

THE DIXIE RANGER



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President's Corner

I had planned to write this letter about the terrible fire season we have had this summer, but in retrospect, I now need to give special emphasis to the role of our friends and colleagues, the Forest Service Fire Fighters. The death of five fire fighters in the face of danger, and their dedication to the job is something you all can appreciate.

In the Northern Region where I started my career, much was said about the 1910 fire. Also, the fire fighters lost on the Mann Gulch fire are still a topic of conversation. Several years ago while on a trip to Colorado, I stopped at the memorial in Glenwood Springs where the fire fighters who lost their lives in the Storm King Fire of 1994 are memorialized. It's a wonderful tribute to those young men and women. I recommend that you stop there on your next trip West.

Did you know that the Forest Service has to take the FFF (Forest Fire Fighting) out of their constrained budget established for the agency? With seasons like we have had in the past few years, everything will soon be on hold until congress can reconsider.

I just received my fall issue of "The Lookout", the publication of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. Doug Leisz has retired as NAFSR Board Chairman and former Associate Chief of the Forest Service George Leonard has become Chairman. One of our members, Ralph Mumme, is on that board and is a strong supporter of the NAFSR. I am sure that he would be happy to talk to you about joining. I encourage you to do so, since it gives us a stronger voice on Capital Hill.

On December 14th, the date of our Christmas Luncheon, Chief Bosworth and George Leonard will be in Jackson to present the John McGuire Award to the National Forests in Mississippi. The John McGuire Award was created by the National Association of Forest Service Retirees as a way for retirees to recognize outstanding work in natural resource management by current Forest Service employees. The work that the men and women of the National Forests in Mississippi, both active and retired, have done to assist in the hurricane Katrina catastrophe, was outstanding. This is the second time that this award has been given to a forest or group in the Southern Region. We should all be very proud of those men and women and our region. Ralph Mumme, Gene Kruglewicz, and I will represent our association at the Regional Awards Day on November 16, 2006, in Atlanta; we will report back to you at our Christmas Luncheon.

This has been a busy summer for all, and when I look back to my days with the Forest Service, I have many pleasant thoughts and memories. We can continue to make our lives meaningful by volunteering in various service organizations, church groups, and other activities that contribute to the well being of our communities.

See you all at our Christmas Luncheon on December 14, 2006, at Petite Auberge.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year!!!

Jerry Coutant, President

ASSOCIATE CHIEF SALLY COLLINS TO SPEAK AT OUR DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – December 14, 2006

Just before going to press, we learned that Associate Chief Sally Collins will travel from Washington to speak to us at our Christmas luncheon 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 the meal is \$13.00 per person. Reservations are required by Monday, December 11th 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 several great door prizes – including a year's membership dues to the SFSRA!

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

DAVE LARSON - Georgia - I received *The Dixie Ranger* a few days ago and read it stem to stern. Enclosed is an obituary for Bob Nobles. Bob worked in S&PF in Atlanta before going to Washington, D. C. Prior to Atlanta, he was stationed in Puerto Rico (I think). Bob and I shared the same hometown of Muskegon, MI, and graduated from the same high school. *Obituary on page 6.*

ODOM McDANIEL - Oklahoma - Our daughter and son recently hosted a family celebration atop Rich Mountain (Queen Wilhelmina Lodge) near Mena, AR, in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary.

Dave Devet was Ranger at the time I was in Heavener, OK, where Dona and I met. I remember vividly how, in the winter of 1955, he had an employee drive us from the work center east into the adjoining Mena Ranger District, up the mountain, past the site of the lodge and then back west along the dirt ridge-top road to the state line. He and I got out and cruised timber on part of the north slope, within his district, for a possible timber sale. It was late by the time we got back to a truck left for us at a pre-arranged place at the bottom of the mountain. Thus we did not see the sun all day long, working on the north slope.

My immediate supervisor in PLUP (and later in RO Lands and Minerals) was L. C. Nix, who I thoroughly enjoyed working with. As I recall, L. C. had already distinguished himself while on the Ouachita as Lands Staff, leading the land acquisition program that made possible the construction of the Talimena Scenic Drive. This paved, ridge-top highway runs past the lodge and extends from Mena, AR, to Talihina, OK.

I said all that to say that it seemed appropriate to celebrate our anniversary inside the boundary of the Ouachita National Forest, even though I spent only about a year of my 31-year Forest Service career on that forest.

