



# THE DIXIE RANGER

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## HOG TRAPPING ON THE KISATCHIE

By Mike Sparks

(The author does not guarantee the accuracy of any part of this story...the facts dim with time and age and may be somewhat exaggerated but ...you'll get the idea of what happened).

As the Timber Management Assistant on the Winn Ranger District of the Kisatchie NF in 1980, I was responsible for the timber management program on the District. Now, don't ask me how I came to be involved with the hog trapping program. Seems I always had a desire for adventure and that's what led me to my fate. A little background is in order.

Our resident hog trappers were Steve and Bob. Now there are certain credentials or qualifications for being a hog trapper.

The first qualification is - you must be insane!

Second, you must be able to tolerate foul smells. Seems the hog bait is nothing more than fermented corn - yea, the same stuff they make moonshine from and when you get it on your body, nobody else will come within ten feet of you, including your wife and kids.

Third, you must have the spirit of adventure because there are certain dangers involved. A wild hog can cause grievous bodily harm. If that's not enough for you, realize that some of these wild hogs are not

really wild but are "feral" and they may belong to somebody. Some are even marked by their owners using ear markings. These markings may even be registered at the courthouse. Now if you try to trap one of these hogs, seems the owner doesn't take kindly to that, even though they're encouraging their hogs to trespass on National Forest land. Some of these "good ole boys" still carry their shotguns with them when they look after their hogs.

Why are the hogs on National Forest land? Because the owners can let them forage on fruits, berries and longleaf seedling roots and get fat off the Government land. Then, they trap them and sell them as a cash crop. They do cause considerable damage to NF lands but also, they compete with the resident wildlife for food like acorns and fruits.

Now back to how I got involved. Seems I, too, met the qualifications for a hog hunter. I just didn't have it in my job description. But as luck would have it, one day Steve was unavailable and Bob needed someone to help him. Besides, I had been pestering Bob for some time to let me tag along on a hog trapping job. Little did I know that he had "set me up." Anyway, we loaded the bait onto the truck and headed for the traps. Now

the traps are made from one inch oak boards and look like big cages. When the hog enters the trap to get the stinking corn mash, he trips the trigger and the door falls in place and bingo, he's in the trap waiting for us.

Now I knew from the talk that there was a large boar on the south end of the District. This fella was "king of the hogs." He was bigger, meaner and uglier than all the rest and guess what - Bob knew he was in the trap waiting for us to arrive but he didn't tell me that when I got in the truck with him.

After checking several traps with no luck, we headed for the last trap. When we arrived, I saw something I hope to never see again. Inside the trap was the big boar and he had almost chewed his way out of those oak boards. He didn't squeal or grunt like the traditional pig. He "roared" and popped his tushes (local vernacular for tusks). And he had some big ones. They were razor sharp because the upper tusks constantly rub the lower tusks, keeping a razor edge on them. They were as sharp as knives and he knew how to use them.

He stood about waist high to me. His nose was long and narrow and his back tapered to a thin edge. He was brown, black and white and reddish colors all rolled into one. To describe him completely is not possible except to say he was mean and ugly.

Now I asked Bob how do we put him to sleep, thinking we had a tranquilizer dart gun. Bob said we weren't allowed to have them because the chemical was too dangerous to humans. This left me pondering the question "How do we get this big guy into the cage on the back of our truck and keep all our arms and legs?" As I spoke, Bob

reached into the tool box and brought out a length of half inch cotton rope. He formed a noose and said "Watch this."

He proceeded to get on top of the trap, thread the rope down and around the piney woods rooster's neck and drew him up until his front legs were dangling above the ground. The hog thrashed and roared and finally, choked down and passed out.

Bob ran into the trap, grabbed the two front legs and told me to grab the "a \_ \_ end and we would lift him up the ramp into the cage on the back of our truck.

Now this fella must have weighed 300+ pounds. He was huge! So we're dragging him up the plywood ramp when he suddenly started coming to. He thrashed and squealed and lo and behold, he jumped into the cage and we were home free. Guess the Good Lord was looking out for two fools that day.

When he was fully restored, he started trying to get out of the cage. He was so strong that he rocked the pickup. He bent half-inch steel bars.

We ultimately returned to the work center and dispatched our cargo into the corral we maintained and there he remained until we auctioned him off a few weeks later along with several others of his kind. But that's a story for another time.

After that, I never asked Bob or Steve if I could accompany them on a hog trapping episode.

. . . .

*Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals.* Author Unknown



## NFs in Florida Retirees Reunion

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual reunion of the National Forests in Florida Retirees will be held Saturday, April 17, 2004, at the Doe Lake Recreation Area, Seminole Ranger District, Ocala NF. The area will be available for self-contained camper retirees Friday, April 16. Detailed letters will be mailed to those on the current mailing list the end of March. To get on the list or change addresses, contact co-chairs: Rex and Lil Post 2001 Arbor Way, Mount Dora, FL 32757. Phone: 352.383.1281

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR 2003

Proposed		Actual
Printing	\$1,950.00	\$ 1,457.57
Postage	600.00	511.94
Door Prizes	200.00	200.00
Misc.	300.00	267.36*
Interviews	<u>250.00</u>	<u>226.13</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,663.00

\*Includes \$100 to National Museum of FS History, supplies, guest speaker.

Carryover from 2002	\$ 5,694.01
Income	<u>2,988.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,682.01

Expenses	<u>2,663.00</u>
Balance	\$ 6,019.01

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2004

Printing	\$1,950.00
Postage	600.00
Door Prizes	223.00*
Misc.	300.00
Interviews	<u>250.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 3,323.00

\*Includes \$23 from door prizes in 2003 (luncheon & dues for 2004).

Carryover from 2003	\$ 6,019.01
Income Projection 88 @	
\$8 per year	<u>704.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,723.01

Only 88 members owe dues for 2004. Others paid in advance. We have 352 members. Raising the dues to \$10 per year will allow us to meet the budget on a yearly basis. We give a free year's membership to all who join SFSRA. We carry on the books for one year those members who do not pay the current year's dues. Since there are only 3 issues per year, it takes a couple of issues before some realize they are in arrears with their dues. Based on this information, the Board approved the Treasurer's recommendation that dues be raised to \$10 per year, effective January 1, 2005. Some \$10 dues were collected at the December luncheon. However, the membership had not voted on the Amendment to the Constitution increasing dues. For those who request it, \$2 will be refunded.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. - 1 now reads:

A member shall be a person who -

--is a prospective retiree having completed 30 or more years of qualified service, a part of which was served in the South.

*Proposed change as Amendment #10:*

1. A member shall be a person who -

*Is a Forest Service employee or one who has a history of employment in the South and anticipates retirement within 5 years.*

#### ARTICLE IX - DUES

##### *Proposed Amendment No. 9:*

*Section 1. Dues for Membership and Associate Membership shall be \$10 per year, payable in advance upon application for membership and by January 1 each year thereafter.*

This amendment supersedes Amendment Numbers 5, 6 and 8.

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#### DIET

For those of you who watch what you eat...here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
3. The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British and Americans.

5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.

Conclusion: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

*Submitted by Jim Wenner, AR*



#### THE PLANT HUNTERS

A book review by Jim McConnell

I hardly ever pay full price for a book but that does not seem to limit my reading. I can't remember exactly where I picked up a book entitled *The Plant Hunters - Tales of the Botanist-Explorers Who Enriched Our Gardens* by Tyler Whittle. It laid around my "to read pile" for a sizeable amount of time, but I finally picked it up and thoroughly enjoyed it. We talk about wilderness and indigenous trees and plants, but, lord a mercy, what came from where?

Nobody knows when the first old lady sniped a pretty plant from a cemetery and carried it home with her. Things really got organized when regular trips were made from the old world to the new. Plants of all kinds went back and forth.

Probably one of the most memorable stories is that of the HMS Bounty and Captain William Bligh. In 1787 the Captain and later Admiral, was being used in a scheme to transport and plant breadfruit trees from Tahiti to the



West Indies. You all know the story, the Bounty was seized by Fletcher Christian, the master's mate and then turned Bligh and 18 others adrift in the longboat. The breadfruit were then planted at sea, and really, did not fair well. This little book is just full of stories and accounts just like that of the Bounty.

Here in the new world John and William Bartram explored the East collecting and recording plants of all kinds. To quote from the book, "John Bartram of Philadelphia chose to be as solitary as possible in 40 years of plant hunting in the eastern Colonies of North America. This man became a legend in his own lifetime." John arrived in 1860. His wife died and he left his children with their grandmother and moved to North Carolina. There he remarried, sired two more children and ended his life, many years later, by being speared and scalped by Yamasee Indians beside the Cape Fear River. From reading this book, I gathered it took strong, determined people to be plant hunters because many of them died far from home seeking one more elusive plant.

I give you one more quote from the book so you may see the magnitude of all this plant hunting. "In 1648, though it was the climactic year of the (English) king's final defeat and trial, authorities at the Oxford Physic Garden published a list of the plants grown there. Exactly fourteen hundred - that is two-thirds of the whole collection - were exotics; which meant that at some time or another they had been introduced from abroad."

