

The Transition

Of and For Former N.C. State Park Employees

August, 2008

Issue No. 15

Greetings,

It is hard for me to believe that this is the Fifteenth issue of The Transition. It has been almost eight years since we began an “official” way to stay in touch with each other. To me the effort has been very worthwhile and I have enjoyed hearing from you and passing along the news.

In this issue you will note that several folks have been added to the alumni roster. These additions remind me that in a few more years all of the state park employees of my generation will have retired and the names of the new generation will not be so familiar to us. However, we can be sure that capable hands will continue to maintain the quality of our state parks.

Special thanks to Leon Carter and all of the contributors to this edition. Everyone keep the greetings and news coming in!

Please note that the **Sixth North Carolina State Parks Former Employee Reunion** will be held on the first Saturday in November, which will be **November 1**, at William B. Umstead State Park, Reedy Creek Section. **Mark this date on you calendars!** If you have never been to a reunion you have missed a grand ol’ time. Great Food and Great Fun!

Get in Touch and Stay in Touch,
John L. Sharpe

News Updates

Notes from Leon Carter:

2-5-08

Just called Meyers [Braxton], Gail said he was in hospital having some test run. Will call him again in a couple of days. She also said he had been getting along pretty good since the operation in Sept able to get around and get away from the house on his own, although there had been complications with the operation. Leon

2-19-08

John, This morning there is an obit in the N&O of Cedric Squires sister, Ruamie Carroll Squires. It listed Cedric as being a survivor of [living in] Kansas City, Mo. Services by Bright Funeral Home in Wake Forest. Will stop by Bright's this afternoon to see if they have any Address on Cedric or his son.

6-13-08

Hattie Spears, wife of Robert Spears, passed away the morning of June 12, 2008. She was a very loving and sweet person.

Robert was Ranger at Pettigrew when I started work in 1970. He retired possibly in late 1970s or early 1980s. He passed away since I retired in 1991.

His daughter Bonnie Ambrose is Office Assistant at Pettigrew at this time. She went to work back in the days Leo Dillard was at Pettigrew. Please send her a card.

Bonnie Ambrose
Pettigrew State Park
2252 Lake Shore Road
Creswell, NC 27928

Talked to Lisa Williams, Ranger @ PETT this morning. Arrangements have not been made yet. Will get them out as soon as I hear from her.

Sid Shearin's Retirement Party is still on for tomorrow. They have no SMOKE from the wildfire this morning, but if the wind shifts this afternoon as expected will probably be back in it tomorrow. I was planning to get to the party, but have had to cancel out. Leon

Tom Wells writes(2-11-08):

Why Hello Vaunted Readers,

You've pled and begged so here it is: the 2007 Holiday Issue of the SLACKASS NEWSLETTER.

Yessiree Bob! Another Grandboy is in the family! This time in Portland Oregon. 4 Grandboys now. Happy, happy days.

(Q):"What is a SLACKASS INC. BOARD MEMBER anyway?"

(A) Among other things a MEMBER OF SLACKASS INC. BOARD is an old guy who has serious fun whenever and wherever possible and who values his friends deeply.

Oh. By-the-way, if for any unfathomable reason you, chosen reader, would prefer not to receive this stupendously well written and intellectual missive please inform me so that I might take you off my "Chosen reader's" list and inflict these missives on you nevermore.

Goodbye for now,

Signed:

SLACKASS INC., CEO, CFO, ESSO, CIA, BLM AND FBI

TOM R. WELLS, SR.

SLACKASS MERRY CHRISTMAS 2007

Vaunted Holiday Edition

What Christmas Holiday would be complete without the best wishes of the SLACKASS INC, High Brass and lesser two members as well??? So...Merry Christmas to all!

NOTE TO CHOSEN READER: this issue will consist of a report on a BIG MEETING of CHARTER MEMBERS OF SLACKASS INC., WITH SOME OTHER STUFF AT THE BOTTOM.

Now that that is out of the way, THE STORY:

A highly successful SLACKASS, INC. planning meeting was held not too long ago in Bailey's Sports Pub in Chapel Hell, NC. Charter members met there to accommodate the Big Whiner, SLACKASS R. Dean Coleman who always complains about having to drive 61 miles one way to Raleigh . . . so when we meet at Bailey's he only has to drive 22 miles one way. Big Whiner Crybaby! What about Swede? ... What about Tom?

