



A History of the Kisatchie National Forest

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Caroline Dormon, 1958



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— Anna C. Burns, 1981



A History of the Kisatchie National Forest

Preface

From feast to famine... and back to a healthy diet... that is the fascinating story of Louisiana's timber industry.

In the late 1800s virgin forests covered 85 percent of Louisiana. Not only was most of the land in timber, much of it was in pure stands of magnificent yellow pine. The quality, volume, and level terrain of those pineries, as they were called then, represented a lumberman's dream. And they reaped that dream in the short span of roughly 25 years. Those outstanding forests enabled Louisiana to lead the nation in lumber production in 1914 and rank second for several years. But that fast cut-out-and-get-out practice left Louisiana a blackened stump-waste just as the Great Depression gripped the nation. Devoid of resources or hope, few people saw any future for Louisiana in timber.

But today Louisiana is green again, and the state's only national forest, the Kisatchie, is considered a forester's dream. In 1979 and 1980, it led all other national forests of the South in revenue produced per acre.

The account of that remarkable recovery, along with the interesting background of how Louisiana happened to get its national forest, is told in the first part of this history. Equally important are the account of the Kisatchie's early years and the picture of its colorful employees. It is a story rich with folklore, humor, and that special devotion, or *esprit de corps*, that so often characterized the old Forest Service. Mixed with Louisiana's traditions and special brand of politics, the Kisatchie's history is both typical and unique.

The past, present, and future of the Kisatchie and Louisiana are woven together with the strong bond of sustained-yield forestry that supports more jobs than any other resource-related field besides the petrochemical industry. Yet the general public is often unaware of the important role Louisiana's national forest plays in the state's economy or how the quality of life for its citizens is enhanced. The basic purpose of this study, therefore, is to tell the remarkable history of the Forest Service's achievements on the Kisatchie, and to help preserve the forest's heritage along with that of Louisiana.



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Chapter I Introduction

Louisiana's Heritage

What comes to mind when you hear "Louisiana"? To many out-of-staters, the word conjures up scenes of Mardi Gras celebrations in New Orleans and French Quarter revelry. But Louisiana is more than just that fabulous "City That Care Forgot."

If you are in real estate, Louisiana reminds you of the greatest deal of all time, when our young nation more than doubled its area by buying land west of the Mississippi River from France at the bargain price of three cents an acre. That fabulous Louisiana Purchase later became not only the State of Louisiana but 12 other states as well, from Arkansas to Montana.

Foremost to many are Louisiana's strong French heritage and its fun-loving Cajuns. If you are an attorney, you recognize Louisiana as the only state whose civil law is based on the Napoleonic Code and not the traditional English common law, as in the other 49 states.

Still others may think of Louisiana as the site of the Super Bowl or where Huey Long held sway. Some think of Louisiana as a great oil and gas producer or a land of sugar cane, cotton plantations, and antebellum mansions.

It is all that and much more; but to the U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana is known as the location of the "Forester's Dream,"* Kisatchie National Forest. As the only national forest in Louisiana, the Kisatchie does not claim to be the biggest or oldest among all the national forests; in fact, Louisiana's national forest acreage is the lowest in the Southern Region with the exception of Oklahoma. But the Kisatchie is the most productive. Its earnings per acre led all the others for a number of years.

To those who are not familiar with the timber heritage of Louisiana, this fact comes as a surprise. Many are unaware that this Deep South state led the nation in lumber production back in 1914 and ranked second for several years during the boom days, when its virgin timber was cut down like fields of ripe wheat. The giant sawmills of that day followed the common cut-out-and-get-out practice, moving out of state when the virgin timber was exhausted, leaving millions of acres bare stump-wastes. In the rush for quick profits, no thought was given to the harm being done to the land and its people. Deprived of their resources and livelihood, many had no hope for the future as these desperate times merged with the Great Depression on the national scene. Little wonder that many Louisiana hill people turned to Huey Long and his persuasive "Share the Wealth, Every Man a King" dream.

*J. Lanar Beasley, Deputy Chief, USFS; interviewed by Anna C. Burns, May 1981, Washington, D.C.

But today wood-using industries are again employing more people than any other industry in Louisiana besides the petrochemical. This is due to the miracle of reforestation. Just as God let a tree make the bitter water of Marah sweet for the Children of Israel, so a tree, the yellow pine, made life sweet again for the hill people of Louisiana.

When this life-giving second-growth forest is examined, three important forces are seen cooperating to bring about sustained-yield forestry. Private industry, the Louisiana Office of Forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service play vital roles, and each has mutually encouraged the others. The U.S. Forest Service functions through its three divisions of State & Private, the Southern Forest Experiment Station, and the Kisatchie National Forest. All three divisions are making valuable contributions, but it is on the Kisatchie's more than half-million productive acres that theories are put into practical application, and high-yielding harvests provide a substantial share of raw material for the state's industries.

The saga of the Kisatchie is certainly a success story, not only in the value of its wood products, but in the value of its rehabilitation demonstrations which helped other timberland owners to undertake similar work. But to fully appreciate the Kisatchie's success, one needs to review its background, because its history really began long before the Secretary of Agriculture officially proclaimed it to be a national forest in 1930.

Geography

Louisiana's geography is an interesting mixture of contrasts, from marshes and swamps to hills, from sleepy bayous and sandy creeks to the mighty Mississippi, from some of the richest alluvial farmland in the nation to the very poor, sandy clays which grew those magnificent virgin pines.

Located on the Gulf of Mexico astride the mouth of the Mississippi, Louisiana is part of the Gulf Coastal Plain. The state's highest point is 535 feet, at Driscoll Mountain, near Arcadia. Average elevations range from 400 feet in the northern sections and gradually sloping southward to below sea level at New Orleans. Its long coastline is mainly brackish marshland and estuaries on each side of the Mississippi Delta.

Rising above the marshes are the prairie regions of south central Louisiana. The Mississippi River bisects the lower half of the state and forms its eastern boundary on the upper half. The Red River cuts diagonally across the northern half. Rich alluvial soils lie deep and thick alongside the Red and Mississippi Rivers.

There are three principal upland regions in Louisiana which were the sites of vast original longleaf pine areas. The superb quality of these stands, often surpassing the 75 percent requirement of a "pure" stand, was noted in early government studies by Charles S. Sargent for the 1880 census and Charles Mohr in the 1897 Division of For-

Louisiana's Poverty Point and Timeline of Louisiana's Cultural Past

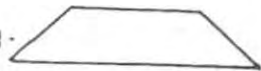
A.D. 1542 to Present

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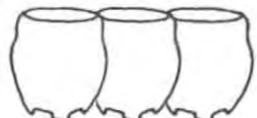
A.D. 400 to A.D. 1542

Coles Creek - Plaquemine -
Mississippian - Caddo



500 B.C. to A.D. 400

Tchefuncte - Marksville



2000 B.C. to 500 B.C.

Poverty Point



6000 B.C. to 2000 B.C.

Meso - Indian



10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C.

Paleo - Indian

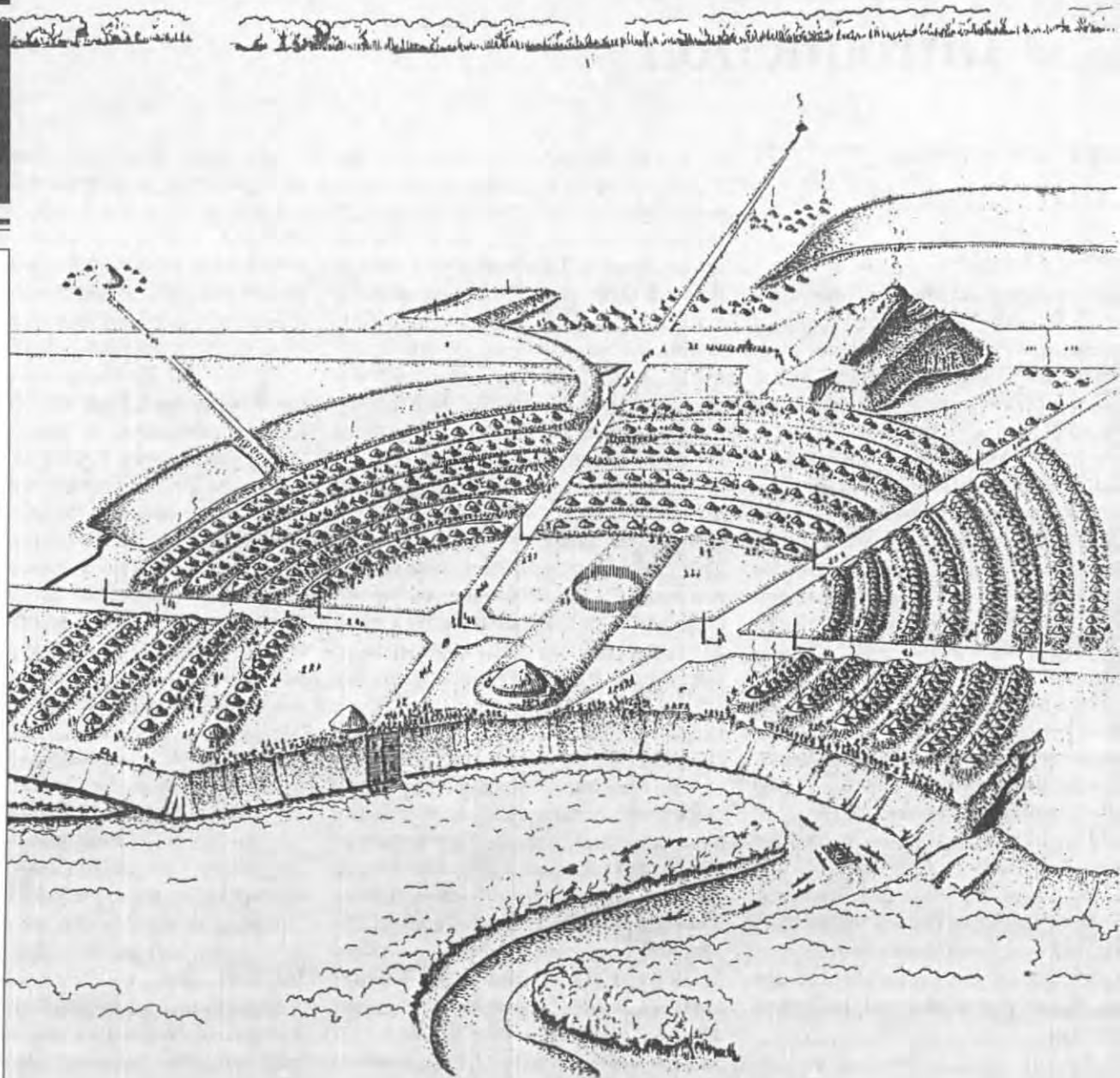
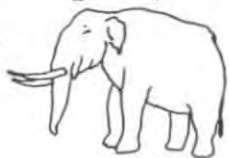


Illustration by Jon Gibson, 1987

estry bulletin, *The Timber Pines of the Southern United States*. One longleaf region was in the Florida parishes, the area east of the Mississippi River and north of Lake Pontchartrain that remained part of the Spanish territory of West Florida at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. Another longleaf pine area was below the Red River in the southwestern part of the state. The third was in the north central section lying between the Red and Ouachita Rivers. The Kisatchie National Forest is located in upland areas west of the Mississippi.