If you are interested in forest trees or garden plants, check with your library. This book was published by The Lyons Press, 123 West 18<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10011. Original price \$16.95.



## LUNCHEONS FOR 2004

Please record these dates on your calendar for the two luncheons to be held this year. They will be at the Petite Auberge restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road. Reservations are required. Fellowship is at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at 12 noon.

Please call either Nancy Sorrells at 770.469.5799 or the Brays at 770.253.0392. The dates are given and the date in parentheses is the date to call and make reservations.

June 24 (22)

December 2 (November 30)

The restaurant needs at least 50 reservations for a luncheon. In December, 2003, we had 58 people in attendance. It's important that you make a reservation for these luncheons. It's easier on the restaurant if they know in advance exactly how many plan to attend so they can have enough food.

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*Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.* Submitted by Jim Wenner, AR



## LETTERS

**JERRY ROCKET**, Heathsville, VA - I really enjoyed Roger Dennington's remembrance about his move into State and Private Forestry. Mine was a bit similar to Roger's.

In 1969, I was Ranger of the Biloxi District of the DeSota National Forest. I had the temerity to allow Hurricane Camille hit the district and allow about one billion board feet of timber to be knocked down.

Soon after that, I was transferred to Southeastern Area, S&PF in Atlanta. I was lucky enough to work with people like Mike Kageorge, Bert Bray, Howard Burnett, Bruce Courtright, Bob Minor, Peaches Sherman, et al. S&PF treated me well. Off and on I served in Atlanta, San Francisco, Upper Darby, and Washington, D.C. Good years! Lots of friends made and lots of country seen.

I do have one correction to make to Roger's report. He mentioned that the St. Francis NF was the smallest forest in the system. Wrong. The smallest, at 11,000 acres was the Tuskegee in Alabama where I was Ranger in 1966 and 1967.

That was a good, good assignment because, with no clerk, I had to learn all about the paperwork needed to run a district. Many afternoons and nights I had to go in the office to do office work, and my wife Sandy would go in and help with the filing. Believe me, whether the district is 11,000 or 200,000 acres, the paper work is the same.

**DON HUGHES**, Fairhope, AL - sure enjoyed the latest *Dixie Ranger* as always and the new roster. Going through the names in the roster brought back a lot of fond memories of a great Forest Service career. Bobbie and I feel so fortunate to be enjoying good health and a lot of great experiences.

I may have written before that after giving up the offshore cruising in our sailboat, we moved from Port Charlotte, FL, to Fairhope, AL, on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. This was where Bobbie was born and where we began our lives together when I was in flight training in Pensacola 50 years ago. We never lived in Fairhope until 2 ½ years ago but are really enjoying it now. If you ever come this way, you will see what a great place it is and the welcome mat is out at our home.

We are still doing SpaceA travel on military aircraft about once a year. In fact, we just returned from a great trip to Hawaii (the Big Island) and Japan. In summer time, we enjoy the cool mountains along the Blue Ridge in N.C. in our motorhome. Some folks wonder why we even have a permanent home!! Enjoy the letters folks write in the DR and hope to see more from folks in the roster that have not written. Let us know how you are and what is going on in your lives. And many, many thanks to the dedicated folks that put *The Dixie Ranger* together so we can be kept informed.

**JOHN & SUE CHAFFIN**, Green Valley, AZ - Thanks again this past year for your continuing excellent efforts with *The Dixie Ranger*.

Not much excitement to report from southern Arizona but I particularly enjoyed Ed Ellenberg's note in the last issue. It brought



back fond memories on the Cherokee with some great people.

**A.P. & Gussie Mustain**, Winston-Salem, NC - Having reached that point (age) in life when one faces questions as to what the future may hold mentally and physically and still being in good health and reasonably sound mind (?), we decided to pull up stakes in Rocky Mount and move to an assisted care facility. In October we moved to Brookridge Retirement Community here in Winston-Salem. It is located on a beautiful wooded site (hardwood-pine type for you of the outdoors) near Wake Forest University and is administered by Baptist Homes of North Carolina, Inc.

The move has required some adjustments, as you may well surmise. Downsizing from a four-bedroom house to a two-bedroom house and disposing of or relocating a 56-year accumulation of stuff/junk "warn't" as easy as we might have hoped. Our three children pitched in, taking some of the stuff, disposing of others, and packing and unpacking for the move. We are now closer to our youngest, Gary and his wife, but farther from our daughter, Cheryl, and oldest son, Charles.

