



# The Dixie Ranger

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Editors: Bert & Betty Bray

Vol. XXIV No. 1 February 1994

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## OFFICERS

President *Bill Hess*  
President Elect *Jim McConnell*  
Secretary-Treasurer *Betty Bray*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Margaret Stephens* (1994)  
*Keith Grest* (1995)  
*John Schulte* (1996)  
*LeRoy Jones* Ex-Officio

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## New Officers for 1994

The Nominating Committee consisting of Lee Bardwell, Chair, Hattie McKenzie and Clark Sell, submitted the following names for officers for 1994:

Bill Hess, President  
Jim McConnell, President Elect  
Betty Bray, Sec-Treasurer  
John Schulte, Director

The slate as presented at the annual Christmas luncheon was voted in unanimously.

The Board voted at the annual meeting prior to the luncheon to issue only three copies of *The Dixie Ranger* in 1994. The months of publication are February, June, and September. The Editors had a hair-raising experience trying to get last November's issue to the membership prior to the December 2nd luncheon. The Post Office was unable to deliver the newsletter in time for the Atlanta and Georgia members to make reservations. A telephone committee was set up and contact made to those in the Atlanta area. It was decided that a post card will be mailed reminding the membership of the December 8, 1994, luncheon.

Here are the dates for the luncheons in 1994:

March 17    June 16    September 15    December 8

I suggest that you post your calendars now so that these important dates will not be overlooked. We shall do our best to get a newsletter to you prior to each luncheon, but unforeseen circumstances could prevent this.

Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 1720 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30367-9102. Printed in February, June, and September. Dues are \$8.00 per year.

## NEW CHIEF OF THE FOREST SERVICE

Jack Ward Thomas, world-renowned wildlife biologist with 27 years of FS experience, became the 13th Chief of the FS on December 1. Thomas was most recently chief research wildlife biologist and project leader at the Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory in LaGrande, Oregon. Earlier this year, he led President Clinton's Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team in the Pacific Northwest. Dave Unger, Associate Deputy Chief, NFS, was named Associate Chief.

"To be asked to serve as Chief of the Forest Service, my professional home for 27 years, is an honor. Our challenge and duty is to ensure that the Forest Service emerges from this period of great change and development to reaffirm its position as the world's finest natural resource management agency," said Jack Ward Thomas.

### *Special Note to Forest Supervisors*

The Board of Directors of the Retirees Association are making a special request to you to send in news releases and other information that will be of interest to the membership of *The Dixie Ranger*. Two Forests, the Ouachita and North Carolina, already send in articles for publication. We're asking that you put us on your mailing list also. Thank you.

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## GOLDEN AGE PASSPORTS TO COST \$10

The U. S. Forest Service began on January 1, 1994, to charge a one-time \$10 fee for a card that gives special discounts to people over age 62.

The card, called the Golden Age Passport, was previously issued free of charge. On the National Forests in North Carolina, cardholders receive a 50-percent discount at 31 campgrounds where fees are charged. These fees range from \$5 to \$30 per night. In addition, Golden Age Passport bearers will receive a 50 percent discount for parking and swimming fees in North Carolina's national forests.

Senior Citizens can pick up the passports at Asheville's Forest Supervisor's office at 100 Otis Street or at one of the ten Ranger Stations across the state. Valid proof of age must be shown.

### TO KEEP IN TOUCH

**JIM HEFNER** - Athens, GA - Sorry to always be late with my dues, especially when my only excuse is old age! Andree and I are still in Athens and still trying to retire after 13 years. Our sons are out of school and both have their own businesses—one here in Athens and one near Gainesville.

Our 10 year cut-flower and crafts business has been retired, Andree no longer teaches at UGA, and I keep up the farm and work for Andree.

We still stay in touch with Jim Moore, Harry Collins and a number of research folks I worked with at Macon SFFL.

We enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* and will try to keep the dues paid up. Hope to make it to the next luncheon.

(Note to Bob Jackson: Answer my letter!)

**JIM WENNER** - Hot Springs, AR - We will miss Henry Sipe. We had little in common, other than being both Penn State alumni, and he coincidentally, was the same age as my Dad. Not that that mattered much, but when I joined the Forest Service he treated me more like a son than another employee. In September 1953, I reported to the James River District of the George Washington N.F. John Noyes was ranger. Fall fire season was starting, and Mr. Sipe came over from Elkins, W. Va. to teach us the latest about fire control. That's when we had fire bosses, not incident commanders. I was told to get a truckload of sawdust. Henry shaped that sawdust into a mountain on which he demonstrated how fires advance over rough terrain. During the training, right after lunch when we were all a bit complacent, Henry woke us up with a bang. Literally. A stranger ran through the group brandishing a pistol; a general commotion ensued and shots rang out. It was over before we knew what happened. Henry questioned us all on the details, impressing on us the need to observe all clues about the situation. Henry drove the point home so forcefully by his little play that I remember it, and Henry Sipe, to this day.

