



THE DIXIE RANGER

Published by the Southern Forest Service Retirees Association
Vol. XXXI No. 1
February 2001

DRIVE YOUR STAKE HERE

By Robert M. Laval

President:

John Lamb

Vice-President:

Mike Sparks

Sec.-Treasurer:

Betty Bray

Directors:

Robert Johns (01)

Joyce Keith (02)

Winston Smith (03)

Ex-Officio:

Robert Bowers

Editors:

Bert & Betty Bray

E-Mail:

Brayira@aol.com

Phone:

770.253.0392

Address:

70 Wilkes Court
Newnan, GA
30263-6124

Dues: \$8 per year

In this issue:

- ☐ Financial Statement..... 3
- ☐ NFSRA.....4
- ☐ You've Got Mail.....11
- ☐ Welcome New
Members.....16
- ☐ In Memoriam 17
- ☐ Change18
- ☐ Test Your Memory.....20
- ☐ 25th Anniversary.....22

In the 1970's I was Ranger on the Choctaw RD of the Ouachita NF with Alvis Owen as Supervisor. Jim Wenner was Recreation Staff and Raleigh Meadows was Forest Engineer. We were in the process of planning and building the Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center along the Talimena Drive. I want to tell a story that is true but really hard to believe unless you were there. We needed a source of water for the new facility and the geologists told us that the place we had picked for construction likely had no underground water source of a volume needed for the project. Our engineers said we needed at least 10 gallons per minute from a well. Alvis said he knew a fellow in the Washington Office who was a water diviner and would ask him to come locate water for us. My job would then be to have a well drilled. The big day came and the WO fellow (George Vidas) showed up with Alvis and as you would imagine, for an event like this, there were representatives from engineering, recreation, landscape, timber and 2 District Rangers to see this spectacle.

Mr. Vidas was told we needed at least a well that would produce 15 gallons of water per minute close to the site. He stood in the proposed parking lot and took out a glass marble wrapped in a piece of plastic attached to a 10" string. He held it in his left hand and pulled it to the right with his right hand about 6" and turned it loose. He watched it swing for a few seconds and then said there was no source with this much water nearby. Alvis told him to find what he could. He then took out two pieces of 3/8" diameter fiber glass rod, which were held together with tape on one end. He pointed these up in the air in front of him, turned in a circle until the rods pointed down then headed off through the woods with the rods pointing in front of him with all of us behind. We walked about 75 yards and the rods suddenly pointed down. He said "Drive your stake here." He then took out the marble again, went through the same routine for 3 or 4 times and said we would find 5 gal/min at about 130 feet. Alvis asked him to locate a second close source. He went through the same thing and walked about 200 yards in another direction across the parking lot and said, "Drive your stake here." He said this hole was to produce 5 gal/min at

150 feet. I asked him how the marble could determine this information. He said he asked the marble questions in his mind as it swung. If it continued to swing back and forth, the answer to his question was "no"; if it began to swing in a circle, the answer was "yes". In other words, he asked the question "is the water between 75 and 100 feet?" and depending on the marble, closed the depth down until the marble went in a circle. He did the same to determine the amount of water available at that depth. They then left and I hired a well driller. The two wells were drilled within 3 weeks and we found 5 gal/min within 5 feet of where he said it would be in both locations.

Our engineers said that wasn't enough water so a few weeks later Alvis had George back for another try. This time we put no restrictions on him. All we said was for him to locate a good source of water as close to the site as possible. He started at the parking lot with his rods, made a circle and headed northwest through the woods up the side of a 45-degree slope pointing the rods straight ahead of him. Even more folks were tagging along this time. We climbed the side of the mountain with him stopping every 100 yards or so to circle the rods again. Each time they dropped pointing in the same direction. We walked almost a half-mile before the rods suddenly pointed straight down. He walked out at an angle then came back and the rods again pointed down at the same place. After a couple more checks, he said, "Drive your stake here". Then after a number of questions to the marble, he said, "you will find a vein of water at about 172 feet and another at 217 feet. This well will produce over 50 gallons of water per minute". The Engineers gasped with disbelief, the geologist said impossible and the rest of us scratched our heads. I had the well drilled and we found water at 168 feet but not as much as we wanted and another vein at 212 feet. The driller said, "There is a lot of water down there but we will have to blow the well with air to see how much". The test produced 70 gal/min over a 6-hour period. We cased the well, put in a pump house and a pipeline down to the site. We had to put a pressure reducer in the line because of the 500-foot drop down the mountain. The geologists still don't believe it.

• • •

LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2001

Please circle these dates June 14 and November 29 for luncheons in 2001. We had a great turnout for our December 2000 luncheon – 53 people attended. A postcard will be mailed to those in the Atlanta area and those within driving distance of Atlanta before the June 14 date. We're hoping we'll have at least 50 in attendance.

• • •

At the beginning of each year, on the first page of the newsletter is an "Address Correction Requested" printed on left hand side. We do that so that we can keep our mailing list up-to-date as this has to be certified with the post office. In the past, we were notified of the change of address and *The Dixie Ranger* was returned with the new address thereon and we paid \$.55 to get that information. Then we paid another \$.55 to send *The Dixie Ranger* to the new address. With the rate of first

class postage increase on January 7th, we're changing our way of obtaining address changes. We're now using "Change Service Requested" which means that we'll get an address change or reason for nondelivery and only be charged \$.50. You will not receive the original newsletter, but as soon as I get the address change, I'll send you one. But if any of you feel you did not get an issue, send me a post card and I'll send you one. Should you have a change of address, please keep us informed.

• • •

FINANCIAL STATEMENT **JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2000**

<u>Proposed</u>		<u>Actual</u>	
Printing	\$1600.00	Printing	\$1722.08
Postage	600.00	Postage	497.72
Door Prizes	200.00	Door Prizes	209.00
Miscellaneous	300.00**	Miscellaneous	235.30*
Interviews	<u>175.00</u>	Interviews	<u>398.63</u>
TOTAL	\$ 2875.00	TOTAL	\$3062.73

*Includes \$100 to FSFSX Club of Washington, DC and \$100 to National Museum of Forest Service History and an ink cartridge.