PAT IN-HOUT - Washington - The In-Hout clan had a family reunion in Flat Rock, NC, the end of June. I couldn't fail to attend as it gave me the added experience of visiting with some of my old-time Forest Service friends in that part of NC and also in Tellico Plains, TN, plus seeing some of my old Ranger Districts at Highlands and at Tellico. I had my high school classmate, Violet Long, along with me to enjoy the area and people. I got reacquainted with Violet some time after my good wife Elsie passed away. Violet had the unfortunate experience of sitting next to me in a few high school classes, and I know that I had to be a serious detraction from her basic education. However, I'm trying my best to rectify that now after more than 65 years have passed by.

The first night in Flat Rock, we met Phil and Barb Archibald, who came up from Hartwell, GA, to meet us. We found them in good health and spirits. We had a great time talking about some of the happenings back in the 50's and early 60's. After the reunion, we met with L. C. and Ellie Nix at Highlands. L. C. and I worked together on the Tellico District in '57. Again, talked of some of our old times together. Following that, we

went through Robbinsville on our way to Tellico via the new Cherohala Scenic Highway. We tried to contact Glenn McConnel at Robbinsville, but found out he had recently moved to NC.

Ed and Marge Ellengerg had arranged for us to spend the night with them, and they rented a cabin on the Tellico River, close to town. That was a special treat for me as our two families had recreated and worked together in southern Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee during the 50's and 60's. We also had a great evening with Beecher and Carolyn Colvin at their fabulous home overlooking the beautiful mountain area around Tellico. Beecher was one of my key employees on the Tellico at that time.

While working as the Ranger at Tellico in the late 50's, there was a yearly wagon train from Robbinsville to Tellico to promote the construction of a road between the two cities. It finally took hold long after I had left; and, after 50 years, a fantastic and beautiful highway follows that general route. It is equal to some segments of the Blue Ridge Scenic Parkway in my book.

Lastly, we visited with one of Violet's long-time friends from Newport, OR, who had moved to Boone, NC, years ago. The entire trip was one I shall always cherish.

Enclosed is a check for a couple more years of *The Dixie Ranger*. I enjoy reading each and every publication, even though it is sad to hear about so many of my old-time compatriots falling by the wayside. However, when one reaches the 80's, that is a given. Enclosed as a short story about a happening on the Highland District back in the 50's if you wish to print it at some time. *Story on page 8.*

A. P. MUSTIAN - North Carolina - Some things, like negligence, one can't blame on old age. Thus, no excuse for my failure to ante up dues on time. Trust all is going well with you and yours.

HARRY ERWIN - Louisiana - I still see Ernie and Dot Finger every once in a while...also Carl and Shirley Wilhelm and Clyde and Mary Todd. We are all still hanging in there like everyone else.

JIM GILPIN - North Carolina - Retirement has given a whole new meaning to the old saying that "time really flies when you're having fun". It's hard to believe that Marye and I have now been retired a little over five years. Our five-year retirement anniversary also means that it's time to sign up for another five-year membership in the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association.

There are times when the USDA - Forest Service feels a great deal more than five years in the past, but the stories, news and information in every issue of *The Dixie Ranger* bring back many good memories of people, places and much more. I sincerely appreciate everyone who contributes articles, news and their time to *The Dixie Ranger*.

ELI J. GIAQUINTO - Georgia - We enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* immensely and look forward to receiving it periodically. The "06" at my copy tells me that I need to pay-up to receive future copies. Thank you for serving our retirees so professionally.

DONNA McLAIN REYNOLDS - North Carolina -Sorry I haven't sent my check before now. I love to get the newsletter. So many names I don't know but, surprisingly, many names are familiar. Fun just finding out where different people chose to retire.

I have had quite a summer. On July 3rd, I had total knee replacement and have really had a time. It wasn't simple for me like it is for most people. I developed two small blood clots in my lower leg, in a varicose vein, and that has really set me back. I am still homebound, still not driving, still in therapy. It has taught me to have a lot more compassion for others who can't get around. I'm looking forward to the next newsletter.

JACK GODDEN - Wisconsin - Mike Sparks' article REMINISCING in the July issue is worth the price of renewing my membership for 2007. Please pardon my weak eyes and proof reading of my article DAYS OF DISTRICT FOREST FIRE WARDENS, page 11, on the last line. That second spring fire season visit of mine was to "Farmers Country Store" on Tennessee State Highway 68. This store was worthy of a movie setting of rural Tennessee life. It would have the same historical/rural Appalachia scene as a country store between Slade and Beattyville, KY on a ridge top road junction, complete with button shoes on their shelves.

