



THE DIXIE RANGER

Published by the Southern Region Forest Service Retirees Association
Vol. XXXVII No. 3

November 2005

CENTENNIAL YEAR CELEBRATIONS

As our centennial year draws to an end, many of the special activities which have marked the 100th year of the US Forest Service are remembered and shared by our SRFsRA membership.



Smithsonian Forest Service Folklife Festival

By Jim McConnell

I spent 36 years working for the Forest Service and never, once, had to go to the WO. I told that to Lee Cromley, for whom I worked one time. His mouth fell open and he said that if he had known that he would have made sure I went at least once. After I retired and started doing oral histories of our old guys a couple years ago, someone found out and said I needed to volunteer to help with the upcoming Folklife Festival. It sounded like fun and kinda like what I was doing already. I called the WO phone number and talked to Linda Feldman. Before I knew it, I had signed up, Guess what?? The first thing they wanted was for me to go to Washington to be trained on what, and how to do it. That was in April 2003.

The training was good but the idea of what they wanted was really vague. There were about 50 people there, and I think they came away with 50 different ideas of who to interview. Remember the Smithsonian was in charge and the driving force behind the festival. Most of them talked about interviewing FS people that had skills in making hand crafts or telling stories about the FS and their careers. Well, I did a few of both of those but I wanted real FS work and people that had unusual adventures, both in and outside of the FS. During the interview period from May 03 to August 1, 2004, I managed to do 22 interviews, most of whom were FS employees. Some were seasonal. The interviews took me to GA, FL, AL, LA, NC and SC. They were all taped on a digital camcorder with a 60 minute tape. They were all good and I only consider one a flop. Never mind who it was. It could have been good but they hadn't prepared.

We were told to have all of the interviews wrapped up by August 1st, 2004. There really wasn't much paper work but there is always some. The important document was what they called the final report. On it they wanted our recommendation and what it would take to present the person at the festival. Would it take electricity, a stage, or whatever? Simple, but some of the interviewers were having trouble keeping it to one page. What do you expect? The poor people at the Smithsonian had about three months to review over 500 interviews and make plans for their appearance on the Mall in Washington. Big job. Of the 22 interviews I did, three were selected to go to the festival. They were: Cindy Carpenter, Interpretation Program Manager at the Cradle of Forestry on the Pisgah NF who sings with a beautiful voice about the forest around us; Jack Holcomb, Regional Hydrologist in the RO, who handmakes guitars, gave an in-depth presentation on the methods and materials he uses; and Bob Karrfalt, Director of the National Tree Seed Lab in Macon, GA, who represented the lab and the work it does.

Also representing the RO, Samuel Larry told about the Tuskegee Forest Program. Susan Adams, from the Southern Station at Oxford, MS, was there talking about ecology of fish, crayfish and amphibians in streams and rivers. Tony Guinn presented information about Blanchard Springs Caverns in Arkansas. Nathan Schiff from the Bottomland Hardwood Research Center in Stoneville, MS, was there with an insect collection. These fine people and little ole me were the Southern Region and Southern Station's representatives at the festival.

The Smithsonian did a really good job of presentation on the Mall in Washington, DC, between the Capital and Washington Monument. By the way, this was my second trip to Washington and it was hot, hot, hot. Dates for the festival were June 23-27 and June 30-July 4. I was there for the first week, June 23-27. I got a little worried about the fire tower. The cabin was only about 15 feet off the ground, and on June 24 they were still hammering away trying to get it finished. From then on, the fire tower cabin was crowded with visitors. I heard later that the official attendance reported by the Smithsonian was about 1.5 million visitors.

The entire festival consisted of three venues, the US Forest Service Culture and Community being one. The country of Oman: Desert Oasis and USA Sea and Food Culture were the other two. There was also an evening concert Nuestra musica: Music in Latino Culture. I didn't stay out after dark.

My job at the festival was to be a presenter for those that were doing the real work. We presenters were scheduled for two gigs a day, so that gave us a lot of free time even if we did have to hang around in the heat. Somehow I lucked out, for three of the five days both of my presentations were scheduled at the cook tent - things like cooking in the field, Dutch Oven Cooking and frying catfish. Since it was not a kitchen approved by the City of Washington, none of the food could be given to visitors. Folks working around there found out about that pretty fast, and there was not a scrap left. It was good eating. Also the tent restaurant in the FS area was serving buffalo burgers, venison stew

and some kind of smoked fish. They ran out of Buffalo meat by the end of the first week. It was good, but that smoked fish ???

One day at lunch, about 2 pm, I was sitting there eating my buffalo burger and a kid about 9 or 10 years old started yelling, "Look, look, look." Well the Oman folks had two camels on display, and one had got loose. It was hitting overdrive down the Mall toward the Washington Monument. Right behind it, in a cloud of dust, came a Smithsonian golfcart with two guys in it trying to catch the run-away camel. They ran it down before it got into the street.

Well, it was an adventure, and I'm glad I was invited. The FS presentation was good. The people who represented the FS were outstanding. What it lacked was depth, but resources are limited and they couldn't take everybody. The FS is too big and diverse to be presented all at one time. However, I did not come away disappointed.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION RETIREES CELEBRATING THE FOREST SERVICE'S 100 YEARS



Retirees were invited to the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina on July 26th to celebrate 100 years with the Forest Service and were welcomed by the R-8 Acting Regional Forester, Gary Pierson, and the Assistant Director, Southern Research Station, Bruce Jewell.

After viewing a video, "Special Places of the South," attendees were invited to choose one or two events for the afternoon.