**Includes \$100 to FSX Club of Washington, DC and \$100 to National Museum of Forest Service History.

The over expenditure in Interviews covered the purchase of a transcribing machine.

Budget 2001

Printing	\$ 1800.00	Carryover from 1999	\$5812.65
Postage	600.00	Income	<u>\$3004.16</u>
Door Prizes	200.00	Total	\$8816.81
Miscellaneous	300.00	Less Expenses	<u>\$3062.73</u>
Interviews	<u>200.00</u>		
TOTAL	\$ 3100.00	Balance Forward 2001	\$5754.08

Approximate number of members who owe dues for 2001 – 168 @ \$8 =	\$1344.00
Balance Forward	<u>\$5754.08</u>
TOTAL	\$7098.08

• • •

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

I've learned –

that you can keep going long after you can't.

that heroes are the people who do what has to be done.

National Association of Forest Service Retirees

Here is the background on the formation of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees organization. I quote from Dick Pfilf's e-mail to our out-going President, Bob Bowers:

"During the Park City Forest Service reunion in 1996, representatives from the retirees clubs agreed to support a retirees web page. We also agreed that it would be only a communication device, and not a "national" organization. We underestimated the degree of electronic connections now among us throughout the country. We certainly did not envision the dramatic changes that the Forest Service is experiencing, both in its internal operations and its land management activities. The Administration's initiatives influenced individuals and retirees clubs to respond to proposals that appeared to be detrimental to the public interest, as it is reflected in the management of national forests. Some examples are: there was the New World Mine and the proposal to trade off National Forest land for the mineral rights; the Headwaters proposal in California with a similar land trade; the roadless area proposal; the proposed planning regulations; and the many critical evaluations of the Forest Service's administrative ability.

"All of these issues are of serious concern to retirees. Looking forward a few months with a new Administration, the Forest Service and its programs will be caught in the middle of a dramatic tug-of-war over the role and mission of the Forest Service and the management of the National Forests. In addition, the Forest Service will lose something like 40% of its employees through retirement in the next 5 years. This will leave it almost completely impoverished of the skills needed to run the outfit effectively. This will translate into even less effectiveness, which will leave the agency vulnerable to any political wind that comes along.

"We retirees can watch from the sidelines and wring our hands, or we can get positive and constructive and bring to bear the knowledge and experience we've gained throughout our careers. Some of our leaders, now retirees, such as Doug Leisz, Max Peterson and George Leonard, strongly urge retirees to organize on a national scale. They believe that there is a great potential to be of help by bringing to bear the knowledge and experience of those retirees that are highly qualified on any particular issue. They also believe that the situation calls for a national organization led by the leaders of the retirees group around the country."

National Association of Forest Service Retirees –

Situation: The Forest Service currently faces challenges to its responsibility for National Forest administration, forestry research, state and private forestry, and international forestry not seen since the early days of its formation. Lack of public confidence in the legitimacy of forestry, both as science and practice, is providing fertile ground for ideology and political expedience to dictate solutions to the forest resource issues presently facing the Country.

Purpose: The complexity of natural resource management options now and in the future calls for a better focus of experience and science. A non-profit, non-partisan, professional and science-based organization consisting of Forest Service retirees and others with germane training and experience is hereby established. Collectively, its members would provide sound and timely professional evaluation of critical issues involving forestry and its related specialties.

It will be able effectively to bring to bear the combined knowledge and experience in natural resource management, forestry research, and administrative capabilities residing in Forest Service retirees. It will engage in ongoing scientific, political, economic and social discussions concerning forestry and forest-based resources. It could assist the Forest Service in improving its overall performance and serve as a professional resource to advise the agency and other similar entities.

Operational Considerations:

The proposed organization shall observe and attend to current natural resource matters. It will support agency positions where appropriate and object to those that deviate from more appropriate scientific or operational practices. The organization will perform a constructive purpose as long as the objections are grounded to a sense of duty to the long-term public interest, as well as the established mission of the Forest Service.

The audience for information provided by the organization on any given issue can be the Forest Service, the Congress, the public and other professional groups interested and active in management of natural resources.

The Forest Service, while a professional organization, must be responsive to elected and appointed government as well as interest groups. NAFSR must deal in this political arena and still provide the best pertinent information to the general public, the Forest Service and interest groups concerned with natural resource issues.

The organization will define issues and provide a balanced professional response. It will select critical issues that it believes are not being addressed adequately, organize a qualified team or teams to evaluate each issue and present alternatives for resolution.

Charter: The National Association of Forest Service Retirees is a national, nonprofit organization of former Forest Service employees and associates with germane training, interests and experience. Members of the Association possess a unique body of knowledge, expertise and experience in the management of the National Forests, other public lands, forestry research, state and private forestry assistance, agency history, laws and regulations, and international forestry. They will actively devote themselves to contribute to understanding and resolving natural resource issues through periodic review and critiques of agency policies and programs.

The Association is the only private national organization dedicated to promoting the statutory responsibilities of the Forest Service and other natural resource agencies. By virtue of its inherent experience and ability, the Association will provide objective, non-bureaucratic, and non-ideological perspectives of forestry and other related land and natural resource issues.

The Body of the Association consists of:

*General membership consisting of Forest Service retirees, who are the voting members, and *Associate members who are retirees of related federal agencies, as well as others who are scientifically or technically trained. All members have the right to suggest issues to be addressed by NAFSR, and to provide inputs into issues the association may address. NAFSR will communicate with the members regarding action taken.

The Association is organized with an initially named Board of Directors (henceforth: Board) of retired Forest Service employees. For following vacancies, the Board Chair will appoint a nominating committee for existing and anticipated Board vacancies, whose nominees will be approved by a majority vote of the Board. There shall be at least one Director from each of the Forest Service Regional areas, chosen by a plurality vote of the voting members, and other at-large members as may be determined by the Board.