Louisiana's subtropical climate affords ample moisture and a long growing season, which are ideal for row crops and timber. The first fall freeze varies from November 6 to as late as December 26, while the last freeze in the spring comes as early as January 10 in the southern part or an average of mid-March over the rest of the state. The annual rainfall averages 48 to 64 inches.

The state's main topographical features are the coastal marshes, alluvial flood plains, prairies, and hilly uplands. The uplands do not attain great elevation, rising rarely above 400 feet in the north and sloping gradually to an average of 100 feet. The two highest areas west of the Mississippi River are the Kisatchie Hills on the Vernon-Natchitoches Parish boundary and another farther north in Claiborne Parish. The soils of the uplands are sandy clays with sandstone outcroppings exposed in the scenic Kisatchie Wold.

It is estimated that dense forests originally covered 85 percent of Louisiana's land area. Today that figure stands at slightly more than 55 percent.

Indians & early settlers

Archeological studies indicate that Native Americans probably entered what is now North America 13,000 to 15,000 years ago, perhaps as early as 20,000 years in the past. Louisiana archeologists say these peoples began arriving by about 12,000 years ago.

These true "Native Louisianans" saw a landscape and climate different than today's; our familiar vast pine forests were still thousands of years in the future. The earliest Louisiana sites are in the southern coastal areas, but archeological work on the Kisatchie shows that humans of this period, called Paleo-Indian, were present here.

Around 8,000 years ago, climate and vegetation began gradually changing the landscape into one more familiar. Over the next few thousands of years pine forests claimed dominance over the preceding hardwoods and savannas. For the next 5 or 6 thousand years native populations increased, and people inhabited much of the state.

Somewhere around 2,000 years ago, near the end of the Archaic Period, Louisiana became the site of one of the most significant and astounding cultures in prehistoric North America: the Poverty Point culture, thus the mound site bearing that name in the northeast corner of the state. The earthen structures at Poverty Point surpass the size and complexity of any previous cultures north of Mexico. This remarkable culture, and the trading network it established across North America, reached its high point between 1200 – 800 BC.

The most striking features of the Poverty Point site are its central plaza, with six concentric ridges stretching nearly three-

quarters of a mile, and a massive earth mound which archeologists believe depicts the shape of a bird. These features bespeak a highly complex socio-political group with an elaborate religious system. However, by around 800 BC, for reasons not yet fully understood by archeologists, the Poverty Point culture began slowly declining and disappeared within 300 years.

By about 500 BC, every ecosystem in Louisiana, from piney uplands to coastal and riverine lowlands, was inhabited or used by native peoples. New technology — ceramic vessels and early agriculture — began shaping cultural traditions here and across the Southeast. Culture periods of this time included Tchefuncte and, for the central Louisiana area, Marksville. The Marksville site in Avoyelles Parish was characterized by fine ceramics with a wide variety of decorative styles; and a sophisticated ceremonial system of conical burial mounds and elaborate grave offerings.

From the Marksville period until about AD 1100, agriculture, ceramics, the bow and arrow, and permanent habitations were the mainstays of Native American culture. The Kisatchie has numerous sites representing this time period.

Around AD 1000, the distinctive Caddo culture emerged in north and central Louisiana, and neighboring parts of Arkansas, Texas, and Mississippi. The Caddo peoples sprang from cultures existing in the area, but also adopted traits often associated with Middle America, such as flat-topped ceremonial mounds and religious symbols like the "feathered serpent." While archeologists cannot document religious or ceremonial Caddoan sites in the national forest, there are numerous examples of domestic Caddo life. The Caddoans enjoyed a society of relative stability and lasted as a definable

entity until contacted by early European explorers in the late 16th century.

At that time, native populations within the state are estimated around 15,000. By AD 1700 that number had dwindled to less than 13,000, with fewer than 500 in central Louisiana by the 1770s.

Indian populations continued diminishing almost to extinction, but that trend was reversed after 1850. Today their number is estimated at around 5,000, in scattered tribal remnants of Choctaw, Kosati, Houma, and Tunica, many of whom are of mixed heritage. It is believed that the word Kisatchie comes from the Choctaw linguistic group and means "long cane."

Since the earliest records of Louisiana history the name Kisatchie has been given to the area of hills and rocky outcroppings, or wold, in the northwestern part of central Louisiana.

When the Spanish came to Louisiana in the 16th century, they sought only gold and silver, and made no attempts at settlement. While traveling down the Mississippi more than a century later, LaSalle claimed that entire drainage for King Louis XIV of France in 1682. But settlement of the territory was slow; Natchitoches became the site of the first permanent settlement in 1714, and New Orleans was founded four years later.

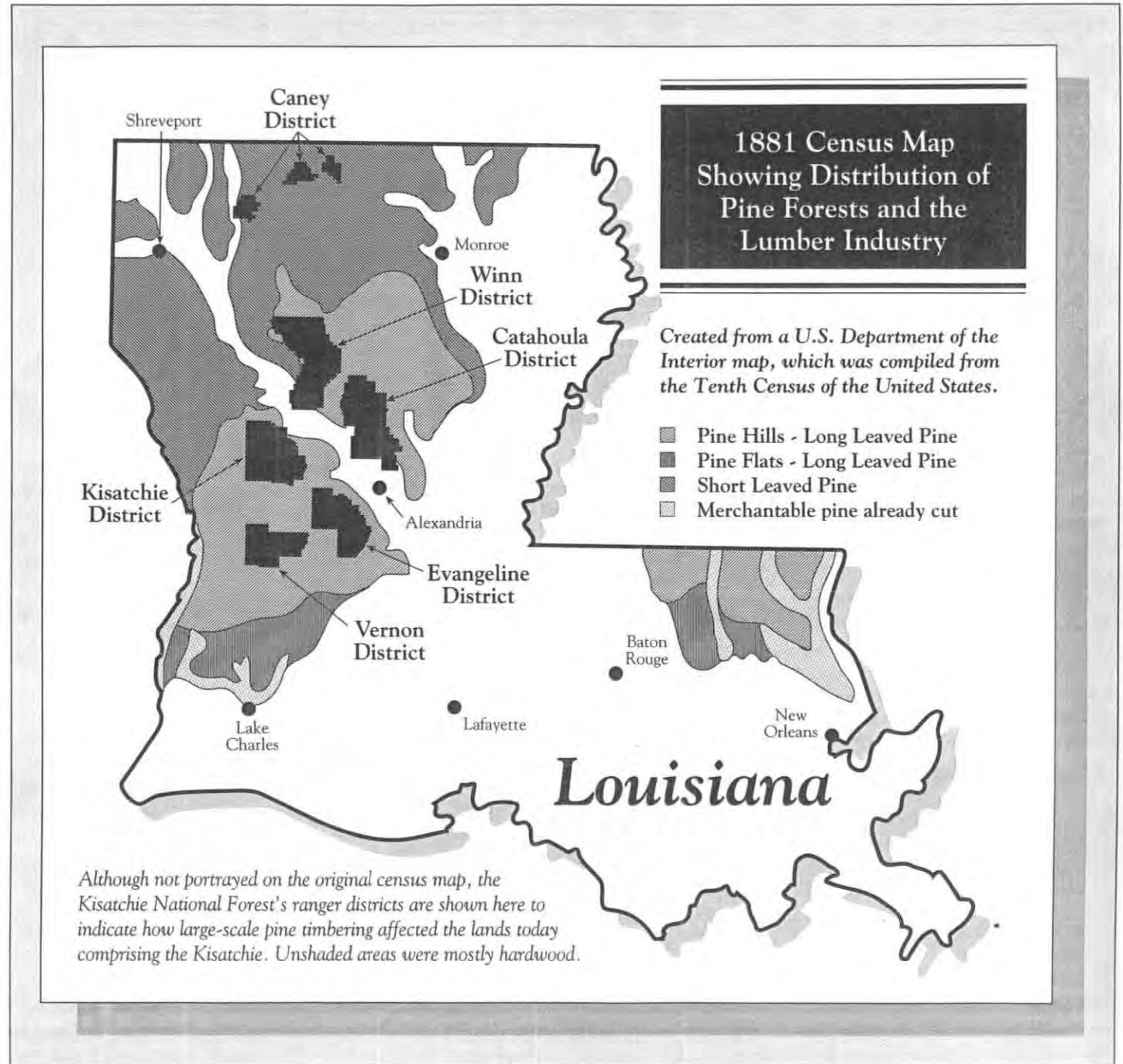
Louisiana remained a French colony until it was lost to Spain in 1743. A secret treaty in 1800 gave it back to France, and in 1803 Napoleon sold all of the Louisiana territory (all lands draining from the west into the Mississippi River) to the young United States, thereby doubling the nation's size for the bargain price of \$15 million.

