

<p><i>August</i> 2007</p>	<p><i>The</i>  <i>Transition</i>  <i>Of and For Former N.C. State Park Employees</i></p>	<p><i>Issue</i> <i>No. 13</i></p>
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Dear Former employees:

I hope that everyone has had a good Spring and Summer. Of course, with all of the heat lately I know that at least some of you think that it could be better. I haven't heard from Mike Cavin in Alaska lately but I bet that he had to open his windows!

Ginger and I have been well and are enjoying our lives. I continue to work at Wildacres and Ginger continues looking for permanent work as an elementary school teacher; not too many positions available in rural western N.C..

I was able to enjoy a Cruise to the Caribbean in March. I went from Charleston to Grand Cayman Island, Cazumel Mexico, Key West and then returned to Charleston for a week long stay aboard a ship. It was very nice. I was on board with my Mother, brothers and their families, and niece and nephew with their spouses. The cruise was during Spring break so there were about 600 college students on board as well. Lots of whooping and hollering and stumbling around (they got a great deal on alcohol!).

As for this issue of The Transition, be sure to note the New Additions section for photos and "write ups" of recent additions to our ranks. Also, pay close attention to the Events section and mark your calendars for the next employee reunion.

Be sure to let me or Carter know of the special things that happen to you! Or the ordinary things for that matter! Other alumni would like to keep in touch and to know of your new grand child, or vacation, or new spouse, or new car, or new bathroom door or anything of which you might be proud. Let us know!!

Special thanks to Leon Carter and Nelson Chadwick for their help with this issue.

Get in touch and stay in touch,  
John L. Sharpe

And They Ask Why I Like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal .

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break. style="font-size: 14pt"

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

**My favorite one:**

**QUESTION: What do you do all week?**

**Answer: Mon to Fri. Nothing, Sat & Sun I rest!**

## **Events**



**Newsbreak !!  
Newsbreak !!**



**The Fifth N.C. State Parks Former Employee Reunion** will be held on November 10 at the Summit on the Haw State Park near Greensboro, N.C.. Lunch is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in the Adult Meeting building but I have the meeting space reserved from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.. Come early and look around the facility or socialize for a while before we eat. As in years past, the best food in the world will be provided by us! Bring your pot luck specialty and expect excellent fellowship to happen while we have a great meal.

Note: The Entertainment Committee endeavors to provide you with quality entertainment that is both excellent and stimulating. Therefore, if you find that this reunion lacks something in the form of the chosen entertainment, please feel free to register your opinion with the Entertainment Committee.

### **Notes from Leon Carter**

**Thursday, March 01, 2007**

Message relayed from Lewis Ledford concerning Willie Shaw:

Lewis had visited Willie Shaw this past Sunday. Willie's brother was at the house and told Lewis that Willie's Church was planning to have a Willie Shaw Appreciation Day on March 10. Lewis had passed this on to quite a few of us.

When I stopped by to see Willie on Tuesday, Dorothy walked out on the porch with me when I left. I mentioned, I intended attend the service. She said she had called the Church on Monday canceling the service. She said the shape Willie was in that she wasn't planning anything in advance. Monday he had not been in shape to receive visitors, Tuesday he was. She said there had been quite a few days like this.

Lewis asked me this evening, to pass on the cancellation as I was probably in contact with more of you than he was.

The request this morning from Tom Wells and myself, for donations . I should have mentioned then, that Dorothy is not in the best of health herself. She has a heart problem and is just getting over a mini stroke. Believe I remember she had some kind of operation in the last couple of years.

Til later, Leon

**On 2-1-07**

I received an email from Reid Squires (Cedric's son that he was moving to Kansas City, Mo. And that he would be moving Cedric out to Kansa City in late April Cedric is in a Assisted Living Center in Kernersville. I called Kerners'v. yesterday to make sure Cedric was still there and was informed, that he was but he would be leaving them on March 23. So it looks as if he is being moved about a month ahead of what was planned.

I am going out to visit Cedric this Thursday. If any of you are interested in going to see him, the address is:

Kerner Ridge Assisted Living Center  
250 Hopkins Road Kernersville, NC  
Tel. 336-993-1881

The center is not far off old I-40 all well know in town. Stop for directions at the first place you see after leaving old I-40.

Leon.

**3-10-07**

Approximately two weeks ago word got out that Willie Shaw retired Chief of Maintenance at Jordan Lake and previously ranger at Reedy Creek and Wm. B. Umstead had cancer of the gall bladder and liver and treatments were ineffective. I visited Willie on 2-27, finding him very weak. He passed on 3-5-07.