Beattyville on the Kentucky River had a history of flooding (we Morehead District employees assisting 1956/57 ?). Most memorable was their Purple Cow Restaurant and upstairs "hotel". Rooms were two dollars a night, shared bath with night stands, one ceiling light on a pull chain. On the southern end of the District, this was our overnight accommodation for the week while we used a hand-crank adding machine to tally our day's tree marking before bedtime. A platter-size steak, probably fresh cut beef, hanging over the edges, greens and potatoes cost \$1.69; two thick pork chops probably were \$1.29. The management also put together a bag lunch, wrapped in wax paper, for less than a dollar. We would supplement with cans of fruit from home.

Another memorable place was the nearby Wolfe County Courthouse in Campton, KY. Here the cut limestone steps to the courthouse required alertness to every step you took, they having settled since placement. In the basement toilets were the coolest – complete with pull chain – overhead water closets.

I doubt that many of our "newer" Rangers have gained the experience of visiting any of these bits of nostalgia to me. Keep those stories a'coming. Our newsletters are the only place for capturing our Forest Service's "people's history".

GERALD WARD - Arkansas - I see from the latest edition of *The Dixie Ranger* that I am behind on my dues. So, here is money for 2006 and 2007. I really enjoy reading *The Dixie Ranger* and I don't want to miss an issue. I'm like O. D. Smith in that I don't recognize a lot of the names, but there are some I still do.

As I was reading *The Dixie Ranger* yesterday, I got a telephone call from Tom Fair. We must have talked an hour or more. He moved to Tennessee after he retired and built a 5-bedroom house on a mountain where he has a fantastic view. However, his wife is very sick and not expected to live. We talked about the time he spent on the Sylamore Ranger District and laughed a lot as we reminisced. The Forest Service sure has changed a lot since he was here in the 1960's. The Sylamore RD recently moved into a new office. They sold the old Ranger's house and had it moved and built the new office there. I haven't stopped by yet but plan to do so soon. I know they are excited. Keep *The Dixie Ranger* coming.

DON HUGHES - Alabama - Here's \$30 for 3 years including 2006. I just celebrated (?) My 79th birthday...but Bobbie and I are both thankful for good health. Cannot believe we have been retired for over 23 years!! How time flies. Still traveling in our motorhome when we can and also on tours with Grand Circle Travel. Last one was 3 weeks in Turkey and next one is in November to Machu Picchu in Peru and the Galapagos Islands. We really like the Overseas Adventure Travel branch of GCT as they guarantee never more than 12 to 14 persons in the group, and you get to meet some really great people. We did travel with Ann and Harland Welch to Tallahassee for the recent National Forests in Florida reunion. Joined over 60 folks for a picnic at Silver Lake. It was really great seeing so many old friends and reminiscing.

If any of you happen to pass through Fairhope on the east shore of Mobile Bay, feel free to drop in. It is a beautiful quaint little town with a lot of artsy (except for us) people. Bobbie was born here and was really happy to return after living every place but Alabama for 47 years. Although we have enjoyed every one of the many places and 16 houses we have lived in, we plan to stay here for the duration. We really look forward to the newsletters with some excellent articles and especially the Letters from Members. Hope we hear from more next issue.

JIM WENNER - Arkansas - For years our newsletter has sported a clump of Norway Spruce on page one. Not many of those rascals are in our Southern National Forests. **PINE** was the one and only when timber ruled. Then multi-resources. Now, I'm not sure what. I can't think of a logo for confusion. Anyhow, we should have a logo that represents R-8 more broadly. I searched clip art and found so many thousands of free examples that I gave up trying to recommend one.

Instead, let's get our members involved. A lot of creative souls have their brains and computers poised to tackle this challenge. How about a contest? You could publish the best logo entries and let the membership vote (e-mail, of course) for their choice. The winner would have his entry displayed on the cover of *The Dixie Ranger*. (What more could a retiree ask for?)