The colony grew slowly under both France and Spain. Real increases in population came only after Louisiana was part of the United States. Even after statehood was

granted, vast areas of upland remained unsettled. Naturally, prime cropland was taken first, especially along navigable streams. The vast pure stands of longleaf pine proved too formidable a barrier for yeoman farmers. Eventually, as the population increased geometrically, more land was cleared for small subsistence farms. Vast unbroken tracts of virgin forests were nevertheless virtually untouched, remaining in the public domain until after Reconstruction.

Most of the area covered by Kisatchie National Forest was archaeologically unknown, since it had none of the easily recognized mound sites that attracted early investigations. However, this lack of study is now changing. After Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, cultural resources on federal lands could no longer be overlooked in considering the environment. The Forest Service adopted the location, investigation, protection, and enhancement of archaeological and historic sites as part of its mandated mission.

In June 1977 an archaeologist for the Western Zone of the Southern Region was assigned to the Kisatchie. Since little was known archaeologically about the Kisatchie, the first step was the collection of locational data. By 1980 more than 20,000 acres had been surveyed, on which 250 archaeological sites were identified. Zone archaeologist Dr. John E. Keller reported that, although most of the sites appeared to represent small aboriginal campsites and stations where game animals were processed, some larger sites such as villages, base camps, and quarries, also were located. Dr. Keller claimed, "Some of these sites date back at least to 10,000 B.C. and represent evidence of some of the earliest human occupation in the Southeast."



Louisiana's forests

More than 85 percent of Louisiana's land area was originally covered with lush forests. It had magnificent hardwoods, the finest cypress in the United States, and millions of acres of pine. In three areas of the state these pine forests were in pure stands with estimates as high as 30,000 to 40,000 board feet per acre.

This vast forest wealth remained virtually untouched until the last decades of the 19th century. Previously there had been only limited lumbering along settled streams. Although back in the earliest colonial days lumber and naval stores had been major exports to the West Indian sugar isles, the total production was very limited due to Louisiana's small colonial population.

Even after Louisiana became a state, it was more than 80 years before industrial lumbering played an important part in the state's economy. This fact was mainly due to a lack of inland transportation and to the fact that the nation's needs at that time were being filled from northern forests, especially those in the Great Lakes region.

Then two important events occurred simultaneously which, along with the advances in technology, "mined" Louisiana's pine and cypress forests, leaving vast, unproductive cut-over areas.

Louisiana's Golden Age of Lumbering

Railroads came to Louisiana in the late 1880s, just as the Northern timber was exhausted. Mill owners flocked to the virgin pine stands of the Deep South, where the newly built main line railroads could now move their products to market. In Louisiana the lumber companies were able to obtain great blocks of land. Many sections had been granted to the railroads and, after Reconstruction ended, public domain land could again be purchased after having been frozen by Congress. In certain former Confederate states, Congress had halted all purchases in order to make homesteads available for the newly freed slaves. But in Louisiana very little was patented because the forests were so unsuited for agriculture.

As the railroads opened up the Louisiana pineries, one after another company-owned sawmill town sprang up. The owners and supervisors were usually out-of-staters, eager to harvest their timber as quickly as possible. Many mills lasted fewer than 15 years; a few operated for 20 before they closed, moving on to the next virgin stands.

The reaction of most local people was equally shortsighted. The natives welcomed the mills, for it was their first opportunity to have steady-paying jobs. For hundreds it was the first cash income they had ever seen. The company towns provided community life and social opportunities they had not enjoyed on their scattered subsistence farms. In Louisiana the woods workers were mostly married men whose families lived with them, following them from one



1927 – These two men prepare to fall a longleaf pine using a crosscut saw, a typical scene of logging in the virgin pineries of southwestern Louisiana.



During the great lumbering boom in Louisiana, logs destined for the giant sawmills were frequently moved from the woods by oxen before being loaded on steam locomotives. But where possible, skidding of logs was done directly from the rail bed.

Facing page, from upper left, clockwise:

1937 – Team of oxen at a log loading area.

1937 – Driver and team of oxen hauling a load of logs.

1939 – The powerful steam skidder in operation.

1939 – A steam skidder with its associated locomotive and log train.



At left:
1926 – A fully loaded log train, ready to go to the sawmill.

Above:
1937 – A denuded area that was typical of Louisiana scenery in the 1930s.

mill to another.

Thus, Louisiana's indigenous work force was quite different from the all-male lumberjack logging camps of the North. Louisiana was their homeland; here they were rearing their families; yet few had the vision to recognize what was happening to their livelihood.

Two local voices were raised, but they were scarcely heard above the whine of the sawmills running 12- to 24-hour shifts in their mad rush for profits. Fortunately for Louisiana, these determined individuals would not be silenced, and today Louisiana owes them a deep debt of gratitude. Henry Hardtner is acknowledged as the "Father of Reforestation in the South," and many Louisianans consider Caroline Dormon as the "mother" of the Kisatchie National Forest. Of course, the Forest Service correctly maintains that there would not have been a Kisatchie National Forest without Miss Dormon's help. But as Arthur Hartman, the third supervisor of the Kisatchie from 1935-36, pointed out in 1982:

Miss Dormon was a brilliant, dedicated, enthusiastic, and unusually capable person. She was an outstanding botanist and "the" authority on Louisiana botany. As such she was appalled by the rapid and extensive devastation of Louisiana's timber stands, and appreciated the importance of preserving for posterity and scientists one or more sizable blocks of virgin timber stands. Her long, untiring efforts toward that objective, as well as pressing for more organized actions toward rehabilitation of denuded forest lands, were of a degree which eventually built up something of a legend around her name.

Henry Hardtner

Henry Hardtner was different from his fellow mill owners in several ways. First of all, he was a native of Pineville, Louisiana, where his father had a mercantile business. As the lumbering boom developed, first the elder Hardtner and then young Henry invested in small operations. Henry went on to establish the Urania Lumber Company at the site he named Urania in Central Louisiana. It was not on the scale of the giant sawmills such as the Great Southern Lumber Company at Bogalusa or the Gulf Lumber Company at Fullerton. But at Urania, Henry Hardtner made giant strides toward reforestation and southern yellow pine research, things essentially unknown and un-



Department of Special Collections, Manuscripts and Archives, Prescott Memorial Library, La. Tech Univ., Ruston, La.

attempted before in Louisiana.

Hardtner loved his woods and was a close observer of nature. He noticed that seedlings sprang up around a seed tree and grew *if protected*. From this conclusion his dream of a continuous forest began. He was so intent on having a second-growth forest that he began experimental studies on his own lands and called on the U.S. Bureau of Forestry for advice. But in 1904 the Bureau of Forestry was just a fledgling organization, and no one really knew the best procedures for reforestation because the "silvicultural systems, methods, and techniques most applicable in the several yellow pine timber types, and their variations of associated species, soils, and other environmental factors, had not been worked out." Forestry itself was so new in the United States that before 1898 students traveled to Europe to study that curriculum.

Gifford Pinchot, an 1889 Yale graduate, became the first American trained in forestry through a year's study in Europe. He succeeded Bernard Fernow as head of the Division of Forestry in the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1898. Under the aegis of his friend and fellow conservationist President Theodore Roosevelt, Pinchot greatly expanded the forestry agency, which was renamed with its current title, United States Forest Service, in 1905. That same year, the administration of the federal Forest Reserves was taken from the Department of the Interior and given to the Forest Service. Although Pinchot and his successors did a remarkable job of developing the Forest Service on a national scale, in Louisiana

Henry E. Hardtner, no date. Mr. Hardtner was first among the pioneers in the science and the practice of reforestation in Louisiana.

accomplishments came much later. Whereas the first Forest Service Experiment Station was established in 1908 in Arizona, the Southern Forest Experiment Station was not established in Louisiana until 1921, and Kisatchie National Forest was not established until 29 years after the first Forest Reserves had been created.

In Louisiana, Henry Hardtner continued his study of nature and experimenting on his own land. As Hardtner later explained, "I had to blaze my own path, there was no royal road to southern pine forestry." He was so convinced of the future of southern pine reproduction that he began buying up cut-over land to be reforested. His fellow lumbermen scoffed at the idea of growing a second crop of trees, but Hardtner tirelessly preached his "gospel" at every opportunity. By 1908, the conservation movement was being boosted by President Theodore Roosevelt, and Hardtner was a perennial speaker on behalf of southern forestry.

At Hardtner's request, the Forest Service sent W. W. Ashe in 1909 and J. H. Foster in 1910 to examine the Urania Forest. Hardtner also invited Dr. Herman E. Chapman to bring students from the Yale Forestry School to study conditions at Urania. Beginning in 1913, this became an annual part of Yale's forestry program and remained so for the next 30 years. In 1915, the Forest Service sent Samuel Trask Dana to establish official study plots on Hardtner's land, thereby gaining important research data six years before the establishment of the Southern Forest Experiment Station in Louisiana.

Caroline Dormon

Meanwhile in the Kisatchie Hills, another voice called for the preservation of a stand of Louisiana's magnificent virgin longleaf pines, now being logged rapidly. Caroline Dormon, a valiant little school teacher known as "Miss Carrie," campaigned by writing reams of letters to the U.S. Forest Service, lumber company owners, politicians, club officers, associations, newspapers, and state conservation officers. Her original dream was to set aside a virgin stand of longleaf in Louisiana's unique scenic area, the "Kisatchie Wold." Despite her years of writing to influential people and personally conducting state and federal foresters all over that area, the trees were cut.



Courtesy Don Guillot Studio, Natchitoches, LA

Unlike the leaders of successful movements to preserve portions of the White and Appalachian Mountains, Miss Carrie did not win wide public support for her dream of saving some of Louisiana's virgin longleaf pines. Mill owners had been too intent on their profits, and neither the state nor the federal government could purchase the Kisatchie Wold for a park.

Originally, Congress had made no provision to buy lands for national forests, and the first forest reserves were created from the public domain in 1891. By then, the bulk of the remaining public domain was in the West. In 1911, Congress passed the Weeks Act, the first legislation to permit the purchase of forest land. However, purchases were limited to vital watershed areas in order to stop erosion and preserve the navigability of streams.