The initially named Board members* will serve two-year terms, after which NAFSR elections will be held. One-fourth of the initially elected members will serve a one year term, and one-fourth each for two, three, and four year terms. Terms of initially named Board members will be determined by random selection. Subsequent Board members will be elected for four-year terms.

The Board will appoint one member acting as legal counsel, and one Executive Facilitator from the Washington, D.C. area who will facilitate communication between Board members, the general membership, agencies and other interested parties, as well as organizing the drafting of issue papers. A Board Chair will be appointed for two-year terms by vote of the Board members.

The Board will:

1. Identify issues of importance needing action by the Association.
2. Be responsible for assembling a response team.
3. Manage the response team's efforts.
4. Approve the content of the response.
5. Target the response to appropriate audiences.
6. Appoint and determine appropriate compensation for officers and staff as the situation warrants. Officers must be Forest Service retirees. The Charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

The Association wholly supports the Forest Service and its basic mission, but it is completely independent of the Forest Service and the current political positions of any particular administration. The Association supports and encourages the application of sound forestry and other land management practices within existing statutes, while adhering to its Statement of Principles.

Statement of Principles: Regarding the operation of the Forest Service in the management of the National Forests, its Forestry Research, State and Private and International Forestry Program responsibilities –

- I. The National Forests are national assets that contribute to the social, economic and spiritual well being of the American people. Collectively, they have served as a model for forest management throughout the world.
- II. The National Forest lands constitute a heritage of every citizen and belong to every American. They should be managed to contribute to the economic and social health of the local communities within and surrounding them.
- III. National Forest lands should be managed as good neighbors of surrounding land owners and communities. Management should respect private property rights and represent the state of the art in resource protection and land management practices.
- IV. The statutory concepts of Multiple Use and Sustained Yield drive the National Forests. These concepts ensure that management of these lands best meets the needs of the American people. Values and needs change. It is the genius of these concepts that provide for an evolution in the balance of uses and values with changing times. These concepts of Multiple Use and Sustained Yield serve as a model for management of forests wherever they may contribute to the well-being of people.
- V. The National Forest Management Act specifies a land management planning process that provides a rational, systematic method for obtaining public involvement and scientific and professional analysis for adjusting land management to changing needs, uses and values. Land management land classification adjustments made outside the planning process should be the subject of Congressional action.
- VI. Public support of the Forest Service and its activities is essential. The American people are entitled to have input to its activities, with all public lands overseen and managed by highly professional and respected people.
- VII. Congress and the Administration need credible, professional advice to grapple with the complex issues surrounding management of the National Forests and other natural resource considerations.
- VIII. Forestry research and other Forest Service programs must be closely related to achieve state-of-the-art forest management. Research must be sufficiently independent to maintain credibility while respecting the decision-making responsibility of Forest Service program managers.
- IX. These Principles are best achieved by providing the Forest Service with strong, professional, non-partisan leadership.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

Membership: Members – individual Forest Service retirees

Associate members – Retirees from other related Federal agencies
and others having scientific and technical backgrounds

Board of Directors: Governing body of the Association comprised of Forest Service
retirees

Directors:

- Northern Rocky Mountain – James Freeman*
- Rocky Mountain – Charles Hendricks*
- Southwestern – Vacant*
- Intermountain – George Roether*
- Pacific Southwest – Lyle Shook*
- Pacific Northwest – John Marker*
- Southeast – Dave Jolly *
- Eastern – vacant*
- Alaska – John Sandor*
- Washington, D.C. – Robert Van Aken*
- At Large – Stan Krugman*
- At Large – Doug Leisz*
- At Large – George Leonard*
- At Large – Max Peterson*
- At Large – Dick Pfilf*
- At Large – Dale Robertson *
- At Large – Lawrence Whitfield*

Board Chair (determined by vote of Board members for 2-year terms):
Doug Leisz*

Officers (Appointed by the Board and serve at the pleasure of the Board):

Secretary/Treasurer: John Combes* (Responsible to and appointed by the Board)

Legal Counsel: Jim Perry* (Responsible to and appointed by the Board)

Executive Facilitator from the DC Area: Dick Pfilf* (Responsible to and appointed by
the Board)

Standing Committees (Established by the Board and responsible to the Board)

Ad Hoc Committees (Established by the Board and responsible to the Board)

Dues: The established dues are the minimum annual amounts. Members may choose to contribute more than the established minimums.

General (Voting) Membership	\$35
Associate (Non-Voting) Membership	\$25

Initial dues will count through year 2001.

*Initially named Board Members and Officers

If you would like to join this organization, please send your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and a brief background introduction to:

13401 Point Pleasure Dr.
Chantilly, VA 20151

• • •

COURT TAKES

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place:

Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five. I can't remember which.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

From Howard Burnett

• • •

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST REUNION

The fourth annual Forest Service reunion on the Kisatchie National Forest was held on Saturday, October 28, 2000, at the Catahoula Work Center. Retirees and current employees representing the Supervisor's Office, the Calcasieu District (previously the Evangeline and Vernon Districts), the Winn District and the Catahoula District were at the reunion. Those attending enjoyed a short video about current happenings on the forest as well as the personnel who make those things happen. Bobby Sebastian, Catahoula District Ranger, was on hand to host the occasion and answer any questions from the group. One of the highlights of the meeting, along with the video, was a round robin discussion about incidents out of the past – all being funny now even though they were not necessarily funny at the time.

Grace Briggs and Melvin Hataway were remembered and honored as retired Kisatchie employees who had passed away since the last reunion. Grace had requested that Forest Service employees dressed in uniform serve as pallbearers and honorary pallbearers at her funeral. Of course her wishes were granted, and it served to remind us that in some places the Forest Service is still considered "a family." Other retired or former Kisatchie employees mentioned who have recently passed away were Millie Jones, Angie Mule' and Hans Raum.

Jack Boren's photograph albums were on display again. He also brought some old Forest Service patches and other relics. Charles Turner shared his collection of Forest Service belt buckles. Everyone enjoyed viewing this memorabilia and some of it will be loaned to the Catahoula District for display in its office.

