "Key Contacts". Three were grocery store owners at Coker Creek, Farmers and Reliance. One the husband of the Postmistress in Epperson, and others were farmers or loggers on existing telephone lines. Before the telephone companies acquired our telephone lines, there were "#9 Iron Wire Ground Metallic" systems, then "Copper Weld" two wire systems which were built by the Forest Service for our communication links with Fire Lookouts, Guard Stations and cooperators. Many would envy the Warden with his wall-mounted, hand-crank phone with its many rings "down the line". In addition to a telephone, they would be provided a green painted fire tool box "For Forest Fire Use Only" and a black on white "National Forest Fire Warden Report Forest Fires Here" sign, to be placed on their front lawn. What went with it was learning, for both Forest Officers and Wardens, how to work together in those formative years of fire protection.

That first spring, 1955, our Fire Lookout, Joe Floyd and myself, as one of three "Forest Officers" held a Warden Meeting. Ranger Norris Quam invited our ten or twelve Wardens to a four-hour training session. Somehow he was allotted a few extra dollars of P&M 101 for this gathering. They and any recruited firefighter would be paid, when employed, portal to portal and provided with subsistence when needed. Pay, of ninety five cents per hour, began when they left and ended when they returned home. Firefighter pay was 75 cents an hour. Mileage was five cents a mile. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m., lunch hour was exempt from pay, and subsistence was lunches we purchased from a local church group. We, Forest Officers, provided our own. "Coca Colas" on ice were available for lunch, and a brewed pot of coffee was available on arrival. After the morning's training we handed out small FS notebooks (favorites to the Wardens), individual fire time slips, and we reviewed time keeping. Many brought a printed copy of their probable hires which was most valuable in checking correct name spelling and addresses on the fire time slips. In part it was a social meeting. I was introduced to them, some probably thinking me another "Yankee" and wondering how I'd be as their Fire Boss. (I already had some credibility from the 1954 fall fire season). They were in their "Saturday Best", for some possibly their once-a-year meeting with family folk they knew or heard about on the other side of the mountain.

Most wardens had their own mailbox on rural routes, others a box number, or arrangements with the Postmaster or Postmistress at their Post Offices for paycheck purposes. As three of our Wardens were grocery store owners, they would be notified of the check(s) delivery at the Post Office. Firefighters were more or less obliged to cash their checks at the store where the store owner would collect what he was owed. This is not to say we didn't have any "job fires". During my second spring fire season on a visit to Farmer County, I

was asked, "When's the fire season going to start?" My answer was: "We're not going to have one this season." "How we going to pay our grocery bill?" was their next question. That group knew me as a frequent visitor, a fellow who would slow down for a "Dollar Chicken" in the road, and the "Skinny kid with glasses, don't shoot him he's all right." (That was one of our busiest spring fire seasons.)

It took four men to load the fire toolbox on the Warden's pickup, thus few Warden boxes ever got to the fire. The Warden's crew would gather some tools and load in the back and front of his pickup for their trip to the fire. Speed never exceeded a non-existent speed limit on these back roads. Their clothing was what they were wearing - a long sleeve shirt, trousers or bib overalls, 4" shoes, and a coat if a cool night was expected. The Warden's headgear was usually a fedora. There were no gloves, goggles, or hard hats. Each prided a pocketknife and always had a hardy appetite for any lunches that we might provide. The Storekeeper had our standard list of food for 10/20 men that could be supplemented by the Dispatcher by telephone to store owner who also arranged for delivery. Somehow, in a big coffeepot, a pound of coffee and a couple fresh eggshells, would become our evening beverage with toasted sandwiches, eating canned tomatoes and thick slices of Velveeta cheese and baloney on our "cookouts".

I can't remember preparing any CA-1s for recording personal injuries. There were no cuts, sprains, bruises, or even blisters reported to me. Their work pace was methodical. They would hike to the fire well spaced and in no hurry so as to get there with the energy to put it out. Most left the truck double tooled with a few gallon canteens accompanying the usual 6-8 man crew. The old Indian 5-gallon backpack pumps with slide hand pump and nozzle were usually left behind because of their weight and repeated failures of the slide pump. (They were used mostly on roadside grass fires to mop up.) I was told a story of John Spring, our new Forest Supervisor in 1955. He was remembered as John "Springer" from his early days on the Forest responding to a fire with an Indian pump on his back. Encouraging the crew as he passed climbing the slope, they would later pass him sitting on a stump, catching his breath.

