



THE DIXIE RANGER

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President's Corner

The "Age of Mega Fires" was a segment on the program "60 Minutes" several Sundays past, and the news regarding the forest lands around San Diego and Los Angeles was front page on all the networks and newspapers across America. The fire fighting agencies and fire fighters gained national acclaim and support for the way they handled the situation. This was good news to hear after the poor response we got after Hurricane Katrina. I am sure that we will see and hear much more on the topic in the coming months.

Those of you who are members of the National Museum of Forest Service History will have seen and read the article, "The Lands that Nobody Wanted" by Dave Jolly and Jim McConnell in the August issue of their newsletter. It was a great article about the lands we worked on here in the Southeastern United States. If you have not read it, please, join their organization and get the pertinent back issues. I checked with Dave Stack the other day about membership here in the Southeast. He said it was very low with just three or four members in the whole state of Alabama - the Jolly's are two of those four. When I first moved to the Southern Region in 1977, Roy Gandy gave me a copy of the book, "The Lands Nobody Wanted" by William E. Shands and Robert G. Healy; it was a great eye opener for me.

In a speech to the Society of Environmental Journalists in September, the Chief talked about 'Climate Change' and how the Forest Service as an organization will respond to the challenge in the coming decade. With fires, insects, and warmer winters affecting our forest lands we must and will do better in the future. She gave special attention to water issues across the National Forests and that the Forest Service has a duty to protect municipal water supplies on those lands. Our problems with water, or the lack thereof, is with us today with our reservoirs being at an all-time low. There were several other aspects to her message to the journalists that involved educating our children and developing an awareness of the fragility of the forests. One of the major issues was concerning getting children into the forests so they can better understand the connection of natural resources to their homes and communities. These five points are all important aspects of the Forest Service direction, but they could change with a new administration in 2009.

We have much to be thankful for during this time of the year. While our troops are in harms way and the weather not helping our land, we still are so much better off than many others around this earth.

I wish you each a very Merry Christmas and a great 2008!

Jerry Contant, President

The National Museum of Forest Service History article, "The Lands That Nobody Wanted" referred to by Jerry is included on page 5. We believe our Southeastern retirees' role in this history merits inclusion of the article in this newsletter. However, membership in the NMFSH would benefit all our members and help get the messages of the Forest Service History to the public. The museum requests articles from all the regions and will need future articles from our region. These articles will be provided by retirees. Many of you may have ideas/resources which would be of interest and could be published in their newsletter. An application is provided on page 5.

Editors

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 6th

Special speaker will be Dick Fitzgerald who recently received his 50-Year Service Award in Washington D.C. The award was presented by Secretary of Agriculture Johanns and Forest Service Chief Kimball (as reported in the July 2007 Dixie Ranger). Dick, who is currently AD for Forest Products in the Washington Office, will discuss his 50 years with the Forest Service - in forest management.

The luncheon will be at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center, 2935 North Druid Hills Road. We gather at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship and lunch is served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is \$13.00 per person. Reservations are required by Monday, December 3rd 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. There are always many great door prizes - including a year's membership dues to the SFSRA!

At this luncheon, new officers will be elected for 2008/2009.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

HURSTON and MARY ANN NICHOLAS - Georgia - Nick and I just returned from Maui, Hawaii, where we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our Portland, Oregon, daughter Ruthanne and family. Daughter Allison and son Allen came home with their families for our "real" date, August 31st!

HENRY and KAY ERWIN - Louisiana - I retired in 1982 from the Kissatchie National Forest and the names I knew are showing up fewer and fewer times in *The Dixie Ranger*. I wonder why? Just wanted you to know I thoroughly agreed with George Leonard's remarks at the luncheon. I wasn't there, but I read your writeup. Boy, the Forest Service sure does need to get some initiatives. All the old timers I talk with are disgusted with it as it is now. Acres and acres of prime timber are in need of thinning or regeneration. Here are my dues for the next couple of years. Just wanted you to know how good it was for somebody to speak up for what the Forest Service should be.

BOB RAISCH - Florida - The '07 on my most recent issue of *The Dixie Ranger* tells me that it's dues time! I always enjoy reading the news of old friends and the timely articles. We are permanent residents of Anna Maria Island, Florida, now and enjoying life. We do miss our friends in Atlanta, and I miss the breakfasts at the Matthews Cafeteria. I do keep my hand in the management of our two Tree Farms (one in Missouri and one in Virginia) with the help of

local foresters who are on the scene. Thanks for all you do for the Association and *The Dixie Ranger*.

CHRIS and PATRICIA HAYNE - Alabama - We enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and look forward to it's arrival. Enclosed are dues for a couple of years. You do a wonderful job.

JOHN BARBER - Virginia - Today I received my Forest Service Museum letter with the article by you (Dave) and Jim on "The Lands That Nobody Wanted". That is a fine article and one that should be a handout to everyone visiting a Southern National Forest. It would help many people to understand that forests grow and respond to the TLC of good management -- and that managed forests are more than just trees. Also -- the July Dixie Ranger was an excellent edition. Thanks for your efforts for all of us Forest Service people.

PAT KANE - Georgia - Enclosed is our check for dues. My husband Bill retired in January from the Lands and Minerals Unit of the Regional Office, after 12 years as Regional Appraiser. We are looking forward to traveling next year.

JOANN WEBB - Florida - Here is another obit. Emory worked in the SO as Purchasing and Contract Assistant for 31 years. I just returned from two different trips to the North Carolina mountains -- was over at Waynesville the end of August and last week in Hayesville. Finally got to visit Brasstown Bald. Really enjoyed seeing it - especially old Ranger Woody. Was sorry to see in *The Dixie Ranger* that Dick Woody had died. He was such a nice addition to our SO back in the 60's.

CHRIS EPPS - Arkansas - It appears that I am in arrears on my dues. Again! All is well here in northern Arkansas. The years go by rather quietly. Speedily, though, I must say. Enclosed is a check for a couple more years. You are doing a great job. Keep it up.