Thanks a bunch for your continuing efforts on behalf of R-8 retirees.

**JOE GIAQUINTO**, Tucker, GA - This is an indication of how your efforts in *The Dixie Ranger* bring back memories and enjoyable contacts between individuals and groups from Forest Service history. I wrote the following e-mail to Elbert Wilkey after I saw his name in *The Dixie Ranger*. "Dear Elbert, when I saw your name in *The Dixie Ranger*, it brought back many fond memories

of my time in North Carolina. Franklin was my first duty station in the Forest Service.

"The Nantahala was a separate administrative unit with Emera Renshaw as Forest Supervisor, Paul Russell as Assistant Supervisor, Bill Nothstein as Timber Staff, Mr. Kinney as Forest Engineer with John Swan his assistant. John Alsup was the Administrative Officer. I was assigned to the Wayah District as Junior Forester. John Waslik was the District Ranger. Norris Wuam was Assistant. Woodrow Shope was Fire Control Aid and Tommy Lee Cabe was Timber Management Aid. Wally Gray was on the Cheoah. Anderson was on the Tusquitee with Walker P. Newman as Assistant.

"I can't remember whether you were assigned to the Cheoah or the Tusquitee. I believe you were on the Cheoah and had responsibility for a large, mostly white oak, sale on the Tusquitee. Then I got transferred to Highlands to set up the new district there. Jack Laros was Assistant Ranger on the Cheoah and was promoted to District Ranger on the Highland. He moved to Highlands about two months after I did. Eckel Roland moved to Highlands about the same time. Was sorry to hear about his passing. He was a very good man.

"Your daughter, Martha, worked in the SO when it was on South French Broad when I returned to NC after having been assistant Ranger on the Leaf River in Mississippi, District Ranger on the Tenaha of the Sabine NF and the Neches of the Davy Crockett in Texas. Frank Rasor followed by John Cooper were Supervisors in Texas when I was there. I was Assistant to Les Shontz in Timber Management.

"Hope you're getting along well. Helen and I are doing fine.

My career in the Forest Service has been good to me. Write or have Martha e-mail me when you can."

The following is the response from Elbert Wilkey by his daughter, Martha -

"Dear Joe - thank you so much for writing Dad. He enjoyed hearing from you. Cliff Faulkner sent him a letter. He kept saying he was going to write a note for me to send you but he moves slowly these days. He was 90 years old on January 25, 2003. I gave him a surprise birthday celebration at a local hotel. After a few seconds of being angry at me for "pulling it off" he enjoyed it so much. Had 80+ people despite inclement weather. I guess you remember Tom Gibson from Engineering -his wife attended. There were other FS retirees also. The majority of the older ones Dad worked with for years have passed away.

"Dad fell on July 7 (2003) and broke his left hip as well as a few ribs. He had drawn plans for a storage barn and was in the process of moving the lumber to the planned construction location when he lost his balance and fell off the back bumper of his pickup. He had hip replacement surgery at St. Joseph. He was transferred to Thoms Rehabilitation on July 14. (He has asked me 3 times in the past week if I have sent you a note). He is making progress but it will take a long time for his hip to heal. He is scheduled for release on July 29 if all goes well. I plan to hire someone to stay with him during the day. Before his fall I was in and out during the day and there every night. I have been living with him since November 2000. Mother has been in a health care facility since July 1999. She has Alzheimer's but still knows everyone

and I can take her out of the facility on Sundays.

"I remember you so well. I also remember you living on Wendover Road and riding home with me sometimes. Occasionally I cut through that street to avoid traffic congestion on Patton Ave and I always think of you all when I pass the house you lived in! Asheville has changed so much in the past 10 years - some for the good and some not so good.

"As Dad would say, those were good days in the FS but we didn't realize it until years later. I retired from the Station in December 2002 after 32 years with the FS. It was a good career but I worked hard to get promoted to a GS-12 Grants & Agreements Specialist. I'm sure you recall Southeastern Forest Experiment Station and Southern Forest Experiment (headquartered in New Orleans, LA) officially consolidated in 1995 with the new name of Southern Research Station. I think the consolidation was the most difficult part of my career. I often think of the people who worked in the SO when I was there. I saw Willa Carswell a couple of years ago when Ed died. Also, Lil Lankton (personnel) died a year ago as well as Marie Chandler. I used to see Caroline Robinson Taylor at the grocery store, but haven't in the last few months.