Selections were: an outdoor walking tour of the Biltmore Forestry School where there are actual historic buildings of the original school of forestry in America; a viewing of "*The Greatest Good*" - a one-hour short film, or the longer film which is two hours; another option was the "Forest Festival Tour" which was an outdoor walking tour to take a first-hand look at actual forest management practices narrated by a local guide; or the "Cradle of Forestry" self-guided tour of the Visitor Center which features animation and interpretive exhibits that showcase forest management and history. There was a very impressive one-hundred year time-line which many retirees enjoyed relating to where they were at specific times on the exhibit. These activities were followed by an evening, beginning with drinks and hors d'oeuvres along with entertainment featuring instruments and sounds of the Southern Appalachian Mountain culture. This was followed by a program where moderator, Gary Pierson introduced a special presentation: A "voice-from-the-past" visit from Dr. Carl Schenck, a German forester who was a pioneer in forest conservation. He was hired at Biltmore by George Vanderbilt on Gifford Pinchot's recommendation. Gary also recognized other special guests, among whom was former Region 8 Regional Forester, Bob Jacobs, and Chief Emeritus Max Petersen. Max spoke of "Remembering the Significance of the Centennial Year of the Forest Service". The following comment which we received expresses the feelings of those attending the celebration:

"Enjoyed the reunion at the Cradle a couple of weeks ago. It was a great and memory filled day seeing old FS friends and participating in the programs. The folks who managed this affair (I suspect the District had a lot to do with it) need to be thanked for a job well done and beyond the call. It renewed my faith in the old "can do" Forest Service."

Jean Paul Kruglewicz



A group of appreciative retirees pose for a picture before sharing a great meal served by their Region 8 hosts at the Schenck School of Forestry - which today we call the Cradle of Forestry in America.

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Forest History Society Offers centennial publications: The FS Centennial Film "The Greatest Good" is now available in a 3-DVD set. The Forest History Society Historian, James Lewis, is putting the final touches on the companion book to the film entitled, "The Forest Service and the Greatest Good: A Centennial History." The Companion book with a foreword by Char Miller, Gifford Pinchot Biographer, will be a 250-300 page, well-illustrated book that generally follows the film but will include deeper discussion on some topics as well as some topics that were not discussed in the film. It will be attractive for the general reader, as well as a resource for national forest enthusiasts, the natural resource professional, and for the teacher/educator looking for curriculum background. The book was to be available in August and can be ordered now.

In addition to the companion book, you can order the CD of original MUSIC from the film. It's great listening and brings you right back to what you remember about the film.

For additional information on these offerings and related centennial books, you can go to the Forest History web site at: <http://www.foresthistory.org/Publications/new.html>. Additional books offered include: The Chiefs Remember: The Forest Service and CENTENNIAL EDITION of the U.S. Forest Service: A History.

FOREST SERVICE REUNION - 2005 - PORTLAND



Kathleen and Ralph Mumme

Doris and Jim
Wenner



Marge and Ed
Ellenberg



Fern and Jerry Coutant

On returning home from the Forest Service Reunion 2005 in Portland, we contacted several R-8 retirees who had attended and asked them if they would share with all of us some of their personal thoughts and impressions of their experiences at the reunion. This is what they said:

Don and Jean Eng - From the registration and welcome to the closing farewell program, the Centennial Celebration of the Forest Service was an exciting, educational and fun loving event. Jean and I enjoyed every part of the reunion. We chose the Columbia River Gorge field trip tour that showed the dramatic scenery of the Columbia River and the surrounding area. It was threaded with history of early FS activities that protected the landscape for today's public to enjoy.

The activities, exhibits and meals at the Red Lion Hotel were spectacular. The portrayals of Teddy Roosevelt and Giffort Pinchot were brilliantly done and made us feel like we were living back in the early 1900 era. It was interesting having Max Peterson, Dale Robertson and Jack Thomas do a round-table discussion of their times as Chief. The candid remarks of current Chief Dale Bosworth brought retirees up to date on current programs and the culture of the FS now.

The bands, singers, fiddlers, poets and storytellers were FS employees and retirees. We never knew that there were such talented entertainers in our organization. They made us feel proud about our careers with the FS. We felt like we were at a family gathering.

Seeing and reminiscing with past friends was a special part of the reunion for us. Being with co-workers who had scattered across the country during their careers, it was a wonderful time to be together again.

The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association members were wonderful hosts and did an excellent job of organizing and facilitating the reunion.

Following the reunion, Jean and I spent several days visiting Mount St. Helens National Monument, Mount Rainier National Park, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Mount Hood National Forest and the Oregon Coast. September was a beautiful time to be in the Northwest. We had a wonderful time.

Ralph and Kathleen Mumme - If there was one thing that really stood out, it was how well organized Region 6 retirees were in putting on this reunion and handling the thousand folks that attended. All the events were on-time and ended on-time. There were always long coffee breaks and long "happy hours" in order to provide time for getting re-acquainted with old friends. I met some folks I worked with and had not seen in nearly 50 years.

All of the programs were well done and interesting. I really appreciated the "Three Chiefs" presentation which was interesting and really humorous at times.

Kathleen and I went on the Southside Mt. St. Helens trip on the first day. It was a very large group, four or five buses, but again R-6 folks did a great job of showing us the volcano and explaining the impacts and current situation. We also thought it was great that the Alaska folks had brought the boat and gave tours on the Columbia River.

Overall, we were really happy with the entire reunion and the manner in which it was done. (This was our first reunion.)

Jim and Doris Wenner - I clutched the list in my hand as I shouldered through 944 Forest Service Retirees from every region in the country. Dave, Bob, Jack and Warren; John and.....on down the list. I hadn't seen Dave Jolly since he was ranger at Mena, Arkansas, lo those 30 plus years ago. Finally, on the 3rd day he and Peggy emerged from the crowd.

We were at the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Portland, Oregon. The Forest Service Reunion 2005 was under way. It started Monday September 5 with a reception in the Grand Ballroom. We were entertained by a group of Forest Service gals with the crazy title: "Riders in the Dirt Band." You can see photos of this group and all the events at www.oldsmokeys.org, web site of the R-6 retirees. Search around the web site for Reunion 2005 photos. You'll see a restored Forest Service boat brought down from Alaska, and an early FS vehicle, both of which were displayed next to the Columbia River.

Jim! Jim Wenner! Wow, it's good to see you. Well hi, Bob. And Kathy! You look as beautiful as ever. "Well thanks" she said, "but are you referring to the way I looked at your Halloween party in Media?" Good friends, the Van Akins, when Bob was in Timber in the R-7 regional office in Pennsylvania.