His funeral services were today. The service was conducted by his pastor and two previous pastors of his church. The church was filled with many standing in the vestibule. The family had requested Park uniformed pall bearers. Best count was 22 from parks, half being retirees. Very touching service. My feeling was he was loved by the congregation as well as by our park family.

**Monday, March 12, 2007**

Willie Shaw's Funeral We had uniforms from Cliffs of Neuse & Jones Lake to Haw River (and two younger ones I didn't know or where they were from) Among the retirees, Claude Crews probably traveled the furthest. James Johnson & wife were there. One I thought might be there, Myers Braxton wasn't (he does have medical problems).

Before the funeral we all were standing out at the edge of the parking lot. One of Willie's brothers came out and thanked us for taking the time to come. Lewis told him he was Willie's brother, but Willie was a member of our Park Family. (Our black friends were Lyndon Sutton, Shederick Mole, Claude Crews, Wm. Berry & wife, James Johnson & wife. 17 whites.) When Lewis said that the brothers eyebrows arched and for a second I thought he was going to cry. He shook hands all around.

Think I told you yesterday there were 22 of us. There were 24. I had counted those of us sitting together. Last night I realized I had not counted James & his wife who had sat at the back of the church.

Leon

**Donna Thompson (4-27-07):**

Donna Thompson was Office Assistant for the Engineering Section in the early 1970s. She is now Secretary for the Rolesville Baptist Church. Several months ago I ask some to send Donna Thompson an email, as she and her husband Jackie had made a trip to Los Vegas and while out there she had to have a stint placed in one of her arteries. Happy to say she is doing fine and looks good. Her husband Jackie and son Jay are planting about 150 acres of tobacco this year, plus cucumbers and what ever. Jay's wife Brandy is due to have a son on July 20th. Daughter, Jennie will finish a COURSE in Radiation Therapy on July 27th. Jennie's son Tyler completes kindergarten this spring.

**Write-up on Tim Tarleton (6-27-07)**

**Success Story of a Former Park Attendant.**

Phil McCorkle and I spent most of the summer months of 1972 and 1973 on Mount Mitchell performing much needed structural maintenance. There were two park attendants that very willingly helped us most of these summers. One was Dave Horton, who I was able to recruit on my crew in the winter of 1973, who became one of my most trusted lead man and another right hand.

There are only a few of us who will remember the other, Tim Tarleton, who the one and only, Hoppy Hobson, nicknamed "Whistle Dick." Not only was Tim a good worker, but was a lot of fun to be around. To be truthful we stayed on his case, both summers. I was hoping he would come with state parks, but he had his heart set on the NC Highway Patrol. I attended his graduation from Highway Patrol School, in Raleigh. He had a stretch of I-40 in the Hickory area and loved to stop me, Blue light, Siren, and Big Badge. For the last couple of years he has stabled and care for at least two of the horses of the "NC troopers Association Casson Unit" and served as a member of the Highway Patrol's Honorary Casson Unit. He served his entire career in Alexander County, 1970 - July 1, 2007, retiring as NC "Most Decorated Trooper." My hat is off to another Dedicated State Employee, who I feel State Parks had a small hand in early training. And, one I didn't get to see often, but always regarded as Friend.

**State Parks NC Automobile License Plates. (7-22-07)**

The State Parks is accepting applications for a Special Auto License Plate, for State Parks, that will replace the old one with the Wright Bros. Airplane on it. This is a design that the division has created and has been accepted by the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. The design has mountains in the background, a hiker, a family with a picnic basket, and a kayak on a lake. The license plates or another way to catch the public's eye and bring interest to State Parks. But DMV has to have 300 applications before they will start making them. As of July 17, only 60 applications have been received. To get the first 300 applications, I feel it will fall primarily on the active and former employees. I will be

proud to have them on my vehicles to let the world know how I feel about an agency I spent 21 years with.

The plates cost \$30 a year plus regular license fees for DMV assigned numbers, or \$60 a year plus regular license fees for personalized tag, only space for 4 numbers and letters, or 4 letters, cannot think of many ways to personalize with 4 spaces.

The June issue of the park's newsletter "Steward" has a write-up on this. Also more information can be obtained from the divisions computer website. Or by contacting Leon Carter or Adrienne McCoig, NC Div of P&R, 1615 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615

#### **Friends of State Parks. Transition (6-22-07)**

John, Haven't said anything about this, and if didn't involve State Parks, wouldn't. If we don't get the membership up and newer blood on the Board I'm afraid the FSP will dry up and blow away in the years to come.