Perhaps our only identity as Forest Officers and Forest Work Crews on the fire line was the hard hats we wore. We began equipping the crews with gloves as they worked with chemicals on Timber Stand Improvement. I did carry a canvas, crew-size, first aid kit, an electric headlamp, and I had the only communications with our Fire Lookouts, who passed along the essential information to Fire Dispatchers. It was a 13-pound, wooden box SX radio set, complete with 10' of antenna wire that was always getting hung up in a tree branch. My old canvas-hunting coat was a favorite, with its pockets, and was great for getting through briar patches and rhododendron thickets.

My best moments with these men were on evening meal breaks, drinking good coffee (a few eggshells always got in the pot), and listening to their stories. The unmarried had the best, the older and married usually compared their coon hunting dogs. I rarely heard a cuss word, and never did hear them tell an off-color story. Well, maybe one, about collecting "lighting" (trading) wood for the favors of a widow woman.

It was like I matriculated into another college of learning, this one worth more than any book learning - the way of life of the mountain people of East Tennessee. Together, we put out fires, never had any fire injuries or a fire escape, and were not worried about a 10-acre objective or the 10:00 a.m. fire policy. I don't remember getting paid any overtime for the hours I spent after 5:00 p.m. Life in Kentucky was a little different. There I learned how to use a carbide lamp.

The Forest Service lost too many firefighters out west in 1955-56. There would follow the Ten Standard Fire Fighting Orders, more formal fire training, emphasis on fire behavior, protective gear and clothing, physical fitness and new National Standards in 1970 and 1971 that spelled the beginning of the disbanding the Warden System that once filled most of the firefighter's needs in the 1930 -1970 era of the east.

More could follow. This author and retiree would appreciate any added input to the System's establishment.



Forest Supervisors Meeting - Kisatchie National Forest - Fall 1970

Front Row - Don Hughes, Ralph Accardi, John Orr, Bob Gashwiler, Darold Westerberg, Del Thorsen, Buddy Whitlock, Jim Wallrich, Bob Riding (R2), Rik Eriksson

Standing - Alvis Owen, Dixie Howell, Pat Thomas, Russ Chipman, John Courtenay, Bob Swiger, Ralph Moyle, Wayne Cloward, Dick Millar, Jim Short, Leon Cambre, Mike Penfold, Jim Sabin, Zeb Palmer, Roman Pfeffer, Art Grumbine, Bob Luck, Frank Finnison, Ralph Kizer (R9), Carl Hickerson, Bob Entzminger, Jean Demarais, Don Blackburn, Stan Adams, Hal Armstrong, Don Percival, Tom Smith, Fred Harris, Dave Jolly

REMINISCING

by *Mike Sparks*

During the last couple years of my career with the Forest Service, my co-workers accused me of "reminiscing" too much. I believe that happens to most folks as they near the end of their career or as they begin to change careers. In my situation I reflected then, as I do now, upon my days growing up in Arkansas where I learned the basics of life.

We all had childhood heroes as we grew up. My fantasy heroes were the movie cowboys - John Wayne, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Lash LaRue and, well, you know the rest. I spent many of my Saturday afternoons at the theater watching them defeat the bad guys (who always wore black hats). After all, where else could you get an entire evening's entertainment for a dime and stay cool in the summertime to boot. But my real life heroes were some of the folks who influenced me positively as I was growing up, such as my Father and Mother and the grandparents.

My father instructed me in the ways of righteousness as well as how to survive in the world I lived in. He taught by example. No matter how tired he was when he finished his work day, he found time to spend with me in many ways, teaching me the fine art of growing up. In the Springtime, we would pursue the agrarian lifestyle. He always planted a large garden and we knew its bounty throughout the year for mother pursued the fine art of "canning". Tomatoes, corn-on-the-cob, okra, peas, fruits, she canned them all.