Editor's' Note: This sounds like a good idea! We are sure there are many creative, talented members who would like to take a shot at suggesting a new logo. We could then apply our judgement and pick the best three or four and put them in the next issue for a vote. The winner would be announced on the front page of the July 2007 newsletter. We look forward to getting your ideas, suggestions, comments.....Peggy and Dave

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Crouch (Betty)

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Mary Jane Close (Fred)

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CHANGES and ADDITIONS TO DIRECTORY

John Archer – new address: 643 Northwood Trl, Hot Springs, AR 71909

new e-mail: rangerjohn33@sbcglobal.net

Charles Blankenship – correction to phone number: (540) 774-6272

Tom Chappell – new e-mail: martet@windstream.net

Frank Ferrarelli - added phone number: (916) 655-3697

new e-mail: ferrarelli@juno.com

Sara G. Gwinn - new address: 1201 Towers Circle NE, Atlanta GA 30329-4615

phone: (404) 636-3270

Don Hughes – new area code (251) new e-mail: n4eow@bellsouth.net

Dick Jones – correction to e-mail: dick_jones@bellsouth.net

Richard (Lynn) Marsalis – phone: (662) 224-3499

Archer D. Smith – new address: Still Hopes Nursing Home, 200 Still Hopes Dr,

W. Columbia, SC 29169-7151 – phone (803) 939-9718

Bryant Watts – new e-mail: jwatts27@windstream.net

Members not located: Ben E. Carpenter, Jr. – Blairsville, GA

Herb Mansbridge – Hot Springs, AR

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Nobles, 85, died June 8, 2006, in Michigan. He was born in Muskegon, MI, and was a Veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II, stationed in the South Pacific. Bob began his forestry career in Colorado and was in State & Private Forestry in Atlanta before moving to the Washington office where he retired from the Forest Service. Surviving are one sister, Mary Jean Paul; two nieces; five great nieces and nephews; six great-great nieces and nephews.

Dick Heinz died September 17, 2006. No information available.

Lee Davidson, 83, of West Point, GA, died October 24, 2006. Lee served in the military, beginning in 1942, with the 3rd Army which was commanded by General George S. Patton. He fought all across Europe, stopping in Czechoslovakia at the end of WWII. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1948 and went to work at the West Point Peppermill Manufacturing Co. Lee began his career with the Forest Service in 1974 in the Regional Office Lands unit as a cartographer where he worked for his entire 29-year career. He is survived by one brother, Hugh.

Celestia Ann Tarver, 59, of Gainesville GA, died October 24, 2006. Celestia, wife of retired Forest Service employee Ed Tarver, loved arts and crafts and was credited with starting the Mothers Morning Out Program at her church. She was a member of the Laureate Tau Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. In addition to her husband, she is survived by one daughter, Jeffifer T. Moore; son, Matthew Tarver; three brothers; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Remembering **Clint Sykes** – Charlie Huppuch writes: Those of us who had the good fortune to work with Clint Sykes remember what a great guy he was. But, he was also a joker. Charlie Hensley, Landscape Architect, and I shared an office in the Chattahoochee Supervisor's office in the 60's. One day, when we were both working quietly together, Charlie said loudly, "Did you do that?" I said, "Do what?" He said, "Smell up the room". I said, "It wasn't me". You did too—I did not—it went back and forth. The argument got more heated over being accused of stinking up the office. But, at the height of the argument we could hear laughter from Clint's office next door. He was the culprit who had laid a stink bomb in our office to disrupt its peace and tranquility. We both have forgiven Clint and will miss him.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

by *Bill Hen*

Maybe this story will rekindle some memories. Back in 1954, five of us foresters from Penn State took summer jobs with the Forest Service in Oregon and Washington.

In order to cut costs, all of us jammed into a 1948 Chevrolet Coupe owned by Bob Lease (now in Portland). We had a limited amount of clothes. The coupe had a small back seat and a bench seat in the front. Several of the foresters were a pretty good size. After stopping overnight at a friend's house in Illinois, we headed west thru Yellowstone without stopping. Two of us decided we needed to get out of the car at Yellowstone National Park. We put our sleeping bags on the ground (no tent). In the middle of the night about 4 inches of snow fell. We slid under the car to get away from the snow all cold and wet. Oil dropping from the underside of the car made things interesting.

Our stop in Yellowstone was the last one before Oregon. There were no Interstates then and travel was quite slow. The trip took us about 5 days. I was dropped off in Roseburg, Oregon, to await a truck for Big Camas Ranger Station near Diamond Lake. When I arrived in Oregon, I was so tired that I could not stay awake and acted like I was drunk.

I think we spent \$25/person to travel across the country. What an ordeal. Youth is amazing. Many times I have traveled between east and west, but the 1954 trip was a trip that I will not forget. To see the snow-covered mountains in the summer was a thrill for me.

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This photograph, taken on a "Show Me" trip for Forest Service Women was sent in by Mary Ann Burns
Recognize anyone?