JACK GODDEN - Wisconsin - Enjoyed yours and Jim McConnell's article "The Lands Nobody Wanted" in the NMFSA Newsletter. Your first paragraph, page 3: "Support for establishing these National Forests....stories ranged from being told like "find another way to get to that fire, you ain't crossing my land! or being told to "Get your.... out of here ? at the point of a gun." I would hope this might stir some *Dixie Ranger* readers to write and add a few of their stories. One of my best stories deals with "School" learning in West Virginia. (For Eastern Region Newsletter some day.) I was fortunate to get my "advanced" degree in dealing with mountain people on the Cherokee that would save my "skin" on the Cumberland, my first assignment there on the Morehead District, 135,000 acres stretching some 30 miles, and 20 mile width in nine counties. I'm hoping to hear something from Joe Mauk, retired GDA, still living in Morehead, KY. He being the last living Tech I worked with in my early career that I haven't given recognition in retiree newsletters that added into my memory box of stories and tales of they that served and cared for the land. I've doubts he will write as he told Elizabeth Crail, my Morehead contact (from *The Dixie Ranger* Retiree Directory) who was kind enough to call Joe by telephone, enjoy a conversation with him, he saying he would write. BUT! He never answered my earlier letters in the 90's, but I'll try one more time. Thanks - you and Peggy do good work on *The Dixie Ranger*.

CHUCK STEELE - Georgia - Here are my dues - present and future. Heidi and I are still in Woodstock, Georgia. I work and play golf at the golf course here where we live. Centers for

Disease Control lost Heidi to retirement last year. She's enjoying tennis; horse care and riding; and painting. We had an excellent trip to Germany and Italy this year. We were in the Tuscany Region of Italy where we consumed much red wine. We walked in the footsteps of the immortal Michelangelo, Leonardo de Vinci, and even Galileo. We also tempted fate and stood under the Leaning Tower of Pisa. A great area to visit. Even though my history with the Forest Service was only a short ten years, I collected many friends and associates. *The Dixie Ranger* does an excellent job of keeping me connected with many of them. Thanks!

DON THORNTON - South Carolina - You folks are doing a good job. I read *The Dixie Ranger* from front to back and enjoy the publication.

JAMES COLE - Alabama - Here are my dues for another year. Thank you so very much for a good job. I enjoy reading and seeing names of people I used to work with and how they are doing. Time is sure not standing still, come January 3, 2007, I will be retired 21 years. (James sent a photograph about which he wrote the following: I am sending you something that is history from about 42 years ago. Maybe you can run this in *The Dixie Ranger* - someone might see and remember some old pals or workers from the Bankhead National Forest which was two districts at the time: Bankhead District and Black Warrior District. Ranger Emery was on the Black Warrior District. This photo was taken when he left the district around 1964. From left to right, front row: Ranger Emery and his son. Second row: Herman Gibson; Bill Stewart, Bankhead Ranger; Luther Carter; Gene Jackson; and Jessie Hall. Row 3: Odis Collins; Cleo Treadway; Joe Pat Wallace; Skitter Brown; Odis Hampton; James Cole; and Tom Arnold. Row 4: Tom Hooper. The lady at the table: Nadine Cole. The building is the old telephone barn which was used to hold fire tools. The workcenter in the far back of the photo was built back in C.C.C. days. Due to computer problems, the photograph will be in a future issue.) *Stay tuned....Editors*

JAMES MOORE - Utah - We miss getting to visit with all of you. The Dixie Ranger really helps fill the void.

JOHN WELSH wrote to thank us for including his fire stories in the July issue. He makes the following suggestions for future articles: Ask Vaughn Ward about the time Ranger Lewis Smith smoked a Regional Office Recreation Officer at the Blanchard Springs Cave "pipe" on a bosun's chair and ask Ranger Joel Nitz about the time my dad, William Welsh, accused him of stealing his land near Bradley on the Conecuh National Forest.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joe Bonnette (Barb)

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Phone: (828) 479-3855
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Terri McDonald

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CHANGES and ADDITIONS TO DIRECTORY

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Phone: (706) 376-2739

Ernie Finger

New e-mail: definger@suddenlink.net

Josephine (Peaches) Sherman

30 Senimore Lane

Palm Coast, FL 32137

Phone: (386) 446-6293

RETIREE GET- TOGETHERS

Ouachita National Forest - Retirees, spouses and friends meet the third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in the Cornerstone Shopping Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Cobb County Georgia - *CHANGE* - Retirees are now meeting at "My Country Kitchen", 2740 Summers St., Kennesaw, Georgia. Same day (last Tuesday of the month) and same time (9:00 a.m.). Last month, September, we had 14 retirees for breakfast with 4 from SE TN and the Cherokee - Kaye Shelton, Jack Callahan, Paul Wright, and Jerry McIlwain. Good time by all with great fellowship.

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, Virginia. They have been meeting for the last 15 years. No dues are collected and only rarely are there programs or expressions of professional concerns. For information, contact Charles Blankenship at (540) 774-6272.

Let us know if you would like your group listed.

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FUTURE NATIONAL REUNION

2009 -- National Forest Service Museum, Missoula MT

to coincide with the dedication of the National Museum of Forest Service History

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2005 Reunion DVD sets --- Note to Retirees from Bob Williams, 2005 Reunion Committee Chair -- The Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, a k a, Old Smokeys, have prepared a two-DVD set of images from the 2005 Forest Service Reunion in Portland. The DVDs include Teddy Roosevelt, the retired chiefs' panel, the Fiddlin' Foresters and the Four Get Ables plus many shots of the crowds. Nearly everyone will find themselves featured somewhere.