Nevertheless, Caroline Dormon had not given up her dream for the protection and preservation of the natural beauty of the Kisatchie Wold. Even though the virgin timber was gone, she was convinced of a future for reforestation. Miss Carrie had given up her teaching position and worked full time for conservation and forestry whether she was paid or not. She made quite a name for herself as a botanist, author, and artist, writing Louisiana's first handbook on native trees and instituting the state's first public school programs for conservation education. Her knowledge of Louisiana's wildflowers, trees, and shrubs brought her recognition from as far away as Yale's Arbotum. However, along with her other ac-

Here and inside the front cover, "Miss Carrie," Caroline Dormon, in 1958. She reposes next to one of the giant pines she fought so hard to preserve. The existence of the Kisatchie is today attributed largely to her perseverance.

tivities, she continued to work for a way to save the Kisatchie. More letters, more contacts, more pleas — Caroline Dormon was indefatigable in the face of what seemed to be an impossible dream. She attended forestry congresses and personally buttonholed and/or wrote to U.S. Forest Service leaders such as Henry S. Graves, Colonel William B. Greeley, William Willard Ashe, and Reginald D. Forbes pleading the Kisatchie's cause. However, at that time, the Forest Service needed further legislation which would allow land purchases for the primary purpose of producing timber in addition to that of promoting the navigability of rivers.

Meanwhile, developments were underway which led to the passage of what has been deemed "undoubtedly one of the most important pieces of forestry legislation in American history." The expanding Forest Service, an increased public awareness of the benefits of forestry, and a growing national fear of timber "famine" combined to spur members of Congress to pass the Clarke-McNary Act in 1924. By amending the Weeks Act, the Clarke-McNary Act provided that forest land purchases were no longer limited to the headwaters of navigable streams. During 1923, Colonel Greeley, then Forest Service Chief, assisted the Senate Select Committee on Reforestation in "investigating problems relating to reforestation, with a view to establishing a comprehensive national policy." Twenty-four hearings were held across the nation, and several days of testimony were taken in New Orleans. Although Miss Dormon was not included among those heard, Henry Hardtner gave an account of his work and beliefs. The resulting Clarke-McNary Act provided for cooperation with state forestry agencies and allowed the purchase of cut-over land that was deemed primarily suited

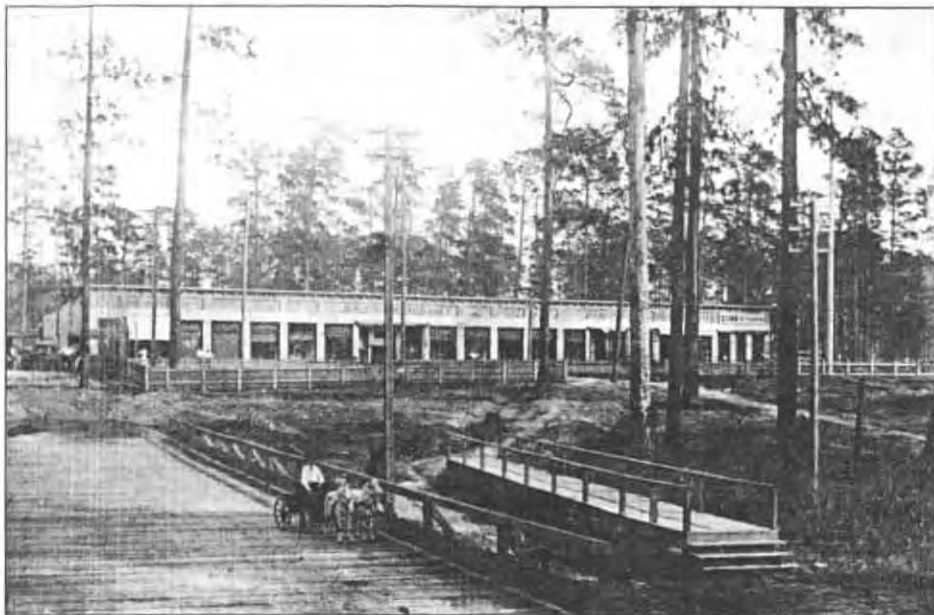
for timber production.

W. W. Ashe and Deputy Chief Leon F. Kniepp had made inspection trips across the South and agreed that much of Louisiana qualified for purchase. In fact, according to a letter from Chief Greeley to Caroline Dormon dated June 11, 1924, over one-half million acres were being proposed for purchase units. However, there was an important stumbling block. The state lacked an enabling act, which was prerequisite to purchasing. It should come as no surprise that Miss Dormon remedied that situation, writing the necessary document which the Louisiana Legislature promptly passed in 1924.

Purchase units acquisition

The U.S. Forest Service inspection team had already examined Louisiana's cut-over lands for potential purchase units, but in Caroline's own words, "the wheels of the government move ponderously," and it was almost four years after the Clarke-McNary Act was passed before they officially took action. Although this period seemed unduly long to Miss Dormon, it was not due to any deliberate delay on the part of the Forest Service. Instead, it was a matter of funding; Congress did not authorize funds for cut-over land purchases until 1928.

The amount finally appropriated was much less than had been hoped for. Originally, the unsuccessful Snell Bill, a forerunner of the Clarke-McNary Act, had requested an annual appropriation of \$10 million for five years to purchase lands for national forests. The Clarke-McNary Act did not include any authorization for purchase funds. That omission was finally rem-



A 1920s view of the Fullerton Mill Commissary, Vernon Parish, actual date unknown.

ed by the McNary-Woodruff Act in 1928 which authorized a total of only \$8 million. However, the actual appropriation was reduced to \$5 million — \$1 million for 1929 and \$2 million each for 1930 and 1931. All purchases had to be approved by the National Forest Reservation Commission, composed of the secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, and War, as well as two Senators and two Congressmen. Since Forest Service inspection teams had already done extensive surveys in Louisiana, their three proposed purchase units were readily approved on February 18, 1928. These units totaled 175,000 acres, which was just a fraction of the 565,000 acres originally mentioned by Colonel Greeley in his letter to Miss Dormon. But as Arthur W. Hartman, Kisatchie's third supervisor, pointed out, the importance of these purchase units was not their size, but their demonstration value.

Hartman explained:

That 1924 amendment [the Clarke-McNary Act] was conceived by the Forest Service as a first step in establishing and facilitating federal leadership in attacking a major national problem. Privately owned lands, increasingly being cut-over and generally tax delinquent, on which no meaningful attempts were being made to restore timber growth, could then be measured in the scores of millions of acres. For a number of good reasons, the owners neither (1) knew how to go about it nor (2) could see any chance of reforestation being practicable or profitable under existing conditions.

The concept provided for in the 1924 amendment was that the Federal government would assume leadership through the Forest Service, by establishing and operating commercial sized *demonstration forest resource rehabilitation units*. Those *demonstration units*

would be so located that each of the significant sets of natural conditions existing in problem areas, timber types, timber/species combinations, accompanying vegetation, influencing environmental factors, etc., would be represented by a selected land purchase unit. For each unit, through scientific analysis and guided by available research, foresters would determine those systems and methods of reforestation, timber stand improvement, and protection most likely to succeed... all operations to be planned and executed in an efficient manner and detailed records compiled.

The three areas selected for demonstration purchase units in Louisiana were located west of the Mississippi River in the central and west-central sections of the state. The three original purchase units were the Kisatchie, comprising 50,000 acres in Natchitoches and Vernon Parishes; Catahoula, with 75,000 acres in Grant and Rapides Parishes; and Vernon Parish, with 50,000 acres. To Miss Dormon and others outside of the Forest Service, again, there seemed to be time-consuming delays. It was almost another year before the first 25,000 acres were finally approved for actual purchase, and the Natchitoches, Louisiana, newspaper could happily headline "National Forest Commission Will Buy State Tract Near Natchitoches" on the front page of its March 3, 1929, edition. However, it was not until nine months later that the initial purchase was completed. Present Forest Service personnel concur with Mr. Hartman in his emphasis that the demanding safeguards of "fine-toothed title searches, land examinations, and reports" that the government requires takes time, "lots of time." Hartman explained: "The National Forest Reservation Commission could only meet occasionally and was faced with offers to sell

of volumes and values far in excess of available funds and had to work out priorities; getting that first 25,000 acres cleared in one year was a commendable accomplishment by Mr. Plymale and his staff."

Records in the supervisor's office of the Kisatchie show that the first deed was dated December 26, 1929, for 9,643 acres obtained from Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Company for \$3.25 per acre.

Of course, the purchase unit boundaries did not mean that the government would obtain a solid block of ownership of all the acres within that area, but it did define the perimeters within which the government could seek to buy the suitable land. This policy of defining gross boundaries within which net ownership is sought has been continued to the present; however, today it is not Forest Service policy to purchase land. Instead, the Forest Service has an active exchange program for swapping scattered federal tracts outside the exchange boundaries for private land inside it.

By 1930, Louisiana suffered severely from the clearcutting of its virgin timber, while practically no efforts were being made at reforestation. Most lumber companies now viewed their former income-producing lands primarily as tax burdens. Many welcomed the opportunity to curtail that expense by selling those "useless" acres to the Forest Service. Mixed inside the gross purchase unit boundaries, of course, were some private homes, farms, and even small communities. Trained land examiners inspected each tract offered for sale to make sure that it complied with the provisions of the Clarke-McNary law; that it be "chiefly suited for growing timber."

Occasionally the government had to purchase small amounts of agricultural land when it was situated within large holdings

which the owners did not want to separate. Naturally, the better land brought higher prices, but the examiners did their job well in segregating the better lands from recommended purchase, thus keeping the average price paid per acre down to \$3.

As summarized in a Forest Service report on Kisatchie's acquisition,

The condition of the land itself was a heavy factor favoring its transfer to public ownership. Because of clearcutting methods and subsequent destructive fires, a high percentage of it was denuded — offering little prospect of another timber crop within the lifetime of the average owner. To him, the prospect of a long-term investment to obtain another timber crop, plus pressure of unpaid taxes, made sale of the land appear the only logical solution of his problem.

For these reasons a fourth purchase unit, the Evangeline, was approved May 17, 1930. Adjustments were also made that same year in the Kisatchie unit, increasing the gross size of the unit by 30,512 acres, after the Vernon portion was eliminated due to temporary opposition by the Police Jury. Because the original Catahoula allotment was almost reached by 1930, its gross area was increased from 75,000 acres to 126,192 acres in Grant Parish and 7,380 acres in Rapides Parish.