Everyone was treated to brisket, baked beans, potato salad, other side dishes and delicious desserts for lunch. Ernie Finger and Kay Erwin cooked the brisket and all agreed they did a great job. Most attendees brought a side dish or dessert, and if anyone went away hungry, it was their own fault.

The date for the next reunion was tentatively set for the first Saturday in April 2002. Carl and Shirley Wilhelm agreed to head up the committee to plan the next event. It was decided that we would skip the year 2001, and try having the reunion in the spring to see if there may be fewer conflicts. Anyone who has served on the Kisatchie or has friends who have are encouraged to mark their calendar and attend. We'll try to get the final date out early through *THE DIXIE RANGER*, but if not, and you hear about it some other way – just come on anyway. *Joyce Slater*

• • •

Reading This Could Save Your Life

Let's say it's 6:15 p.m. and you're driving home, (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home; unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. What can you do? You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course neglected to tell you how to perform it on yourself.

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed in order. Without help the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone and, between breaths, call for help. Tell as many other people as possible about this. It could save their lives!

From Health Cares, Rochester General Hospital via
Chapter 240's newsletter AND THE BEAT GOES ON...
(reprint from The Mended Hearts, Inc. publication, Heart
Response).



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Merlin Dixon, Homosassa Springs, FL – I was so very sorry to hear Tony Durkas had died. He was really a great guy, loyal employee and family man. Tony came to the Witherby Ranger District straight out of college. Bill Brandau was the Ranger at that time.

A few weeks after Tony came on board we had a foresters' meeting in Columbia. Brandau and I shared a room and started discussing the young forester, Durkas, who had an adjoining room. To test Tony we told him we had left our toothbrushes at home. We asked him to lend us his brush. Sure enough, Tony went to his room, got his toothbrush and returned, offering us his brush. Tony was the kind of guy who always helped his friends – even offered to lend them his personal toothbrush.

Jim Holbrook, Arden, NC – Since Roger Mizell was kind enough to give me a year's subscription to your newsletter, I would like to in turn give a good friend of mine, Jerry Marsh, a year's subscription, and also to pay for the year 2001 for myself.

A note of interest to some of the old timers. I'm active in the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Group and with 33 years with the Forest Service in North Carolina, I'd never heard of the Confederate Memorial Forest. I found reference to the Memorial Forest in a 1941 book on Asheville I was reading. I dug a little bit and look at what we found in the Pisgah District Office – a letter dated August 13, 1956, addressed to Mrs. R. N. Barber, Sr, United Daughters of the Confederacy and signed by Forest Supervisor, D. J. Morriss. The letter states that "under the terms of a cooperative agreement made on August 2, 1940, the UDC contributed \$625 to purchase 125,000 red spruce seedlings for the establishment of the memorial plantation of 125 acres. It was planted by the Forest Service in April 1941, April 1942, and April and May 1943." The letter continues: "The UDC may take pride in the wisdom of your selection of such an outstanding location and of this slow growing, but long lived, lovely tree. Generations in perpetuity should enjoy the beauty and utility of your most appropriate Memorial."

Our group hopes to have a re-dedication this spring. It's located just west of the Devil's Courthouse parking lot on the Blue Ridge Parkway and before you get to the Mt. Hardy overlook (elevation 6100').

W. V. McConnell, Tallahassee, FL – Thanks for keeping us all in touch with our past – and with the old Forest Service we loved and respected – now gone forever, I'm afraid. Would it be worthwhile for us retirees to make our views known on controversial issues? (*Good question, Mr. McConnell. Many may wish to join the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. There is strength in numbers-Editors*).

John Moser, Spring Hill, FL – Doug Leisz' letter is must reading to the world. He hit the nail right on the head. The billion dollars used to fight the fires would have been better spent reverting to our management practices in the '50's and '60's. The GDA's, forest workers, forestry assistance, etc., paid for themselves many times over. Every District had a great fire organization.

Nathan Byrd, Tucker, GA – Thanks for the fine job on *The Dixie Ranger*. I especially appreciated comments by Dale Robertson and the letter from Doug Leisz.

I was shocked to learn of Lewis Smith's death in August. I called his wife immediately and learned of his accident on US 441. Lewis was returning home with a load of "supers" from his bee stand with his son, Jay, when someone rounded a curve on Lewis' side of the road causing a head-on collision. Jay is OK now but both he and Lewis were separated from their seat belts upon impact (they broke).

We are well. I saw Dade Foote, beard and all, at the Yellow Daisy Festival in September at a booth he and his daughter had. He looked like Santa and in fact, plays Santa at the malls like Bob Hitt.

Dick Fitzgerald, Fairfax, VA – Enjoy reading *The Dixie Ranger* which I know must take quite an effort to put together. I've read with interest stories by former co-workers like Dave Jolly, Jim McConnell, Pat Int-Hout and others. The stories have brought back memories of times we shared in the past. Keep up the good work.

Bob Dodson, Altoona, FL – Here are dues for three more years of *The Dixie Ranger* and fond memories of a great outfit. Sorry to note the Forest Service movement from management to custodianship – but can't deny leadership involvement. Grateful I served in the good old days. Barbara and I are in good health and enjoying our grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Don and Bobbie Hughes, Port Charlotte, FL – Sure enjoyed your November *Dixie Ranger*. It is always good to see familiar names and read about how they are doing. If it were not quite so far to Atlanta we sure would like to boost your Christmas luncheon attendance. We feel so fortunate to be enjoying good health at our ages and be able to continue traveling and doing things. We sold our last cruising boat a couple years ago and now concentrate on the motorhome and Space Available travel on Military Aircraft. This past summer we drove to Nova Scotia, ferried to

Newfoundland and ultimately took a 12-day 2400 mile Government Coastal Freighter "Northern Ranger" up the Labrador Coast to Nain and return from St. Anthony, Newfoundland. It only has 23 cabins so we got to know all the passengers and crew. People in Newfoundland have to be rated the friendliest in the world. Accommodations were not luxury but very comfortable. More our kind of cruising! Spent most of our time on the bow watching for icebergs, whales, seals and puffins. The 236-foot freighter is nearly always in sight of land and travels far inland up fiord-like inlets to many small villages accessible only by water and gravel airstrips. Inhabitants are mostly Eskimo (Inuits), Indian (Innus) and descendants of early settlers. Sometimes the vessel passes through passages (they call them "tickles") so narrow you feel you can almost reach out and touch the rocks. Anyone interested in this experience may have to act soon. They are constructing a road part way up the Labrador coast and when this is opened in a couple years, the freight boat service is expected to be history. We would be glad to share information with anyone interested. Our email is n4eow@amsat.org Keep up the good work with *The Dixie Ranger*.