Synopsis of the BIG MEETING:

The meeting was called to semi-order by His Most Gracious Modest and Humble Eminence Thomas R. Wells, Sr. Grand Fizzer, Claxon, and Truthsayer of SLACKASS INC who immediately pronounced BIG WHINER, SLACKASS Coleman out of order for ordering another beer before His Most Patient and More Intellectual fellow Charter

Members of SLACKASS INC., SWEDE FRAUSON and the aforementioned SLACKASS WELLS had finished their beers. Once order was restored the meeting resumed with SLACKASS Coleman being asked to sit at another table, which request he sassily refused.

The first order of business was the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Discovering that no minutes had been taken there was a mixed feeling agreement to move on to “New Business”.

A healthful lunch was ordered: SLACKASS WELLS ordered alfalfa sprouts, green tea and some hummus. SLACKASS “Big Whiner” COLEMAN ordered the sushi sasami Alfredo and, in his words “some of that busy little red wine with the involved personality”. SLACKASS FRAUSON, to make the work of the “table attendant” (yes they say that “table attendant” in Chapel Hell) less cumbersome simply ordered everything from “Column A” of the menu.

SLACKASS COLEMAN immediately proceeded to announce that he had an “in” at UNC’s (Yes. The SCHOOL FOR UNTRAINABLE CHILDREN) Dean Dome and made a motion to take his fellow SLACKASSES on a free personally and professionally guided tour of that facility. Lacking a “second” the motion failed as both SLACKASSES, Frauson (Demon Deacon) and Wells (Wolf Packer) see no use whatsoever for the existence of that building and would rather have their sinuses removed by a TENNESSEE FAN using a set of vise grips and a hot knitting needle as opposed to stepping foot in the “Dean Dome”.

After SLACKASS Coleman’s ill-timed motion the floor was opened...well not really “opened” but people were allowed to talk...Trips to Fiji were discussed at great length but were discounted as JUNIOR MEMBER OF SLACKASS INC, KEN HAGAN doesn’t like to fly. Following serious discussion it was generally agreed that neither taking the train nor driving there was practical so Fiji was canned.

SLACKASS FRAUSON presented the group with the idea of a charity event: we will go to Harrah’s Cherokee Casino and make donations to the Native Americans whose lands were taken from them by our forefathers (are there “backfathers”, “afterfathers”?) The group, in the spirit of the season of giving, heartily agreed with SLACKASS FRAUSON’S motion and it passed like a jet plane.

The trip is scheduled for mid-February. It was agreed that the SLACKASS CORPORATION would pay travel and food expenses for this trip but that charity donations would be made by individual members of the Board.

The meeting then turned to the matter of SLACKASS Inc’s financial status; the same being reported on by SLACKASS INC.’S TREASURER, POET LAUREL BLOSSOM, I.T. GURU AND GRAND NUMBERS WIZARD, R. DEAN COLEMAN. SLACKASS COLEMAN (Big Whiner) reported that in his bedroom sock drawer, in a hidden naugahide wallet, secured by an asparagus-green rubber band hand-inscribed in blue

ballpoint ink with the words “SLACKASS TREASURER’S PROPERTY” there was the sum of \$240.00. Both SLACKASSES FRAUSON and WELLS were delighted to hear the good news and thanked SLACKASS COLEMAN profusely for his careful record-keeping ...SLACKASS COLEMAN wept at praise from two whom he admires above all others.

A discussion then ensued (“ensued” means “went on”) regarding a fishing trip to the “trout hole” in Banks Channel at Wrightsville Beach. It was determined that SLACKASS NEAL LEWIS, the other “JUNIOR GRADE SLACKASS, INC.” member would be consulted as to the most productive time to make the journey. SLACKASS LEWIS knows the coastal waters well and has been known to drink brackish water when out of beer while fishing.

There then developed a discussion as to the definition of the word “productive”. SLACKASS COLEMAN, the Big Whiner, espoused that “productive” meant actually catching fish. Waiting his turn to talk, SLACKASS FRAUSON apparently tired of SLACKASS COLEMAN’S rambling simplistic definition, forcefully opined that “productive” was an all-inclusive term centering on when the casino gambling boats sailed from Myrtle Beach and “fun” could be had.