The DVD sets are offered at cost (\$15.00) and are not a fund raiser for Old Smokeys. We just want to get the DVDs into the hands of those who want them. Information is available on the Old Smokey's website at www.oldsmokeys.org or you can order from sightandsoundservices.com. You can also contact Pat McAbery at (503) 622-5629. We will see you in Missoula in 2009.

The following article was written by Dave Jolly and Jim McConnell for the **National Museum of Forest Service History Newsletter**, published August 2007. There were photographs in the article; however, we are having problems with our computer and regret that we cannot include the photos here.

The Lands That Nobody Wanted

The National Forests East of the 100th Meridian

The lands that comprise the eastern national forests were once part of a vast area of forested land east of the 100th meridian. The resources of this magnificent wilderness were used to build a young and rapidly growing country. Timber was harvested to build homes, barns and other necessities; valuable minerals were mined; livestock was grazed; and hillsides were farmed, all with little understanding or regard for the erosion that would result when it rained, much less the need to reforest and otherwise take care of it for the future. Fires burned over much of the area where timber had been harvested and more of the topsoil was lost. Cash crops like cotton and especially tobacco denuded the soil after only a few years use and new fields were constantly being cleared. Then our ancestors moved further to the west, always westward, seeking new plots to settle and clear. It was as if they believed that the resources were so vast that they would never be used up. This destruction extended, in areas, from the Lake States to New England, down the Appalachians and the Eastern Seaboard, across the Gulf Coastal Plain and into the Ozark Highlands. Many referred to these areas as "the lands that nobody wanted".

Legislation of the 1890's authorizing creation of the national forests from the public domain had its greatest affect in the West since by that time there was little public domain remaining in the heavily settled East. While there were the beginnings of support for establishing forest reserves in the east, there was no authority for the federal government to buy land for forests. In 1911 the Weeks Act provided for the purchase of ..."forested, cut-over or denuded lands within the watersheds of navigable streams...". In 1924 the Clark McNary Act added ..."the production of timber ..." as a purpose for forest acquisition. Eventually fifty national forests were established by Congress east of the 100th meridian.

It is an irony that the Great Depression stimulated a decade of land acquisition and national forest establishment. Lands that had been cut-over for lumber or farmed until "worn out", whose owners simply could not eke out a living or pay their taxes, were abandoned and gladly sold to the federal government at very low prices. Put a local public, desiring almost any program that would bring federal investment to the area to generate badly needed jobs, together with many who wanted to see better conservation of the nation's resources and a public land base that could be used by all the people, and at last there was support for establishment of the eastern national forests. Purchase units were set by Congress and the Forest Service was authorized to begin buying land.

Support for establishing these national forests and the actual buying of them, in many cases, turned out to be two different things. There were many stories from the folks who became responsible for appraising, buying and then taking care of these new public lands, ranging from being told things like, "Find another way to get to that fire, you ain't crossin my land!" or being told to, "Get your.... out of here!" at the point of a gun. Fires were set to harass the Forest Service and to provide jobs when work was scarce, and the Forest Service was scorched from time to time in a public meeting or when someone got a chance to talk to a reporter. Local folks liked the idea of being able to unload their "worthless" land on the government but did not like

the feds being around when they wanted to cut a few trees, graze their livestock or make a little moonshine.

It wasn't just a matter of organizing and staffing up for managing land already in the public domain. The Forest Service had to buy the land and do all the things involved in putting it under management, learn to live with the folks who were neighbors, in many cases rescue it from past abuse and then get on with the task of making it produce benefits for all the people. It was a gargantuan job that was later recognized as a great service for the resources and the country. In some respects it remains a work in progress.

Aside from having been substantially abused by their previous owners, the national forests in the East are different, in many other significant ways, from those in the West. For example, federal ownership within proclaimed forest boundaries averages only slightly over 50% and on one forest is only 31%. The Forest Service concentrated on purchasing surface rights, which traditionally were bought and sold separately from the subsurface rights in areas where mineral deposits were likely to be found. Purchase of subsurface minerals was deemed prohibitive. This has resulted in government ownership of minerals under only about two-thirds of the lands purchased for eastern national forests, with other people or entities owning the remainder. This established a highly-fragmented ownership pattern leading to some very challenging management situations along with some real opportunities. Combined these fifty national forests amount to approximately 24 million acres, about 13% of the total National Forest System. Unlike the large highly-consolidated forests in the West, there are lots of neighbors within the forest boundaries who have their own ideas about how land should be used and cared for. While the acreage may be very small compared to the West, pressure about how to manage these public lands is intense. About two thirds of the American people, 200 million, live within a days drive of at least one of the eastern national forests.

Perhaps the most significant opportunity and challenge that came with these new public lands was a chance to demonstrate that they could be rehabilitated and put back in production. The Forest Service set about this with programs of: tree planting to reestablish forest cover and control erosion; cleaning out and improving stream courses; redesigning, rebuilding and improving roads; closing roads that were not needed; controlling wildfires and a myriad of other things necessary to help the land recover from past abuse. Over time, tens of thousands of Forest Service employees dedicated their efforts and skills toward improving and protecting the ecological and esthetic values of the recently acquired lands. Today when you "walk" many of these areas you have to look closely to see remnants of past use such as stumps and abandoned roads from logging. It is a tribute to their efforts, which were so successful, that within a few years many areas became commonly referred to as "wilderness", and in 1975 when the Eastern Wilderness Act was passed some became Wilderness under that statute. Parts of the Cohutta Wilderness in the Chattahoochee National Forest in North Georgia had been railroad logged in the 1920's. It takes a practiced eye and historical records to see that now. Many an old timer has stifled a smile when told by ardent environmentalists, "This old growth forest is what we want."