"Joe, thanks again for writing Dad. Best wishes to you and Helen for a continued marriage of good health and happiness - Martha Joan"

**JIM & DORIS WENNER**, Hot Springs, AR - We had a great trip to Minnesota and Wisconsin, September 20 - October 10. An unusual cold spell gave us upper 20's at night, 30's-40's daytime. Colors were beautiful all the way



from upper Minnesota to lower Missouri. Aspen, birch and sugar maple framed by spruce and fir up north. Then sugar maple and oaks farther south.

We spent time in Minneapolis-St. Paul, marveling at the 53-mile parkway ringing Minneapolis and connecting lakes and wooded areas; lots of sail boats, hiking, jogging trails. Beautiful city flower gardens at St. Cloud. Camped at Itasca SP where the Mississippi River begins. Visited Jim Brewer in Bimidgi (Ouachita Deputy Supervisor 1968-1970, retired Chippawa Supervisor), toured iron mine near Hibbing, enjoyed Lake Superior's North Shore, capped by Split Rock Lighthouse. Spent two days in Duluth enjoying the commerce and culture of this inland seaport where ore and grain boats loaded.

In Wisconsin we attended the Bayfield Applefest and the Eagle River Cranberry Festival. Wisconsin is now number 1 in cranberry production. Visited Myron and Nonie Smith in Rhinelander (retired Nicolet Timber Staff; knew them on the White Mtn). Hadn't seen them since Laconia, NH in 1962, but we lived parallel lives - two sons and a daughter, still cutting our own firewood, tours in RO, then back to a National Forest, etc. One night at Ft. McCoy to learn about an army post that sharpens the skills of active and reserve troops before they are assigned to combat.

Followed the Mississippi River to St. Louis and then a night at Old Davidson SP in AR, on the site of a county seat (1819-1830) when river commerce was the primary method of moving goods.

Arrived home after 21 days and 3,300 miles. GMC diesel pulled effortlessly and 5<sup>th</sup> wheel was comfy on cold nights. Was pleasantly

surprised by the number of city and county campgrounds "up North." Few in the South. Excellent roads too, compared to the bumps in MO and AR

On October 17<sup>th</sup> we had son Jim III and his family from Dallas, along with my sister Jean and her husband from Atlanta to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Beautiful clear weather here with colors coming on makes boat riding on Lake Hamilton most enjoyable.

**BILL BUSTIN**, Brandon, MS - The last issue, Nov. 2003, brought back old memories for me - Roger Dennington who followed me on the St. Francis, I believe, and Ed Ellenberg and Bill Bodie and Jim Sabin and many others.

It's also sad to be reminded we are all mortal and soon "pass on" after "our" season in life. Alvis Owen was the most unique boss I ever worked for and I appreciated his appreciation of his employees so much. He will be missed.

And thank you Betty for your dedication! If needed and I am able I would be honored to help with the FS Reunion in 2010.

**ERNIE FINGER**, Pineville, LA - When I got my last issue of *The Dixie Ranger* the first thing I looked at was the number after my name on the address. After I read through it, for some reason, I counted the folks who wrote to and for this issue - there were twenty of them. Then I counted the number of them I had known and/or worked with - there were twelve of them. The ratio between the two continues to decline. Now, is that not a profound statement? What else could it be? Robin Shaddox called me last night to tell me Frank Finison has gone to his rewards. I knew Frank when he

was, I guess, a JF on the Strong River Ranger District, Bienville National Forest in Mississippi. That was about 50 years ago.

Dot is still working, but she has changed her schedule so that she goes when she wants to. She and Dot Slade go to their Tops meeting every Thursday night. Tops is some type of weight management outfit. They go to their meeting, weigh in, then they go and gorge themselves. I don't know that they ever lose weight, but they do know which restaurant best serves whatever their tastes dictates for the evening.

**BOB DODSON**, Altoona, FL - Thanks for the reminder. Hate to admit it, I'm getting older. It's great to hear about my co-workers and friends from a great period in my life. Co-workers are thinning out but the memories of the time and grand people remain. I must say that I was fortunate to serve when I did and before the surrender to the environmentalists.

Thank you for the good work and wonderful memories. Hoping for at least three more years and another reminder of dues.

**ELMER JACOBS**, Cleveland, TN - Enclosed you will find a check for 2 years dues plus a little extra. 2003 has been good to me as I made the 87<sup>th</sup> year.

It was not all bad as I went to Colorado last spring - during the fire season and didn't see a single fire. One place had a 2,000-acre fire 2 days after we left. Last fall the hurricane washed out our planned trip through the Virginia barrier islands. Went along the Mississippi River instead.

Also had cataract operation on both eyes - results very good.

I was interested in stories by Ed Ellenberg and Jack Godden as I was there as a road locator and surveyor in the engineering section.