Since you are adding spouses names to your list, add Doris as my loving wife of 40 years. Thanks to two Southern Region retirees for making Doris' and my 40th wedding anniversary a memorable occasion. Joel Nitz, who has taken five trips to Germany, taught us how to travel through the countryside on our own, staying economically at "zimmers," guest rooms in private homes. Don Hughes introduced us to "space available" military flight opportunities (I retired from the Naval Reserve). Thus, for the cost of airport tax going, and two flight meals on a C5A returning, we were able to examine German forestry at first hand. We toured Germany's Black Forest, cruised the Rhine River and visited castles and cathedrals in Bavaria.



Our 1300-mile tour showed us the Germans' keen appreciation for the kind of aesthetics we strive for on the National Forests, for which we get little credit. Germany is a clean county; no litter, no tacky signs or billboards, hidden power poles and lines. All the forests we saw in three states were under even-aged management. From a vista along a recreation road in the Black Forest, we viewed a ski slope with a clearcut next to it laid out with the skill of a landscape architect. On the trail to the famous Schloss Neuschwanstein we passed a one-acre clearcut with spruce logs piled alongside. From the city park on the mountain overlooking Heidelberg a mosaic of age classes in the surrounding forests stretched out before us. The Germans intensively utilize their forest resources. Here we saw the proof that commercial timber management that considers aesthetics can be accepted in nationally famous recreation areas.

LEWIS MIELKE - Asheville, NC - Each edition of *The Dixie Ranger* has fewer names that I remember. I feel like the "last leaf" in a poem I remember.

Very sorry to see Don Morris listed in the obits. He was my supervisor in North Carolina in 1953 when the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests were consolidated. Don, who had been Supervisor on the Pisgah NF, now was given a new staff and an additional forest to run. It was a little chaotic for a while but he soon had us humping and in my opinion had a smooth running organization going in a short time. To top it all off, we had a bad fire season that fall when every one fought fire. Don had a staff meeting when a lull occurred. We dragged ourselves in, and when assembled, Don, who looked like we felt, said "Let's get started, most of the work done in this world is done by people who didn't feel so good."

JOHN CHAFFIN - Green Valley, AZ - I'm remiss in not passing on the sad news about Elise Brandau's oldest daughter, Rosemary. Rosey died last August from cancer. Everyone who knew Elise and Bill also knew their 3 nice daughters. Rosey had headed up Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Food Programs the last several years and was working on a book at the time of her death. She was like a daughter to us and we, as well as many, will miss her.

Saw Paul Russell, Polly Brandt, Ben Carpenter and the Giaquintos while in Atlanta. Time has been kind to all of them. They don't look much older than I remember from years back.

Anyone coming West is surely welcome to stop by. We're fast becoming pretty good tour guides for this area.

CLINT SYKES - Lufkin, TX - The first order of business is to enclose my dues to *The Dixie Ranger* for 1994. Tied to this is our wish that the New Year will be kind and gentle to all of you!

You had asked all the members to send their extended ZIP code. Our code changed in recent months—so notice, 75904-4805 is our current code. You also asked for spouses' names. Lucky me!! Mattie and I have been married 39 years.

This has been sort of a stay at home year. We attended Mattie's family reunion at Terry, Mississippi (just south of Jackson) at Easter. Then in mid-June our entire family headed to Colorado for 2-weeks (Durango, Gunnison, Estes Park areas). The "family" is three daughters, two son-in-laws, three grandchildren, Mattie and me.

Had some beautiful flower beds this year until moles decided to tunnel through most of the beds. Squirrels dug frantically destroying what was remaining. There was hardly anything left for the slugs, snails, spider mites and white flies.

"Keep those cards and letters and *The Dixie Ranger* coming!!!

**BOBBY AND BILL BRYAN** - Stone Mountain, GA - Each time we received a Christmas card from old friends we kinda dreaded the opening. Some of them told of the death of some old and very dear friends. Others told of miraculous near misses. These near misses should make all of us thankful for the medical wonderments that are being wrought. One old friend in apparent good health on his way to Mexico ended up in Albuquerque with internal bleeding. He lost 28 pints of blood but he's on the mend!

Gloria Padgett told us of the passing of her husband, Bob Padgett. He died at home, in Horse Cove, Highlands, NC, Thanksgiving Day. Bob and I started our permanent Forest Service careers as J.F.'s on the Tuscaloosa and Oakmulgee Ranger Districts in 1952. We all lived at an old resort-hotel complex called Gary Springs just north of Centreville. Bob and Gloria were honeymooners and we had four small sons, the oldest being six.

The Padgett's lived in a very small cabin (cottage) heated with a monkey stove and as Bob told it in his humorous way "you'd be amazed how much heat a hundred watt light bulb puts out!"

The Bryan's and Padgett's paths crossed many times in the next forty years. One thing you could say for sure—they didn't give Bob his red hair for nothing! You also knew exactly where you stood with Bob and how he felt. He took on the Forest Service over even age management after his retirement and I for one had to agree with his right to disagree even though I disagreed with his management philosophy of uneven age management. Bob had a very good background of experience as District Ranger and did have considerable timber management experience contrary to the belief of some folks.