SLACKASS WELLS, in charge as always, hooted both down for their silly concepts and said “ $e=mc^2$ ” amazing the two other SLACKASSES into silence with his intellect and vocabulary. He then explained to the ignorant SLACKASSES FRAUSON AND COLEMAN that “productive” was all inclusive and meant maybe catching fish, gambling AND having some good food and drink. SLACKASSES COLEMAN AND FRAUSON were nonplussed and ashamed and of course agreed with SLACKASS WELLS definition.

A motion was passed to pursue the planning for the upcoming “fishing” trip during the charity pilgrimage being made to Cherokee in the coming month. All were pleased and praise was heaped upon SLACKASS WELLS’ head for explaining things to his fellow SLACKASSES. SLACKASS WELLS in his mountainous modesty humbly accepted the well deserved praises.

The meeting was adjourned when The Bailey’s Sports Pub Management Team made threatening motions and remarked about summoning police to the members of SLACKASS INC.

(APPLAUSE)

Health tip of-the-day:

“When showering naked always wash your face first!” (Original thought of SLACKASS Tom R Wells)

SLACKASS INC.'s NEAL LEWIS, KEN HAGAN, R. DEAN COLEMAN, JACK "SWEDE" FRAUSON AND TOM WELLS WISH YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY 2008 AND 2009 and 2010.

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Partial Credits:

Hairstyles by "The Shear Shack Ltd.", proprietor, Al "Show Dog" Peedin, "Barber to the Stars". Gateway Shopping Center, Raleigh, NC

Make up: "Earl Scheib Paint and Body Shops Worldwide" NY, NY

Legal Services: "Get, Grab and Run" Attorneys at Law and Bail Bonds, Cayman Islands

Clothes Furnished By "Southern States Feed and Seed", Dirty Ankle, NC

Catering: "Pet Smart Day Old Alpo" and "Waste Water Treatment By-Products Inc.", Salamander Crossing, NC

Lighting: "Bolt of Thunder, Clap of Lightning", Kingsport, Tennessee

Gardening Advice: "The Sod Father" Las Vegas, NV

Shoe shines: "R. Wayne Weston's Lakeshore Shines and Socks" Lake Wyle, NC

[Tom,

Thanks for the newsletter! I have experience with the office of "Get, Grab, and Run" Attorneys at Law. I'm still making monthly payments on those shoelaces!

Editor]

Nelson Chadwick writes(2-12-08): Hi John,

Susan's back is getting worse, too much bending to work with the 4 yr olds, I think.

The jury is still out on my wrist, the doctor says he should know something by June.

As far as the Transition, No problem.... and you are welcome.

Give my regards to Ginger and your mom, and I'll be sure to tell my mom hi for you.

Nelson

Kevan Burnett writes(2-16-08): Hi Friends and Family,

Sorry to be a little impersonal, but just wanted to get the word out to a lot of folks.

Today we announced that we would be closing Luggage & Leather. We're not sure if we're excited or bummed yet. Right now, it's a bit of both. Right now we have no jobs lined up, and worried about our job chances. Maybe we'll be semi-retired till we figure out what to do till we retire! The idea of not working is both exciting and spooky. But if anyone has suggestions or advice, I'd be glad to hear it. We think we'll be out of the store in about 2 months, so if you need anything that we sell, let us know because I'm sure we'll have great deals coming up. I've been looking into a career at freelance photography (which I'm currently studying and have always loved shooting photos), or some IT certification (as many know I'm a computer geek). Brenda (my lovely wife), is still thinking about what she may do, but she is so talented, I'm not worried to much. I figure we have enough to last us for a year or two (maybe more if we realize we're "retired"), but the idea is a little scary.

Thanks again for any advice or ideas. It seems that considering changing careers after 50 could be a little intimidating, but I talked to someone the other day that began her career as a professional photographer at 60. Things change, so we do too.

Happy Travels!

Kevan Burnett

Dave Lattimore writes(2-22-08): John,

Great job on the latest Transition!

Though you are posting them on the Web rather than mailing, I'm sure there are still needs for financial support for publication costs for either you or the web site manager. Please advise on how and what the proper contribution is.