Dave! Dave Trask, I hoped to see you here. Hello Pam. And Pam responds, are you still making that wicked home brew? We were together on the White Mountain NF, then together again in Upper Darby where Dave and I car-pooled to the R-7 regional office. Dave retired as Director of Engineering in R-6.

Upper Darby? Region 7? Yup, I visited with a host of R-7 folks. Best, though was when we had contests like "who came the farthest?" and "who served the longest in Region 7?" Trask, Van Aken and Jack Godden dropped out early in the game. One other fellow claimed 10 years. We started counting months; I started in September 1955 on the George Washington NF and left the RO for Atlanta in February 1966. I beat him out, and I won! Won a book, The USDA Forest Service---The First Century. Sure, it's "just" a Forest Service publication, but this one is special. I asked Max and Dale for autographs: "To: Jim Wenner with best wishes and best regards, Max Peterson, Chief, 1979-1987." And also, "Dale N. Bosworth, 2001---" Who was the oldest? Well, again R-7 provided the winner. Marlin Galbralth was R-7 timber director in the 1950's before Sig Dolgard replaced him.

Marlin is 90 years old. Was he in the WO after that? With By Beatie in Watershed? My notes aren't clear and my memory? What memory?

The reunion was part of our "trip west." Doris and I left Arkansas August 24 towing a 5th wheel camper. Our first stop was the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene, Kansas. From there we found a great bypass around the Denver interstate mess by heading north from Hayes, Kansas, to I-80 in Nebraska. This allowed us to visit the Buffalo Bill Ranch and North Platte Pioneer Museum. We lingered at Hill Air Force Base north of Salt Lake City, and visited with our daughter-in-law's father in Boise, Idaho.

The Oregon Trail Interpretive Park just off I-84 in northeast Oregon is provided by the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. It described the challenges faced by pioneers as they crossed the Blue Mountains 150 years ago. We walked a paved trail following remnants of the old emigrant road also known as the Oregon Trail. We're sure glad our 5th wheel was small enough to squeeze through the tunnel under I-84 to get there. For anything bigger, there was no advance warning sign nor turn-around. We stayed the night a few miles farther on at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, where the actual Emigrant Springs was, according to a park ranger, "...down there in the brush somewhere. We hope to clear that out sometime!"

We arrived at our Portland home, Hayden Island RV Park, Friday, September 2nd, off the road before Labor Day weekend. This was a good location, less than a half mile from our reunion hotel. A large shopping mall is located there, right on the I-5 exit ramp across the Columbia River from Washington State. Washington has a sales tax and Oregon doesn't. Guess where all the shoppers come from.

As we checked in, the desk clerk said other Forest Service retirees were there and to check the bulletin board. Sure enough, a note pinned there said we should all identify ourselves and get together. It was from Ed and Marge Ellenberg, who we found just a couple of sites from us. Some may recall Recreation and Lands was one division when we arrived in Atlanta in 1966 so the Lands folks were the first to welcome us, Ed included. That was in the Seventh-Street building. I'm not sure we have seen Ed and Marge since we left R-8 RO in 1970. We had a good time together as attested by the photo of the four of us on page 5.

After ten days on the road we were ready to rest. Saturday we got acquainted with Portland by visiting the World Forestry Center-Discovery Museum at Washington Park in the hills west of downtown Portland. Then to the nearby formal Japanese Gardens-beautiful, every leaf trimmed perfectly and the grounds in immaculate condition. After viewing the Portland waterfront along the Willamette River, we headed back to our site for Saturday night steak and manhattans. We later discovered another retiree set up just behind us. From R-6, he had many friends gather to sample a dozen varieties of his homemade wine. Doris liked the strawberry and huckleberry, I enjoyed the cabernet. A very sociable time.

Warren Bacon was R-8 landscape architect, first with Wayne Iverson, then as head honcho about 1970. (Warren greeted us with the sad news that, in late August, Wayne Iverson had a fatal stroke at his Sedona, AZ, home.) Warren returned to R-6 in the early '70's where he developed methods of enhancing our national forest viewsapes (I've forgotten the official terminology). He retired several years ago, and we have kept in touch. He and Lynn met us Sunday, September 4th to give us a grand tour of Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area (Mt. Hood NF) including lunch at the FS concession-operated Multnomath Falls Lodge nestled at the base of the second highest year-round waterfall in the US (and judging from the crowds of tourists, the most photographed falls). Sturgeon at the state fish hatchery were in the 100-lb. range and looked bigger than Florida alligators. Over

2300 salmon were counted that day going up the fish ladders at Bonneville Dam, huge salmon we viewed through thick glass at the side of the ladders. Passing vineyards along the Mt. Hood River, we ascended Mt. Hood's east slope to tour the famous Timberline Lodge built by the CCC's in the 1930's.

Dave and Gloria Hammond had flown to Portland this weekend; Dave wanted to show Gloria all the sites he'd seen on his official trips west including Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens and Ft. Clatsop at Astoria. Yet not once did our paths cross, so vast and beautiful is this area.

Monday we drove to McMinnville to gawk at the gigantic Spruce Goose at Evergreen Aviation Museum. Returning, we saw yet one more example of our road system being too small for the traffic. Four-lane OR-18 narrowed to two lanes in Lafayette causing a 10-mile backup of vehicles on this sunny holiday afternoon.

Tuesday, September 6, the official start of the reunion, was tour day. Doris and I chose the Mt. St. Helens tour where our bus took us all the way up to Johnston Ridge Observatory. The volcano's cone within the main crater continues to steam, rumble and grow, and the FS tour guides, who live at a camp down the mountain, showed a bit of anxiety. The Forest Service has done a good job with facilities at this FS-run national monument, but as with other special projects like Blanchard Caverns and Cradle of Forestry, operation and maintenance funds are continually squeezed.