Carl Hoover, Little Rock, AR – Here's my check for three more years of your fine publication; like Don Peterson, we, too, list this paper on our high priority reading.

You all do such an excellent job of keeping up with the Forest Service folks and doings! Dale Robertson's speech at the 2000 Reunion was outstanding; a copy ought to be in every Congressman's "in" box.

Sad to hear of Tony Durkas's passing. He and I worked together on the Jessieville RD in the '50's and was the best of an excellent cadre of Assistant Rangers on the Ouachita then.

I still have "Hob" Howard's telegram notifying me that I'd been hired and to report to the Fourche RD in Danville, AR. How lucky I was to have had Julian Hunnicut and "Sim" Pintado to mentor me...and I needed all of that I could get.

While our health is good it seems that we're spending more time reading magazines in doctors' waiting rooms and hugging dear one's in funeral parlors, but we're still able to see our grandchildren and their parents – half in Atlanta and half in Waco, TX – now and then. We did have a great time in Pensacola this summer and the glow still warms us. Come see us whenever you cross the River.

Richard Ames, Turnerville, GA – Welcome to the 21st Century! My wife, Mary Ann, and I are finally settled in up here in Turnerville in north Georgia. For those who may not know where Turnerville is, it is just above Hollywood. I'm sure that helps! I do enjoy reading about folks past experiences and stories. Guess it would be OK to share a story from another Region.

This happened in Region 3 back in the late 60's on the Sitgreaves NF on the Chevelon RD. In those days it was OK to carry your rifle with you during all the hunting seasons and if you shot something you were expected to go on annual leave while you cleaned it, etc. I was out with my boss at the time and it was squirrel

season. The tassel-eared Abert squirrel was the target. These are larger than grey squirrels and are OK if you are really hungry. My boss had sawed the barrel off a single shot .22 rifle and mounted a big scope on top. This put the scope quite a ways above the barrel which was only slightly longer than the scope. Now, remember the old Chevrolet trucks of the sixties? They had a big rounded hood. My boss saw some squirrels in the top of the pines, stopped, used the fender of the truck for a gun rest, aimed upward and promptly shot a hole through the hood of his truck. The height of the scope above the barrel was the problem. Anyway, the squirrel got away and we made a bee-line for the shop. We spent the rest of the day sanding, leading and repainting. Shortly after that and other incidents across the forest the hunting while working came to an end. Were those the good old days? I'm not so sure.

Keep up the good work. We do have a computer now. E-mail is applespr@hemc.net.

James W. Cole, Danville, AL – Thanks so very much for the good job you all do. Here are my dues for another year. It brings back so many memorable events when I read names of people I worked with on the Bankhead Forest, AL. Class of 1952-86.

A. P. Mustian, Jr., Rocky Mount, NC – Here are my dues for three more years. I expect to be around that long. However, after a brief visit in September to the Winn and what used to be the Leesville Districts on the Kisatchie, I concluded I really must be getting old. That fact was clearly confirmed on both the Kisatchie and Vernon units when two young staff exclaimed, "You were the second Ranger on this District!" Our oldest granddaughter is older than both of them.

The "burning Vernon" was still burning, but reportedly not as much or as frequently. The District still being in the grip of an extended dry summer, one of the staff told me she was headed to DeRidder to set up a tanker base. My thoughts went immediately to those years between WWII and the Korean War when Grady Kile, the father of Glen W. Kile (now retired in Arkansas), with a T-5 international tractor and Mathis plow, single-handedly, or with one or two other men, fought the numerous fires set each spring on the Vernon. many, if not most, after dark in the days when overtime was unmentionable and compensatory time was an unknown. Incidentally, Glen Kile's son is or was working on the Winn. If so, three generations of Forest Service Kiles should be worth a story for the record.

The density and size of the timber, particularly in the longleaf and other pine stands, really impressed me. The folks who followed my tenure there 45 years ago have done a great job. However, the very density of the stands, some of which are 60 years old and older, makes me wonder what the future holds for those stands and the associated resources and uses, given the decreasing emphasis on timber harvesting. Also, I am curious as to where all the RCW's came from in stands having received one to three commercial thinnings or other partial cuts since the forties, including some in the small arms range.

I appreciate Dave Jolly's and Jim Webb's reports in the November *Ranger*, and especially Dale Robertson's speech. I happened to visit the WO on the last day for Dale and George Leonard. The place was in a state of shock – so was I. Grown men do cry!

Doug Leisz' letter to the President cut straight to the heart of the problems in NF management in recent years. I wonder if Doug ever received a reply. Having talked with FS people in several disciplines on the ground in six Regions since 1995, I broke down and wrote Dombeck several months ago about employee morale, forest resource conditions, other problems as related to and observed by me, and the misinformation in his speech to the outdoor writers in June here in North Carolina. To date, I have not received even an acknowledgement; neither have several other foresters and officials concerned with his comments about chip mills and timber growth in North Carolina and the South.

Thanks for all the work you and Bert have done and are doing for the retirees' association and *The Dixie Ranger*.

Jim MacNaughton, Harrisonburg, VA – I reviewed the last 4 issues of the DR before writing this and was reminded of several ideas I had when first read.

The F.S. history that James McConnell is heading up is interesting – I have Victor's written memories of his life which includes his 40 years with the Southern Region. He used a tape recorder and my sister, Marcia (a recent W.O. F.S. retiree) lovingly transcribed into writing and then reviewed with Victor for corrections and additions. I'll let James know I have it.