I officially retired from my district ranger position in Yosemite on the last day of July. I spent my last couple of weeks of work on a fire assignment in Oregon and got back just in time to get my papers signed to punch out. However on my last day we cranked up a large scale SAR for a missing backpacker so I stayed on as an hourly employee to run Operations on the search for a week. I then planned to move out of park housing but was delayed due to a request to serve on an incident management team for a law enforcement situation at Sequoia-Kings Canyon dealing with marijuana cultivation by Mexican drug cartels. Got back from a week there and began packing to move when another request came to go to a 200,000 acre fire in central Idaho. Spent a couple of weeks on that and then went to the national conservation training center in West Virginia to serve as an instructor for a week long academy being held there. I got back to Yosemite and spent a week moving out to my "temporary" home in Idaho but ended up going right back to California for assignment on the big fires down there. Weird fighting wildland fires through avocado groves and next to multi-million dollar houses. Finished that and returned to Idaho for a couple of days before heading back to Yosemite for a court deposition on a boundary issue that had been ongoing for several years. While I was being deposed, Park Dispatch called and asked if I could take a plans chief assignment on a "management" fire that got away and was threatening structures. That lasted a week and I was in Sacramento waiting for a flight back to Idaho when I was requested to head for San Francisco with an incident management team dealing with an oil spill caused by a ship running into the Bay bridge. What a mess! We finished that assignment in time to return "home" to Idaho on Thanksgiving eve.

Since then I have stayed put, cross country skiing nearly every day, taking a couple of grad school courses and doing some incident management program planning work for the park service while I look for a more permanent location to live. I will probably be back east in May to teach at the conservation center in West Virginia again and roam around North

Carolina a little, check on my property back there and see some relatives. I hated that I could not be back there for Tim or Jud's retirement bashes though they might be glad I was not there, I certainly have some Tim and Jud stories I could have embellished (not that embellishment is really needed) and shared!

Glad to hear things are going well for you. And I am really impressed with the great accomplishments in the State Park system. Hope I get to visit a few of the new parks before long.

Cheers

Dave Lattimore

Sandra Burns writes(2-22-08): Jud has been very busy since retirement, building cabinets for Danbury and remodeling the house. We aren't finished by any means, but figured we better get the Raleigh house on the market soon before the Spring lookers get out and about. Probably list it within the next 2 weeks, just long enough to give Jud time to haul the cabinets, that are currently sitting in our living room, up to Danbury. We're both getting excited about moving back there. It's starting to feel like home again since we have spent a lot more time there lately.

We spent 2 weekends painting and getting Robert moved into his first little home in Mars Hill. He was a little lonely at first, but I think he is glad to only have his mess to contend with instead of having roommates junk everywhere. He's got a nice little nest now all he needs is a good woman to make it complete so keep an eye out for one will ya. He's 24 years old now.

Hope you guys stay warm and well. Blessings, Sandy

Tom Howard writes(2-22-08): Hi John,

Glad to be of help and it's good to hear folks like the site. Basically this is what I do for the Division now. Try to make functional but EASY to use websites.

Your comment about the Trash 80 made me think of the day I happened to walk into Robert Skinner's office and noticed three IBM PCs (dual 5.25 inch floppies, no hard drive, 256kb of RAM) still in their boxes sitting in his closet. (I think Robert said they cost around \$3000 a piece.) Wes Davis had told him to order them. No one had asked for them and no one knew what to do with them. I asked if I could "borrow" one. He said sure and I carried it out to the Yorkshire along with a copy of Lotus 1-2-3. The first thing I started work on was someway to automate those SILA pier permit letters that were being hand typed. I guess you could say that I was the first person in DPR to every have a computer. Been involved with computers ever since.

Take care,
Tom

Jo Ann Clendening writes(2-24-08):Hi, John and Carter—

It's me (Jo Anne)! I would like for you to add Martha (Williamson) Starnes, maggies37@nc.rr.com; and Becky Haygood, bannrayhay@mindspring.com, to your e-mail mail outs to us "Transition" folks. Sometimes their names show up and sometimes they don't. I try to watch for their names, and if I don't see them, I forward info on to them. But it would be good for you to have them.

Hope you guys are doing okay. Have to say I am, having just returned from a cruise to Central America and snorkeling in the Caribbean for the first time in 40 years!

Take Care...