While the Forest Service led the way, it must be said that it had help from agencies of the various states and other cooperators, including individuals and groups who were users of the forests - either for recreation, hunting, fishing and other leisure pursuits or for business such as timber harvesting, grazing livestock and extracting various minerals. All these efforts led to a vast improvement of lands in the national forests. There was the added benefit of showing those who owned land which was intermingled within forest boundaries, as well as those

elsewhere, ways to improve their own land. A good example of state and federal cooperation to recover both national forest and private land was the Yazoo Little Tallahatchie River Project on badly eroded areas in North Mississippi. The YLT, as it was widely known, was a Forest Service "project." It was staffed with Forest Service people, covered parts or all of 19 counties in Mississippi, and functioned from 1948 to 1985. During that time over 739 million trees were planted. The job was to try to stop and manage erosion in highly-erodible loess soils. Some gullies were so big, over 60 acres, and worked on for so long that they were given names to distinguish one from the other. Usually it was the owners name. How would you like to have a gully named after you?

President Clinton, spoke eloquently in his October 13, 1999 remarks, to a group of "roadless area" enthusiasts, at the Reddish Knob overlook in the George Washington National Forest when he said, "A century ago when Mr. Pinchot was first dreaming up his plan to protect our forests, this vista looked very different than what we see today. In fact it was more wasteland than forest". He then went on to say, "Nowadays hundreds of thousands of visitors come here every year to hike, swim, bike, hunt, fish or just to breathe the fresh air and take in the beautiful sights. The land that once nobody wanted is now a thriving forest everyone can enjoy".

In a 1977 report for The Conservation Foundation, by William E. Shands and Robert G. Healy, titled "The Lands Nobody Wanted", they said "The work of the Forest Service in rehabilitating the eastern national forests— in large measure land that only recently nobody wanted— is one of the great conservation achievements of American history".

About the authors: Dave Jolly began his Forest Service career in 1961 on the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina. He retired in 1995 as Regional Forester in Region 1, making several other stops in his 34-year career. Jim McConnell began his Forest Service career in 1956 on the Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana and retired in 1993 as Regional Geneticist. Jim spent his entire career in Region 8.

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NATIONAL MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

By Gray Reynolds, President

The history of the Forest Service is a story about dedicated people who created much more than a government agency. They helped create and encourage a whole new way of thinking about our country's protection and use of natural resources. They began a movement that developed stewards of the public lands who have successfully cared for that land through protection, cooperation, management, restoration and research for more than one hundred years.

The resulting conservation of forests and grasslands defines an unparalleled heritage for the American people and the world. The Forest Service's pioneering concept of multiple use management and research with numerous partners, of forests and grasslands - federal, state and private - is a vital part of U.S. history. It is a story that chronicles the impact of use, restoration, and preservation of forests and grasslands. This is an accomplishment that deserves to be remembered, cherished and preserved.

The National Museum of Forest Service History mission is to assist the Forest Service in preserving and interpreting the agency's history. An agreement signed by Chief Dale Bosworth in 2003 guides the cooperative relationship between the museum and the Forest Service. The museum is a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Missoula, MT. President Gray Reynolds and the Board of Directors guide museum development and programs.

Our goal is to open a national museum in 2009 in Missoula and a companion "virtual museum" accessible thru the Internet. The museum will incorporate a strong education component and interactive exhibits available both online and in the classroom through lesson plans and lecturers. The museum is now a repository for many historical Forest Service artifacts, photographs and documents. We have cataloged over 19,000 historical artifacts and have thousands of additional artifacts to catalog. Historical artifacts archives will be made available for public displays across the country. The 36-acre Missoula museum site is located on National Forest land adjacent to the Smoke Jumper Center, the Technology and Development Center and the Fire Lab.

A \$6 million capital campaign is underway to provide funding for the museum and educational program. Over \$1 million has been donated to date including a Forest Service grant for utilities to serve the museum site.

Website: nationalforest@montana.com

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Membership Application

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

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

City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ New ___ Renewal ___ Gift ___

Membership Categories Annual Dues

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

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Grandchildren Stories

☺ A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

☺ My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62". He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

☺ Our five-year old grandson couldn't wait to tell his grandfather about the movie we had watched on television, "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea". The scenes with the submarine and the giant octopus had kept him wide-eyed. In the middle of the telling, my husband interrupted Mark, "What caused the submarine to sink?" With a look of incredulity Mark replied, "Grandpa, it was the 20,000 leaks!!"

Climate Change, Kids and Forests: What's the Connection

Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell's Remarks

Society of Environmental Journalists, Annual Conference Stanford, CA - September 7, 2007

It's a pleasure to be here. I share your dedication to advancing understanding of environmental issues. As journalists, you play a key role in developing awareness of natural resources and their importance for Americans. I appreciate this opportunity for a dialogue with you.

I grew up in New England. As a youngster, I would follow my father onto the White Mountain National Forest, never dreaming that one day I would be Chief of the Forest Service. All I knew was that I loved being in the forest, and when it came time to choose a career, I chose one that I thought would let me live my life in forests.

That turned out to be not quite the case. As Forest Service Chief, I am no longer in the forest as often as I would like. But I am still of the forest, and it is my privilege and my responsibility as Chief to speak to you about forests - about how they are doing, where they are going, and why that should matter to you.

Much of our work at the Forest Service involves improving forest health to reduce fire impacts, controlling invasive species, managing outdoor recreation, and addressing the loss of forests and other open spaces to development. Our work in these four areas is vitally important, and it will continue - even grow. However, since being named Chief in January, I have talked to many people in Washington and around the country who are concerned about forests. I have been struck by their hopes and fears, and three themes in particular stand out. I will discuss these one by one and show how they are connected.

Climate Change - The first theme is the challenge of climate change. I have come to the conclusion that history will judge the leaders of our age, including my own leadership as Chief Forester, by how well we respond to this challenge.

What does climate change have to do with forests, you might ask. We are already seeing the effects:

- *Fires are a natural part of the forested landscapes, but each year the fire season comes earlier and lasts longer. Fires are burning hotter and bigger, as you have all probably seen on the nightly news. Fires have become more damaging and dangerous to people and property.