The Kisatchie is officially named

Another important event occurred in 1930. On June 10, Secretary of Agriculture Hyde designated lands in the Catahoula and Kisatchie purchase units as the Kisatchie National Forest for administrative purposes. The following year, with the removal of the Police Jury's opposition, a new Vernon purchase unit was created. Further, in 1934 the gross boundaries of the Catahoula were greatly enlarged, extending northward into Winn Parish and westward into Natchitoches Parish encompassing a total of 609,252 acres.

During fiscal year 1934-35 (July 1 to June 30), the Kisatchie experienced its largest growth, expanding by a total of 272,554 acres. These large purchases were made possible through President Franklin D. Roosevelt's dual interest in conservation and emergency work programs. Because of the President's determined support of these two ideas under his New Deal plans, funds were made available not only to employ young men in conservation programs, but also to purchase millions of acres of cut-over timberland as additions to the National Forest System. The reforestation of these cut-over lands provided work opportunities for the CCC and other New Deal programs such as the WPA. Since these cut-over lands were mainly in the South, Louisiana received a generous share of the eight million acres purchased with CCC funds.

More than \$500 million dollars were spent during fiscal year 1934-35 acquiring 272,554 acres in Louisiana, whereas only 13,020 acres had been purchased the year before. Thus the Kisatchie quadrupled in size in just one year. Compared to the \$1

million appropriated in 1929 for the whole nation under the first-year funding of the Clarke-McNary Act, Louisiana's New Deal benefits were indeed generous. However, there remained millions of cut-over acres in Louisiana for which the Forest Service did not receive funding. For that very reason, it was important that Kisatchie serve as an example to other landowners of what good forest management could accomplish. In reviewing the Kisatchie's role, former supervisor Hartman proudly asserted that although there is no way to accurately measure the Kisatchie's contribution, "In the view of many persons, it was a strong contributor to the spread of sound and economic forest practices over similar lands."

On June 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order designating all U.S. lands in the Catahoula, Evangeline, Kisatchie, and Vernon divisions as Kisatchie National Forest, thereby enlarging the administrative boundaries to include all the purchase unit areas. As designated by the President, the Kisatchie National Forest thus existed in five parishes: Vernon, Grant, Rapides, Natchitoches, and Winn, with a total net area of 485,148 acres and a gross purchase unit boundary encompassing 877,066 acres. Later additions, including the transfer of 31,140 acres of Land Use Project lands in Webster and Claiborne Parishes, some land exchanges, and small additional purchases, brought the total acreage of Kisatchie National Forest to 597,663 acres in 1980. Of this total, only the small sum of 238.25 acres was public domain land transferred to the Forest Service.

A sizable and interesting file of correspondence at the supervisor's office in Pineville details the work involved in inspections, in recommendations concerning the gross enlargement of the purchase units,

and in unsuccessful attempts to extend the national forest into other parishes. For example, in 1933, a boundary extension report for the Catahoula unit begins with the sad, familiar story, repeated so often in the former virgin pine parishes of Louisiana:

An area of over 500,000 acres of cut-over land lies north of the present boundary of the Catahoula Unit. It extends somewhat in a northwest direction for a distance of over fifty miles in a belt varying from 15 to 20 miles wide.

...Within this area there are two large ownerships covering approximately 275,000 acres of cut-over land.

The owners were the Bodcaw Lumber Company with 180,000 acres and the Grant Timber Company with slightly less than 100,000 acres, which they indicated would be offered for sale at \$2.50 per acre.

Another typical description is found in the March 18, 1935 *Reconnaissance Report of Proposed Eastern Addition to the Catahoula Unit*. It listed as reasons for purchase that the large mills had "so devastated" the land that only public ownership would make them productive again since "it is obvious that the State or Parish Governments will be unable to handle the situation in a satisfactory manner." The report called this area "an outstanding example of mining the timber supply with lack of protection from fire . . . closely cut over and then abandoned to the fire and hogs . . . Good Pine, Trout, Rochelle and Selma will soon be ghost towns or, at best, run-down communities with a remnant of its population." In addition, the report cited the part-time employment opportunities that would become available to the estimated 700 families on relief. Each parish's assessments and bonded indebtedness were also listed.

Of the total area being recommended in this report, roughly two-thirds (202,000 acres) was in La Salle Parish and 55,000 acres was in Catahoula Parish; neither tract ever having been obtained for the Kisatchie. One wonders what prevented this acquisition after the background had been studied so carefully. It had seemed such an ideal solution to the problem of 150,000 acres of tax delinquent land and more that would soon fall into the same category. Perhaps the answer centered on the police juries' objections to removing land from the tax rolls since it would be a number of years before sizable returns could be made to the parishes from national forest revenue.

But the parishes received the immediate benefit of collecting the delinquent taxes when the land was sold to the government. This helped with the police juries' bonded indebtedness for roads and other improvements which had been incurred during the boom days before the timber was cut out.

Even during the earliest years of acquisition — and before the Kisatchie was formally declared a national forest — forestry work began. Of necessity, it was on a small scale and employed limited manpower, but those first small steps laid the foundation for the magnificent, high-production, sustained-yield forest that is the Kisatchie today. Louisiana's only national forest thus set out along the road to becoming a "Forester's Dream."



Chapter II Early Days of the “Re-forest”

The Great Depression

Traditionally, it has been customary to claim that the Great Depression began October 29, 1929, with the fateful “Black Tuesday” stock market crash. But for millions of rural Americans who had already been suffering from a faltering agricultural economy for several years, the Depression was already a dismal fact of life long before the stock market plunged.

The rural residents of Louisiana’s pine areas had been suffering from multiple economic woes. The majority of the large sawmills had cut out several years before the stock market crash. For example, the Gulf Lumber Company, the largest pine mill west of the Mississippi River, had closed after cutting the last of its timber in 1927. The company town of Fullerton in Vernon Parish, which had once been a thriving community of 5,000 residents, abruptly ceased to exist. Machinery, equipment, and buildings were sold. Nothing remained except a few crumbling foundations and the mill pond.

Not too far from Fullerton, in the neighboring parish of Rapides, another large mill also cut out in 1927. But the Cady Lumber Company of McNary, Louisiana, tried an interesting experiment. Bill Cady moved his mill and many of the workers to his new location in Arizona, which he renamed

McNary for its Louisiana predecessor. Many old-timers and those who were children at the time recall gathering at the railroad to bid their friends and neighbors good-bye. Mr. Cady had provided several trains with passenger coaches for the workers and their families and box cars for their possessions. They took along all their belongings: clothes, household furnishings, even their milk cows and chickens. Both white and black workers were given the opportunity to relocate in Arizona.

Blacks who went and stayed created an ethnic puzzle for strangers who wondered how a black community was established among the Arizona Indians. Even before Cady’s operation failed, many transplanted Southerners could not endure the deep snows of Arizona’s mountains and returned to Louisiana. Although the employment picture here was grim, this was home.

But life for the former timber workers was grim indeed in Louisiana. With the mills closing one after another, steady employment was a thing of the past. Some of the mill workers who were more experienced with machinery were able to relocate in the developing oil fields of east Texas. Most of the woods workers, however, had no choice but to fall back into subsistence farming. The tragedy, of course, was that the poor soil of the pine land was unsuitable for row crop farming. Many turned to raising a few cattle or sheep on the open range. Thus began the tragic cycle of burning the range each spring to “green-up” the grass.

With the regular burning of heavy slash that remained after logging operations there was little chance for survival of any seedlings that might come up. In a few years the entire southwestern section of Louisiana became mile after mile of blackened stump-wastes. Setting fires became a traditional way of life, especially among the cattle and sheep men whose stock roamed at large. Traditions are difficult to change, and today, the parish that once boasted the largest pine mill west of the Mississippi is still known as the “Burnin’ Vernon.”

Beginnings of the Kisatchie

Fortunately for Louisiana, the Forest Service was able to acquire some of the Gulf Lumber Company and Cady Lumber Company lands. But as records in the supervisor’s office show, there were over 78 large abandoned mills in western and north central Louisiana scattered throughout 26 pine parishes. During its first 30 years, the Kisatchie acquired land in only five of those parishes: Vernon, Rapides, Grant, Natchitoches, and Winn. Even at the bargain offers of less than \$2 per acre, the federal government was limited in its purchases. The depressed economy was also pinching federal budgets, and funds were not always available.

As the nation slipped deeper into the throes of the Depression, President Hoover

stood staunchly by his belief in private enterprise and against public welfare and relief programs. But in 1929 the Forest Service was able to hire a few local men to begin management work on Kisatchie National Forest purchase units.

In 1928, Charles A. Plymale had been assigned as head of the Kisatchie Purchase Unit with headquarters in Alexandria, Louisiana. The following year the Forest Service Directory for October, 1929, listed the Catahoula as the forest’s first ranger district. P. E. Ackerman headed that unit with his headquarters at Pollock.

Charles Till went to work for the Kisatchie in 1929 on the Catahoula Ranger District and retired there in 1969. His memories of those early years breathe life into the terse, impersonal records on file in the supervisor’s office. Till recalls that while Hoover was President, he and some of the other local men were hired by the day for building roads and fences, fighting fires, and doing construction work. Till was soon promoted to an annual salaried position paying \$70 per month. But in a belt-tightening move, President Hoover cut the federal workers’ salaries 15 percent, and Till’s pay dropped from \$70 to \$59.50 per month. His friend, Louis Whitaker, also had a long career with the Forest Service, first with the Kisatchie and then with the Southern Forest Experiment Station at Pineville, which is located in the same office complex as the Kisatchie National Forest headquarters. Whitaker started working for the Kisatchie

just a few years after Charles Till, and he retired in 1970, after receiving the Department of Agriculture's highest award for superior service.

When Till and Whitaker and other long-time employees get together and reminisce, they make the names of the early Kisatchie supervisors and rangers come to life as warm human beings, fully dedicated to the guiding principles of the Forest Service; but each man was an individual, with his own little eccentricities.