I started going to the Board meetings by taking Mr. Ellis and the ones he couldn't attend, so I could tell him what was happening. Cliff Phillips and Kevan Burnett were both on the Board, giving us 4 from State Parks.

As most of you know the Friends of State Parks are a non-profit citizens organization formed in 1973, whose only goal is to support NC Parks & Recreation in any way they possibly can. Since forming they have done many things to help parks largely by lobbying legislature, from keeping public roads from crossing our parks to pay raises for park personnel to getting the State Parks Trust Fund and many things in between.

While many of you belong to the Friends of State Parks, many don't. We have a membership drive under way. It is at a low from over the years. The more members we have the more clout we have with legislature. We not only want you to join but to get active. We the retirees and former employees are the ones who know what parks is all about on a day to day basis. Not only is membership down, the average age of the Board of Directors, shall I say Senior, Senior Citizens. I am approaching 80 too fast, and I'm the only former employee of this Board attending the quarterly meetings regularly. John Graham and I have talked about this and agree we need candidates for the Board who are somewhat younger, with State Parks experience. Anyone interested please let me know, I will be able to give dates & locations of meetings and an application for membership. Mr. Tom Ellis got me involved about 4 years ago.

#### **Taxidermist of NERI displays. (7-30-07)**

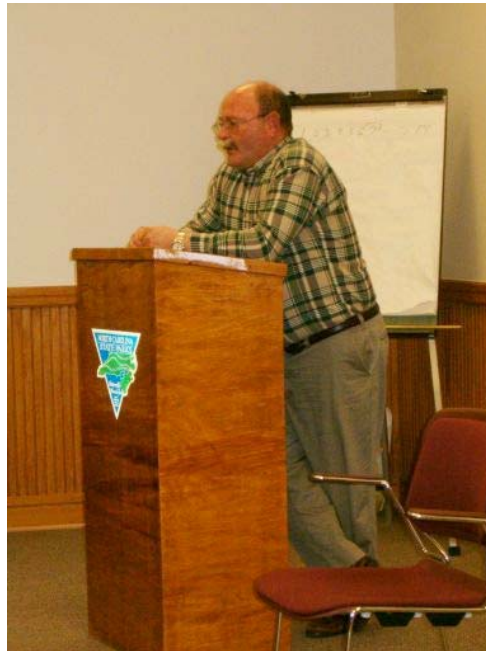
John, you might want to mention that Tommy Wagoner mounted the animal life in the displays [at New River]. When we were shown through the displays the ranger did not mention this, but talking to Mike later, he brought this up. I thought Tommy did a good job on them. Leon.

### **News Updates**



Since I didn't have any photos of Harry Lee Edwards' retirement luncheon in the last issue, I have placed several of them below.

## Good Luck Harry!



### Friday, March 23, 2007

Mrs. Mildred McKnelly, mother of former parks director Phil McKnelly, passed away yesterday following a short illness. She had lived in Raleigh for the last three years. All arrangements will take place in her home state of Arkansas. The following website contains the obituary and more information:  
<http://www.legacy.com/newsobserver/Obituaries.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=86899085>.

For those that would like to send a note or card to Phil, his home address is:

Phil McKnelly  
8829 Woody Hill Road  
Raleigh, NC 27613  
919 676-8365 home phone  
naspd@nc.rr.com email

**Luann Bryan writes: (4-4-07)** Leon I moved Christmas 2005 to Black Mountain

My address is:  
PO Box 593  
Ridgecrest NC 28770

I have been Director of Black Mtn. Rec. & Parks Dept for the town. May 1st I start back as the Consultant for RRS in Swede's old job. Hope you are doing well

Lu

**[Note the following article from the Black Mountain News]**

During her nearly 16 months as Black Mountain Recreation and Parks director, LuAnn Bryan has picked up a slew of unexpected titles along the way: dodge ball referee, park custodian, and basketball fan.

The time constraints of the position, however, took away precious time from her most fulfilling role as mother to her 11-year-old son, Andrew. On April 30, Bryan will leave her post to devote more time to her son and will return to her former position as western region recreation consultant in Black Mountain for North Carolina State University.

"It is a very bittersweet feeling that I am leaving," Bryan said. "The job has been challenging and rewarding. To be effective in this position, it is important to attend all the meetings that are relevant to the recreation and parks department. Going to everything that I needed to go to took too much of my time away from my son."

The Town of Black Mountain has held three diverse groundbreaking for recreational facilities during Bryan's tenure as director. The Village Way greenway, the dog park at River walk Park, and Grey Eagle Arena have all been adopted into the town's recreation facilities under her watch.