★ ★ ★

FIRE DROP EXTRAORDINAIRE

- a recollection triggered by last issue's Q & A about fire drops -
by *Bert Bray*

The old Southeastern Area Administrative Management group was giving a training session on Communications, back in the late 70's, for the North Carolina Forestry Department, and as was usual, it was held at their training center in eastern NC, on a site shared by their significant air force. They owned several crop duster class planes, and also leased a converted WWII bomber outfitted for fire drops.

It was our good fortune to have State Forester Ralph Winkworth sitting in on a portion of the training, and their misfortune that a fire call came in from Dare County. Mr. Winkworth asked us to call a break and invited us outside to watch the swift and efficient loading of fire-fighting slurry and the dispatching of one plane after another. However, one plane that had just had its slurry loaded needed to "top off" its gas tanks, and the gas pump was only a few yards from where we, the

audience, stood, with me covering all the action with my trusty 8-millimeter movie camera. As the pilot stepped down to reach for the gasoline hose, his knee hit the trip lever for the firefighting load, and the plane pooped this giant puddle of orange slurry at our feet. I turned to Ralph Winkworth and said, "Ralph, thanks for the show, and I got it all with my movie camera." Ralph said in a very low voice, "Bert, I'll give you five hundred dollars for that roll of film!!!"

THE BAIT THEY LIKE

by *Pat Int-Hout*

I was traveling on a gravel road just up the mountain north of the Ellicotts Rock, which is the point on the Chattooga River where GA, SC and NC all join. I saw a rather elderly gent coming up the steep mountain area heading up to the road. He was dressed in the rather typical local mountain man clothes in bib overalls, had a big chaw of "Backy" in his cheek, and a gunny sack about one-third full of something over his shoulder. I stopped and asked him if he wanted a lift, as it looked like he was about "give out", as they say there. I knew it was about another 5 miles down the road to the nearest private land, where he probably lived. He looked my rig over, seeing the Forest Service logo on the door, and he knew that we were a tolerable and friendly people. He said OK and I asked him to put his tote sack back in the bed of the pickup and come up and ride with me in the cab.

As I drove off, I asked him if he lived down the road, and after a minute of silence while he cogitated an answer, he slowly replied, "Yup, just a piece up yander way". While driving I kept thinking about what he might have in the tote sack, such as ramps, roots from some bush for medical purposes, etc., but I ruled out moonshine as the contents didn't have any sharp edges. I finally said, "I'm curious what you might have in your sack sir, as it must be something of great value to make such a long and tough walk up that steep mountain from the Chattooga River below". He took about another minute to conjure up a reply, but he finally said, "Brown Trout". Well, that got my immediate attention as I was an avid trout fisherman, and he had a catch of monstrous proportions. I told him that I was a trout fisherman also, but I had never seen such a catch like he had in all my days. I told him that if he didn't mind, would he share with me what bait he used to have such super success. There was a long silence from him and then he finally said, "I got the bait they like", and he fell silent again. That really got to me, so I finally asked him what bait that might be that they liked so well. There was another long delayed period before he answered. Then he finally said, "12 foot net". That about blew me away. I conjured over what might be a suitable response to that type of fish bait, but I never could come up with a proper one, so just kept silent. Shortly, he pointed up the road to an old woods road and said he would get out there. I stopped, smiled, and thanked him for his company and the information he provided on how to catch the big Brown Trout down on the Chattooga.

ONE CHARACTER I MET WHILE WORKING IN THE WOODS IN 1959

by *John Archer*

I was the District Junior Forester, working a log scale sale on the Williamsburg District of the Cumberland National Forest. We were gathering data for a local volume table for the forest. I was scaling logs right behind the cutter, so I got to know some of the loggers. The year was 1959.

One of the characters that I met there was Tilman Rose. Tilman lived on the Young's Creek Road that led into the job. He had a weather-beaten face and one eye. I was told that he lost the eye in a knife fight. He was a pretty tough old character.

One day, while taking a break, Tilman got to talking about the previous Ranger, Earl Meekins. Tilman said that Earl had cited him for cutting a small chestnut oak. The chestnut oak was curved, and he was going to

use it for a sled runner. Tilman had to pay a fine to the US magistrate. Well, he was unhappy to say the least. One day he was squirrel hunting on Dog Slaughter Ridge when down the trail he spotted Earl heading his way. Earl had not seen him so he stayed real still, planning to shoot him when he got in range. Luckily, Earl changed directions, and Tilman lost his chance for revenge. He said, "I sure am glad he went off into the woods, or I would have been in real trouble.