- *Insects are also a natural part of forested landscapes, but now the insects - both the natives and the invaders - are spreading more rapidly than ever. The winter cold isn't knocking them back. They are killing more trees and making the fire danger even worse.

- *The warmer winters are also affecting our water supplies. The snow packs are thinner and they melt earlier in spring, so the water runs off from the forest earlier in summer. The droughty forest soils makes trees more vulnerable to fire and insects.

Scientists call this a "positive feedback loop": Climate change makes droughts worse, causing worse insect outbreaks and worse fires, which in turn means more smoke and carbon in the atmosphere - and more climate change. This cycle threatens the capacity of our forests to provide all kinds of environmental services that people have come to expect, including clean air and water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and opportunities for hunting, fishing, skiing, and other kinds of outdoor recreation. If current trends continue, forested landscapes will be absolutely changed for future generations. There are things we can and must do in response. In the United States, our options include protecting the existing carbon sink through forest conservation and increasing carbon sequestration through reforestation of degraded land, improving forest health, and supporting sustainable forest management. The use of forest biofuels for energy and the substitution of wood for manufactured products are other opportunities for managing carbon.

The Forest Service is in a unique position to contribute through long-term integrated research and support for forest management across ownerships in the United States. More specifically, we have an obligation to address climate change in three ways in particular.

First, we must help reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the nation's forests. The Forest Service is already doing a great deal in this regard. Each year, we manage the vegetation on millions of acres of national forest land to make forests more resistant to fires, insects, and disease and more resilient to major disturbances such as a large wildfire. These same treatments can make our forests better able to withstand the stresses associated with climate change.

In addition, our scientists are looking for better ways of forecasting how ecosystems will change in response to a changing climate and how the changes will affect animals and plants that depend on these

ecosystems. In partnership with other land managers, we will work to identify the landscape-level forest conditions most likely to sustain forest ecosystems in a changing climate.

The second thing the Forest Service must do to address climate change is to reduce our own carbon footprint - the amount of greenhouse gases that our operations release into the atmosphere. Some of our units have already taken such steps as buying more efficient light bulbs or more fuel-efficient vehicles, recycling paper, and utilizing telecommunications technology. We are also generating more heat and electricity for our buildings from wood, offsetting fossil fuel emissions. When replacing office buildings, we are using a set of standards developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to reduce energy use.

Our field units have been incredibly innovative in finding ways to reduce our environmental footprint. You will be hearing more about that this year, but you might take a look at what's under "Sustainable Operations" on the website for our Rocky Mountain Region.

The third thing we can do to address climate change is to use forests to reduce the buildup of greenhouse gases. This can take several forms. For example, the Forest Service is supporting the development of markets for carbon offsets created by sound forest management. Carbon markets will create new income streams for landowners who use trees to pull carbon from the air and store it in wood fiber and forest soils.

We are also finding ways to use the smaller diameter woody biomass that contributes to severe fire danger and insect outbreaks in wood products that can store carbon. We can use woody biomass to heat homes, generate electricity, and even power cars. Forests can provide renewable biofuels that can replace fossil fuels like coal and oil. This will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere while diminishing our dependence on foreign fuel sources. We must also promote tree growth in urban areas to take up carbon and provide shade and greenery.

In this connection, I propose a national effort to reach two forest-related goals. This would not be just a Forest Service effort, but a concerted national effort based on public/private partnerships:

*The first goal would be to sustain and strengthen the role of America's forests as a net carbon sink. All forests, public and private, currently take up enough carbon from the atmosphere to offset about 10 percent of America's carbon emissions. I propose a national effort to double that amount by 2020.

*The second goal would be to increase the amount of America's energy that comes from forests. Our scientists tell us that with the technologies now becoming available, we could replace as much as 15 percent of our current gasoline consumption with ethanol from wood - and not just any wood, but wood that is now being used for other purposes and in some cases being burned. I propose that we set that as a national goal as well.

These are ambitious goals, and they would take a concerted national effort to reach. But through the energy, ingenuity, and commitment of the American people, I believe that these goals are achievable.

Water Issues - As I said, climate change is linked to water - to declining snow packs, retreating glaciers, and changing patterns of precipitation and runoff. The evidence shows that we are entering a period of water scarcity not seen in our previous history. This is another concern I have heard again and again around the country: dwindling supplies of pure, clean water.

We can use forests to protect water supplies. Spongy forest soils are ideal for holding, filtering, and slowly releasing water. In fact, more than half of America's surface water originates on forest land, even though forests cover just a third of our land area. In addition, forests cool and purify the water they release.

Already, some communities have taken significant steps to protect the forests that provide their water. In the 1990s, New York City was faced with the need to construct a 6-8 billion-dollar water purification facility to meet EPA water quality standards. Instead, the city purchased sensitive forest land upstream, and it is paying upstream farmers and other landowners to protect private forest land. The Forest Service is working with partners to promote such payment schemes, market-based or otherwise, for water and other ecosystem services.

Conservationists have long understood the connection between forests and water. The National Forest System was created in part for "securing favorable conditions of water flows," as it says in the foundational legislation from 1897. The national forests protect headwaters in many states, like here in California. Eighteen percent of the nation's water supply originates on national forest land, even though the National Forest System covers just eight percent of our land area.

The Forest Service has a duty to protect municipal water supplies, where they exist on national forests, from the effects of drought, disease, and fire. There are many opportunities. For example, by managing forest vegetation we are restoring the functions and processes that forests evolved with on a watershed scale. That includes the hydrological processes - the way forest vegetation interacts with precipitation to recharge streams and aquifers. We are restoring forests in this way on millions of acres.

Another example of what we are doing to protect America's water supplies is restoring high mountain meadows in the Rockies and in the Sierra Nevada and recreating their capacity to store water. These meadows form natural wetlands that store water and slowly release it in summer. This offsets some of the effects of climate change and drought, such as reduced summer flows. It also cools the water, protecting aquatic species downstream. In addition, it obviates the need to build new dams for water storage and new levees for flood protection, the cost of which would otherwise appear in people's insurance bills and monthly water bills.