With a shrinking number of staff members in her department since her arrival, Bryan has done her best to keep the department running smoothly with limited personnel. Her personal commitment to the town's parks and recreation programs has rubbed off on those who have worked alongside her.

"She's going to leave some big shoes to fill for the next person who takes over," Black Mountain Assistant Recreation and Parks director Casey Connor said. "Her high energy



personality helps to motivate everyone around her, and makes you care about our programs and parks as much as she does."

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Bryan's service to the town has been getting to work closely with other department heads. "The feeling of family with the town staff and support from the fire, police, and public works is something that has made this job a special experience," Bryan said. This is the best experience I have had with cooperation of different departments. Everyone does their best to work together for what is best for the community. I will miss that." One of Bryan's most notable achievements as director has been moving forward a proposal for renovations at Black Mountain Pool that was approved by the Black Mountain Board of Aldermen last month.

The renovations will include refurbishing the pool surface with a plaster finish; adding steps and a bench for shallow-end entry; construction of a handicap access ramp and new bathhouse; replacing pool filtration equipment and plumbing; installing an efficiency circulation pump; replacing tile, depth markers, decking, and fencing around the waiting pool.

"I wanted to explore what the town needed and what the town could bear in operating costs for the pool," Bryan said. "The aldermen wanted an outdoor pool. I think the best alternative was to renovate the existing pool. I think we will have a good project and master plan for Tomahawk Park. I'm glad it is going to tie in the pool, the tennis courts, and the park."

Black Mountain Town Manager Tony Caudle praised Bryan's efforts to present the board with all the potential options and costs associated with each choice leading up to the March decision to renovate the existing pool.

"She's brought us to a point in the discussion about the pool that has been a big step forward with the town," Caudle said.

"We have wrestled for years with how we can move forward pool construction or renovations for years. LuAnn has been a big part of our progress so far."

The Town of Black Mountain has begun an internal search for Bryan's successor and may begin a public search for a new recreation and parks director at a later date, Caudle said.

Staff writer Andy Gravel can be reached at [andy@ blackmountainnews.com](mailto:andy@blackmountainnews.com)  
**[Good Luck LuAnn!]**

**Jay Wild writes: (4-19-07)**

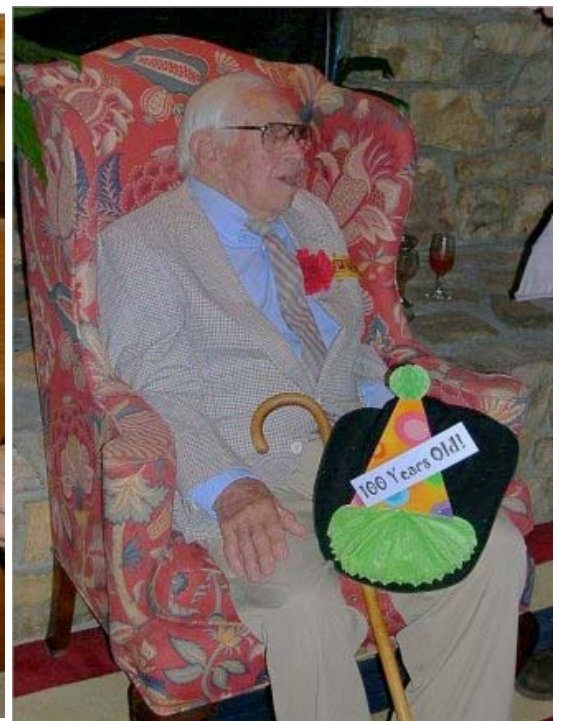
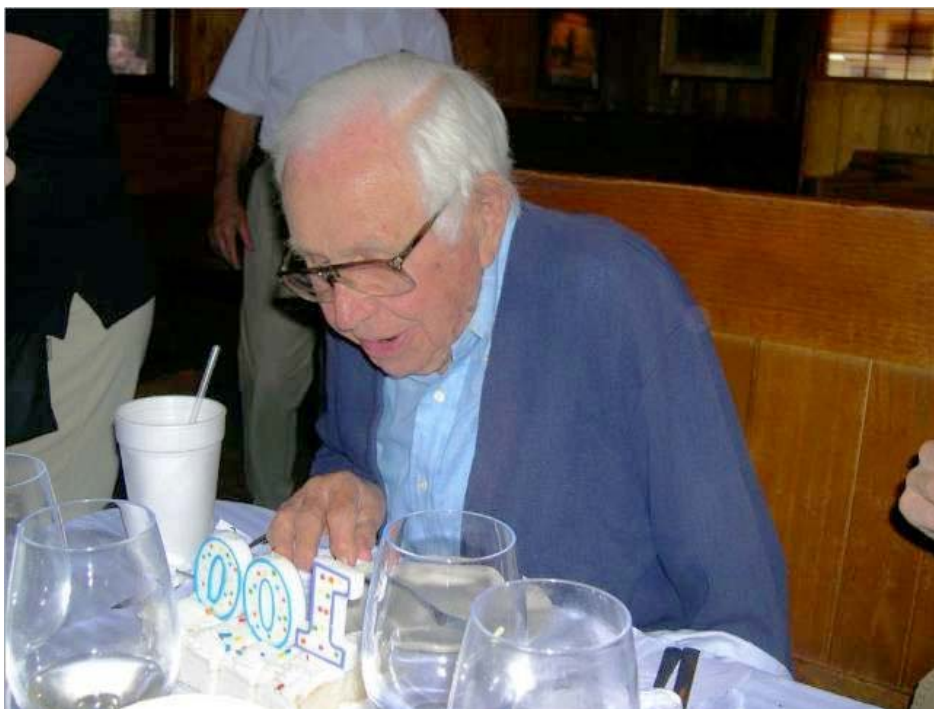
Attached are some photos from Jim Hallsey's 60th birthday party on April 14. His celebration appropriately followed a full days work on the Mountains to Sea trail section near Glendale Springs. Thanks for the N and O article on the GUW lottery winner. Hope you and Ginger are well and that you have had a chance to travel somewhere together or at least have made it down to the railroad tracks to listen to the trains pass. Life here is at