Early forest supervisors

In 1930, when Secretary of Agriculture Hyde proclaimed Kisatchie as a national forest, the personnel simply assumed new titles. Charles Plymale continued working, as he had since September 1928, in two small rooms of rented office space on the third floor of the Guaranty Bank Building in downtown Alexandria. His title was now Kisatchie Forest Supervisor, but his office staff continued to be only one clerk.

Some former employees describe Plymale as "a little bitty, red-faced fellow." Others remember him as "an old man — his hands shook," and a "teetotaler who would not hire anyone he thought had ever taken a drink." But he must have had genuine rapport with the local citizens. The regional office included the following in its proposed boundary extension report of March 18, 1935: "Forest Supervisor Plymale, retired, had already done considerable work in this matter, and he would be of great aid to us in securing the assent of the Parish bodies and would be glad to render such assistance along that line."

Plymale retired on January 1, 1935 after serving 6 years and 3 months in Louisiana. During part of that time, in 1932, he also had assumed the added responsibility of directing the Homochitto Purchase Unit in Mississippi which then had only one ranger district, headquartered at Bude. Certainly the Kisatchie owes much of its firm foundation to this dedicated man who, although he was not a graduate forester, offered many years of practical experience with the Forest Service. In addition to administering the original purchase units, he guided Louisiana's only national forest through its initial four years and was still ready to return from retirement to help out.

The Kisatchie's second supervisor was Clinton G. Smith, who had served as forest supervisor for the Alabama and Cherokee National Forests in Athens, Tennessee. Smith stayed in Louisiana only 4 months, February through May 1935.

Arthur W. Hartman took over as the Kisatchie's supervisor on June 1, 1935. He stayed a little longer — 11 months — before being promoted to assistant regional forester for the Southern Region, directing the Civilian Conservation Corps forestry camps. Hartman later served as head of the Regional Division of Fire Management. When the Kisatchie began, Hartman was a ranger on the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas; then, in 1933 became supervisor of that forest. That was just one of many times that Arkansas served as a training ground for Kisatchie personnel.

Arthur Hartman was heavy and balding. He is remembered by former employees as a "hardheaded old cuss" who was never in uniform. In 1981, while being interviewed for this study, Hartman chuckled when told how he had been described. "Yes, I was hardheaded," Hartman agreed, "but I bet they all said I was fair." The men, indeed, remembered Hartman as fair. Unapparent to the local workers, but very important to the development of the Kisatchie National Forest, was the fact that Hartman began a new tradition for the Kisatchie. He was the first professional forester and the first experienced administrator to serve as forest supervisor. These qualifications were needed for the Kisatchie's new role as it shifted from land acquisition to the activities of a fully functional national forest.

As 1934 drew to a close, a distinctive period in the Kisatchie's history ended. Prior to that time, the main thrust had been on land acquisition and all of the necessary investigations and reports that accompanied that activity. The bulk of the preliminary work was finished in 1934, leaving just the final purchases to be completed in fiscal year 1934-35. In that single year, acquisitions amounted to three times all the acreage previously purchased.

It was now time to concentrate on organizing all of the remaining purchase units into an administrative whole, designated as the Kisatchie National Forest, with administrative standards, methods, and priorities conforming to the other national forests. Such a goal required an older and well-experienced forester as supervisor.

Regional Forester Joseph C. Kircher selected Arthur Hartman, who proved quite capable for the task. Not only did he complete all of the necessary paperwork in preparation for President Roosevelt's executive order, issued June 10, 1936, extending Kisatchie's boundaries to include all four purchase units, he instituted projects in administrative research and management demonstrations on the forest. In addition to these tasks, which were really routine procedures for a new national forest, Arthur Hartman was given a special assignment by Regional Forester Kircher, one which was unique due to Kisatchie's location in Louisiana, Huey Long's home state. This is how Hartman described his special duties:

Senator Huey P. Long and his machine had broken with the Roosevelt Administration. The resultant actions and their potentials carried threats to the orderly progress, not only of Forest Service activities, but to other federal agencies then operating in Louisiana. In addition to serving as forest supervisor, I was designated as representative of the Secretary of Agriculture with defined authorities and responsibilities, relating to other Department of Agriculture agencies in Louisiana.

Although Huey Long had supported Franklin D. Roosevelt's election in 1932, Long's political ambition and his persuasive "Share the Wealth — Every Man a King" ideology was viewed as a threat to Roosevelt's reelection. Hartman felt his special task was maintaining the professionalism of the Forest Service, and in so doing, he backed up his former reputation of being "hardheaded, but fair!"

Kisatchie's 4th supervisor was Philip H. Bryan, who took over May 1, 1936, and served until the end of October 1939. Earlier, he too had worked on the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas.

Bryan had an interesting personality. He and Hugh Redding are remembered as the most colorful supervisors of the Kisatchie. Some picture Bryan as a man who could get his crews to work extra hard, but *willingly*, because "he could talk you into anything." Other remembered impressions, which are not important except in showing that his men still recall him fondly, include: "Bryan hated chinaberry trees because to him they were a sign of poverty. He had great long eyebrows, and a few hairs on the end of his nose. He was always grinning, 'like a mule eating briars.' There were mutual respect and a strong bond between Bryan and his men."

On June 1, 1940, Kisatchie received its 5th supervisor, William R. Paddock, who stayed 3 years and 3 months. He, too had previously served on the Ouachita in Arkansas and the Cherokee in Tennessee. Paddock was a likeable fellow who "didn't bother anybody."

These first 5 supervisors served from 1928 until the latter part of 1943. This was a significant period for the Kisatchie. Despite the throes of the Depression and the pressures of World War II, these were important growth years for the Kisatchie and Louisiana. The period of the '30s brought a transformation to the pine lands of Louisiana with reforestation activities by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



1934 – CCC Camp F-1 at Pollock, Louisiana. This site was soon transformed into the Kisatchie's Stuart Nursery and today is the location of the Stuart Seed Orchard.



Chapter III

The CCC on the Kisatchie

The New Deal and the CCC

As the Depression worsened, President Hoover met a crushing defeat by the Democratic candidate, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FDR's catchy theme song, "Happy Days Are Here Again," along with his broad smile and the jaunty angle of his cigarette holder, inspired hope that times would be better with a New Deal for the American public.

It proved to be a New Deal for reforestation, as well. Before Roosevelt had been in office a full month, one of his most successful programs was begun — the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was just the first of the New Deal alphabet agencies, which later included such controversial programs as the NRA, PWA, AAA, and WPA.

Originally, the CCC's official name was Emergency Conservation Work (ECW). However, the participants, press, and general public adopted the name which President Roosevelt used when he asked Congress to pass his plan. Finally, in 1937, that name, Civilian Conservation Corps, became official.

The CCC had a twofold purpose, which it accomplished extremely well. It gave meaningful jobs to over 3 million unemployed young men while it took positive action to conserve the nation's resources of soil, water, trees, and wildlife. John A. Salmond gave a succinct and apt descrip-

tion of the CCC in his 1967 study of that agency. According to Salmond, the CCC "brought together two wasted resources, the young men and the land, in an attempt to save both." Although conservation had had its first major emphasis under President Theodore Roosevelt, it was his cousin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who actually had a working program for nationwide soil conservation and reforestation.

The CCC embodied the principle of live-in working camps in "healthful surroundings" for unmarried young men between the ages of 18 and 25. Their need for employment and their families' need for assistance were part of the criteria used by the local selection boards. room, board, clothing, and medical and dental treatment were furnished free. For their work the enrollees were paid \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home for their parents.

The camps were administered by the U.S. Army, but naval officers were assigned to some of the staffs. The work that the boys did depended upon what type of camp they were assigned to. The majority of the camps were for forestry work, soil conservation, flood control, or park construction. In addition, there were a few camps for wildlife management, mosquito control, and animal husbandry. The work was directed by federal or state organizations referred to as the using services or technical agencies in contrast to the Army, which was the administrative agency, and the Department of Labor, which handled the selection of en-

rollees. Thus, work done by forestry camp enrollees was planned and directed by foresters with the U.S. Forest Service or a state forestry unit. The Forest Service was the most active technical agency, directing nearly half of the CCC camps.

During the 9 years that the CCC existed, Louisiana usually had 25 to 28 camps in operation. In 1934 there were 25. The peak of activity was reached in 1935, when the number of camps more than doubled to 53. The next 2 years saw the number decrease to 41 in 1936 and to 36 in 1937. The figures for Louisiana parallel those nation-

wide. September 1935 marked the peak of CCC enrollment with 502,000 men in 2,514 camps. Despite the CCC's popularity, President Roosevelt wanted to reduce the number to 300,000 men in 1,456 camps by June 30, 1936, in order to reduce the federal budget during the 1936 election year. On January 1, 1936, some 489 camps were closed.

Grassroots support of the CCC caused Congress to resist the President's reduction plans, and Roosevelt reluctantly agreed to allow the remaining camps to operate until their current work projects were completed. Thus, reduction continued, but not as rap-



1934 – CCC Camp F-5, Williana, Louisiana. Note the military appearance.

idly as Roosevelt wished. By 1938, Louisiana's allotment of camps had dropped to 28. In 1941, the next-to-last year of the program, there were 25 camps, and in 1942, the final year, there were only 13 camps left in the state.

Throughout the life of the CCC, Louisiana had a total of 30 soil conservation camps, 6 for drainage, 4 for levee construction, 2 building state parks, 1 conducting a waterfowl survey on the coast, and 26 forestry camps. Eight of the forestry camps were on Kisatchie National Forest, 1 on the state forest, and 17 were short-term camps located on private land. Later, as the nation moved toward military preparedness, six camps helped build air and army bases in Louisiana.

Kisatchie National Forest received the first CCC camp in Louisiana just a few days after the nation's first CCC camp was established at Luray, Virginia, on April 17, 1933. This was less than one month after the Emergency Conservation Work Act was passed. Today, such a feat would be impossible with all of the preplanning and paperwork required before a federal project can begin. In the 1980s, mountains of reports such as environmental and social impact studies, public input, possible infringements on future wilderness areas and endangered species, and alternative plans had to be submitted and approved before any action could begin. But in 1933, President Roosevelt mandated speed, setting goals of 250,000 enrollees and 1,300 camps within 3 months of the passage of the ECW Act. Moreover, these goals were reached.