Bob was our friend and we'll miss him very much!

The passing of Don Morriss was noted in the last *Dixie Ranger*. His death brought back a flood of memories of our North Carolina assignment from 1954 to 1957. The memories for the most part were very happy. Don as Forest Supervisor was a mover and shaker. I learned much in timber management from Don and others.



Bob Pearl, in a past *Dixie Ranger*, mentioned that many good forest management techniques and practices were developed in North Carolina. I have to agree wholeheartedly. Don was the pusher for many of these happenings.

Sometime in the future I plan to write about some of my experiences in North Carolina (designed to protect the innocent and at least some of the guilty).

We took in the "Fantasy of Lights" at Callaway Gardens just before Christmas, 1993. It was fabulous and makes for a great overnight outing. If you didn't see it this past year, plan to do it in 1994.

(Bill, strange that you should mention this, but Bert and I went to the "Lights" show and ran into Jean Brands and a lady from my church there in Decatur. It is well worth seeing!)

**JAMES B. CARTWRIGHT** - Charleston, SC - Last night on TV I watched George Burns talk/sing "Old Bones" and he was magnificent. What a performance! His main theme was: "I'd like to do it again." There have been some things in my 86 years that I would not care to repeat but, for the most part, I, too, would like to do it again. It was great to associate with the Forest Service people that I worked with over the years. So few of my generation are left. It means so much to keep in contact through *The Dixie Ranger*.

I have slowed down a lot but still keep going. I made two trips to Pennsylvania and one to California this past year. I have written some poems and done some wood carving. I look forward to warm weather and expect to roam around some more. I have paid a couple visits to the Wambaw Ranger District and been toured around over some of my old stamping ground. A lot of changes since Doug Craig and I established an office in a room over Ward's Drug store in McClellanville back in 1946. We had the first and only telephone in town, line built by a F.S. crew.

Corona, CA seems an awfully long way to send Forest Service historical items. I have given most of mine to the Forest Supervisor's office in Columbia, SC. and the Wambaw R.D. office in McClellanville for their local archives. They were received with enthusiasm. I still have some diaries from the 30s and 40s along with some other items that Harvey Mack listed.

On a recent tour of the Francis Marion I mentioned the monthly F.S. family fish fries we used to hold at the Huger recreation area. The reaction was: "Hey, great idea. We need to revive that!" I hope they do.

I am pained by the present low morale of the Forest Service in which I was always proud to serve.

**JOHN COURTENAY** - Lufkin, TX - Once again I must be the bearer of sad tidings. The enclosed obit gives the details of the death of Jim Hutchins. A lot of Forest Service people, both present and former, attended his funeral.

Jim went rather quickly. He was a member of our "Wednesday Afternoon Riders Association" (Al Hays, Clint Sykes, Jim and myself). He was the driver on Wednesday, October 13th and was his usual self, went into the hospital Wednesday, the 20th (October) and died the morning of October 21. He leaves a vacancy in our elite group that will be impossible to fill.

Jeanette and I are doing fine. Keeping busy doing volunteer work (hospital, Boy Scouts, Forestry Museum) and visiting grandkids.

Had a pleasant visit a week ago with Ed and Marge Ellenberg who were passing through on their way back to Tennessee.

Keep *The Dixie Ranger* coming, we enjoy it.

**BILL HESS** - Buford, GA - Cheryl and I continue to travel frequently. Our oldest son Glen and his family transferred to Carson City, Nevada, this summer. Glen is a Civil Engineer/Hydrologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. His wife, Mary Joe, was working as a Writer/Editor with the F.S. office in Atlanta. We had a great time in the Sierra's hiking and catching cutthroat trout in nearby Pyramid Lake.

I talked to Frank Ferrarelli while visiting in Nevada. He is enjoying retirement in Reno.

While watching the Southern California brush fires on TV, it brought back many memories of the many fires I worked on when stationed on the Cleveland NF in 1959-1961. I was impressed with all the new safety clothing and equipment firefighters are using today. In 1959 the Santa Anna's played hell with us and we lost 5 firefighters on the "Docker(?) Fire" in Orange County. I believe better safety equipment might have been helpful then.

**BOB HITT** - Marietta, GA - We're traveling a bit. Have sold our townhouse and are building another winterized cottage on our Wisconsin land. Atlanta area will still be home-base, however. Just back from an Elderhostel in California. Also did Isle Royale last summer.

**ELIOT ZIMMERMAN** - Fort Myers, FL - Not much news from here. We are still plugging along in Florida where more and more people are being attracted by the weather and the beaches. Right now we are experiencing the busiest Thanksgiving week-end in our history. Keep up the good work. We appreciate your efforts.



**BRUCE MERRILL** - Englewood, FL .Thanks for reminding me my subscription had expired. I always enjoy reading about what's going on among the people I worked with and around for so many years.

I keep busy here with a large yard, a couple of dozen citrus and fruit trees, and two vegetable gardens a year (you can do that down here), plus visiting and being visited by my five children and two grandsons.

I think you're doing a great job with *The Dixie Ranger* and have my sincerest thanks.