Kids in the Woods - As I have listened to people around the country talk about climate change and drought, I have been struck by the number of times they have expressed concern about the kind of future we are creating for our children and how well the next generation understands what is happening. Our children need to understand how much they depend on forests, wherever they live - and 80 percent of our population lives in urban environments. Children need to know how much pleasure there is to be had in forests.

For generations, American children grew up with this knowledge, whether we knew it or not at the time. Children gained this knowledge in their daily lives, whether as part of their outdoor chores or as part of their outdoor play. Through having the outdoors in their daily lives, they saw the connection of natural resources to their homes and communities. They learned that forests provide clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities, building materials, and even jobs. Such experiences and insights spawned the great conservation movements that have safeguarded the natural treasures for which America is justly renowned.

That might be changing. Children no longer have so many opportunities for outdoor activities away from supervised playgrounds and playing fields. And they have many more opportunities for indoor distractions through electronic gadgetry and imagery. Of course, children do learn something about the natural world through electronic media, but nothing can replace experience that is direct and personal. My concern is that a whole generation of children might be growing up estranged from nature in a way they never were before.

Our most important resource in this country is not forests, vital as they are. It is not water, although life itself would cease to exist without it. It is people. The challenges of climate change and looming water shortages will not be resolved in a few years. It will take generations. Today's children-and-theirs will need to be able to take the baton and finish the race. For that, they will need a full understanding of why forests are so valuable, along with a strong land ethic. It is our imperative to give them both.

The Forest Service has a tremendous number of ongoing activities to reach children - you've all heard of Smokey Bear, for example. One of the latest examples of our commitment to reach children is a program we call "More Kids in the Woods." Under the program, the Forest Service is working with partners on dozens of projects around the country to get kids away from the TV, away from the computer, away from their Play Stations and out into the forest - face to face with nature, up close and personal. There has been a tremendous response to this program around the country, and it works.

Here's what Karen from Houston wrote after her two-week program on Bib Creek, Montana: "Personally, I am a big-city girl. But the experience at Big Creek has opened my eyes to realize that there is other beauty in life besides movies and shopping malls. Thank you for opening my eyes to the real and natural beauty of life - and Montana."

You think we made a difference? I only wish we could have funded all the wonderful project proposals submitted, but we are going to continue this effort next spring through another round of projects, again all over the country. Not only are we going to be taking more kids to the woods than ever before, we're going to be bringing the woods to the kids. One of our projects actually involved tearing up asphalt and creating downtown green space for kids to enjoy.

In this connection, I will issue a challenge to everyone here - to everyone anywhere who cares about the future of forests or of children: This year, I challenge you to take at least one child into the woods. Show

them what it was that caught your imagination, made you want to explore, what you loved about the woods. Let them experience the same wonder and awe that you did.

The Forest Service will be there with you. We will work with partners to ensure that every child in America has the opportunity, in one way or another, to personally experience the Great Outdoors, whether it is in a remote mountain wilderness or in a spot of nature created and protected in the heart of our cities. This will be a tremendous undertaking involving tens or even hundreds of millions of children. In pursuing this goal, above all others, we will need your help - and the help of many, many more.

Forests: A Precarious Future - As I walked through the forests of New Hampshire and Vermont as a child, I had little thought of how they came to be or what they would - or could - become. For me, they were just there, and I loved them.

Today, I no longer have the luxury of that simple innocence. I have a heightened sense of how remarkable our forests are, but also how precarious their future is unless we act, and act decisively, and soon. Climate change is perhaps the greatest challenge we will face in this century, partly because it will affect our water supply, our most precious natural resource. We must be prepared - and we must prepare our children - to meet the challenge.

I am going to do everything I can in my time as Chief to protect the health of our forests so that those who come after us will have the same opportunity to experience them that I did. The role that forests can play in meeting the challenge of climate change, in providing renewable energy supplies, and in sustaining abundant flows of fresh, clean water demands attention from government agencies, Congress, and the public. It demands your attention, too. It is time to explore the role that forests can play in carbon management in particular - to prevent their neglect in climate and carbon strategies. I am asking for your support and, more importantly, for your participation in this great undertaking.

TREE PLANTING

By *Mike Sparks*

Planting trees on cutover National Forest lands is one of the most rewarding jobs we can do. The establishment of a new stand of trees is like leaving a legacy for the future generations. But in 1970, tree planting was not an exact science on the Ouachita NF as we had used the other methods of regeneration such as aerial seeding, seed tree method and spot seeding on the ground. I was working on the Mena Ranger District when we performed the first site preparation using a bulldozer to shear and rake the remaining stems following a timber harvest. This land clearing was followed in the Winter by hand planting with the TSI crew. We hired some temporary workers to help with the task of planting shortleaf pine seedlings. Snow was on the ground which complicated the task but our TSI foreman, Ray Wiseman, was undaunted and kept the workers focused on the task. He and the many other technicians across the land made up the backbone of the Forest Service. Ray was not necessarily liked by the men but they respected him. His management style was pretty much straight forward...you work for a day...you get paid for a day's work. If you don't work, you can go home.

I remember a story about Ray when he was administering timber sale contracts. The logger had left some pine limbs in a protected stream course. Ray asked him to remove them. He promised to do so but the next day, the limbs were still in the stream. Ray approached the logger who apologized and promised to remove them later. The third day, Ray again inspected the site and found that nothing had been done as promised. This day was particularly hot in Arkansas and the logger's skidder had broken down. He was under the skidder, dirty, greasy and sweaty when Ray looked under the skidder and reminded him of the promise. "The debris must be removed within 48 hours according to the contract". Ray stated firmly. The logger came out from under the skidder, towered above Ray and said... "I oughta whip your backside. Ray's reply was classic. He said... "Well...you may whip my backside, but you're still gonna have to remove those limbs from the creek".