full throttle potting up this year's crop of plants. My brother and I are working on plans for my dad's 100th birthday celebration on June 11th this year. He is still going strong although his eyesight is failing.

[Photos of Jim Halsey's 60th birthday party]



[Photos of J. Wild's Father's 100th Birthday Party]



**Becky Haygood writes: (6-2-07)**

Dear John: Thanks so much. I do not know Pam Lawrence but will keep them in my prayers, of course.

Was going through old Christmas cards this week from several years. It was so good to see cards from you and yours. Hope you both are well and having a wonderful retirement. I haven't heard from Mr. Carter in ages. Is he all right? I never see anyone but occasionally hear from Jo Anne Solomon Clendening. Got my Steward by snail mail yesterday and was so happy to get it. I really enjoy it.

Looking forward to seeing y'all one of these days!!!

God Bless - Becky

**Tom Wells writes: (7-12-07)**

Subject: Vaunted June 2007 Slackass Inc

I have received thousands of requests for a new edition of the Slackass Inc. Newsletter. Unlike previous newsletters which carried stories and articles about the topics of the day this one advances aid and comfort and just down home plain old common sense for those readers who might have some kind of personal problem.

This advice column is somewhat lengthy so choose a time to read which won't impact the carrying out of the duties of those of you who still (snarf, snarf) work.

OH. And for you favored new readers: Hello

(This "Vaunted Slackass Newsletter" is a service of Slackass Inc, an organization dedicated to doing good, having fun and taking crap from exactly no one.)

Vaunted June 2007 Slackass Inc. Special Help and Health Publication Dateline Raleigh, NC June 23 2007

**BREAKTHROUGH IN DEALING WITH HEALTH AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS**

Slackass Pros start acclaimed new service advising adoring readers. Advice given to the ignorant and unwashed who e-mail or phone-in questions only the "Slackass Pros" can and are qualified to handle... offering advice and counsel to unhealthy, love worn and romantically cast-off women and men.

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DEAR SLACKASS PRO,

"My boyfriend, Burwell Baggley has developed a bad habit lately and it's about to end our 22 year relationship. After we make love Burwell has taken to going to the goat pen and crawling in there wearing just his white boxer shorts among the Angola goats and

laying on his back in the dirt, kicking his feet, waving his arms in the air and whistling "Rhapsody in Blue". It just makes me sad. What can I do?"

Signed: Missy Blue in Kingsport, Tennessee

Answer From the Slackass Pro: Dear Missy Blue. "Rhapsody in Blue" is indeed a downer. Can you whistle? If so pucker up and teach Burwell a new tune that you enjoy, perhaps the theme from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". That tune always cheers The Slackass Pro right up; it'll do the same for you and you won't be sad about this whistling problem with Burwell anymore.