**JACK GODDEN** - Milwaukee, WI - Thank you so much for your letter of November 24, Betty, with copy of the May issue of *The Dixie Ranger*. I appreciated your comments about my "one pager" on Early Meals on the fireline. I was hoping I would rouse up B. W. Chumney to write me, or better yet get him to write some of his tales about Tellico Plains. I will send him a personal note and anything more I write on the Cherokee for his comments.

I enjoyed reading your May issue. Although I spent only two years on the Cherokee, (then two years on the Cumberland—then part of old R-7), I searched the issue for names of the living and deceased who were legends to me in my younger days, and some of whom I've stories to tell. The legendary includes Ray Conarro, Bill Bergoffen, Bill Huber; the old Cherokee crowd (and still living) Bill Paddock, Paul Russell, B. W. Chumney, the death of John B. Spring who succeeded Bill Paddock on the Cherokee in 1955, and Tom Hunt (who was someone special to me and my family). And there were some younger ones—Walt Guerrero (who finally joined your membership), Roger Hatch (always busy and still full of energy from his reporting), and Jim Wenner. Keep Jim writing. He abounds with personal interest in preserving Forest Service history and is an excellent researcher and writer. I had the opportunity to "share" Jim's abilities when he worked on the White Mountain National Forest and we began an intensive Visitor Information Service program in 1962.

Over the winter months I'll try putting together some of my "shorts" on the Cherokee. There are stories to tell about Tom Hunt (who use to trade me bonded whiskey for the "best shine" from McMinn and Polk Counties); Chumney—the Ellis boys, Wauchesi Mountain; Joe Floyd—Lookout on Buck Bald; Paul Russell—and his continued insistence he could ford all the creeks on the District; John B. Spring who had a nick name given him by the locals, said to be from his younger years on the Cherokee. I'll run these by Chumney and maybe we can share these experiences with *The Dixie Ranger* if there's space and staff desire for these historical notes. (Yes, there is interest, please send them).

Keep up the good work. There are many "Thank You's" out there from your readers that you'll never know or hear from. Believe me they appreciate something in their mailbox that rekindles some fond memories of their past years with the Forest Service family.



BOB NEELANDS - St. Augustine, FL - Once again *The Dixie Ranger* is on hand, and once again attests to the tender efforts you both put into its publication. It really means a great deal to a lot of folks, I'm sure, to keep up with the doings and thoughts of those we knew (or didn't know) during the Forest Service years. In these days of "entitlements", you each are entitled to one more gold star for your crowns.

I was surprised and a bit dismayed to read that you are having a constant struggle to get in enough letters to fill up the *Ranger's* pages. This is a bit hard to understand, for it would be a good bet that almost anyone who would take the time could recall endless situations that would make interesting reading. These could be of some emotional experience (who could forget Bill Bergoffen's poignant telling his "radio" story?), or something funny that happened, as in my attempts to describe some happening or other that appealed to my warped sense of humor. My guess is that hardly a day (or a week) went by in either office or field that wouldn't yield up a good yarn of great interest.

As to my efforts to produce lightweight space fillers for the DR, more are available, tho I hesitate to give the impression I'm trying to monopolize the pages. But I was lucky enough to be on hand when a lot of funny things occurred, and I enjoy passing them on to those that knew the individuals or the situations. There are so many of them that I never have to make anything up. Let me know if you are in the market for more of such future issues. (Yes, Bob, we're always in the need for articles. Please send them to us. I enjoy laughing while I type!)

ROGER HUFF - Atlanta, GA - Enclosed are my dues. Surely do enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* even though very few names of friends of mine appear in the DR. Time has been good to me and I would have attended the Christmas party if I hadn't realized the date had passed when I thought about it. Regards to all my friends with whom I worked during the period 1933-1952 when I transferred to the IRS Forestry group.

BARRY NEHR - Atlanta, GA - Hello Betty, also to Bert, Leroy, Bill, Lee, Keith, and Margaret. Now that looks like a very reputable Board of anything except for Keith Grest. My guess is that he will ramrod everything or he will be fast asleep at the meetings. Thanks for the reminder that my dues are overdue. Inclosed is a check to remedy that.

You all have been doing a great job with *The Dixie Ranger* and I do look forward to reading it, especially Bob Neelands' contributions. I was there for at least one of the stories about Al Pepper and I am pretty sure I can come up with a few more. I visited Bob and Frances in St. Augustine about mid-November. He looks the same, except maybe a little more wrinkled, bronzed and leathery from the Florida sun.

I have been busy painting paintings for the art gallery at Dahlonega, GA (Hummingbird Lane) and doing large murals for various exhibits. I am in cahoots with an exhibit company in Alabama that has been giving me plenty of work, some of which is Forest Service exhibits. I'm scheduled to do a big one on the Angeles NF near Los Angeles, CA., in April in a new visitor center, if it hasn't burned up yet.

**FRANK AND ETHEL HOTARD** - Russellville, AR - We enjoy *The Dixie Ranger* in keeping up with friends. Frank is doing very well for a man of 81 years. Not talking too well but is able to take care of himself and that's something to be thankful for. Keep up the good work.