If we were not too busy, Dad would take me hunting or fishing, depending on the season. I have many fond memories of those days and the lessons I learned from us sitting together on the creek bank. I still remember the first fish I ever caught under his guidance. It was a small sunfish, caught on a cane pole with a worm for bait.

My Grandfather was a farmer. He lived in the foothills of the Ozark Mountain country in Arkansas where he farmed and raised cattle. I recall with fondness the days I spent there as a small lad. The day would begin at 4:30 a.m. Grandma would wake me, I would get dressed then she would hand a lighted coal oil lantern to me (there was no electricity in the house) and a wire basket with instructions to go up into the barn loft and find some fresh hen eggs for breakfast. Nowadays, no responsible adult would instruct a 6-year old boy to take a fire source into a dry barn and climb a ladder to hunt for eggs. It would simply be inviting disaster, but, in those days, kids grew up faster and accepted responsibility more willingly. So I ventured forth to the barn, after a brief visit to the outdoor privy (which was an invigorating experience on a frosty morning). Now, a lighted lantern can cast strange shadows in the barn, especially with all the noises of the animals such as the cows and Grandpa's big mule. But I ventured forth, undaunted, in my quest for breakfast. After disturbing the resident barn owl from his slumber in the loft, I found the eggs and returned to the house.

Grandma had started breakfast in the wood-burning cookstove while grandpa went to milk the cow and go to the smokehouse to cut some fresh bacon. The bacon was really salted pork which really did wonders for your blood pressure and cholesterol, but we didn't even know about that in 1951.

By now, daylight was eminent and the rooster began greeting the morning hello with his raucous crowing, telling the hens to "get up...it's time to go to work". The breakfast table was set with such wonders as honey and homemade sorghum molasses (grandpa called it "surp", short for syrup). There was also homemade strawberry preserves. The biscuits were what grandpa called "cathead" biscuits....yes, they were about the size of a cat's head. The eggs were scrambled and the bacon slices were crisp (but thick). Grandma made a special treat from the bacon drippings left in the frying pan. She poured the contents into a bowl and the liquid had a reddish brown color. She called it red-eye gravy which when "sopped" with a biscuit, provided immeasurable pleasure to the palate. By the way, if you haven't figured it out, that gravy was 100% hog lard and salt.

I had to go to the spring house to get the fresh milk. It was a "cave" dug into the hillside behind the house where an artesian well flowed. An artesian well is one that flows constantly from pressure underground...no pump is needed. The milk and butter were kept here because it was cool and if immersed in the flowing spring water, was kept downright cold. Of course, the milk had to be "shook up" because the lighter cream always floated to the top and left the skim milk below. I always delighted in sticking my finger into the jar of milk with cream on top and licking the thick sweet cream from my finger. Grandpa would fuss because he didn't want me eating the butterfat and leaving the skim milk for him. We even had fresh, homemade churned butter on the table. What a delight. If you never made fresh butter, you have missed a real treat both in making it and eating it.

After breakfast, I "helped" grandpa plow the "south forty". It was a big piece of land but hilly and full of rocks as was most soil in the Ozark Mountains. I was constantly amazed at how grandpa could talk to the old mule and she would plow a furrow as straight as an arrow up and down the field. Now we had fed the mule a breakfast of oats before she started to work. That way, she had the energy to pull the plow through the hard ground. If you've ever plowed behind a mule, you know there are certain hazards associated with that activity. For example, about mid-morning, those oats the mule ate have begun to ferment and digest. One of the by-products of that process is a vapor that is not pleasant to the nostrils. Now, grandpa didn't mind that, but, to me, it was not a pleasant experience so I lagged behind, looking for arrowheads in the fresh turned earth as well as earthworms because grandpa had promised to take me fishing in the creek if I found enough bait in the freshly plowed earth. On this day, I found plenty of worms but no arrowheads.

At noon granny rang the dinner bell which could be heard for several miles, and we went to eat "dinner". Dinner was the noon meal and supper was the evening meal. Dinner was a full meal because everyone worked hard while supper was a light meal of leftovers.

We went fishing that afternoon and caught a few sunfish and one or two catfish and along the way, grandpa would tell me stories and relate memories of his younger days, but, along with the stories, there was always a point or a moral because adults wanted to impart knowledge and good principles to the young.