**JACK ALCOCK**, Atlanta, GA - Thanks so much for all you do for F. S. retirees. I read every issue - cover to cover!

Joyce and I celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We've now been in Georgia for 22 years which is the longest we've ever lived any where.

**F. LEROY BOND**, Albuquerque, NM - When I noted that Jim Sabin almost forgot to send in his dues, thought I had better check mine. Yep - it expires this year also.

Doing o.k. for one my age - 82 - but the usual problems of old age. Have been gone from R-8 almost 30 years, so lots of new names.

Sad to read of passing of some of my generation - Wayne Cloward, Alvis Owen and Lou Grosenbaugh.

Enclosed is my check for 2 years dues. Normally don't buy green bananas anymore but thought I would be optimistic.

**DAVE HARRIS**, Roanoke, VA - I see that it's time to pay up once again. I enjoy the *Ranger* very much and look forward to receiving it each time. Also appreciate the Directory for 2003.

It has been a sad and somewhat lonely year for me. I lost my wife Opal on Thanksgiving Day, 2002. Some of the retirees that I worked with may not have known about her.

The rest of my family is doing o.k. I still have one son, Joe, living in Oakwood, GA. Had the opportunity to play a round of golf



with him and Jack Simpson last year. Jack worked on the Chattahoochee-Oconee.

Retirement of 12 years, as of Jan 3 has passed swiftly and I've lost contact with many friends. I hope to get an e-mail address soon and re-establish some contacts.

**JIM WEBB**, Fairview, NC - I have enclosed a check for three years' membership in the association. You're doing a great job with *The Dixie Ranger* and we enjoy reading about so many folks we crossed paths with over the years.

I enjoyed Cliff Faulkner's recent letter in *The Dixie Ranger*. He was the Assistant Ranger on the Tusquitee RD in North Carolina in 1953. I went there as a Forestry Aid for the summer between my freshman and sophomore college years. Cliff, Ranger George Anderson and crew made me feel welcome and really "exposed" me to the USFS. I knew after that summer's work that I had found the outfit that I wanted to work for if I got the opportunity. Those folks were great to work with and really helped get me started!

Jeannie and I were out West and in the Canadian Rockies again this summer. We were "trailing" and gone from home for about 10 weeks. Two more of our grandchildren joined us in Banff National Park in Canada. They are 10 and 11. They were with us for over two weeks, and we had a fine time hiking, wildlife looking, exploring glaciers and many other experiences.

We had several wonderful day hikes in Glacier National Park in Montana. Jeannie's sister joined us in Missoula, and we did the Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks.

We saw a lot of smoke and fire this summer. Western Canada had the driest conditions in 50 years. Prescribed burns set in the spring were causing troubles and added to the impact of many new fires.

**BOB HITT**, Leesburg, FL - just a quickie to say "here's the check and thanks for all the fine job you're doing on *The Dixie Ranger*." We're still hanging in there. Now snowbirds with a place in No. Wisconsin and a place in Florida near Leesburg. I gave up the Santa bit after 17 years. Had a slight heart problem and we thought it better not to have Santa collapse in front of the kids.

We keep plenty busy seeing the names in our black book - now all have M.D. after them. Grandkids and parents come by each summer to enjoy our lake and No. Wisconsin. We often see 3 of the 4 children (ours) in the spring and fall as we journey through Atlanta to our Florida residence.

Enjoy reading the D.R. to learn of whose where and whose gone. Guess many of us got out of the FS and Federal service just before the decline started. (or is it not in a decline - only me?)

**LES OLIPHANT**, Asheville, NC - Looking at the dates on the address of my last *Dixie Ranger* and the calendar cause me to realize it's dues time.

Fortunately I still see many familiar names in the "Letters" section, but also unfortunately several in the "In Memoriam" section.

**MIKE ANDERSON**, Richmond, KY - I see by the label on the last issue of *The Dixie Ranger* my time to re-up has arrived. I cannot believe three

years has gone by. I really wonder where time manages to go so quickly. Enclosed is my check so I can watch another three fly by.

We are all doing fine and enjoying ourselves. The new house and our teenager keep us busy. We love Richmond and are not disappointed to have made the move.

**J. DEAN McALISTER**, Cleveland, TN - Just a note to let you know that we finally took the plunge and moved back home to Cleveland, TN. Cleveland will be our home in the interim until we build a house on my homeplace near Charleston, TN. Hopefully, we will have the new house ready in late Spring.