Wednesday to Friday morning were crammed with presentations, concurrent sessions (which forced us to miss some good topics) banquets with FS groups entertaining, and visits with old-time friends. Notable to me were the "Fiddlin Foresters" singing Thursday evening. Notable because long-time friend and interpretive partner Lynn Young was fiddler, singer and leader. Lynn retired in 2004 to a new home in Buffalo, Wyoming. You may remember him as manager of Blanchard Caverns at its opening in 1973, later ranger on the St. Frances NF. He moved to Denver in R-2 where he worked in Public Affairs for the rest of his career. You've just got to see the face of this old character in photos of the Fiddlin Foresters at www.oldsmokeys.org. All the band members autographed a copy of their CD for me. Lynn would autograph one for you too if you ask nicely at www.fiddlinforesters.gov.

I planned to be bored with a panel of three retired chiefs, but was I surprised! Max Peterson, Dale Robertson and Jack Ward Thomas gave marvelous insight to the problems they as chiefs struggled with during their tours. We all remembered many of the incidents described, and now we have greater understanding.

I looked up three retirees unique to me. Mike Shirley was ranger of the Evans Notch district when I served there on the White Mountain NF in 1957. His son was in college there. I had a good chat with Mike's son, Bill Shirley, who retired from R-9 RO. He and I both ended our careers in forest planning. Harold Nygren was deputy RF in R-7 when I was there from 1962-1965. I discussed this with his son Tom Nygren who retired from R-6. Dick Droege was regional forester then, a topic I could talk about with Dick's son Roy Droege who retired from the WO. It made me feel old.

If anything was lacking, it was enough time to reminisce with old acquaintances. Keith Argow, once manager of Mount Rogers NRA, remembered when John Archer was ranger at Marion and asked to be remembered to him. Bob Jacobs, Jerry Coutant, and Ralph Mumme all worked in R-8. Reunion regulars would know that Norm and Eve Gould had just bought a 5th wheel RV about the time of the Park City, Utah, reunion. They sold their house and "full-timed"; Norm said that by moving about every two weeks they got to see most of the country. Well they had enough, sold their RV and settled in Oregon. I visited retired R-8 supervisors George Olson and Don Eng. We sat with the Engs at the

Wednesday banquet; he wanted me to say hi to Dave Urbston (retired Ouachita NF wildlife staff) and retired Ouachita Supervisor John Orr. We met Fred and Judy Henley, an engineer from R-6 who started his career with Chuck Donahue retired Ouachita NF engineer (who passed away some years ago). He wanted us to say hi to Shirley when we returned to Hot Springs. Bill Hess remembered the recreation projects we worked on when he was on the Chattahoochee NF; we are both Penn State Alumni. I finally located Jack Godden on the 3rd day; Jack and I worked in the White Mountain NF SO. Jack was on the Chattahoochee, maybe on the Cumberland (okay the Daniel Boone) too, before ending his career in Milwaukee.

Joe Higgins worked with me in Upper Darby, having moved from the Green Mountain NF. He later was Recreation staff on the Superior NF and, still later, served in R-6. Two current employees made the scene. Gloria Manning was NFNC's Forest Planner when we all struggled with the first round of Forest Plans in the early 1980's. She hop-skipped in and out of R-8 and is now in the WO (Director of Resources or something?). Jerry Ingersoll worked with me on the Ouachita helping complete the Forest Plan and fighting off attacks as environmental coordinator in the 1980's. After several jobs he settled down for awhile as District Ranger in Ketchikan, AK. He recently moved to the WO in the new job of off-road vehicle coordinator, or something similar, with the monumental task of converting the nation's national forests from "open except where closed" to "closed to ORV's except where open."

The reunion organization was fabulous with well over 100 volunteers taking on a multitude of tasks to make the event successful. Bob Williams chaired the reunion committee. Not our R-8 Bob Williams of course, but the retired R-6 regional forester, who breathed a sigh of relief at noon Friday. A store offering the usual souvenir hats, T-shirts and trinkets was managed by Dave and Audrey Scott. Dave was director of Recreation in Atlanta in the early 1970's after Wayne Cloward retired. Dave confided that it was a real strain on him since he had to guess the number of T-shirts to order, and he had to eat every unsold one. Dave had salvaged boxes of books R-6 had discarded and offered them for \$1.00 each to benefit the retire association. My treasure purchase was Manual of the Trees of North America by Charles S. Sargent published in 1922.

After the Thursday night dinner in the Grand Ballroom and entertainment that would not end by the Fiddlin Foresters, I thought Friday would be anticlimax. But Chief Bosworth gave a rousing farewell message, topped (like icing on the cake) by the hilarious "The Four Get Ables." Most were reluctant to admit the reunion was over, and lingered for final farewells and promises to keep in touch.

For Doris and me, the trip wasn't back, but onward. We spent a week on the Oregon coast, viewing the winter site of Lewis and Clark at Ft. Clatsop near Astoria, sampling Tillamook cheese, and gazing at the Siuslaw NF's Oregon Dunes NRA. We ate fresh salmon every night, bought at the fishing villages we passed. We noted extensive even-aged management along the coast range. It looked recent with many log trucks on the roads, but we couldn't tell if it was national forest or private land. Many trucks were full with five or six logs, with one hauler struggling with a full load of just three logs! I didn't expect the coast redwoods to compare with those in Sequoia National Park, but in the Redwoods National Park in northern California they were taller, more majestic. We felt like we were in a cathedral with 280-foot ceilings, the columns being nine to twelve feet in diameter.