Associated health tip: Dear Reader, Do you eat goat cheese? Do you know it's the healthiest of all the cheeses and doesn't bind your bowels as other so-called cheeses do? **HEALTH TIP: EAT GOAT CHEESE!**

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DEAR SLACKASS PRO,

"When my girlfriend, Nectarine, comes over to my singlewide she is making lasting imprints in the yellow shag and her feet are getting big. Not only that but I'm noticing that she is gaining weight to the point that the tires on the left side of my trailer are developing leaks from the added weight. I've just got a bicycle pump and it's about to kill me putting air in those big trailer tires. I think she now weighs a shade over three hundred eighty pounds and she's making the left side of the trailer lower than the right side. (She mostly sleeps on the left side) Her weight gain is affecting our relationship and it's bothering me a lot. What can I do?"

Signed: Overly Anxious in Ocala

Answer from the Slackass Pro:

Dear Overly Anxious., Here's your solution, one which Slackass Pro recommends above all other possible remedies: Go to Home Depot and haul enough concrete blocks back to underpin your singlewide. This will accomplish three things; (1) it will allow Nectarine to gain all the weight she wants to and (2) underpinning is an up-grade and will make your trailer even more "sellable" in today's market and (3) the tires will no longer require inflating since they can be removed; the concrete can take the weight and you can make yard art of the tires...another upgrade increasing curb appeal.

Associated health tip: Big fat is not, NOT good for you **HEALTH TIP: DON'T GET REAL BIG AND FAT!**

(Dear Reader, Do you eat whole foods? Please reconsider as eating ,say, a whole chicken is actually not good for you no matter what the so called "nutrition and health books" say.)

Thought for the Day courtesy of The Slackass Pro: "If God didn't want us to eat animals he would not have made them out of meat".

Mundane Slackass, Inc. Board member News: Slackass Neal Lewis had a heart attack but he's ok now.

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#### BIG SLACKASS INC. NEWS:

Slackass R.Dean Coleman ran his John Deere mower over his outside spigot and had to call the plumber to staunch the geyser...cost him a hundred dollars.

Slackass Jack "Swede" Frauson just returned from an eleven day trip to his ancestral roots.

Slackass Frauson reports a highlight of the trip: while in Sweden he learned to say "smorgasbord".

Slackass Ken Hagen is contemplating a run for Jacksonville NC City Council. Slackass Inc. Board members have reminded Slackass Hagen that he might reconsider this decision as there will be a background check on all candidates.

Slackass Tom Wells, the real good looking Slackass, sang "The Wreck of the Old 97" at the Todd General Store and Mercantile in Todd NC at a recent bluegrass music gathering. Slackass Wells has been invited back to play his guitar and sing some more. Slackass Wells feels real humble and modest about this.

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#### SLACKASS SPONSOR SECTION

Slackass Inc. Board Members Summer Swimwear by:

Boxer Droppers (Slackass Neal Lewis)

Oshkosh Bigosh (Slackass R. Dean Coleman)

Jim Black Clothing Enterprises and Eye Examiners (Slackass Ken Hagan)

Big Speedo Lycra Spandex Thongs and Plow lines (Slackass Jack "Swede" Frauson)

Tarzan Manly Man Swim and Display Inc. (Slackass Tom Wells)

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Got a problem with your health, hygiene and/or so called "love life"? The Slackass Pro can fix it. "No problem too small, too large or disgusting" Contact: twells15@nc.rr.com

#### **Dan Smith writes: (7-30-07)**

John, Thanks. Hope all is well and at the least, hope to see you at Jud's retirement pig



picking in early October. Me, I just got back from a family reunion in Lynchburg, VA today, and then went to the Wayne County Law Enforcement Association meeting tonight. Although I was very tired, just had to go. Had steaks from the grill, with all the trimmings, including homemade ice cream. Couldn't pass this up. Saw Brownie Southerland and Adrian O'Neal, and both are doing good. Got to go unpack and get ready for tomorrow. My mother's 83 rd birthday and got to take my uncle to a foot doctor.

Take care. Dan

**Nelson Chadwick writes: (8-13-07)**

I'll be glad to help out again, and actually would look forward to doing the website again. Of course you are free to move to another site if it suits you better. My youngest daughter and I are doing quite a few websites lately... Just did our town's; check it out at <http://www.greensboromd.com> .

Susan and I have had a big run of bad luck lately. We got rear-ended by a stake body truck Friday the 13th of April. We found out she has Scoliosis, and 5 herniated disks in her lower back as a by product of her physical exams after the wreck. She was in therapy for 8 weeks.

The next month, May 25th, we came down to Susan's mothers to move some furniture from her aunt and uncle's house. They both died this year. My wrist started hurting so bad we went to the hospital on the way home. I found out I had Kienbock's Syndrome, a fancy term for one of my wrist bones dying from lack of blood flow. It's not related to computer use like carpal tunnel. In my case, they don't know why it happened. Most folks who get this are jack hammer operators and other heavy construction professions where there is repeated trauma to the wrists.