After supper, we went to bed because coal oil was expensive and there was no reason to stay up after dark. I remember, with fondness, granny tucking me into the feather bed at night. Now, if you've never slept in a feather bed, you've really missed something. Once you get in place, you had best be in the position you want to sleep in because you can't move or turn over easily. Sometimes, life is like that...it holds you down and won't let you change positions.

I still remember, with fondness, the experiences of my childhood. Even though there was very little money, we always had plenty of "vittles" as Dad called them. We always had a roof over our head and most of all, there was love which sustained us through any adverse circumstance. I believe my career in forestry was molded and shaped for me through the influence of my parents and grandparents for it was through them that I learned the benefits of being a good steward of the bounties of the earth, including our great forests.

I worry that my grandchildren may not be able to enjoy all the current benefits of our National Forests. Proper forest management has long been, and will continue to be, the source of aggressive political debate. Somehow, this debate must ultimately be settled before we have lost these great National treasures. They are under assault, as I write, from old age, insects, disease, windstorms, fire and other natural events which will ultimately lead to their demise if not managed properly.

If only I could return to those days of my childhood, but, since that is not possible, guess I'll just have to keep on "reminiscing".

SNAKE STORY

by *O. D. Smith*

The summer of 1957 had been long, hot and dry and the Mississippi State forestry students were looking forward to completing summer camp at the University Forest Lands near the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Our final assignment was to cruise a 320-acre tract of timber and write up a management plan. The 20 or so students were divided into four or five cruising parties for the job and dumped out at various points around the property to begin the cruise. I do not remember just who was in my party, but I think Sis Moss (who later served as State Forester in Mississippi) and Gene Walters were part of the group. We had been working for several hours when one of our cruise plots fell near a stagnant water hole in a dried up creek bed. Due to the lack of rain, most of the creeks had dried up leaving only the occasional deep hole such as the one near our plot. As we were breaking out equipment to begin taking measurements, I noticed a big cottonmouth moccasin lying on the bank of the water hole. That is when the fun began!

Me, "Give me that Biltmore stick so I can kill this snake!"

One of the other guys, "Watch out there's two of them!"

Me, "Where? I don't see but one."

The other guy, "Right there lying on that log, two great big ones!"

Me, "Hell, the one I am looking at ain't laying on no log!"

So we fell back and regrouped and started counting snakes. When the count got up to nine, we took our knives and each of us cut a "snake switch". (For the uninitiated that is a long limber stick which will kill a snake much easier than a stiff pole.) Then we commenced to killing snakes. I think we managed to kill five before the rest of them got in the water. After that we tried raking them out but did not have much luck, so we eventually quit and went back to cruising timber. Needless to say, we spent more time looking for snakes the rest of the afternoon than we did measuring trees! We should have realized that we were perfectly safe because every snake in that half section of land had been at that one water hole. *Editor's Note: I learned*

first hand from O. D. about the long limber "snake switch" when we came upon a fair- sized rattlesnake, at Mena on the Ouachita NF, in the late 60s. I will vouch for its effectiveness and agree with O. D. that it is much better than a stiff pole. You don't have to stand nearly as close to the snake either.

IN MEMORIAM

✓ **Mary R. Fitzgerald**, 68, of Fairfax, Virginia, died on December 8, 2005. The wife of Forest Service employee Dick Fitzgerald, who works in the Washington Office in Forest Management, Mrs. Fitzgerald graduated from the University of Maine with a B.S. in Romance Languages. She briefly worked for the Forest Service while her husband was assigned to the Mt. Hood National Forest. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons, David and Tim; and two grandchildren

✓ **Victor C. Fink**, 79, of Columbia, South Carolina, died on April 3. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Mr. Fink was Administrative Officer for the National Forests in South Carolina and retired after 30 years of service. Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Frances; a son, Larry; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

✓ **Charles Ray Myers**, 71, of Westminster, South Carolina, died on April 10. He was a veteran of the Air Force Reserves, serving during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Myers graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Forestry. He was retired from the Forest Service and was the owner of Myers Forestry Service and Chestoe Creek Farms. Surviving are a son, Tony; daughter, Mitzi; and two grandchildren.