Our most urban camping was along San Francisco Bay north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The most crooked road was from Monterey south past Big Sur and Los Padres NF to San Simeon. We visited with our son and family in Camarillo, CA for a few days, got onto I-40 and headed for Arkansas watching the diesel price drop from a high of \$3.49 a gallon in California to \$2.51 in Oklahoma City. On September 26th we swung into our driveway, thankful for 5,600 safe miles across beautiful America, and for the many Forest Service friends we have from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Disaster strikes the Gulf Coast - Hurricanes Katrina and Rita heavily impacted National Forests in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Most importantly, however, is the impact these hurricanes have had on our Forest Service people. Five employees from the NF in Mississippi lost **everything** to Katrina when their homes and all their belongings were destroyed. Also, most employees' homes on the Desoto and Chickasawhay Ranger Districts were damaged. Thankfully our people did not suffer any major injuries or loss of life. Katrina severely damaged 425,700 acres of National Forest land in Mississippi. Hurricane Rita impacted employees living near Lufkin, Texas. Several homes were severely damaged, but, once again, no major injuries were sustained. Three thousand acres on the National Forests suffered moderate damage. Chief Bosworth writes:

To: All Employees

As we all know, the Gulf Coast was recently hit by multiple disasters from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There's been a lot in the papers about the federal emergency response. The national forests in the region were also hit by the disasters, and I followed what we were doing on a daily basis, both to recover ourselves and to support evacuees. As soon as I could do so without disrupting our efforts, I traveled to the Gulf Coast to see firsthand what's going on.

Words cannot describe the scale of the disaster I saw in and around Gulfport, MS. The storm surge leveled beachfront mansions and carried away the debris, so that only foundations remain. Farther inland, the winds crushed houses under trees, knocked buildings down, and ripped roofs away. Almost every remaining structure in town suffered serious wind damage.

On the nearby De Soto National Forest, the winds threw and snapped mature trees on hundreds of thousands of acres. Major roads were initially impassable, and many forest roads still are. Our folks did a great job of quickly clearing major thoroughfares - and with an excellent safety record under very dangerous conditions.

My biggest worry is the down woody fuel load that remains, which is three times the upper limit of what is normal for forest types on the Coastal Plain. Unless we can remove a lot of that material all across the landscape, fire seasons are going to get pretty bad, especially because there's so much wildland/urban interface in the area.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the region are homeless or otherwise in need of relief. The Federal Emergency Management Agency tasked the Forest Service and our partners in the wildland fire community with establishing staging areas, support camps, and evacuee shelters. Even before Katrina made landfall, we already had teams in place, and as the scale of the disaster became clear, we rushed more resources to the scene.

By October, the wildland fire community had more than 5,000 resources mobilized throughout the region, from Texas to Alabama and north into Arkansas, including more than 3,000 Forest Service employees. This is by far our biggest response ever to a natural disaster. At the Gulfport Base Camp alone, we are sheltering and feeding nearly a thousand emergency responders a day.

But the numbers alone don't tell the story. The story is really about folks pitching in and helping out. Fortunately, none of our employees were badly hurt in the hurricanes, but some folks suffered property damage or even lost their homes, and I heard story after story about Forest Service folks selflessly looking after each other. One employee who'd lost his home and his car spent the first few days helping out at his church, then walked 10 miles to work to see what he could do to help out there. Now that's dedication.

Our emergency responders are showing the same kind of dedication. In fact, they've earned a local reputation for efficiency and effectiveness. When the evacuees need something done or a question answered - no matter how seemingly trivial - they look for the green pants worn by our people, because they know we'll always find a way to do it or get the answer they need. It's become a local watchword: If you need something, go find a "green pants."

That dedication translates into high productivity. In the critical days following Hurricane Katrina, our people offloaded 400 hurricane victims per hour from helicopters at New Orleans Airport. We also supported a triage hospital there for 2,400 patients, and we provided more than 100,000 meals to emergency responders. Across the region, our receiving and distribution centers unloaded and reloaded trucks with a 4-minute turnaround time, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. At one of our staging areas, crews unloaded and stored goods from up to twelve 747s per day, then refueled the planes and sent them off for more.

These are tremendous accomplishments, and they speak to our ability in the Forest Service family and in the larger wildland fire community to get things done, both for each other and on behalf of the people we serve. I am very, very proud of our emergency response and of the great job our folks in the region are doing to recover from these disasters. One thing we can all do is contribute to funds designed to help our own folks in the region recover from personal loss.

So when you hear criticism in connection with the federal emergency response, you can rest assured - it's not aimed at us.

At least, that's my take, Dale Bosworth

For more information: access the wildland fire info web site at www.nifc.gov/information.html. - Click on Nat Mgmt Situation Rpt - read about deployment of various IC teams, including many retirees, and see what they are doing.

A special fund has been established to aid the Forest Service personnel and their families who suffered serious personal losses in the hurricanes. While at the reunion in Portland, over \$6,000 was collected. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund can do so through John Combes, Treasurer of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), who is handling contributions to help our colleagues impacted by the hurricane devastation in the South. Donations can be sent to: NAFSR Forest Service Relief, Box 793, Lincoln CA 95648.

Checks should be made out to: NAFSR Forest Service People Relief

JUNE SRFSRA LUNCHEON

Our June 9th luncheon at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in Decatur was well attended with 46 members and guests enjoying the event. Dave Jolly talked about the National Museum of Forest Service History in Missoula, their building program and need for support, both through membership and donations. Angela Coleman, RO Director of Public Affairs, extended an invitation to the Region's 100 Year Anniversary celebration at the Cradle of Forestry. Jim McConnell talked about and handed out literature on the Smithsonian/Forest Service Folklife Festival in Washington DC. Jack Gregory, R-8 Special Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement and Investigation, gave the program on the history and status of the Region's law enforcement program. Jack's talk was very interesting and entertaining, and many questions were asked by retirees, creating a lively discussion of today's culture on our public lands. Clark and Shirley Sell's daughter, Vickie, who is also in Forest Service

law enforcement, was their guest and joined in to share some of her experiences with current enforcement issues. Pat Cook, wife of SRFSRA President, Ed Cook, provided great door prizes which were awarded to several lucky attendees. As always, Nancy Sorrells' table decorations made for a very festive atmosphere. We all enjoyed this opportunity to get together and share news and "catch up" with each other.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

ELMER R. "JAKE" JACOBS, Tennessee - Enclosed is a check for '06 and '07 dues. Hope that I make it till the end of '07. I had a stroke last December and am still recovering from it. It happened at night while I was asleep. There is a mathematical chance that I will have another within a year - 1 in 10. I am doing about as well as can be expected. I still manage to travel - via car and air. I depend on my kids and grandkids.