They said they wanted to do surgery immediately as the bone had not started to deteriorate, and they had a possibility of restoring it's blood supply by using a "new" bone graft procedure. The alternative is nasty and will be my fate if the graft doesn't work -- they take out the lower 4 wrist bones. This causes major reduction of strength and flexibility. No brainer, I said go for the surgery. They weren't kidding about doing it "quick". They scheduled me for surgery got an MRI and x-ray done in 1 week.

They did surgery on June 6th to move a piece of bone with it's own blood supply from my forearm and grafted it into my dead wrist bone. It has a 40 to 60 percent chance of working. If it works it may take up to 3 years before I can use my wrist normally again. I wear a brace and can't do most of the things I usually do to maintain the house, grass mowing, hammering, painting, etc; but fortunately I can mouse and keyboard as good as ever. Career is safe, at least for now. I had the pins removed from my wrist on July 15th. As of then the graft was still living and there were no complications where they removed the bone from my arm.

I go back for my next checkup on August 27th. Thirteen weeks post operative, MAN there is that number 13 again. I'm not usually superstitious but I am starting to wonder.

Hope all is still well as I've had a few ouches along the way....doing things I shouldn't out of reflex and habit. (Right arm and I'm right handed), just call me lefty. Had to learn to eat, brush my teeth, shave, etc..... etc with the wrong hand. I can't seem to stop picking up something and thinking ..... I shouldn't have done that about the time my fingers cramp and the pain hits my elbow.

They won't let me do therapy yet. My only exercise is to remove the brace and gently wave my hand back and forth several times each day. have less than 50% of my other hand's range of movement and it's not improving very fast. My hand always feels sore and "fat" like when you hit your finger with a hammer.

Even with all this, I'm still going to water plants, writing programs and doing websites just like always. I'm really thankful this isn't effecting my ability to support my family. Ashleigh goes back to college in two weeks. I only have one semester's payments left and I will have gotten all three kids college costs paid for without me or them incurring any loan debt.

Well, let me know about the website and send me the digital stuff any time. Give my regards to the family, my mom said to say hi next time I emailed you. So Hi from her.

Regards, Nelson

**From Raleigh News and Observer: Columbia, S.C.:**

A 79-year-old North Carolina man who won a \$15 million Power ball jackpot will finally be able to retire from his job, but he doesn't have any grandiose spending plans.

"I'm going to but me a RC Cola and a Moon Pie," Dick Sandlin, a utility worker for N.C. State Parks, said Tuesday during a news conference in South 'Carolina, where the winning ticket was sold.

With his cash prize, the Navy veteran could but more than 7.1 Moon Pies, a pastry that consists of graham crackers with a marshmallow filling.

Sandlin, of Wilmington, came forward nearly two weeks after the numbers were drawn. Since learning they had the winning ticket –with the numbers 19-30-39-40-53 and the Power ball number 16 – he has met with an accountant and lawyers.

Sandlin will take the lump sum payment of \$7.1 million, which will amount to about \$4.2 million after taxes, lottery officials said.

Sandlin's wife, Colleen, 78, said the winning ticket should have been hers. "He got in the line in front of me, and he got my number," she said.

The couple bought the ticket on their way back from Florida at a gas station in Florence, a city near Interstate 95 and close to North Carolina. The store will receive \$50,000.



Sandlin recalled chatting with the clerk when he asked for the quick pick, which are computer-generated numbers. "I asked her, 'Have you ever sold a winning ticket?'" Sandlin said. "She said, 'No we haven't' I said, 'Well, I'm going to change your luck.'"

It was the fourth time a winning Power ball ticket was sold in South Carolina, but each of the winners has been from North Carolina.

"We're just luckier," Sandlin quipped.

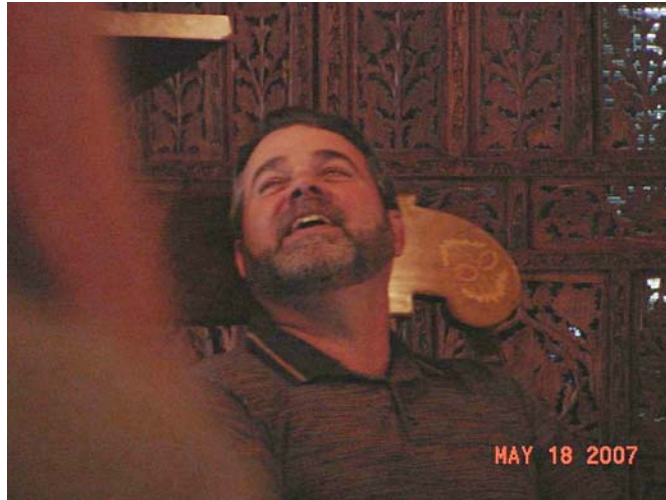
Power ball is played in 29 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### **New Additions**