It sounds like the area of Pineville/Alexandria, LA., is being well looked after with Dean McAllister handling the funeral end and my old boss Ernie Finger taking care of the pastoring end. I was always amazed at some of the good things that Ernie could make happen. (Most of them legal, I think).

The letters to and from the Chief are impressive! The speech of Chief F. Dale Robertson given at the Reunion 2000 should be engraved somewhere. Enough can't be said about it! Every part of it is exactly as I remember it during that time starting with RARE I. It should be required reading by all.

The comments about the old Instructor's Training that everyone had to take and pass brought back memories of the structured training you were expected/required to complete before you could even think about a promotion.

- Instructor Training; Lippert Better Letter Writing; two-week Road Design at Fontana Village, NC in dead of winter with Bill Nichols and Remer Crum; Water and Sanitation session with Jim Armfield; Bridges and other Structures Review Training by Grady Burnett; Management by Objectives by USDA Grad School.

(see page 23 for continuation)



Welcome New Members

H. H. Bush, 104 McGuffin Ave., Bridgewater, VA 22812
Phone: 540.828.4620

Jerry Marsh, 109 Wood Cut Road, Lexington, SC 29072 Phone: 803.356.0615

Larry N. Phillips (Anne), 4113 Brockett Creek Dr., Tucker, GA 30084 Phone:
770.934.0862. E-mail: larry.n.phillips@worldnet.att.net

Mrs. Lewis Smith, P. O. Box 757, Clarkesville, GA 30523

Mike Sparks (Barbara), 2158 Hartridge Dr., Snellville, GA 30078-3490 Phone:
770.979.7732

Please change the following in your directory. Underscoring indicates change.

Sandra Ahern, 3025 Spring Court, Loganville, GA 30052-0331. Phone:
770.466.6187.

Esta Childers, 104 Carriage Court, Franklin, NC 28734-0263.

H. L. Holbrook, (Duffy) 166 Golden Pearle Lane, McClellenville, SC 29458.

Roger and Maxine Mizell, e-mail: maxrog@bellsouth.net

LeRoy and Ann Jones, leroyannejones@yahoo.com

Please add the following to your e-mail addresses:

Richard Ames – applespr@hemc.net

Jim Holbrook – holbrookrkyridg@aol.com

Don Hughes – n4eow@amsat.org

Bob Laval – blaval@clnk.com

A. P. Mustian, Jr. – gapmustian@aol.com

O. D. Smith – odsmith@cswnet.com

Ben Stansel – benstansel@aol.com



IN MEMORIAM

Milton M. Bryan – 91, died September 10, 2000, at his home in Arlington, VA. He retired from the Washington, DC office after forty years with the Forest Service. He is survived by his wife Carolyn, a daughter, Martha Ennis of Fredericksburg, VA., and a son, William A., Atlanta, GA, and four grandchildren.

Lucile A. Isbell – 93, died October 26, 2000 in Union City, GA. Lucile worked for the Forest Service for 35 years and retired in 1972. Traveling was a great passion for Lucile, whether it was through her work, her church or travel clubs. She traveled in Europe, the Holy Land and South America. She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Jean Richardson, son-in-law Dr. James E. Richardson of Peachtree City, GA, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Paul A. Shrauder – 72, died on October 31, 2000, in Roanoke, VA. Paul died following surgery for an aneurysm near his aorta. Paul was one of the legendary wildlife biologists when the Jefferson National Forest was in old Region 7. Because of his work the Jefferson established a precedent setting cooperative agreement with the Virginia Commission of Game and Island Fisheries. Unlike many other Forests that established Game Management Areas in their efforts to reestablish wildlife, the Jefferson NF treated the entire Forest as a management area. The George Washington NF followed along and as the Jefferson and George Washington NFs became part of Region 8, much of the South came to view the Virginia Coop Agreement as the text book way to proceed. Paul was often featured in the Roanoke newspaper as the city's greatest deer hunter. Paul spent a great deal of time each year scouting and selecting the trophy buck that he pursued during the hunting season. His trophies were legendary as was Paul.

Paul served as a public relations staff on the Jefferson and was still remembered by retired members of the press. He came often to the Forest Service retirees luncheons and entertained with stories about the "early years" on the JNF with Supervisors like Bill Curnutt.

Paul is survived by his wife "Dotty"; daughter Pauline Nelson, and son, Michael. While stationed in Atlanta in 1969, Paul and Dorothy tragically lost their young son, David.

• • •

I've learned –

that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.
that you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.

NATIONAL FORESTS IN FLORIDA REUNION

The 11th annual reunion of the NFs in Florida retirees will be held Saturday, April 21, 2001, at the Doe Lake Recreation Area facility. Doe Lake is located on the Seminole District, Ocala NF. Any changes or additions to the mailing list should be sent to Rex & Lil Post, Co-Chairmen, phone 352.383.1281. Individual notices will be mailed shortly after April 1.

• • •

2005 REUNION

Retirees in R-6 will be hosting the next national retiree reunion in 2005 in the Northwest. Bob Williams, retired Regional Forester, has agreed to chair the event. A start up committee has been formed and planning is underway. The event is being scheduled for late September or early October of 2005 and will focus on the USFS's century of service to America. Mark your calendars and get your cookie jar fund started for this reunion of really fine people.

• • •

Change to 92-year-old Forest Service Legislation Gives Alabama Counties More Options to Fund Schools and Roads

Washington, DC, Nov. 1, 2000 – Seventeen Alabama counties, located in the National Forests in Alabama, will benefit from President Clinton's signed legislation to stabilize annual payments to states and counties for schools and roads. This new legislation breaks a 92-year-old link between revenues collected from the sale and use of a variety of national forest products and services and payments to the states.

Since 1908, 25 percent of Forest Service revenues from commodity receipts have been returned to states in which national forest lands are located. The states then transferred these payments to counties for upkeep and maintenance of public schools and roads.