✓ **Dr. R. Keith Arnold**, 93, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, died April 22 at National Park Hospital in Hot Springs. He received his B.S. in Forestry from the University of California, his Masters degree from Yale and his PhD from the University of Michigan. In addition to his positions as an educator, he also had an extensive career in forest research with the Forest Service. After serving as Station Director in California, he was Director of Forest Protection Research and the Deputy Chief of Research in the Washington Office. His personal focus on research was in forest fire behavior. In the 1950s, he helped coordinate Operation Firestop in CA. The aerial application of fire retardant was developed and tested in Operation Firestop. Dr. Arnold also directed some of the early research on prescribed fire and fuel reduction for the Forest Service. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Stroud Arnold; two sons; R. Park and J. Ross; and daughter, Anita DeAngelis.

✓ **Thomas Edwin "Ed" Fraser**, 70, of Sanderson Florida, died on June 13. He received his B.S. in Forestry from the University of Florida. During his 33-year career with the Forest Service, he worked in Alabama, North Carolina, and Arkansas. He was District Ranger in Tennessee and Louisiana, Job Corps Director at Jacobs Creek Job Corps Center in Tennessee and finished his career as Deputy Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in Florida in charge of Engineering, Lands and Fire. He owned and operated Rudolph's Christmas Tree Farm where he produced and sold Christmas trees and various varieties of palm trees for 25 years. Survivors are his wife of 51 years, Jeanell; son, Douglas; daughter, Terri; and five grandchildren.

✓ **Joseph Wallace**, 65, of Russellville, Arkansas, died June 21. He graduated from Auburn University. His career with the Forest Service spanned 34 years and included assignments on the Bankhead NF in Alabama and the YLT project in Mississippi. He was District Ranger on the French Broad District of the Pisgah NF in North Carolina and the Chattooga District of the Chattahoochee NF in Georgia. At the time of his retirement he was serving as Recreation Staff on the Ozark St. Francis NF. Mr. Wallace is survived by his wife Jean; two sons; Johathan and Scott; four grandchildren; parents; sister, Linda; and a brother, Larry.

✓ **Clinton K. Sykes** of Lufkin, Texas, died on July 4, his 81st birthday. He was a graduate of the University of Florida with a B.S. in Forestry. During his 39-year career he worked in many places across Region 8, including the YLT, as District Ranger on the Bienville RD of the National Forests in Mississippi and finally as Director of Fire and Recreation Management on the National Forests in Texas at Lufkin. He resided in Lufkin since 1971. Survivors include his daughters; Terry and Linda; and 5 grandchildren.

John Courtenay writes: Those who knew Clint realize that he danced to a different drummer. His sense of humor and ready wit made him a joy to be around.

When it became clear that the end was approaching, Clint announced that he was going to make it to his birthday (July 4). He held on with dogged determination through some tough weeks, but on the morning of July 4th, he told his family. "Well, I made it" - then drifted off to sleep from which he did not wake up.

How like Clint that was - he did the same type of thing in 1952 after his polio attack. He was determined to recover and continue in his Forest Service career - and he did.

When it became impossible for Clint to continue on our Wednesday afternoon rides, we (Bill Schlesselman, Dave Oates, Ralph Fair and I) took our Wednesday ride to Clint's house. We will miss him.

✓ **Wylene Sims**, 65, of Lawrenceville, GA, died July 19 after a short illness. Mrs. Sims was the wife of Forest Service retiree Dan Sims who retired from S&PF in the Atlanta Regional Office. Her career included working as an onsite accountant for electrical contractors during construction of the Georgia Dome. Survivors in addition to her husband Dan include sons, Brian Sims, John Grogan and Greg Norton and one grandson.

✓ **Bob Neelands** of Dillard, Georgia, died on January 6. We did not receive obituary information.

Jim Wenner writes: I am sorry to hear that Bob Neelands is no longer with us. He befriended me soon after I arrived in Region 8 from the closed Region 7 in Upper Darby PA. Well, he befriended my camera anyway! I brought with me a Roliflex camera, the one with two lenses, one for the film, the other for viewing. This was in February, 1966, when the RO was still in the Seventh Street Building.