It has been 31 years since we lived here. My wife, Bertha, daughter Deanna and I transferred to Lufkin, TX in 1972. After two years in Lufkin we transferred to the George Washington NF in Harrisonburg, VA, and were there for 11 years. Then off to Pineville, LA, for 18 years. Now we are back and adjusting from a flatlander to a mountaineer/hillbilly, but we can do it.

The Forest Service has been great for us. We have lived in great places and met some wonderful people. I look forward to seeing some old Cherokee NF pals that may still be hanging around the Cleveland area.

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**WORLD'S EASIEST QUIZ** - *passing requires 4 correct answers.*

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get catgut?

- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What color is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

All done? Check your answers below!

- 1) 116 years
- 2) Ecuador
- 3) Sheep and horses
- 4) November
- 5) Squirrel fur
- 6) Dogs
- 7) Albert
- 8) Crimson
- 9) New Zealand
- 10) Orange

• • • •

THE SEARCH IS ON ...

Bert and Betty Bray, Editors, have announced their retirement as Editors of *The Dixie Ranger* effective December 31, 2004. At the end of that time, they will have served as Editors for 15 years. If you would like to be an Editor, this is your chance. Please notify Dave Jolly, President of the SFSRA, at 256.329.5246 or e-mail him at [djolly@webshoppe.net](mailto:djolly@webshoppe.net).



## RETIREMENTS

Jean Paul Kruglewicz, Natural Resources, Planning Unit, retired January 2, 2004.

Ralph Meadows, Forest Engineer, Ouachita National Forest, retired after 44 years of Service. Friends and family were present at a retirement party held January 15.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:



**JOE J. HARRISON**, 4600 Greystone Road, Greenville, TN 37743

**THOMAS HUFFMAN, (ELSIE)**, 1890 Gentry Farm Road, King, NC 27021. Phone 336.983.2990

**RAY JOHNSTON, (LORI)**, 1172 Chadwick Lake Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30043-7024. Phone 770.277.1522 e-mail: [rayjohnston@mindspring.com](mailto:rayjohnston@mindspring.com)

**DICK JONES**, 3306 Renoir Court, Decatur, GA 30034. Phone: 770.987.2056

**JEAN PAUL KRUGLEWICZ, (MARIAN)**, 110 Suburban Dr., Kennesaw, GA 30144-2244. Phone: 770.926.0072 e-mail: [jeanpaul.kruglewicz@att.net](mailto:jeanpaul.kruglewicz@att.net)

**WILLIAM RYBURN (LIGIA)**, 2165 Westbury Court, Marietta, GA 30064. Phone: 770.425.9032 e-mail: [Applejack4@aol.com](mailto:Applejack4@aol.com)

**ROY J. SMITH, (Billie Fay)**, 132 Parsons Lane, P. O. Box 23, Wiggins, MS 39577

**TOM TIBBS, (ANN)**, 5023 Running Fox Trail, Norcross, GA 30071-3612. Phone: 770-447.0312. e-mail: [ttibbs@mindspring.com](mailto:ttibbs@mindspring.com)

### Corrections to the Directory. Underscoring indicates change for the following:

James W. Cole - 256.974.8558

Ernie Finger - definger@cox-internet.com

Donald Hughes - 334.928.4498

John & Shirley Lamb - 1456 Threepine Place, Lilburn, GA 30047. Phone: 770.717.9688 e-mail: [Sandjlamb@Bellsouth.com](mailto:Sandjlamb@Bellsouth.com)

J. Dean McAlister - 127 Fair Oaks Ct. NE, Cleveland, TN 37323. Phone: 423.473.7272

A.P. Mustian, Jr., 1151 Hayes Forest Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Jack Reichert - e-mail: [jmreicher@andycable.com](mailto:jmreicher@andycable.com)

Helen Thomas - 4582 Blooming Way, Flowery Branch, GA 30542 Phone: 770.967.2612

Keith and Carol Utz - 707 Fairmount Dr., North Port, FL 34287. Phone: 941.423.4414 e-mail: [Utzka@aol.com](mailto:Utzka@aol.com)

Bob Lentz has a new web site: <http://www.RobertLentz.com>

## **IN MEMORIAM**

**Benjamin F. "Frank" Finison**, 79, retired Forest Service Supervisor of the NFs in Mississippi, died November 9, 2003. Born in Ramseur, NC in 1924, Mr. Finison lived in Jackson since 1975 and was a member of Faith Baptist Church. He served in the Army Air Corps, Fifteenth Air Force in WWII and was honorably discharged in 1945. He then went on to study forestry and graduated from the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering in 1950. He worked for the Forest Service for over thirty years serving in Washington, D.C., Mississippi, Louisiana, NC, Georgia and Florida. He is survived by his wife Louise G. of Jackson; son, Benjamin F., Jr., of Jackson; daughters Nancy F. Vaughn (Billy) of Brookhaven and Ann Webb F. Pittman (Hewitt) of Brandon; and two granddaughters, Brandi and Emily Vaughn, both of Brookhaven.