I have seen Tilman pulling the cable from the winch on a farm tractor used for logging in snow that was ten-inches deep. He had on a pair of leather, low-quarter shoes with no socks. There were even a few holes in the shoes. Like I said, he was pretty tough.

Tilman's family and another family, the Vanovers, had a feud going for many years. I imagine Tilman had been in on the fighting during his younger years. He sure had plenty of visible scars. I saw the hole in the front door of a Vanover house on the Youngs Creek Road, which was put there by one of Tilman's relatives with a shotgun. He was drunk and was going to kill a Vanover. Two of the Vanover boys mowed him down with their shotguns from the windows on either side of the door.

While inspecting a sale to see if any tops were in the creek, I heard a voice up on the ridge. "John, check down by that big spruce pine and see if you can find some moonshine. I had a still down there and hid a quart for future use." I didn't find the quart, but had an interesting conversation with Tilman.

I never saw Tilman again after leaving the Williamsburg District, but kept up with him through my father-in-law. He went to work for the highway department and finally retired. He was murdered at the age of 82 for some cash that he had at his house. He had been hanging out with the wrong crowd, and let it slip that he had the money.

Looking Back

by *Jim McConnell*

Every now and then, Bridget my cat, and I are banned to the basement. Often I spend the time perusing through old copies of *The Dixie Ranger*. One can find all kinds of interesting information about our predecessors and what they were up to. Here is one item from the October 1981 issue. Charlie Connaughton was the author. Just in case you don't remember, he was the Regional Forester, 1952-1955.

CONSOLIDATING NATIONAL FORESTS AND CLOSING A FOREST SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

Soon after Eisenhower was elected President (1952), word reached the Regional Office in Atlanta, that the administration expected the consolidation of, at least, two National Forests and the closing of one Forest Supervisor's Office in Region 8. There had been previous discussion of combining the two North Carolina National Forests. So, it was no surprise, when we learned the Forest Supervisor's Office in Franklin was to be closed and the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests combined with headquarters at Asheville. The Supervisor's Offices were not large by today's standards.

The word reached Atlanta in mid-week, so I told my folks to phone Supervisor Renshaw in Franklin, to come to Atlanta promptly. In Atlanta, Renshaw was notified of the planned action and was offered a transfer to the Regional Office. The Asheville office was alerted to prepare to accommodate the addition of the Nantahala office. It was planned to continue the Ranger office in Franklin. Except for the Supervisor, no positions were dropped in the move. Preparations were made to move the office with government trucks on the coming weekend. Haste in making the move was used in order to complete the job before the weekly newspaper could generate a campaign of protest. Actually some protests developed, but they were not organized and the Administration fully supported the action.

The main significance of this incident illustrated that once a decision is made by the bureaucracy, assuming it is correct in the first place, the action can be carried out with dispatch and without encumbering reviews and justifications, none of which could change the decision in the long run.

Jim's comment - The way it was and what a difference a day makes!!!

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"You can count on Americans to do the right thing but only after they have tried everything else."

Winston Churchill

ADMINISTRATION DROPS PLAN TO SELL NATIONAL FOREST LAND

"A Bush administration proposal to sell 300,000 acres of national forest land to raise money for rural counties has been shelved amid widespread opposition," according to a *Los Angeles Times* report by Bettina Boxall published in *The Bulletin* (Bend, Oregon) on September 2, 2006. Congress refused to move the legislation this summer and groups that typically ally themselves with the president, such as the National Rifle Association, came out against the measure, spelling its doom in this congressional session," the report continued.

"Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, the proposal's chief architect, acknowledged as much last month when he agreed to find other funding for the...program, which finances rural schools and roads," the *Los Angeles Times* report said. "Asked if the administration would attempt to revive the sales proposal next year, he said, 'I don't think we know that.' If it does, the reception probably will remain chilly," the report opined. The four living former Chiefs of the Forest Service, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees, and many individuals also opposed the measure to fund renewal of the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act by selling some national forest and other public lands.

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

Jefferson National Forest - Retirees get together at noon on the second Wednesday of **even** numbered months at the Roanoker Restaurant in Roanoke, 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.

FUTURE NATIONAL REUNIONS

Jean Paul Kruglewicz writes that Lou Romero, President of the Southwest Forest Service Amigos (R-3) has completed a National Retirees Reunion Queue Summary.