The logistics and resources required for such a mammoth task were handled by the Army, for it alone had the resources on hand to begin constructing camps, transporting enrollees, and supplying them with

food, shelter, supplies, and clothing. Of course, many of those original supplies were quartermaster stores left over from World War I, resulting in many ill-fitting and make-do arrangements. However, such episodes were recalled with a smile when related during interviews for this study.

Kenneth Conner, long-time employee of the Kisatchie National Forest, came to Louisiana with the first group of CCC enrollees. He remembers that the uniform he was issued was so large that, "I walked right out of those boots, and had to wrap the pants around me to stay on, and that coat — it was like a tent!" He was in the vanguard group that established the first CCC camp in Louisiana, F-2. They pitched their tents in a "deadening" near Provencal on the Kisatchie National Forest. He vividly recalls that first night:

They gave each of us a long sack — not a duffel bag, longer than that, and showed us a load of hay they had dumped out. We had to stuff that sack for our mattress. That night it came a rain, and those tents had laid up so long at Camp Beauregard after World War I that they had holes in 'em. We pitched ours over a little low spot and when I woke up I was knee-deep in water.

The Army did more than just supply the clothes and tents. It ran the camps, handling all administration, housekeeping duties, military training, and discipline. Camp life and military discipline were something completely new for most of the enrollees, and it took a while before the new recruits understood the proper respect due their officers.

The planting gets underway...

Conner recalled that first winter when they were planting trees at Zion Church, "out from Williana," as he described it:

It came a snow, but they loaded us up to plant pine trees anyway. We about froze, and told 'em we wouldn't plant in that weather. We got to arguing with Lieutenant Gant; he called us some bad names, and we told him we'd whip him, but he said we had to. So, we told him to get us some long-handles and we'd plant those trees. See, we didn't know about lieutenants then.

In a happier vein, Elmo Carruth proudly remembers the first day of tree planting by Camp F-3 located at Castor Plunge on Kisatchie National Forest. He claims that he can show you the very first tree planted by his camp. It is located on the "Double Bridge" Road, where a magnificent stand exists today. He remembers the occasion well, because it was on his birthday, January 9, 1934.

"They made a celebration of it with everybody there, all the Army 'overhead' and Forest Service men, including Supervisor Plymale," Carruth said.

Writing in the 1934 Christmas newsletter, *Kisatchie Courier*, Plymale and his executive assistant, Claude A. Brown, praised the "opportunity" that was being provided by the CCC camps on the national forest. It was noted that, whereas the Kisatchie had only 4 full time employees and 75 temporary workers in 1932, by the end of December 1934 the forest had 60 full-time employees, and the CCC camps had 1,400 men. In

addition, 250 men were provided seasonal work under the NIRA programs, 500 part-time jobs were filled under the Civil Works Projects, and 50 other men were used in acquisition activities. Plymale wrote: "Our Louisiana pines have in reality become 'sheltering pines' for many men who are eager to regain a sound foothold for themselves, which they lost during the Depression." Moreover, there were great physical gains for the national forest. Plymale continued by comparing the size of the Kisatchie in 1932, and its facilities, to the 1934 statistics: The Kisatchie's acreage had increased from 75,000 to 390,000 acres, fire towers from 3 to 10, roads from 115 to 350 miles, and telephone lines from 80 to more than 200 miles. Supervisor Plymale, justifiably proud of such a list of accomplishments, wrote that he was looking forward, with the "unfailing cooperation" of his men, to "making the Kisatchie one of the outstanding national forests."

This was indeed an unmatched opportunity for the Kisatchie as well as Louisiana. The funds and manpower provided by the CCC pushed ahead forest management work across the state. State Forester V. H. Sonderegger, writing in the January 1934 issue of the *Louisiana Conservation Review*, described the work of Louisiana's 19 CCC forestry camps and predicted that the work being done in building a timber resource would provide one of the "biggest potential assets for the future."

To help oversee the forestry work done by the enrollees, an important decision was made after the program had been in operation almost a month. This change allowed the enlistment of local men, experienced in the woods, to act as technical assistants in the forestry camps. Usually, eight such local experienced men (LEMs) were assigned to

each camp. The original oversight in not providing for the enlistment of LEMs had caused two problems. Former Supervisor Hartman explained:

(1) ECW Camps of 200 boys, often primarily from cities, were placed back in the woods, a brand new environment to those boys. The using services then had only skeleton organizations, nowhere near enough personnel to even make a good start in making the boys in numerous camps, woodwise. The need to include as enrollees in those camps, persons familiar with the local woods and possessing woods skills was quickly obvious.

(2) In 1933, most every one in the rural areas was then without money or jobs. Seeing 'foreign' boys eating well and getting paid while the locals stood around, started the buildup of resentment and unfavorable publicity.

The enlistment of LEMs corrected those problems. Beginning in 1935, the ECW Act was revised to allow a camp commander to enlist up to 24 local and older men who had been recommended by the using service (technical agency). Leonard A. Griffin, of Dry Prong, explained how he got to be one of this group:

F. L. Grimes was the ranger at Pollock. I was about to starve to death and went to him and told him I was an experienced woodsman, and knew all these trees around here, 'cause I was raised right there at Dry Prong. He gave me a slip and I went up to the camp and went to work.

Supervisor Hartman summed up the vital role of the local men with this praise:

LEM's contributed important and timely skills, local knowledge, and stability to the enrollees. They can be credited as a significant factor in the pride of workmanship and quality of performance which soon characterized CCC work. The local residents began taking personal interest and pride in the productions of 'their' camps.

The CCC camps on Kisatchie were numbered F-1 through F-8. F-1 near Pollock, F-5 out from Dry Prong at Williana, and F-7 near Chestnut only operated a short time, closing after 1937. F-3 at Castor Plunge was active through 1938. The other four camps remained in operation through the 18th enrollment period, 1941/42. These

were F-2 in Natchitoches Parish, below Provençal; F-4 in Vernon Parish at Leesville; F-6 in Winn Parish, out from Winnfield; and F-8 in Grant Parish, out from Pollock.



1934 – Many long days were spent planting pine seedlings in stump-wastes such as this one. The diligent work done by these men was more than a post-Depression program to provide them with gainful employment; it helped produce a legacy of inestimable value: the Kisatchie.

And other work too...

It was during the CCC years that the federal and state forestry agencies in Louisiana became known as the "Re-Forest" because reforestation was such a large part of their work. The "CCs," as the local people still call them, performed all kinds of basic manual work necessary to make the Kisatchie into a properly functioning forest. They cut fire lanes, built roads, constructed bridges and towers, built fences, strung telephone lines, fought fires, and hand-planted 100,000 acres with pine trees which had been grown in the Stuart Forest Nursery near Pollock, which the CCC had constructed. That nursery was named for the late Forest Service Chief Robert Young Stuart, who had died in

October 1933, after playing an important role during the early months of the CCC. Supervisor Plymale noted in the *Kisatchie Courier* that the Stuart Forest Nursery was "by far the largest pine tree nursery in the South" and had an annual output of 40 million to 50 million pine seedlings.

The CCC did all of the nursery construction, which included clearing land for the nursery beds and the site for a lake to provide irrigation. The boys also built the earthen dam for the lake. A sizable collection of photographs taken during the construction and early operation of Stuart Forest Nursery chronicles the manual labor involved and the crude equipment that was used. The CCC boys carried out each step in the production of pine seedlings, beginning with the collection of pine cones which they first had to knock off of the trees. The next steps involved drying the cones and



Both photos: CCC workers constructing the dam at Stuart Lake, 1934. Originally a water impoundment for Stuart Nursery, this lake is now the central attraction of a recreation area.

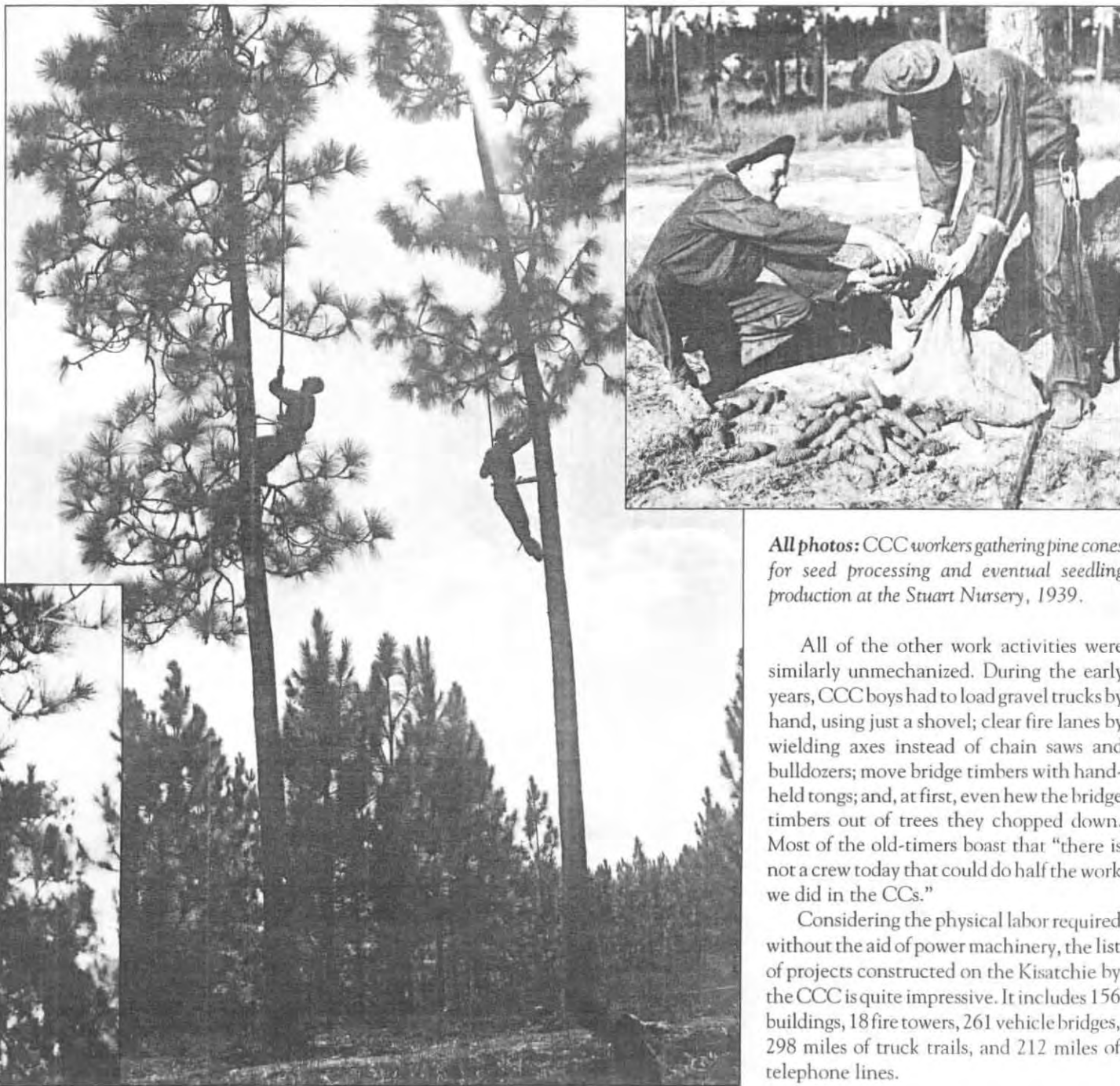
then extracting the seed which was planted in beds "two arms' length" wide to facilitate weeding. It is a tribute to the Forest Service that inexperienced CCC boys were able to construct the nursery and produce millions of seedlings, especially since many of the boys sent to Louisiana were from urban New York and New Jersey. A majority of those Northern boys had never even been outside the city before, and the local people are still laughing at the tales of how those city boys were introduced to the woods.