The man was so overcome with Ray's determination that he began laughing and promptly removed the debris, insuring that the stream would once again flow smoothly.

So, when tree planting time came around, Ray was determined to insure that his crew did the best job possible. After two weeks of planting in the snow and freezing rain, the job was finished, 165 acres of new pine seedlings.

When it came time in March to check the survival of the seedlings, Ray noted that most of the seedlings had turned brown. He called me and we jointly decided to use the remaining seedlings we had in storage to replant the area...and so it was done.

In mid-Summer, we did a seedling count and got the surprise of our life. It seems that the first planted seedlings had only died above ground...the roots were still alive and had sprouted new seedlings. The second planting had survived also so we had over 1000 living seedlings per acre.

I had occasion to visit the area 25 years later..the stand had been thinned and 20+ cords per acre had been removed in the first thinning. What a legacy.

In 1974, I was on the Tenaha Ranger District of the Sabine NF in East Texas and we were again planting pine trees, this time using a contract hand planting crew from New Mexico. They were Hopi Indians. At the pre work conference, we were promised that there would be an English speaking representative present on the job site at all times. I was told he was the "Shaman"...a tall man who wore a stovepipe hat and a colorful vest but I was to speak to him only.

So, the work progressed and one day, I went to the job site to survey the quality of work being done. As I walked along the rows of newly planted seedlings, I observed one tree planted upside down...roots pointing to the sky. So, I followed the row, found the man who planted the tree and asked him why he did this. As I spoke to him, it was as if I was not there in his mind. He literally looked right through me and continued to work. Then, I remembered the statement "Talk to the Shaman".

So I saw him as he was leading the planting crew and walked over to him. He stopped, looked in my eyes and said in a deep booming voice "What do you need?". I explained that a tree had been planted upside down and I was curious why.

He looked straight at me and with a serious tone said: "What is your purpose in being here today? I explained it was my job to ensure the trees were planted correctly.

"That is correct", he said and if you had not found that tree, you would have 'lost face' and we would not have done the best job possible." He said something to the man who then grasped the tree from my hand and replanted it properly this time. The crew went back to work with no further conversation and did an excellent job the rest of the planting season. I often wonder what would have happened had I not found that tree.

The next year, we purchased a tree planting machine and contracted with a local man to furnish a bulldozer and labor to plant the trees. I was to meet him on Monday morning on the job site and explain what to do. When I drove up in the official looking Forest Service truck and stepped out, wearing my uniform, the man standing beside the contractor bolted and ran into the woods. Now I've told you about my naivete in past articles so I could not imagine why this man was running away from me. The contractor kept yelling for him to come back and after an hour, he was persuaded to return to the job where he learned how to plant trees and did a great job. Today, we would know that he was an illegal alien who thought my uniform was INS and I was there to send him back home.

As I look backward in time, I can take great comfort in the fact that I did make a difference in the landscape, helping ensure that there will be a wood supply for future generations as well as habitat for many critters.

RED MARBLES

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes and noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller, the store owner, and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin'them peas. They sure look good."

"They are good Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time."

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr. Miller.

"No Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"

"All I got's my prize marble here."

"Is that right? Let me see it" said Miller.

Here 'tis. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red.

Do you have a red one like this at home?" the store owner asked.

"Not zackley, but almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble." Mr. Miller told the boy.

"Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller."

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all, and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there I learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold, pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes. Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. "Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt." "We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness, she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

It's not what you gather, but what you scattter that tells what kind of life you have lived!

Via the internet

IN MEMORIAM

David Madison Dalley, Sr., 72 of Snellville, GA, Passed away on October 16, 2007. David was a graduate of Oklahoma A&M earning a B.S. in Forestry in 1957. After graduation he began a career with the Forest Service in Florida. His career spanned more than 42 years including service in Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, and New Mexico. He retired in January, 1998 in Atlanta. David served as a Deacon at the First Baptist Church of Lilburn. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Richie; son and daughter-in-law, David, Jr and Nancy of Loganville, GA; sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Charles Kolar of St. Louis, MO; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Jane (Mullins) Doyle, former employee of the Ouachita National Forest, passed away on October 19, 2007, at a local hospital after a long illness. Jane was previously the travel coordinator for the Ouachita NF and the Western Operations Center.

Edward G. Ellenberg, 86, of Fairfield Glade, Tennessee, died Aug. 17, 2007. Ed received his B.S. in Forest Management from Syracuse University in 1943. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a fighter pilot during World War II, retiring with the rank of Major. After earning a M.S. in Forest Management in 1947, he began a 30-year career with the Forest Service that included assignments in Texas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. He served as District Ranger at Hot Springs, NC, on the Pisgah NF and at Erwin, TN, on the Cherokee NF. He was Recreation Staff on the Cherokee. At the time of his retirement in 1976, he was Assistant Director of Land Management Planning in the Regional Office in Atlanta. He was a charter member of Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church, served as chief of the Fairfield Glade Fire Department for 5 years and was a county commissioner for 14 years. He is survived by his wife Marge of Fairfield Glade TN; son Mark of Knoxville, TN; daughter Terri Frost of Adamsville, AL; brother, George of Crossville, TN; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Emory F. McCallum, 87, died September 22, 2007 in Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. McCallum proudly served with the US Army during World War II. He retired from the Federal Government where he worked for the US Forest Service in the Supervisors Office as a Purchasing and Contracting Assistant for 31 years. He was a very active member of the Parkway Baptist Church for over 30 years where he was a deacon, a Sunday school teacher and a song leader. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Autie; several sisters-in-law, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Jack P. Wengert, 67, of Waldron, Arkansas, passed away July 11, 2007, in a Fort Smith hospital. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in forestry and spent 30 years as part of the U.S. Forest Service "family." He worked in three locations in Idaho; Thompson Falls, Montana, Dickenson, North Dakota; Anacoco, LA; and Waldron, AR. He was a member of the Waldron United Methodist Church, Scott County Boys and Girls Club, Lions Club and Men's Breakfast. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Emma; three children, Brent, Kirk and Carol; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; sister, Mary Metzger; and brother, Richard Wengert.