Lou tells us "the responses were overwhelmingly favorable both for having a queue and for having reunions more frequently. Folks also want to keep the process very simple and non-bureaucratic." According to Lou, "We now have the National Museum (in Missoula, MT), R-5 and the Amigos as the next 3 potential hosts (always with first right of refusal and room for re-negotiating)."

Favorable responses were received from retirees in R-1, R-2, R-5, R-6, R-8, R-10 (John Sandor), the WO retirees, NAFSR, and the National FS Museum.

Potential reunions are:

2009 – NFSM, Missoula, MT – To coincide with the dedication of the National Museum of Forest Service History

2012 or 2013 – Pacific Southwest FSX Club

2015 or 2016 – Southwest Forest Service Amigos.

NAFSR

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees has new leadership. Doug Leisz, NAFSR Chair, and Dick Pflif, CEO, have retired after serving since the formation of the association in 2000. The following excerpts are from the NAFSR Fall 2006 issue of *The Lookout*: "On behalf of the membership we say thank you to both for their outstanding service and leadership."

"Replacing Doug is George Leonard, former associate chief of the Forest Service and taking on Dick's position in November is Darrel Kenops, retired Willamette National Forest Supervisor and recent Society of American Foresters national council member. We are fortunate to have two outstanding people step forward to lead NAFSR. Below are comments from George.

Comments from the Chair: It was not just a job!

It was never just a job. We believed in what we were doing – carrying out the statutory mission of the U.S. Forest Service. We believed that improving and protecting the National Forest and the Nation's other forest lands were in the public interest.

We were proud to be a "Can do" outfit. We got out the cut because it provided the wood needed to make our country a nation of home owners and our harvest and post sale activities contributed to long term forest health. We recognized that the statutory direction to provide a continuous supply of timber and other renewable resources – a sustained yield – represented a commitment to the stability of our forest and range-dependent communities and we took that commitment seriously.

We were proud to be a leader in outdoor recreation. We worked hard to make our Forests available and accessible to our growing population. We built trails and campgrounds, and with a variety of partners developed ski areas and resorts. And while the demand for recreation grew, we worked hard to protect those special places that were the heart of our Nation's Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River systems.

We shared a common vision and worked hard to achieve it. We were proud to put in our eight hours "on the job". We did not always agree on the details. There were many who argued for a better balance among the multiple uses, but we all believed that our work was contributing positively to the condition of our Nation's forests and thus to the well being of the American people.

Our dedication to the statutory mission of the U.S. Forest Service did not end when we retired. We still share a vision of proper management of our forests. It was to further that vision that a number of people at Reunion 2000 in Missoula decided to form the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR).

We have had some success as an organization. NAFSR has worked on local regional, and national issues – commenting on local forest plans and management proposals, the Sierra Nevada framework, and on national forest planning regulations. We have published a well-received paper on fire and forest health. We have testified before the Congress and submitted comments on a number of policy and planning proposals by the Forest Service. We have carried out local projects on Forests in cooperation with the National Forest Foundation. We have recognized outstanding contributions to multiple use management by current agency employees.

I am proud of what we have accomplished, but I am concerned about the future. There are strong pressures to change the statutory multiple use mission of the Forest Service. I believe NAFSR can play an important role in helping to resist these pressures and in helping to assist the Forest Service to remain a first class multiple-use agency, but we need to strengthen our organization if we are going to be successful.

I know NAFSR can make a difference. I am honored to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
George Leonard

Editor's note: George has just notified us that NAFSR is offering FREE one-year memberships to anyone interested. To find an application, go to FSX.org - click on NAFSR - click on Membership Application, print a copy, fill out - entering FREE on the line which says @ \$25 and mail to John Combes.

A LEGACY THAT WILL LAST

The National Museum of Forest Service History provides a unique opportunity for all of us to be a part of a continuing legacy of public service dedicated to the scientific management of natural resources that will be increasingly important in the future.

Substantial training and employment programs ranging from the CCC to Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps and Senior Programs are an important part of that legacy and is reflected in many thousands of people who served and many continue to serve throughout this land and around the world.

Each of us shares in that legacy, whether we worked directly for the Forest Service, for the states or for many cooperators both public and private. The Museum will serve as a national focal point for numerous local and regional efforts to present the rich history of the past as well as a source of education and inspiration to those who are able to visit the Museum in person or by virtual technology.