Bob was assistant to the Regional Photographer Dan Todd. I had worked with Dan when he was detailed to the White Mountain National Forest in 1961 to record the 50th anniversary of the Weeks Law. Senator Weeks was from northern New Hampshire so I took Dan to the Senator's home at the height of the fall colors, as well as touring him around the Forest for photo shoots. He used one of those press 4X5 Graflex's and a movie camera. (A car full of tripods, film and camera cases compared with a shirt-pocket digital camera which today can do the same thing.)

Bob Neelands became Regional Photographer when Dan Todd retired. Since I was in Recreation and he in I&E, we had many opportunities to work together, and he was a great guy to work with, both in the RO and after 1970 when I transferred to the Ouachita National Forest as Recreation/I&E Staff. Oh yes, I transferred that Roliflex with me to the Ouachita even though he still coveted it. I passed it on to Faith Scoog when I retired in 1989.



The following articles are from the National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter, May 2006:

National Museum of Forest Service History Goals

- 1) **Build a Museum** to serve as a headquarters for staff and volunteers working to preserve Forest Service history on a national scale.
- 2) **Preserve Historical Objects & Documents** — Expand the existing facility to a national repository for artifacts, records, publications, documents, and memorabilia relating to the history, programs, activities and culture of the Forest Service. All information is accessible.
- 3) **Provide Conservation Education** — Increase understanding of conservation past accomplishments and lessons learned. The Internet and traveling displays will be used to tell the history of conservation across the country.

- 4) **Link with other Forest Service History Sites** — The Museum will actively cooperate with other forest history sites across the country for the purpose of exchanging information, sharing artifacts and providing technical advice.
- 5) **Honor People** — History comes alive through the experiences of people. Personal papers and biographies tell the history of conservation. We continue to accept donations to the Forest Service History Memorial. Individuals living or deceased, and groups who have contributed to the mission of the Forest Service are eligible.
- 6) **Advocates for the Forest Service History Program** — Assist the Forest Service to carry out an on-going in-service effort to recover past agency history and record current history.

MUSEUM CATALOGING PROGRAM - More Than 13,500 Items and Growing

Curator Beth Humble, with assistance from volunteers, has carefully cataloged historic papers, books, photographs and objects given to the Museum. For two years we have been entering data into Past Perfect Museum computer software. Search functions built into the software allow users to locate desired historical information. The "People" search function is especially useful.

We have cataloged almost all of the material donated directly to the Museum since the early 1990s. We have a big job ahead to catalog the large Harvey Mack Collection, Forest Service property under the Museum's care. The number of items we have cataloged to date are: Objects 2,859, Photographs 3,516, Archive Folders 2,511 and Library (published books, research reports etc.) 4,777.

Our largest Museum operating expense is caring for and cataloging historical items. In 2005 we spent a total of \$23,738 for curation (28% of all expenses). Of the total, \$21,700 was for salary and \$2,050 was for supplies.

We purchase acid free file folders for the archives (\$13.35/100); archive boxes (\$3.85 each) and library boxes (\$3.47 each). In addition we place each photograph and slide into a protective sleeve.

Your unrestricted donations and dues support our work of caring for and cataloging historic papers, books, photographs and historical objects in the repository.

E-mail: nationalforest@montana.com Web Site: www.nmfs-history.net



Membership Application

Fill out, detach, and mail to: National Museum of Forest Service History, P. O. Box 2772, Missoula MT 59806-2772

Mr. ___ Mrs. ___ Dr. ___ Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ New Renewal Gift

Membership Categories Annual Dues

Individual	\$30 or more	Sustaining	\$300 or more
Family	\$55 or more	Organization	\$100 or more
Contributing	\$150 or more	Life	\$1000 or more

If you do not plan to use this form for your own personal use - dues or changes - please pass it on to a prospective SRFSA member.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or EXTENSION
SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

Date: _____

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # : _____

City:State: _____ 9-Digit Zip Code: _____

Phone: (Optional) Area Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Retired From (Unit): _____

Membership Dues are \$10.00 per year. Amount Enclosed: _____

Membership in the SFSRA includes:

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

Directory of Membership, issued every two years.

The opportunity to become published as an author when articles are submitted to *The Dixie Ranger*.

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Peggy Jolly, Treasurer
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Alexander City, AL 35010-8772

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