**Albert F. Hays**, 89, of Houston passed away on October 15, 2003. He was born in Kimberly, Idaho, November 16, 1913. After working with the Forest Service in Idaho, Utah, Nevada and Texas for 39 years, Mr. Hays retired in 1973 as the Administrative Officer for the NFs in Texas. He was also retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of Major. He served in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in WWII and was wounded in the Omaha Beach Campaign. Mr. Hays is survived by his wife, Elyse; sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Nell Hays of Northport, AL; Steve and Barbara Hays of Athens, Ohio,

Barry and Jan Hays of Houston; and 7 grandchildren.

**Mary Hutchins** of Spring, Texas, died in November 2003.

**Mary M. LeGrand**, Blairsville, GA, formerly of Moncks Corner, SC, died October 10, 2003. Mrs. LeGrand was born in Oconee County, GA., and was a charter member of Mountain Presbyterian Church. She was a homemaker and lived in Blairsville, GA, since moving from Moncks Corner in 1983. She is survived by her husband, William P. LeGrand, of Blairsville; a daughter, Patricia G. Collins of Hamilton, GA., and two grandchildren.

**Virginia Evelyn Worthington**, 49, of Blacksburg, VA, died December 4, 2003. Jinny was born on September 11, 1954 in Houston, TX, but grew up in Pennington, NJ. Jinny received her BS in Journalism and Environmental Studies, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Maine. She also earned her Masters degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Montana State University. Her first job after completing college in 1976 was with the National Wildlife Federation where she was Editor of The Conservation News and the Federation's congressional advocate for the Clean Air Act. Shortly after moving to Juneau, Alaska in 1983, she accepted a position with the USDA Forest Service as an economist for the Alaska Region. After moving to Virginia with her husband in 1987, she continued her Forest Service career with the Jefferson National Forest, most recently as



a Community Planner with the New River Valley Ranger District. She is survived by her husband of 26 years, Charles Andrew Dolloff, and two daughters, Hillary Anne Worthington Dolloff and Colleen Elizabeth Worthington Dolloff.

**Bill Willis**, husband of retiree, Lois Willis died Feb. 5 in Douglasville, GA.

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#### **NEW OFFICERS FOR 2004**

**DAVE JOLLY** - President  
[djolly@webshoppe.net](mailto:djolly@webshoppe.net)  
Phone: 256.329.5246

**ED COOK** - Vice President  
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**BETTY BRAY** - Sec. - Treas  
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#### **DIRECTORS:**

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**BOB BOWERS (05)**  
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**MIKE SPARKS (06)**  
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#### **EDITORS:**

**BERT & BETTY BRAY**  
[brayira@aol.com](mailto:brayira@aol.com)  
PHONE: 770.253.0392

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**National Retiree Reunion 2005**  
**September 5-10, 2005**

[http://oldsmokey.org/reunion\\_2005.htm](http://oldsmokey.org/reunion_2005.htm) (You may wish to check this out).



#### **We've Discovered a Pot of Gold - Oral Histories**

Jim McConnell has done an excellent job of obtaining oral histories from some of our retirees. Paul Russell's, Rik Eriksson's and Ruth Schaap's were published in *The Dixie Ranger*. We now have so many that it is impossible to print them in the amount of space we have in an issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. So we're making them available to the membership at a cost. Those who have given oral histories with dates of service are:

John E. Alcock - 1961 - 1993.

William J. Bryan - 1951 - 1981.

Nathan Byrd - 1951 - 1982.

Jerry Edwards - 1961 - 1997.

Timothy LaFarge - 1965 - 2000

J. Frank Palmer - 1941 - 1972

James S. Sabin, Jr. - 1952 - 1983.

Archer Smith, Jr. - 1934 - 1970.

We will have an order form in the June issue of *The Dixie Ranger* so that we can have a consolidated order for copies.

Southern Forest Service  
Retirees Association  
70 Wilkes Court  
Newnan, GA 30263-6124

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A REMINDER – PLEASE POST LUNCHEON DATES ON CALENDAR – see page 5

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Published in February, June, and November. Dues are \$8 per year, payable in January. Mailing Address: Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 70 Wilkes Court, Newnan, GA 30263-6124