Mary Jane Robertson, wife of former Chief F. Dale Robertson, died on November 4, 2007, in Sedona, Arizona, after a long battle with lung cancer. Dale was DR on the Ouachita NF the late 60's.

Archer Dickerson Smith Jr., 96, died August 17, 2007 at Still Hopes Retirement Home in West Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Smith was a 1933 graduate of Penn State. He married Meta "Babs" Boykin Barnwell in 1937. She died in 2005 after 68 years of marriage. Archer began his career on the Sumter National Forest and retired after 37 years with the Forest Service, stationed in California, South Carolina, and Georgia. When he retired in 1970, he was presented the "Silver Smokey" award for outstanding service in fighting forest fires. Surviving are children, Archer D. Smith, III and his wife, the Rev. Doris Graf Smith, of Atlanta, GA and Meta Smith Armstrong and her husband, David D. Armstrong of Greenville, SC;

grandchildren, Margaret K. Lindler and her husband, Adam Lindler, of Gainesville, GA, Archer D. Smith, IV of Atlanta and Sally Boykin Armstrong of Falls Church, VA; and great-grandchildren, Noah and Luke Lindler.

Jim McConnell writes: I had the pleasure of interviewing Archer D. Smith in April 2000 for an oral history. Jerry Henderson made the arrangements and found his home. Archer lived way, way out in the country southeast of Columbia, SC. He started in the Forest Service in 1934 as a timber cruiser on the Francis Marion National Forest. Mercy, that was the year I was born. He went to Region 5 but returned to Region 8 in 1943 and never left. He was a gentleman and poet. I would like to share one of his poems with you. I find it quite enlightening.

Pills and Ills

Pray tell old pill, just what ill
are you being taken for?
Pray tell old pill, just who's ill
are you working for?
If all the pills for all the ills
could ever be counted,
The score would stretch from where I am
To way past infinitum.
So when you take those pills your're taking
Just question what you're doing.....
Will all those pills really help your ills
Or just be part of your undoing?

Archer D. Smith Jr.

Randall Miller - Charlie Huppuch writes: I was sad to see the passing of Randall Miller, Cherokee Law Enforcement Officer. My first encounter with Randall was eye awakening for a young forester.

While serving on the Chattahoochee National Forest in the early 60's we were called to a fire burning near the Etowah River. After securing a line around it, I noticed an old fishing shack near where the fire had started. Looking around, I found a time slip from a local factory with the persons name on it. I called the supervisor's office for a law enforcement investigator. The forest had none but they would ask Randall Miller to come from the Cherokee.

Within a few hours he arrived, and I showed him where the fire had started and the name found on the pay slip. Within one hour Randall had found his man who confessed to setting the fire. I was impressed. Perhaps the man confessed quickly when Randall handed him his name card which identified him as a Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer, but below it read: **THE DEAD DON'T SPEAK**. We will miss you Randall.

Correction: Marguerite Duren's name was misspelled in the last Dixie Ranger. She was a personnel assistant with 27 years of service with the Forest Service.

Editors

LOOKING BACK -- PART IV

By *Jim McConnell*

This comes from the October 1980 issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. It was written by Bill Huber, who at one time was the Director of Information and Education (I&E) in the RO.

As 1980 draws to a close, so does the First Decade of the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association. Back in 1971, when the Association was organized with 130 charter members, even the founding fathers did not conceive how successful the "Dixie Ranger Club" would become. Perhaps the success is due to the founding fathers who prepared a clear, concise constitution and governing by-laws for the Association, or it could be due to the fact that retirement is the greatest equalizer and there are no ranks or grades in the Retirees Association, or could it be due to the hard work of the Happy Irishman-ye-ed Tom Hunt. Art Grumbine expressed this when he wrote on 3/10/77 - "One needs only to read the letters in Tom Hunt's Dixie Ranger to learn what the Association members consider most important." Letter after letter tell us that members want to hear from and about each other. For this they are happy to maintain their membership and pay their dues. In a review of the First Decade and, going back to the first meeting of the Association on March 24, 1971, we find that 100 persons had applied for membership and cast their ballots for the officers for 1971. John Cooper, John Adams, Tom Hunt, Clint Herrick and Rik Eriksson counted the ballots and recorded the applications for membership. The officers for 1971 were: President - Rik Eriksson; Vice-President - "Red" Strange; Secretary - John W. Cooper; Treasurer - Jim Cartwright; Board of Directors, Ray Brandt, Clint Herrick and John Spring. The Association Presidents were: 1971 - Rik Eriksson; 1972 - Larry Newcomb; 1973 - Clint Herrick; 1974 - Art Grumbine; 1975 - Rik Eriksson; 1976 - Paul Russell; 1977 - Bill Huber; 1978 - Doug Craig; 1979 - Lucille Isbell; 1980 - H.A. "Ham" Miller. In 1981 we enter the Association's second decade. It will be a time of growth, friendship and cooperation, not only with each other, but with our parent organization the U.S. Forest Service. Should they need help, we must gear up and give them support. If our membership passes 500, we and our strength grows. Senior Forest Service citizens, spread your wings - you're stronger than you think. Use it wisely - the next 10 years might be happiest of all.

Note: I copied it word for word. I think the punctuation, spelling and capitalization were the work of Tom Hunt, the Happy Irishman; he did resemble a leprechan. I don't know about you, but I had the privilege of meeting everyone named in this article at one time or another. Gosh - I must be old!!
Jim

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REMINDER - Luncheon reservations need to be called in by **Monday, December 3rd !**
Post the date on your calendar today!

NEW DIRECTORIES will be mailed with the March Issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. 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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