**BOB LARKEY** - Thanks for the reminder about dues. Time is going too fast. It does not seem that I have been retired for 5 years.

I would not want to miss receiving this contact with many people that I had the privilege of knowing and working with. *The Dixie Ranger* gives me information that I could not otherwise get. For example, Bill Bryan gave us a good report on the Cabanisses and Hambricks in Russellville, and on my old District—"Bayou Bluff looked great with plenty of water".

Jane and I stay busy doing something. People ask what we have been doing and I say busy, but it is hard to explain with what we are busy. For one thing, we spend part of our time in the Philippines doing missionary work. We will be leaving for the Philippines again in January 1994, for a stay of up to six months. Our daughter Bobbie, her husband, and 2 of our grandchildren are there as full time missionaries. We will be teaching in their Bible school and holding seminars. If anyone would like to have a guest speaker in your church let us know. We like to travel and tell about our experiences in the Philippines, which is one of the things that keeps us "busy".

**BOB AND HARRIET THATCHER** - Asheville, NC - Thanks for nudging me about catching up with my dues. My usual drill is to read and enjoy *THE DIXIE RANGER* then neglect to do my "duty".

This has been a busy year in our household. I continue to be involved with SAMAB (Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program) where I serve as Secretary and member of the Board of Directors for the Foundation. This enables me to maintain some professional contacts with organizations concerned with natural resource management and economic development in a six-state area.

I am also active in the local NARFE Chapter where I serve as Service Officer and in the U.S. Forest Service Retirees' Association (NC) where I serve as Treasurer. Unfortunately, this latter organization has now gone out of business due to lack of support. We have contributed our bank balance (over \$400) to the Cradle of Forestry to be used for environmental education in the new Discovery Center. I have also urged our members to join the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association if they are not already members.



This has been a year of getting together with family. In April, Harriet's two sisters and a brother-in-law came down from Vandalia, Ohio, and Cold Spring, New York, for a week's visit. We spent much of our time together in Charleston, SC, enjoying that beautiful city.

In July, our oldest son Tom brought his two children up from Houston for a visit. We managed to take in Chimney Rock Park, Grandfather Mountain, Looking Glass Falls/Sliding Rock, and graveyard fields with time for swimming. Boy, did their eyes "bug out" when they got in that cold water!

In late August, I joined my sister (from Manlius, NY) in Harlingen, TX. We helped Mom move from a mobile home park to a very nice retirement center. We were all delighted with this change and Mom continues her activities in her church and community.

Then in October, Harriet and I drove out to Grand Island, NE, to visit our oldest daughter, her husband and two granddaughters. It was a grand visit and we seemed to be on the go every minute. We stopped on the way back in Kansas City to visit former Asheville neighbors.

In November, we got together with our younger son and his family in Walhalla, SC, and with our younger daughter and her husband who lives in Edneyville, NC. I also attended the National Silviculture Workshop at Kanega (near Hendersonville, NC) and the 4th annual SAMAB conference in Gatlinburg, TN.

To keep us busy in between times, Harriet has been very active in watercolor painting, working on crafts for a fund-raiser at Memorial Mission Hospital, and bowling. I have been involved with Men's Club and the Vision Builders society at our church, meals-on-wheels, and the Seniors in the Schools program at UNCA. We both continue our involvement with the Blue Ridge Neighbors (formerly The Welcome Wagon of Asheville). This has led to some lasting friendships with people from all over the country who have moved to and grown to love these mountains.

We are so pleased to hear of the ramblings of so many Forest Service friends in your newsletter. Keep up the good work.

GEORGE FOX - Portersville, PA - Hello from the North Country! I had made a mental note sometime back that it was time to pay some dues funds for *The Dixie Ranger*, so here is my check for a couple more years plus a little more for some of your other needs. This is a good time to catch up on some less routine matters as it is not a good time to have to be outdoors unless it is absolutely necessary. Twas only -6°F here this A.M. Sunday morning January 16 it was -18°F which is cold in anyone's language. Have probably 15 inches or more of snow. It really is hard to tell how much



there is because of the way it drifts due to the wind. Any way you look at it, there is a lot of snow this year in Western Penna. An area to the South of us received 33 inches from a recent storm which gave us about 15 inches. It is good for the folks who like to ski if they can get to the slopes. My wife (Carolyn) and I have had no problems keeping warm, have plenty to eat and remain in quite good health. Still cut the firewood for a woodburning furnace. It supplements the oil heat. Had a big crop of fruit last year, particularly apples and peaches. Gave many of them away to friends and neighbors, but there were many that did not get picked.

We try to feed the birds some when conditions become hard for them and for a couple of weeks now we have noticed a lone Robin mixing in with the Cardinals, Juncos, Doves, and other species. Seems like this could be the basis for an interesting story. Hope he/she makes it through the winter.

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The Annual Picnic of Forest Service Retirees from all over who may be in Florida are cordially invited to the gathering at noon on Thursday, April 7 at the Oscar Scherer State Park, near Osprey US 41, south of Venice, FL. Bring your own utensils, refreshments and food to share.