DONNA McLAIN REYNOLDS, Arkansas (New Member) - I am so excited to be able to read about my Forest Service family and to keep in touch. I have kept in contact with many, but have wondered about so many that I have not been able to connect with. As you know how close you can get to different ones and lose contact. It is such a good group, and I will never forget how they all helped Johnny and me when Johnny went through his illness. How they transferred us back to be with our family when he got sick. He found out he had cancer in May, and we were back in Arkansas by August. As I said they are a caring group and sure took care of us. I will never forget the love they showed us during that time.

BOB NEELANDS, Georgia - Congratulations! Your recent issue of *The Dixie Ranger* was absolutely just fine! It was very professionally done, interesting, newsy, and entertaining. Who could ask for more? I don't know how you mined for and found the hidden writing talents of your contributors, but I do know it took a lot of persuasions. They, and you, deserve a lot of credit. Good going, you-all. It is my pleasure to renew for a couple of more years. The few dollars involved represent about the only expense where you get more-than-your-money's-worth in value - - plus! You may be getting the idea that I enjoyed. YEP! We, Lois and I, enjoy the quiet life of doing very little up here in the mountains of North Georgia. Our new house keeps us busier and more energetic than we sometimes would prefer, the things to be done inside and out taxing our muscle powers, and twinges in the hinges. Fortunately, we stay healthy enough to compete. Once again, kudos for your fine product. Please retain your liking for the job! (Thanks for the kind words. There is, indeed, much story-telling talent among our membership, and we appreciate their input - **keep those stories/articles coming!**)

HELEN THOMAS, Georgia - Was good to visit with you at the Cradle. Don't think I have paid this year's dues, so am enclosing enough for two years. Thanks for taking on the "big job" - We appreciate it.

JIM and ANDREA HEFNER, Georgia - Sorry about the late dues so will do two. We like the regional news we get from *The Dixie Ranger*. Good to see Collins, Balmer, Byrd, Blackburn, and Ms Maher are still with us - would like to hear from all of them. We are both doing OK for the shape we are in and as long as the patches hold. The "farm" keeps us busy, we travel when the price is right and try to keep up with the four grandchildren, ages 5-13. Our two boys live close by. We are signed up for the Reunion 2005 - haven't missed one since the 1991 in Glenwood Springs. A one-week cruise to Alaska will fit in just right time wise. Hope to see lots of R-8 folks in Portland.

MALCOM GRAMLEY, Georgia (New Member) - My name is Malcolm "Max" Gramley, and I retired from the FS in October of 2002. Although I retired from the NE area, I spent the majority of my FS

career in the Southern Region, and I'm interested in joining the SRFSRA to try to keep up with all the folks I met and worked with during those days. I know I missed the January dues payment, but I've included it just the same, along with my dues for next year. I'm looking forward to renewing old friendships and catching up with folks who I haven't seen for any number of years. If you have one available, could you send me a copy of the most recent edition of the Membership Directory? I know it probably won't be as up-to-date as the next edition, but it will give me a place to start locating some folks. Thank you for your help.

ROGER MIZEL, South Carolina - I see, looking at a past issue of *The Dixie Ranger*, that my dues expire this year ('05), so I am enclosing a check for a couple more years. Please note that our address has changed. I have not received a DR since the June 2004 issue, I guess because of our having moved, and failing to notify you. If there are any back issues since then that are still available I sure would like to have a copy. I'll gladly reimburse you for the expense. We had to relocate from our previous home in Doraville, GA, rather hurriedly last September, due to a Georgia Power induced house fire (an incoming power surge literally blew out our panel box and caused a house fire), following the passage of the remnants of hurricane Frances through the metro Atlanta area. Since we had to relocate, and we were already packed out, we decided to return to my parent's home in the South Carolina Lowcountry, where Maxine and I grew up. It's a little more humid here in rural SC than in metro Atlanta, but the lack of traffic congestion and its related disadvantages is wonderful! And we can actually look up in the sky at night and see the stars again. Thank you for taking over the task of the management and publication of *The Dixie Ranger*.

ROBERT HITT, Wisconsin - My wife has just rearranged my desk, so I can't find a thing! Not even my stationery! We're hanging in there! The "Blessings of Maturity" aren't all blessings! We summer in Wisconsin and winter in North Florida (Leesburg). Notice quite a number of Forest Service folks do that. Good to read *The Dixie Ranger* to keep up with some of the older retirees! There are many new names too! Glad we were Forest Service when we were. It seems a different organization now. Heard from L. Jones last spring, and Nathan Byrd just recently. Glad you're keeping *The Dixie Ranger* alive and moving. Betty and Bert did a great job for quite a time too!

DON and BILLIE COOPER, Alabama - This should pay dues for the past and for a few years in advance. We enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* very much.

WALT ROBILLARD, Georgia - As usual, delinquent and late. The story of my life. Enclosed please find a check to cover three years dues. Two delinquent and one future. At 76 I have no assurances I should pay any more seeing the number of friends and acquaintances that are "buying the farm". Your latest issue was sad to read of the untimely demise of three great people. Bob Colona, Jerry Edwards and, more particularly, Bruce Minders. In my 30-year career I had the pleasure of working with some great people and unfortunately some really @#\$% people. Bob and I went through JF training together in 1958. He was on the Leaf River and I was on the Chick. He had a great sense of humor. Jerry Edwards and I shared a desk space together for over 5 years in the RO. He was a very accomplished engineer. Bruce Minders was my idea of what a professional should be. The week he died I was in Phoenix and tried to call him. But got no answer. Early in my career, it was my good fortune to have worked for some great people. No one ever mentions Joe Couch. A true professional FS man. And of course Kelly Heffner, RE, whom I worked for, for over 4 years. My final years were golden, working for Bruce Minders. He was what I envisioned a true FS employee to be. Honest, capable, and a true person. I am still working on land disputes all over the country. This year I will have traveled over 175,000 miles on Delta, alone. As I travel all over the country, from Oregon to Maine, I see many FS employees, and I am so sad that they no longer get into the field, they plan

all day, and then look forward to retirement, which they count by days and minutes. Yet, had it not been for the 30 years to the day, with the FS, I would not be having fun today.