The new legislation – entitled "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000" — stabilizes payment levels to their historic high. The legislation also creates citizen advisory committees and gives local communities the choice to fund restoration projects of federal lands or in counties.

"For 92 years, the education of our rural school children was dependent on the harvest of trees. This legislation reduces states dependence upon natural resource decisions to fund education," said USDA Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck. The new legislation serves to "reconnect communities to the public lands that sustain them" through the creation of diverse and balanced citizen councils and new funding for restoration and community projects.

According to James A. Gooder, Forest Supervisor for the NFs in Alabama, this new law will guarantee that counties receive a predictable level of federal funding based on Alabama's three highest payments over the last 13 years. "Payments to counties located in the National Forests have decreased over the years because of declining revenue from timber sales," said Gooder. "With the new payment plan, communities can provide necessary services by depending on a more stabilized payment that is no longer tied to returns from the annual timber sales."

The new formula is based on averaging a state's three highest payments between 1986 through 1999 to arrive at a compensation allotment of "full payment amount." Counties may choose to continue to receive payments under the 25 percent fund, or to receive the county's proportionate share of the state's full payment amount.

Under the 25 percent returns funding, Alabama counties are expected to receive an estimated \$475,667 for revenues collected during fiscal year 2000. An estimated \$1.9 million was collected from recreation, grazing, timber sales, and other land uses on the Bankhead, Talladega, Conecuh, and Tuskegee National Forests.

The new legislation is slated to guide payment activities for the next six years through fiscal 2006. First payments using the new formula will occur in October 2001.

• • •

As this newsletter was being typed (January 1-9), the Roadless Area and Transportation Policy decision was made and an order approved by President Clinton took place. One item that crossed my desk obtained from the Internet states:

Forest Products Industry Concerns ---

"On January 5, President Clinton's Decision on National Forest Roadless Areas overrides local level land use decisions on nearly 60 million acres of national forests lands in the United States. The Forest Service, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), bases the Record of Decision on a flawed process and analysis. The final rule also takes away most local decision-making discretion by stating, "The prohibitions and restrictions established in this subpart are not subject to reconsideration, revision, or rescission in subsequent project decisions or land and resource management plan amendments or revisions undertaken pursuant to 36 CFR part 219." The forest products industry believes that the decision process was so flawed that it fully expects to pursue litigation."

Prior to President Clinton's signature, Doug Leisz on December 15, 2000, wrote to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman asking for review and reconsideration of the Forest Service Final Environmental Statement for Roadless Area Conservation signed by Chief Mike Dombeck on November 9th, 2000.

The areas covered in Mr. Leisz' letter were:

1. Inadequate display and evaluation of effects.
2. Misleading comparison of alternatives.
3. The lack of a full range of reasonable alternatives.
4. Failure to comply with existing law and regulation.

The last paragraph states "We believe the reasons above are sufficient for you to reconsider Chief Dombeck's decision in the FEIS. We respectfully request that you withdraw the FEIS and produce a decision that is supportable under the standards set by NEPA and using the decision processes for land allocation as directed by Federal law and regulations."

TEST YOUR MEMORY

Can you match the years of service with the name of the Chief of the Forest Service?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Richard E. McArdle	1905-1910
Ferdinand A. Silcox	1993-1996
Gifford Pinchot	1943-1952
Jack Ward Thomas	1933-1939
Henry S. Graves	1962-1972
Earle H. Clapp (acting)	1910-1920
William B. Greeley	1939-1943
Robert Y. Stuart	1952-1962
F. Dale Robertson	1920-1928
R. Max Peterson	1972-1979
Edward P. Cliff	1928-1933
John R. McGuire	1987-1993
Lyle F. Watts	1979-1987

An interesting bit of information about the Forest Service: The Division of Forestry existed from 1881-1901, then the Bureau of Forestry from 1901-1905. Dr. Franklin B. Hough was originally given the title of "Forestry Agent" in 1876. When the Division of Forestry was temporarily established in 1881, he was given the title of "Chief." When Pinchot became Chief of the Division, he requested that his title be changed from "Chief" to "Forester," as there were many Chiefs in Washington, but only one Forester. The "Forester" Title remained in effect until 1935 when the title "Chief" was readopted. The Bureau of Forestry was changed to the Forest Service in 1905. See page 22 for answers. *Thanks to Jim McConnell for this info.*

• • •

Toccoa, GA – October 21, 2000 – Governor Roy Barnes helped dedicate a forestry exhibit at the Welcome Center on I-85 at the Georgia-South Carolina Welcome Center near Lavonia. The project was spearheaded by Walter Fox, a retired forester and President of the Oconee Chapter of American Foresters. Walter began working on the project after the rest area was built in conjunction with the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The exhibit is a three-dimensional tribute to Georgia's forestry industry. The display, which is encased in plexiglas, depicts landmarks and features from throughout the Piedmont area from Madison to Dahlonega. It was built by Louie F. Deaton, Georgia's first Urban Forester.

In addition to the exhibit Deaton made, the rest area also includes a display showcasing the many products made from trees. "In light of the importance of trees to our economy, and to our way of life, we felt we needed an exhibit right when you come into the state," Fox said. "Hopefully, these exhibits will promote a better

appreciation of our forest land, both recreationally and as a renewable economic resource."

• • •

Up-to-date results of museum activities during Reunion 2000 in Missoula.

Tom Coston, former Regional Forester of R-1, was the MC at the museum dedication ceremony on September 6 and over 600 persons attended the dedication and the BBQ lunch.

At the dedication, Doug Leisz, former Associate Chief, challenged 100 retirees to donate \$100,000 to help get the museum operating. As a result, 51 pledges were received totaling \$50,320. Those contributors will be recognized as Dedication Day Donors in a future edition of the NMFSH Newsletter.

The NMFSH desperately needs a full-time executive director to handle the day-to-day business of the museum, to build an endowment, and to get a proper building constructed. The museum must have a bank balance approaching \$100,000 before advertising for an executive director to assure him, or her, of a salary for 2 to 3 years while raising more money.