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#### **ATTENTION RETIREES IN THE ATLANTA AREA...**

...on the last Tuesday of each month there is an informal gathering for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at Matthews Cafeteria in Tucker, GA. on Main Street. No program, just good ole fellowship! Come join this group.

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

*Harold J. Ackerman, 70, died on November 2, 1993, at the University of Alabama Birmingham Hospital. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Cassie; three daughters and 6 grandchildren. Mr. Ackerman lived in Birchwood, Cleveland, TN.*

*Ruth Gray, wife of Walter Gray, passed away December 23 in Atlanta, GA. Interment was in Hamilton, Ohio.*

James Parker Hutchins, 72, of Lufkin, TX, passed away on October 21. He was a district ranger for the Angelina National Forest and retired from the Forest Service in 1977 after 31 years of service. Survivors include his wife, Camille; three sons and one daughter.

James "Bob" Padgett, 68, of Highlands, NC, died November 25 at home. Bob worked for the Forest Service for 33 years on various National Forests. Among them the Talladega NF in Alabama; Ozark National Forest in Paris, AR; Mississippi at Hattiesburg, and the Highlands Ranger District on the Nantahala. He also worked on flood prevention on the Yazoo-Little Tallahatchie Watershed in New Albany, MS. He also held various forestry positions in Asheville, Atlanta, and Harrisonburg, VA. He retired in 1981.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Gloria Bass Padgett; two sons and six grandchildren.

Ruth Schaap, 92, widow of former ranger Lester P. Schaap, died in Snellville, GA. on November 7. The couple served on numerous forests throughout Region 8 including the old Choctawhatchee NF in Florida which later was taken over by the Air Force in WWII and converted into Eglin Air Force Base. They also served on the Apalachicola NF, the Conecuh, the DeSoto, Nantahala and ended their Forest Service career on the Andrew Pickens RD of the Sumter NF where they lived for 15 years. Mrs. Schaap is survived by her daughter, Elaine McConnell, who was the former Regional Librarian in the Regional Office.

#### NECROLOGY

For those of you who may be keeping up with the Necrology published in 1992, here is a re-cap of the 1992 and 1993 year.

##### 1992

Constance B. Tiller	June 18
Luther B. Colbaugh	October 10
Elizabeth H. Plumb Lowndes	October 20
Erma Miller	November 6
Asa Coleman, Jr.	December 8

1993

Maude P. Cartwright	January 11
Arthur B. Collins, Jr.	January 29
Lewis G. Whipple	February 27
Dorothy F. Albert	March 12
Arva S. Cloward	March 20
Gaylord A. Knight	April 9
Bennett B. Foster	April 20
Sally Kent	July 9
Rose Fischer	July 12
Naomi Cox	August 20
Donald J. Morriss	August 22
F. Henry Sipe	September 17
Fred Ames	September 28
Opal M. McKinley	September 30
Olene V. Woody	October 5
James P. Hutchins	October 21
Harold J. Ackerman	November 2
Ruth Schaap	November 7
James "Bob" Padgett	November 25
Ruth Gray	December 23
Lucile C. Scott	December 27

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**SMOKEY AT 50** - - These days Smokey Bear belts out his timeless message "gyrating to a rap beat and wearing a gold chain, a baseball cap and sunglasses." Smokey, whose 50th anniversary celebration extends to August, has adapted the way he sends out his message to fit the times and interests of kids—his target audience.



## CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make the following changes to the Directory:

Anderson, Louis B. from Fredericksburg, VA to  
Twin Lakes Center  
3758 Seabury Court  
Burlington, NC 27215

Clapp, Mrs. Cecil  
1111 Royal Tower Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35209

Faulkner, Clifford R. from 9 E. Royal Palm Ave to  
217 E. Washington Ave  
Lake Placid, FL 33852-6254

Fox, Walt (Hasn't moved, just named the road for E911)  
450 Foxy Lane  
Martin, GA 30557

Helms, Jim from Franklin, NC to  
Rt 4, Box 463B  
Dadeville, AL 36853

Hitt, Bob Phone: 404 951-1273  
779 Denard's Mill  
Marietta, GA 30067

Lovin, Gus from Rt 3 to  
417 Rafter Road  
Tellico Plains, TN 37385

Sykes, Clinton from 75901 to  
1418 Sleepy Hollow  
Lufkin, Texas 75904-4835

Add the following phone number:

Frances Stewart 404 728-0378. Also add 2545 to 30329

Add these names—new members—WELCOME!

Alcock, Jack  
1111 Redfield Terrace  
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Cravens, Jay  
2732 N. Shepard Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
Phone: 414 964-7127

Higginbotham, Patrick  
2453 Elizabeth Ann Lane  
Atlanta, GA 30324

Moody, Claude J.  
348 Davors Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
Phone 205 279-8740

McCormack, Vince  
464 Rock Meadow Dr.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30088 Phone: 404 469-0536

Rich, John  
1957 Haywood Road  
Apt. 2  
Hendersonville, NC 28739 Phone 704 696-3929

#### RETIREMENTS

William S. Craig, Recreation Staff Officer, Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests in SC, retired December 3, 1993, after 32 years of service.