RICHARD AMES, Georgia - I saw this in the June 2005 American Rifleman magazine and thought I would pass it along. There were a couple field trips to various Districts to look at lead deposits by the Regional Hazard Material Working Group back when I was working. (I am a past Safety and Health guy.) Glad to see it appears to be a non-problem. The article even gives the Forest Service a little credit for knowing what they are doing. An unusual blessing.....

STUDY ALLAYS RANGE CONTAMINATION FEARS - Twenty million metric tons of lead bullets were fired in the US in the 20th century, and scientists are now concerned about lead's effect on the environment. However a recent study indicated that the impact has been - or could be made - minimal. As reported in Science Daily, a five-year study led by Donald Rimstidt, a professor in the Department of Geosciences, College of Science at Virginia Tech University, suggests that some fears of lead contamination may be unwarranted. Rimstidt and his team were invited by the U. S. Forest Service to examine the 10-year-old shooting ranges in the National Forest near Blackburg, VA. They found 11 metric tons of shot on the shotgun range and 12 metric tons of lead bullets in the rifle range. The concern was that lead would leech through the soil and down into the ground water. Rimstidt, however, explains, "We learned that it is absorbed in the top few inches of soil and does not migrate beyond that. Lead is not very mobile. It does not wash away in ground or surface water." He also learned that while there are large amounts of lead in the trees near the shooting range, it is not present in a large percentage of trees. A study of whether birds ingest lead shot was not completed, but preliminary results indicated that they don't, at least not at this particular shotgun range. Rimstidt provided recommendations to the U. S. Forest Service to best manage the ranges. "They already knew to put lime on the range to limit corrosion, to take measures to prevent soil erosion, and now, to keep track of the trees if they are cut. They are experts in management. I will give them the facts, and they will make the decisions," said Rimstidt.

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MORE POSITIVE NEWS: STUDY SHOWS FOREST SERVICE WINS MOST LAWSUITS

Excerpted from *The Forestry Source*, published by the Society of American Foresters, November 2005

Ask any man or woman on the street whether the USDA Forest Service usually wins or loses lawsuits over timber harvesting and other resource management issues, and you'd probably hear that the agency is most often a loser. This wouldn't be very surprising, because that's what the public hears via news media that focuses on conflict and controversy rather than good forest management and sound decision making processes.

"There's a perception out there that the Forest Service loses on a regular basis when it is sued. But all the research we've done here shows that the Forest Service is very likely to win any case against it in court—at any level of the court system," said Bob Malsheimer, a professor of law and policy at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry—Syracuse.

"If there's a message that needs to get out there to the public, it is that the courts find that the Forest Service does things correctly the vast majority of the time," he said.

Malsheimer and his associates have compiled a database of all lawsuits filed against the Forest Service from 1989 to 2002—a total of 731 cases—that challenge national forest management decisions or allege that the agency has failed to follow statutory requirements for making decisions. So far, the

team has completed its analysis of the cases from Forest Service Region 8, the Southern Region, and is writing an article about its findings for the *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*. Analysis of the data from the other 9 regions will be completed by early next year.

"The thing I find the most surprising is that, in Region 8, there were 41 cases that a judge decided. The Forest Service ended up winning 35 of them. So they won 85 percent of the cases brought against them. That's an extraordinary number. There are cases in which the Forest Service was found to have done absolutely nothing incorrectly," said Malsheimer.

Of the 41 cases decided in Region 8, 33 involved logging or road-building activities.

Malsheimer said the cards are stacked against the Forest Service. Large, national environmental organizations, as well as some smaller ones, have many advantages in bringing a case against the federal government. They can choose where and when to file a suit and often pick a judge based on his or her record in similar cases.

"Plaintiffs have the opportunity to choose the facts that are best-suited for successful lawsuits, and yet they are losing 85 percent of the time," Malsheimer said. "It goes to show that there's more to Forest Service litigation than merely allegations that the Forest Service did something wrong.

Malsheimer concludes that the organizations that bring the suits have goals larger than simply winning a specific judgement—goals such as delaying projects, gaining publicity, and attracting grants and donations.

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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.

The Old Smokeys' of the **National Forests in Florida** - will hold their next reunion - the 16th - on April 9, 2006. We are giving advance notice, since we did not set a date last Spring. It will be held at the Silver Lake Recreation Area outside of Tallahassee. If you would like to get your name on the reservation list, please contact one of the following:

Melvin "Bud" Dugger - P.O. Box 104 - Crawfordville FL 32326

Phone: (850)926-7623

Joann Webb - 1715 Hall Drive - Tallahassee FL 32302

Trivia: Who took the first Forest Service photograph? Henry, "Harry", S. Graves who became the second Chief. The image was taken in Northern New York sometime in January 1897. That image, as well as photo number two, shows cut-over lands at Santa Clara in Franklin County, New York, in the Adirondack Region.

IN MEMORIAM

RALEIGH H. MEADOWS, 70, died on September 13, 2005, at home in Hot Springs, Arkansas after a brief, but hard-fought fight with cancer. After two years of service in the Army in the mid 50s, Raleigh attended Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1961. He began working for the US Forest Service that same year. After 44 years, he retired in January of 2004. During his career with the Forest Service, he received many awards for service and achievement, including the National Engineer of the Year Award in 2003. Raleigh is survived by his wife, Carol Ann; twin sons, Mark and Matthew; daughter, Wendy; four brothers and four sisters. He was best known for his sense of humor and love of work and family.