By "Joining Together to Understand the Past and Inspire the Future" each of us has an opportunity to further the rich legacy that we are privileged to be a part of, now and in the future. So whatever the size of your contribution to the Capital Campaign it is important and appreciated. The teamwork of shared goals I am certain will lead to success. Please decide today what you can do. Thank you.

Max Peterson, Capital Campaign Co-Chair

NMFSH Newsletter, August 2006

e-mail: nationalforest@montana.com

web site: www.nmfs-history.net

NMFSH offers **Forest Service History Memorials** for those wishing to honor living persons, or to memorialize deceased persons, who worked for or was a cooperator/partner for the Forest Service. For more information contact the Museum: (406)541-6374 or nationalforest@montana.com

Capital Campaign Donations – fully tax deductible. Pledge Cards are available. All donations will be recognized in a commemorative booklet available at the Museum. Donors giving \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the Wall of Honor in the Museum lobby.

To check on progress of the Museum - log onto their website at: www.nmfs-history.net - then click on the "On-Line News" tab.



Membership Application

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

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐ Name: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Daytime Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____ ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift

Membership Categories Annual Dues

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



2006 Officers

President: Jerry Coutant
coutfj@bellsouth.net

President-elect: Jean Paul Kruglewicz
jpkgulewicz@bellsouth.net

Secretary/Historian: Jim McConnell
elanjim@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Peggy Jolly
Co-editors Newsletter: Peggy and Dave Jolly
djollysr@bellsouth.net

Directors

Mike Sparks (06)
mssparks9@juno.com

Bob James
bjandsjames@aol.com

Ed Cook (Ex-Officio)
xecook@bellsouth.net

ESPERANZA WILDFIRE TRAGEDY

The following information was provided to the NAFSR members by George Leonard, Chair, Board of Directors:

Five Forest Service fire fighters lost their lives when they were dispatched early Thursday morning, October 26th to help on a state-managed fire when about 8:00 am they were overrun by flames. The tragic consequences of this fire near Riverside, CA, shock and sadden the entire Forest Service family.

Tax-deductible funds have been established to help the families affected by this tragedy. Donations can be sent directly to these organizations:

The Esperanza Fire Assistance Fund, Box 1645, Riverside, CA 92502

The Wildland Firefighters Foundation (www.wffoundation.org) 23049 Airport Way, Boise, ID

California Fire Foundation (www.cpf.org)

Condolences can be sent to Engine 57, 4121 Quail Canyon Road, San Bernardino, CA 92404. The following firefighters who were involved in this tragic incident were committed to the Forest Service and their communities:

Mark Loutzenhiser, Engine Captain, 44 years old with 21 years service, a certified EMT, youth sports coach and valued community volunteer.

Jess McLean, Fire Engine Operator, 27 years old with 7 years service including work on a hot-shot crew.

Jason McKay, Assistant Fire Engine Operator, 27 years old with 5 years of experience including work on a Type II crew, volunteer fire fighter, and a certified EMT.

Daniel Hoover-Najera, Firefighter, 20 years old in his second season with Type II crew experience.

Pablo Cerda, a 23 year old firefighter in his second season with Type II crew experience.

Donations to help the families can Also be made to NAFSR, P.O. Box 793, Lincoln, CA 95648. Indicate on the check the purpose is for Engine 57 Relief Fund.

OPM ON LINE

You can now access your retirement information by contacting OPM on line at www.opm.gov/retire. But to do so, first you need an access number and PIN. To get this number and your PIN, you need to call OPM. The nationwide toll-free telephone number is 1-(888)767-6738. The regular number is 1-(202)606-1800. They will give you your access number over the phone, but the PIN will come to you by mail in 10-15 working days. Written requests should go to:

U. S. Office of Personnel Management
Employee Service and Records Center
Boyers, PA 16017

When Insults Had Class

"He has the attention span of a lightning bolt." – Robert Redford

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." –Oscar Wilde

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." – Forrest Tucker

"He had delusions of adequacy." – Walter Kerr

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." – Billy Wilder

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

Prst Std
Postage Paid
Permit #30
Alexander City AL

Note: Your mailing label shows the year through which your dues are paid. For example, if your label shows (06) your dues are paid through December 31, 2006.

REMINDER - Luncheon reservations need to be called in by **Monday, December 11th !**
Post the date on your calendar today!

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Published in March, July and November. Dues are \$10 per year, payable in January. Mailing address: Southern Region Forest Service Retirees Association, 128 Wind Trace, Alexander City, AL 35010-8772