Joseph A. Guss, Director, Fiscal and Law Enforcement, RO

Richard F. Lukes, Trinity District Ranger, Davy Crockett NF, retired on January 3.

George Palmer, Facilities Group Leader, Eng, RO, retired 1/3/94 after 32 years of service.

Elwyn F. (Al) Pepper, after 45+ years with the Forest Service, has decided to retire. Al worked as International Visitor/Information Programs, RO.

Lester M. Pence, Jr., Highway Engineer, Engineering, RO

Dan Sims, Hardwood/Tropical Forestry Specialist, Cooperative Forestry, RO, retired on January 8 after 27 years of service.

Tony Dorrell, Director, Cooperative Forestry, WO, after 40 years of service will retire on February 3.

Robert O. Harllee, Timber Staff Officer, Savannah River Forest Station, retires February 28.

Dave Ketcham, Staff Director, WO Environmental Coordination, will retire on February 3.

Gene A. Sirmon, Timber, Soil, Water, and Air Staff Officer, NFs in Mississippi, retired on January 3.

Harland Welch, Forest Engineer, NFs in Mississippi

Gene A. Jackson, Range, NFs in Mississippi

Robert Spivey, Director, Recreation, Range, Wildlife & Landscape Management, R-9, retired in January after 37 years of service.

Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, Tyger RD, Sumter NF, retired after almost 35 years of service.

Recent Personnel Actions throughout the Service that may interest you:

Chief Thomas named Gray Reynolds as the next Deputy Chief for NFS. Mr. Reynolds was Regional Forester in Region 4. He takes over the helm vacated by James Overbay who retired on February 3.

The following are new Supervisors in Region 8:

Bradley Powell, Daniel Boone NF

Randle Phillips, NFs in North Carolina

Karl Siderits, NFs in Florida

George Martin, Chattahoochee-Oconee NF

\* \* \* \* \*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
JAN-DEC, 1993

1/1/93 Balance Forward	\$1,851.45
Income (Dues & Donations)	2,274.75
Total	\$4,126.20
Expenses	
Printing	\$1,961.54
Postage	408.35
Door Prizes	321.97
Misc.	6.37
Total	\$2,698.23
Balance 12/31/93	\$1,427.97

Proposed Budget for 1994

Expenses	
Printing	\$1,570.00
Postage	280.00
Door Prizes	75.00
Misc.	100.00
Total	\$2,025.00
Projected income for 1994:	
169 members @ \$8 each=	\$1,352.00
Carryover from 1993	1,427.97
Total	\$2,779.97



## NOTES FROM ACTING REGIONAL FORESTER MARVIN MEIER

"Reinventing the government" is the intriguing catchword that you'll frequently see in newspapers this year. What will it mean for the Forest Service? In January, a "Reinvention Team" in Washington posed the same question to employees and outside groups and individuals. "If we do not effectively capture the moment, our reinvention may be done for us," the team noted. The team will look "holistically at the Forest Service to determine what changes are needed to better serve the people today and tomorrow and what is working well today that should be retained. Potential change ranges from new authorizing legislation to new organizational structure. We have been asked about sacred cows and the Chief says there are none. The Chief feels an opportunity like this rarely comes along and that forces are in alignment for accomplishing change."

In addition to employee input, the team welcomes outside ideas. They will be reviewing employee input before this issue of *The Dixie Ranger* reaches most of you, but if you have some ideas you would like the committee to consider, send them to:

Forest Service - USDA  
Forest Service Reinvention Team  
P. O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

The Team asks respondents "to think broadly in space, time, and scope regarding your ideas about the Forest Service of the future." The Team promises "we will seriously consider and use information submitted in response to this request." To help us with this important work, please make sure, regardless of the content of your reply, that you provide the following information: Your name and address; identify yourself (i.e., as a member of the Retirees Association).

The Team is looking for ideas:

1. Identification of issues, concerns, and opportunities. Topics could include organizational purpose, culture, work, outcomes and structure.
2. Scenarios for the Forest Service future. Describe the preferred Forest Service of the future, addressing elements such as organizational, purpose, culture, work, outcomes and structure, and describe strategies that create this preferred Forest Service of the future.

What better group of people is there to address these points than our retirees, with years of experience and maturity of judgment. We welcome your input.

\* \* \* \* \*

### FERNBANK MUSEUM CELEBRATES SMOKEY BEAR'S FIFTY YEARS

He's a national celebrity who still has all his hair and is a diehard champion for his cause; his face and name are so well known that he is an American icon to several generations. To mark his golden anniversary, the Forest Service is sponsoring an exhibition that opened February 4 and will continue through March 14 at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

The exhibition, which includes a retrospective of original Smokey art, including posters, videos and memorabilia, encompasses three galleries. This is Fernbank's first traveling exhibition, and after closing in Atlanta, the next stops are Dallas, April 1-30; Los Angeles, May 15-June 15; New York, July 1-Aug. 1; Washington, Aug. 9-Sept. 15; and Chicago, Oct. 24-Jan. 4.