Jo Anne Clendening

Wade Lowry writes (2-27-08): Hi John,

It was real good hearing from Dan. After leaving state parks, I continued taking the road being an educator. I spent one year as an educational state forest supervisor in Bladen County. It did not satisfy my career aspirations. Ray Johnston, Superintendent at Jones Lake, told me that I might need to go into teaching. I took him up on that and completed my studies at Pembroke State University with a certification to teach Science grades 6 through 12. I began teaching science at a combination elementary and middle school in Bladen County. After 6 years in the classroom, I returned back to Pembroke (UNC-P) to complete my Masters in School Administration. While in school, I began working as assistant principal at a middle school in Elizabethtown. I held this position for 5 years. I am now a principal at an alternative school. My first school as a principal was at the school I began teaching at. After one year, I transferred to the alternative school where I am into my second year. State parks is still in my blood. There have been many times during certain seasons and times of the day that has sent me back to Raven Rock, Medoc and Jones Lake. I still remember walking trails and picking up cigarette butts (thanks Clyde Miller). Even the way I put toilet paper on a roll has some state park influences. (Ha!, Ha!, Ha!) It is good hearing from you. My address is: Wade Lowry, PO Box 95, Elizabethtown, NC 28337. E-mail any time. Maybe our paths will cross in the near future. I am living with my wife Angie and daughter Aiyana on the 2.2 acres you purchased while at Singletary Lake. It passed through two other owners before I bought it. It has been a nice place to live. If you are ever in the area, stop by.

Wade Lowry

Kevan McNaughton writes (3-5-08):

Hi, John,

I really enjoy the chance to stay connected with the State Parks gang.

It seems there is a whole new generation coming along. I see your Mom

regularly at the 8:30 church service and she has such a bright smile and friendly way. You have inherited that. My telephone numbers may have changed because I was unable to log in. Here they are Home-919-852-4948 Office 919-515-2732. Let me know which to use to log in. My last name is spelled "MacNaughton" Thanks for your effort to keep us all connected.

Kevin MacNaughton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities
(919) 515-2732
NC State University

Tim Benton writes (3-20-08): John,
Hope all is well!
My new e-mail address is : donitim@wildblue.net

I'm still trying to fix up this old farmhouse & am in the midst of numerous projects. I'm also helping Doni coach the middle school track team (as I helped with cross country last fall). It's challenging but fun.....if I can just remember that I can't run like I used to and avoid injuring myself!!!

Take care,
Tim

New Additions:

We all welcome **Sid Shearin** to the ranks of N.C. State Parks Former Employees.
Congratulations Sid!!

Jud Burns writes (6-15-08): Sid's retirement party went very well. The smoke [from the Hoke county forest fire] stayed away until the event concluded and a good crowd was in attendance with about 10-12 retirees present.

Sid and his wife plan to relocate to their new home in Halifax County by the first of July.

Charlie Peek writes (6-15-08): If guests at a retirement luncheon in June for Sid Shearin, superintendent at Pettigrew State park, were a bit teary-eyed, it wasn't just nostalgia to blame. A 40,000-acre wildfire which reared up in the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and which grazed the state park, was intermittently sending smoke through the area. Water from the park's Lake Phelps was being pumped into the fire zone to saturate the land.

It was a near repeat of a 1985 fire when the park's lake also played a significant role. "This time, what we're going through probably wouldn't be as easy as it has been without Sid going through what he did in '85," said East District Superintendent Adrian O'Neal. "Thank you, Sid, for being a great

superintendent."

Over a 31-year career - including 25 years as superintendent at Pettigrew - Shearin earned a reputation for being fiercely protective of the park's natural resources, including the lake's waters and the towering trees along its banks. He spent many days showing off the trees - some of them champion specimens - to groups that visited the park and many more hours devising ways to get the area's school students involved in park projects and raising their environmental consciousness.

The payoff, Shearin said, was the sights he'd witnessed at the state park - flocks of migrating tundra swans, colonies of bats seeking shelter and packs of red wolves hunting. "I've just been plain lucky to be a part of the North Carolina state parks system," said Shearin, who has visited 197 state and national parks in his lifetime and camped at 87 of them.

Shearin graduated from high school in Greenville in 1972 and from North Carolina State University in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in recreation and parks administration. In 1975, he was a seasonal employee at Morrow Mountain State Park.

He made several attempts to get onto a lean state parks roster before being hired as a maintenance mechanic at Medoc Mountain State Park in 1977. Two years later, he had earned a spot as a ranger at that park.

In April 1983, Shearin was tapped to lead Pettigrew, then a quite small state park on the state's second largest natural lake. Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks, said Shearin's personnel file quickly grew with paperwork related to his efforts to get grants to improve the park and with projects involving partnership with the local school systems. "If there was a grant to be got, he got it," said Tom Wells, former superintendent of state parks. "He represented this division as well as anyone I know. If anybody could wave the flag for this division, he waved it better than anybody."