#### **Tim Benton -- John Sharpe writes:**

Tim was given a very nice send off today (May 18) at the Little Sienna restaurant near Marion, N.C.. There were about 30 people there to honor him, including Sid Shearin from Pettigrew. That's a long way to drive. Not too much roasting but a lot of good toasting of Tim's accomplishments. Tim and his wife Donnie will live at their old farm in Madison county. The alumni that were present were myself, Jay Wild, Walt Gravley, Kenny McGrady, Roy Rogers, and Dan Smith. We all had a good time. As always, it was good to see old friends and as always I was unable to talk to everyone. Jay told me that Cliff Phillips son, Chip, is living near me on Hwy. 80 near where we had the luncheon today.





**Phoebe Wahab's Retirement Party 3-21-07:**

Goose Creek State Park threw a very delightful retirement party for **Phoebe Wahab**, in their Environmental Education building. Kelley Thompson, Supt. of the park was emcee. After the usual Awards and a bunch of real neat gifts there was the kind comments by friends.



One comment by a former Seasonal related. Carolina Beach. One Saturday morning at the normal time to pick-up and put to work, the community workers sent out by the judge. Phoebe goes out front and there is a small group standing around. She tells them to get on the truck. After picking up some trash along the road and cleaning the restroom at the picnic grounds (cracking her little whip all the time) she tells them to load up, they have the wash houses at camping to clean up. At this point one of the men says "Ma'am, this is fine, but we just stopped by to get some information on the park." Moral of this is, "KNOW WHO IS ON THE BACK OF YOUR TRUCK." I had never heard this one. But she took it in the spirit it was given.

The best count there were 64 there two help celebrate her retirement. Phoebe's parents, husband and daughter. Unless I missed someone 6 retirees and 3 of our wives. Most of the active staff were from the East District and quite a few locals. The same people that prepared a fine BBQ dinner at Dan Smiths retirement party, duplicated it for Phoebe. And they were not caterers. A fine time was had by all . Wish the rest of you had been there.

This Environmental Education building is more than just a Visitors Center, it is geared to teach Environmental Education. It's new since I retired and I knew nothing of it until arriving on the park. I was very impressed. And I got the impression Phoebe had been a huge asset to the learning experience given on this park.

**Leon Leon Carter writes: July 19, 2007**

there was a very nice going away party for Jane Bernard who has served at Falls Lake



State Recreation Area for 17+ years, with a couple of years seasonal before that. Most all of the active staff of Falls Lake were present, Ed Farr, Supt of Stone Mountain, who had served at the Falls as Supt I, several from division office, & one from Wake County PER and myself attended. William Ray & his side kick, locals who have cooked pigs for the Falls for years, BBQ the chickens. Lets all welcome Jane to the "Transition" mailing list.

I am not sure what Jane's official title was at the Falls, but she was in charge of water & sanitary sewer treatment on the park. But she let us know our everyday title for her had been upgraded. She had met a couple from Venezuela, the husband had a good command of English, but the wife's wasn't quite that good. When Jane told them what her job consisted of, the husband understood but the wife wanted a translation in their native tongue. She then thought for a second and then in English said "a pooh-poo cop." Oh, Jane is going with NC Div. of Water Quality (with a nice raise) to work with Hog farmers. Does that make her "a piggy pooh-poo cop." I slap my hand for passing on this bit of Info.



Jane and son:

### **Those Who Will Be Missed**

#### **Willie Shaw Tuesday, March 06, 2007**

It is with sadness that I convey the report just received from his brother Irvin Shaw ... Willie Shaw passed away at the hospital last night. Services are tentatively being planned for Saturday, March 10 at 11:30 a.m. Lincolnville AME Zion Church, 6300 Chapel Hill Rd, (near the state fairgrounds) of Raleigh.

If you would like to send a card or note of encouragement or provide other support to the family: Mrs. Dorothy Shaw, 1004 Hadley Rd., Raleigh, NC 27610

As you likely know, Willie began his parks career as a ranger at Reedy Creek, was the "ranger in charge" at the Crabtree section of Umstead for many years, before completing his parks career overseeing the maintenance program at Jordan Lake. I had the good fortune to work with Willie at Umstead when I started as a ranger many years ago. I had much respect for Willie and valued his friendship. Please remember the Shaw family in your thoughts and prayers.