The exhibition encompasses three galleries. The first focuses on Smokey and brings the visitor into a woodland setting with displays of original art and memorabilia.

The second gallery is aimed at children and provides an overview of America's forests. The focus then narrows onto one forest, then one tree and finally on what things live in, underneath and beneath that tree. The third gallery features a "wall of fire" with video footage from some of the recent wildfires in California. It illustrates the concepts of good fire and bad fire in nature. In this gallery, children can visit a ranger station, where they can watch videos of the Old Smokey Saturday morning cartoon show and get information about the Forest Service's Junior Ranger Program.

PREVIEW: "Happy Birthday, Smokey: A 50-Year Retrospective of Original Smokey Bear Art".  
9a.m.-6p.m. Mondays-Saturdays; noon-6 p.m. Sundays.  
\$5.50, \$4.50 students and seniors, children under 2 and museum members free.  
Fernbank Museum of Natural History, 767 Clifton Road, N.E.  
370-0960.

The history of Smokey bear is important, but the future is even more important, and for that reason much of the exhibition is aimed at children to give them a clear idea of what this American icon represents.

Harry Rossoll, retiree, was featured in *The Atlanta Journal*, *The Atlanta Constitution* on February 2. Harry was the Forest Service's Southern Region artist who came up with the idea for the forest fire-fighting bear in 1943, and drew Smokey's weekly public-service cartoon for newspapers for 35 years. "The problem was trying to say how to prevent forest fires in a thousand different ways," says the 84-year old Rossoll. Harry retired in 1971 and now operates a commercial art studio in Decatur, GA.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ABOUT DUES...

If you notice a red mark across the lower right hand corner of the address label on your newsletter...your dues are paid only through 1993. Dues are \$8.00 per year, payable in January. And when you pay your dues, how about a note from you. To open an envelope and find only a check is very disappointing.

\* \* \* \* \*

In keeping with Betty's urging regarding dropping us a note or letter, or even better, stories typical of how things were, I feel compelled to bring you up-to-date with our goings-on.

Foremost in our minds is the threat of the highway in front of our house being four-laned in the near future, with a 46-foot median (what a waste of land), and all the new R/W is coming off our front yard. The subdivision across the way sure has pull.

In a happier vein, Betty and I finally got to Alaska, sailing south after flying into Anchorage. Everyone should do this sometime. And, leaving New Year's Day, and missing all the Bowl games, we flew to Jamaica, boarded the same ship again, and visited 'Land of the Maya' Mexico at Cozumel, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. The Tikal ruins cover 200 square miles, and were discovered by a Wrigley's forester looking for Chicle trees. I did not climb the pyramids this time!!

I keep looking for Don Hughes on my short-wave radio. Understand he is quite active on marine assistance bands. Don't know if he is a D.X.er (trying to reach new countries). I'm hooked in that regard and now have credit for 290. At our latest tally, Betty and I have visited forty-one of them, counting the little bitty islands.



## QUESTIONNAIRE

The Board of Directors are trying various ways to get your input on what you would like to see featured in *The Dixie Ranger*. Would you please take a moment and answer the questions?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

What's New with Me? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(This can be travel, hobbies, volunteering, outside employment, etc.)

What Forest Service Retiree have I seen lately? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see *The Dixie Ranger* feature this on a regular basis, or frequently, or once a year \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

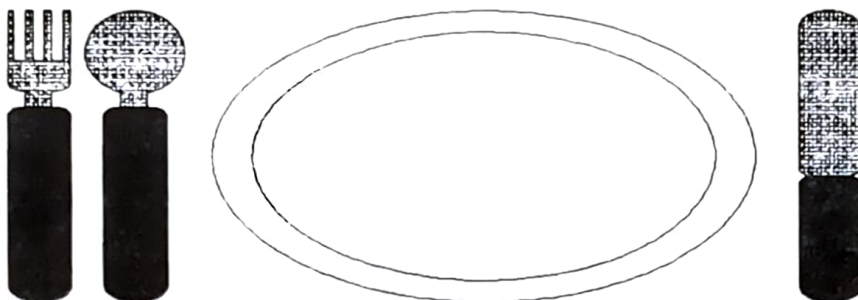
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to write a story of an incident that happened to me while an employee of the Forest Service.

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Please mail this questionnaire direct to: Bert and Betty Bray, Editors, *The Dixie Ranger*, 1973 E. Hwy 34, Newnan, GA 30265-1327



### REMEMBER

March 17 is the date of our next luncheon. The time is 12 noon at the Petite Auberge Restaurant in Toco Hills Shopping Center. Come early for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$9 per person. Please call Andrea at 347-4178 by no later than Tuesday, March 15 to make reservations. See you there!

Dixie Ranger  
So.F.S. Retirees Association  
Suite 850, 1720 Peachtree Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30367-9102

Bulk Rate  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit # 259  
Decatur, GA  
30030

MCCONNELL, JAMES L.  
3699 WENTWORTH LN  
LILBURN, GA 30247