Sid says (7-3-08): Well we now live a partially renovated farm house near Medoc Mountain.

Our new address is 5100 Bowers Road, Littleton, NC 27850. Send our email to <bettyanne.shearin@gmail.com> and our phone number will be 252-586-4607.

I have not enjoyed retirement yet since we moved, we are working on the house, and they lost my retirement papers (and Billy's too). Hopefully we will get paid by Christmas.

Come and see us.

Paul Hart is now a welcome member of the exclusive NCSPFE club! Congratulations Paul!!

Leon Carter writes (6-23-08): I had sent Paul Hart a message congratulating him on retiring, mentioning he and I went back to his days at Crowder's Mountain SP. He answered with the following. I want to thank Paul for these kind remarks and the help he gave me and my old crew through those 20 years, before my crew disbanded. His last two sentences, display the feelings of so many of our park staff. The reason our parks are what they are today, and the reason so many of use want to keep in contact with our former employees.

Leon:

I started at Crowder's Mountain in 1978 as a YACC Supervisor. I remember working with you and Dave Horton on several projects there during the time that I was a YACC Supervisor and as a Park Ranger. I remember digging huge holes to anchor the upright timbers for the entrance gate. We had to use a jack hammer to chisel into the rock to get the hole deep enough. I think that is the only time in my life that I have used a jack

hammer. Sure wouldn't want to do that every day! Dave Horton taught me how to roof - right down to how to hold the roofing tack between your index and middle finger so that you wouldn't smash your fingers with the hammer. I got to where I could set the tack with one tap then drive it in with one blow of the hammer. I learned a lot of skills from folks like you and Dave that I have been able to use throughout my career in parks. And I also learned about doing a job well and upholding a certain tradition of excellent from you all and other folks like Coot Gullledge. I have tried to pass the essence of that tradition along to other folks. And I hope some of those folks will pass it along to others coming along.

Take care and God bless.

Paul

Billy Totten also rises to the occasion and becomes a former employee! Wow! Sid was right, "they're dropping like flies." Congratulations Billy!

Leon Carter reports (6-15-08):

This was not our Usual Retirement Party, it was called a Gathering and Farewell. A covered dish affair, with enough food to feed half the division. Called Denise Williams who said they had a good count up to 128, but they were still coming, she came up with an estimate of around 140. There were at least 12 formers plus two spouses. Five names I want to mention as I don't usually see them at these gatherings: Howard Stewart, Larry Milton, Oren Hawkins, Kevin Burnett, & Bob Lanane. Hope they enjoyed it and will keep coming when possible. Was able to have a long chat with Billy's father "Bill", a gentleman I have met before and always enjoy talking with. Of course the fellowship with all the "old gang" and "new faces" was a delight. Lewis Ledford gave his usual "speech" about what he had found in Billy's personnel file. I quote one short comment: "Billy, I have searched this file out and found NO COMPLAINTS (pause) or Commendations." (my comment, sounds like the one about Joe Blow at the Pearly Gates, St Pete could find nothing in the Good book, except he had left a 15 cent tip once and nothing in the Bad book. St Pete gave him 15cents and sent him below.) As Billy's greeting to me always was "I'm glad you got to see me today", I want to say I and all the rest were glad to see you at the Gathering and we wish you the best. "It was a fine "Farewell"."





Kim Huband, State Parks Planner-GMPs, also made the transition to former employee around the first of March. Congratulations Kim!

Dwayne Stutzman left State Parks by retiring early in July! His retirement party was very unique in that it was a complete surprise to Dwayne! Hollis Wild and LuAnn Bryan arranged the whole thing by telling Dwayne that he was going to a fabulous antique auction in Ashe County. Dwayne said that when he and his wife arrived at the location he thought that it must be a well publicized event because there were so many people present! Also, as he arrived he glimpsed some old friends that he had not realized were interested in Antique auctions! The party was well done with many congratulations to Dwayne, great barbeque, and good fellowship. Good Luck Dwayne and welcome to the Former Employee membership roster!

Those Who Will Be Missed

Dennis “Snuffy” Smith

“Snuffy”, former maintenance mechanic at Mount Mitchell and friend, died in November, 2007. He had been diagnosed with Leukemia earlier in the year and the disease had progressed rapidly. However, he had only been confined to his bed for less than two weeks before he died. Although, he worked at Mount Mitchell for a short time he will be greatly missed.