Memorial donations have been received in the name of 44 persons. Fourteen trees have been planted in the memorial grove – and a few more may be added in the future – but they will be a general memorial monument rather than representing specific persons. The names of all persons memorialized will be placed on one or more plaques in the museum building – when it is built.

Should you wish to make a contribution to meet Mr. Leisz' challenge, please send your donation to National Museum of Forest Service History, P. O. Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806-2772.

• • •

I've learned –

- that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences you've had and what you've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays you've celebrated.
- that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt you every once in a while and you must forgive them for that.
- that it isn't always enough to be forgiven by others. Sometimes you have to learn to forgive yourself.

Many thanks to Howard Burnett for WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Answers to Test Your Memory: Gifford Pinchot 1905-1910; Henry S. Graves 1910-1920; William B. Greeley 1920-1928; Robert Y. Stuart 1928-1933; Ferdinand A. Silcox 1933-1939; Earle H. Clapp 1939-1943; Lyle F. Watts 1943-1952; Richard E. McArdle 1952-1962; Edward P. Cliff 1962-1972; John R. McGuire 1972-1979; R. Max Peterson 1979-1987; F. Dale Robertson 1987-1993; Jack Ward Thomas 1993-1996.

• • •

News from the Jefferson/George Washington NFs – George Freeland, Jerry Simons, Danny Kile, and Tommy Thompson retired on December 30th. About 160 came to the Roanoke Hotel for a dinner, roast, and farewell remarks.

Dave Olson, PAO, has transferred out West.

We still have our group of retirees going. About 25 of us got together for lunch every other month.

Charlie Blankenship

• • •

25th Anniversary of Spring Gathering

Here it is the end of Winter, and Spring trout fishing is just around the corner. Twenty-five years ago this May, several hearty souls started meeting on Laurel Lake for great Spring fishing, good eating, good companionship and tall tales. This gathering took place the week prior to Kentucky Derby, the first Saturday in May and has continued every year since May 1976. So this year we will celebrate our 25th Anniversary of this Spring Gathering. Being of "unsound" mind, I don't remember everyone who was there that first year, but I will attempt a few guesses – Roger Eubanks, Ron Coates, Dick Wengert, Joe Bennett, Lynn McNeal (deceased), Vance Mosley, and his two sons Doug and David. It has grown in numbers and now we generally have 20 to 30 each year to enjoy the evening fish fries and to catch up on the past year's news. We would like to have this the best "Gathering" ever this year and want to invite anyone who would want to have a great fishing trip and a good time, to join us the week of May 1 through 5, 2001, at Holly Bay Campground on Laurel Lake, London, KY. If you can't make it for the whole week, Wednesday and Thursday are the best nights. If there is enough interest, a house boat will be rented for Thursday night and as many as 20-25 may board for a night of fishing and other activities. John Stogin heads this up and if you are interested you may contact him. John is the District Ranger on the London District. You may also contact me at jdnight@sun-spot.com or phone 606.877.1804.

Don Kight

• • •

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will flow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

John Muir

Live Oaking-Southern Timber for Tall Ships

A Book Review by Jim McConnell

Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*, is truly an American tree. However, very little of it grows in Virginia. It does grow in a narrow band along the Atlantic and Gulf coast from Virginia to Texas and is usually found on sandy soils of recent origin. Years before the American Revolution, Yankee shipbuilders came South in the summer to cut live oak for the infant industry. The British had a prejudiced attitude toward American timber and ships so they ignored the vast potential for their navy.

The French, however, were far more astute and after the American Revolution they tried to buy land in Florida containing live oak. In 1797 Congress sent a signal that it would not be wise and the deal fell through. At the same time Congress recognized that live oak and ships for a navy were vital concerns for the new nation. American ships began plying the ocean to trade, mostly with Europe.

Since they were no longer protected by the British flag, the American merchant ships were repeatedly attacked by pirates from Algiers, Tripoli, Tunis, and Morocco. Jay's Treaty in 1794 had staved off war with Britain but France was wanting bribes. This resulted in an undeclared naval war with France. Americans declared, "Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute."

In 1799 Congress provided \$200,000 for two Georgia islands containing live oak. They were the first federally owned timber reserves. The Act also provided for six 74-gun ships of the line to be built in New England shipyards. This started a tradition that lasted for another hundred years. Yankee shipbuilders would send live oaking crews South each summer to cut live oak for an expanding industry.

This obscure book tells the story and is both interesting and intriguing. The author relates how wooden ships were built before the days of paper drawings and plans. It took an average of 680 live oak trees and skilled craftsmen to build one ship of the line. In Colonial days live oak would grow tall and straight, much different from what we see today. It's specific gravity was .80 and was so hard it would quickly dull iron saws and axes. By the way, do you know the names of different parts of an ax? It tells the story of the unique logging camps which worked under arduous conditions to extract forest products that resisted handling, but brought huge returns.

Live Oaking-Southern Timber for Tall Ships by Virginia Steele Wood was published by Northeastern University Press, 1981. I got a copy through the inter-library loan at my county library.

• • •

Jim MacNaughton – continued: This structured training and development served us very well. I would not care to see what "training" has replaced the old stand bys!

Everything is fine in Harrisonburg, but with D.C. just 2 hours away, it's hard to avoid news like the President locking up 1/3 of NF land base in detail.

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

Prsrt Std
Postage Paid
Permit #34
Newnan, GA

Change Service Requested

JAMES L MCCONNELL (01)
3699 WENTWORTH LN
LILBURN GA 30047 -2256

* * * *

NOTE: Please call the Brays (770.253.0392) or Peaches Sherman (770.253.7480) by Tuesday, June 12, to make reservations for the June 14 luncheon. The place is the same – the Petite Auberge restaurant on North Druid Hills Road in the Toco Hills Shopping Center. We'll meet at 11:30 for fellowship and lunch will be served at 12 noon. Please mark you calendars now.

Published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Dues are \$8 per year, payable in January. Mailing address:
Southern Forest Service Retirees Association, 70 Wilkes Court, Newnan, GA 30263