J. WALTER (WALT) MYERS, JR, 86, died October 8, 2005. Though Walt did not work for the Forest Service, he and his wife, Mary, attended the SRFSRA luncheons for many years. You may remember that Mary, a real estate agent, passed out calendars to everyone at the luncheons. Walt was a forester, BA and MS degrees in Forestry from LSU. In the 1940s, he wrote a million-seller book entitled "Ten Lessons in Forestry." He worked as a forester for the state of LA and for the Illinois Central Railroad. A resident of Atlanta for 51 years, he was the Executive Vice President of the Forest Farmers Association for 35 years. In that position, he was the editor and publisher of a monthly forestry magazine and also an annual forestry manual used in collegiate and university forestry programs, including Yale University. He also served as President of the Society of American Foresters. Walt is survived by three children, Jim, Robert and Marjorie, and three grandchildren.

HARVEY V. TOKO died on August 13, 2005, in Atlanta, GA, after a gallant and brave battle with cancer. He was a plant pathologist with the US Forest Service and held assignments in a number of locations, including Director of Forest Pest Management, Region 1, Field Representative for the St. Paul, MN, Field Office, NA, the WO and as Director of FPM in R-8 from 1977 - 1994, retiring in 1994 after 35 years of service. Harvey also worked as a research plant pathologist with USDA-ARS in Maine on diseases affecting potatoes. After retirement, he was a pet sitter for 10 years and had many beloved clients. He is survived by his wife, Karen; daughter, Gale; sons, Mark, Glenn, Randy and Rob; and five grandchildren.

LESLIE MARION (LES) OLIPHANT, 80, of East Asheville NC died March 28, 2005. His career with the US Forest Service included assignments in Region 8 in RO Timber Management and on the TM staff of the National Forests in North Carolina; R-5 in the RO, as Branch Chief, Data Processing, and, later, as Director, Computer Sciences. (continued from our last issue)

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PONDERISMS

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes, age comes alone!

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

2005 Officers

President: **Ed Cook**
xecook@bellsouth.net

President-elect: **Jerry Coutant**
coutfg@negia.net

Secretary: **Jim McConnell**
elanjim@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: **Peggy Jolly**
djollysr@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editors: **Dave and Peggy Jolly**
djollysr@bellsouth.net

Directors

Bob Bowers (05)
bobvera84@bellsouth.net

Mike Sparks (06)
msparks9@juno.com

Jean Paul Kruglewicz (07)
jeanpaul.kruglewicz@att.net

Dave Jolly (Ex-Officio)
djollysr@bellsouth.net

Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows (05) your dues are paid through 12/31/05. A red mark

Yearly dues and changes to your mailing address (please include nine-digit zip codes), telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses should be sent to:

SRFSRA. Peggy Jolly
128 Wind Trace
Alexander City, AL 35010-8772

Any items for publication in the newsletter should also be sent to the above address or to:

djollysr@bellsouth.net

*** CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 8, 2005 ***

Our Christmas luncheon will be at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on North Druid Hills Road. We gather at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship, and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. The cost of our lunch is still \$13.00 per person. Reservations are required by December 5th and can be made by calling Nancy Sorrells at (770)469-5799 or Joyce Keith at (770)277-5841 - leave a message on their answering machine if you do not reach one of them. We look forward to seeing everyone, so please join us. It's always a very festive event and a fun way to stay in touch with our fellow retirees, and there are always several great door prizes - one which is a year's membership dues to the SRFSRA!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gail S. DeBord

214 Misty Mtn Trail
Morganton GA 30560-4321
(706)374-6637

George Hemingway (Judy)

1401 Eryn Circle
Suwanee GA 30024-2843
(770)497-8162
e-mail: gbhgator@earthlink.net

Bob Jacobs (Peggy)

7277 Avalon Drive
Douglasville GA 30135-5638
(770)577-4466
e-mail: bobjacobs@bellsouth.net

Donna McLain Reynolds

110 Redwood
Hot Springs AR 71913
(501)525-2814
e-mail: donreyno@mailstation.com

James P. Van Vacter (Linda)

2910 Hidden Forest Ct
Marietta GA 30066
(770)424-0032
e-mail: jamespvanvacter@bellsouth.net

Malcolm Gramley (Mary)

471 Isaiah Drive
Jefferson GA 30549
(706)367-7351
e-mail: mgramley@alltel.net

James A. Hunt (Rebekah)

1018 Whittling Wood Drive
Johnson City TN 37643-2965
(423)283-7341
e-mail: xrangerjah@charter.net

Phil Kromer (Ruth)

7 Oak Ridge Road
Asheville NC 28805-2324
(828)298-9631
e-mail: phrukro@fedweeknet.com

James E. (Jim) Taylor (Carol)

3330 Rough Creek
Woodstock GA 30189-6140
e-mail: jtcroquet@bellsouth.net

Elton R. (Sonny) Cudabac (Jane)

1205 Commonwealth Ave
Marietta GA 30064-3777
(770)427-4376
e-mail: scudabac@mindspring.com

Changes to the Directory/Data Base

William C. Anderton

1604 Calming Water Drive
Orange Park FL 32003
(904)278-5373
e-mail: billsheila3@cs.com

Larry Trekell

e-mail: ltrekell@consolidated.net

John Coleman

e-mail: poopaw@shentel.net

James H. Lewis

348 Brightwater Drive
Dallas GA 30157
(770)505-4778

Roger T. Mizell

112 Weathers St
Saint George SC 29477-2303
(843)563-3566
e-mail: maxirog@bellsouth.net

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

The most economical way to stay in touch with friends and co-workers through *The Dixie Ranger*.

Notification of what's happening in the Forest Service through *The Dixie Ranger*.

Mail application, with payment to:

Peggy Jolly, Treasurer
SFSRA
128 Wind Trace
Alexander City, AL 35010-8772

Southern Forest Service
Retirees Association
128 Wind Trace
Alexander City AL 35010-8772

Post Std
Postage Paid
Permit #30
Alexander City AL

REMINDER - Luncheon reservations need to be called in by Monday, December 5th ---
Post the date on your calendar today!

NEW DIRECTORIES will be mailed early next year. Is all your information up-to-date?
Do we have your current e-mail address? If not, please send in your
changes soon.

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Published in March, July and November. Dues are \$10 per year, payable in January. Mailing address:
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