Maxwell Chesson, a graduate forester with Kisatchie during the CCC days, retells how he left a group of boys weeding the seedling beds at Stuart Nursery one day.

When he went back, they had pulled out all of the trees and left the weeds. But despite such a setback, Stuart Nursery produced not only enough trees for Kisatchie, but also millions of extra seedlings for other national forests, the TVA project, and later the Atomic Energy program in Tennessee.

In addition to the reforestation work, the CCCs also constructed three recreation areas on Kisatchie that are still in use: the Gum Springs site on the Winn Ranger District, Stuart Lake on the Catahoula, and Valentine Lake on the Evangeline. At that time, these recreation areas offered some of the few public facilities available in those areas. Their sizes, expressed in the Forest Service's designation, "PAOT" (Persons at one time), are 145 at Gum Springs, 275 at Stuart Lake, and 940 at Valentine Lake. The latter two sites include facilities for camping, picnicking, and swimming.

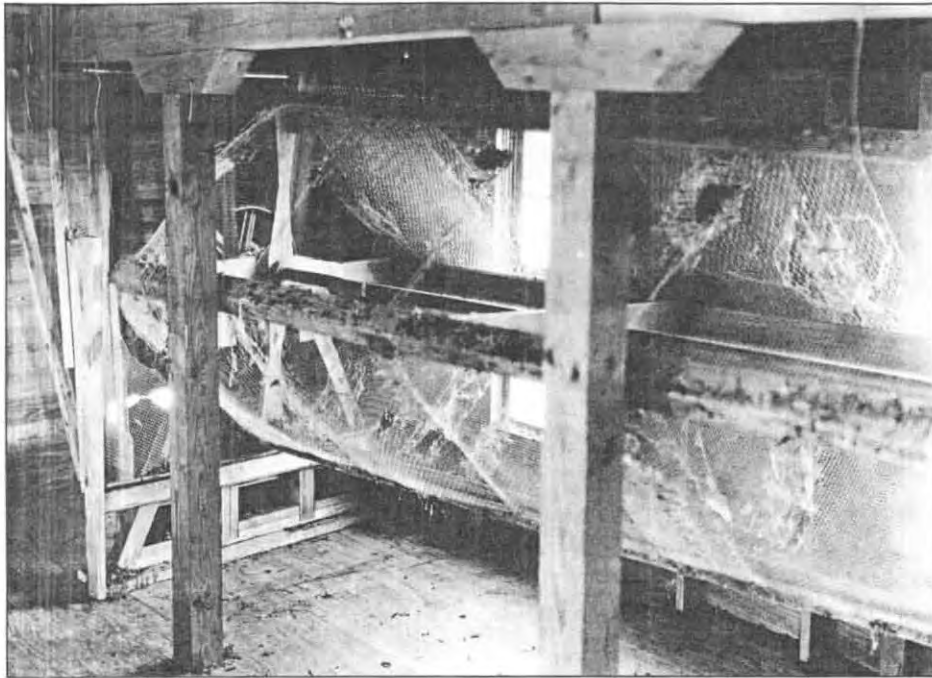
It would be difficult to count all of the man-hours contributed on Kisatchie by the CCC, although the partial list supplied by Mr. Hartman amounted to almost 1.5 million man-days. The camps held 200 enrollees each, besides the supervisors and the Army personnel. Although the workday was scheduled at eight hours, everyone was subject to fire duty whenever needed. When the fire signal rang, the boys had five minutes to get dressed and on the trucks ready to ride to the fire. Many times they fought fire late into the night. "Big ones" that lasted two and three days straight are still topics of conversation by the boys who fought with fire flaps and Indian backpack pumps, or even pine tops, until "you couldn't tell what color we were, we were so covered with smoke from those burning pine needles." This, of course, was before the days of tractor-fire plow units, which make firefighting so much easier today.



All photos: CCC workers gathering pine cones for seed processing and eventual seedling production at the Stuart Nursery, 1939.

All of the other work activities were similarly unmechanized. During the early years, CCC boys had to load gravel trucks by hand, using just a shovel; clear fire lanes by wielding axes instead of chain saws and bulldozers; move bridge timbers with hand-held tongs; and, at first, even hew the bridge timbers out of trees they chopped down. Most of the old-timers boast that "there is not a crew today that could do half the work we did in the CCs."

Considering the physical labor required without the aid of power machinery, the list of projects constructed on the Kisatchie by the CCC is quite impressive. It includes 156 buildings, 18 fire towers, 261 vehicle bridges, 298 miles of truck trails, and 212 miles of telephone lines.

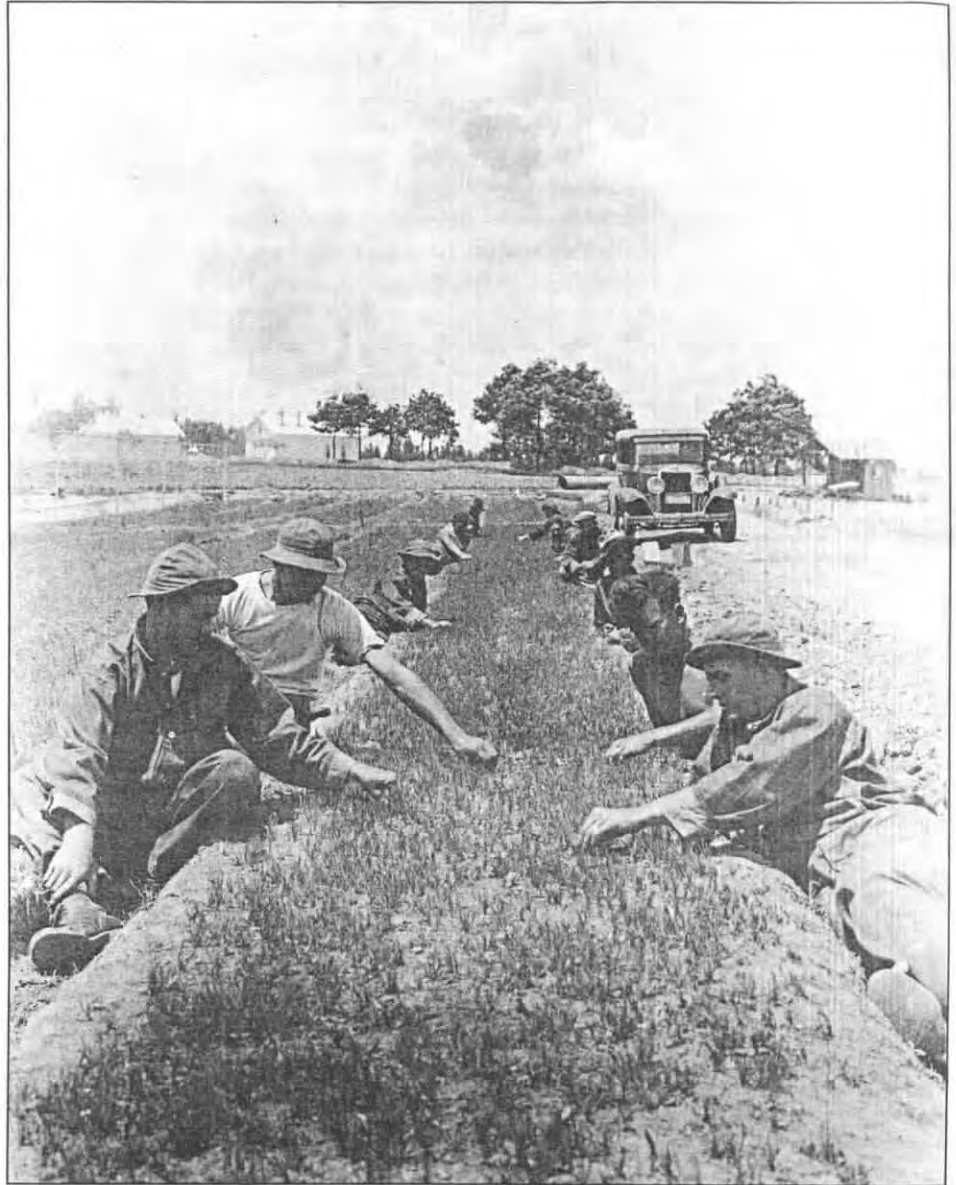


Clockwise, from upper left:

1934 – Necessity has often been the mother of invention, and this device was no exception; it is a pine cone shaker used for extracting seed at the Stuart Nursery.

1934 – Here were the beginnings of the science of forest management; the seed testing room at the Stuart Nursery.

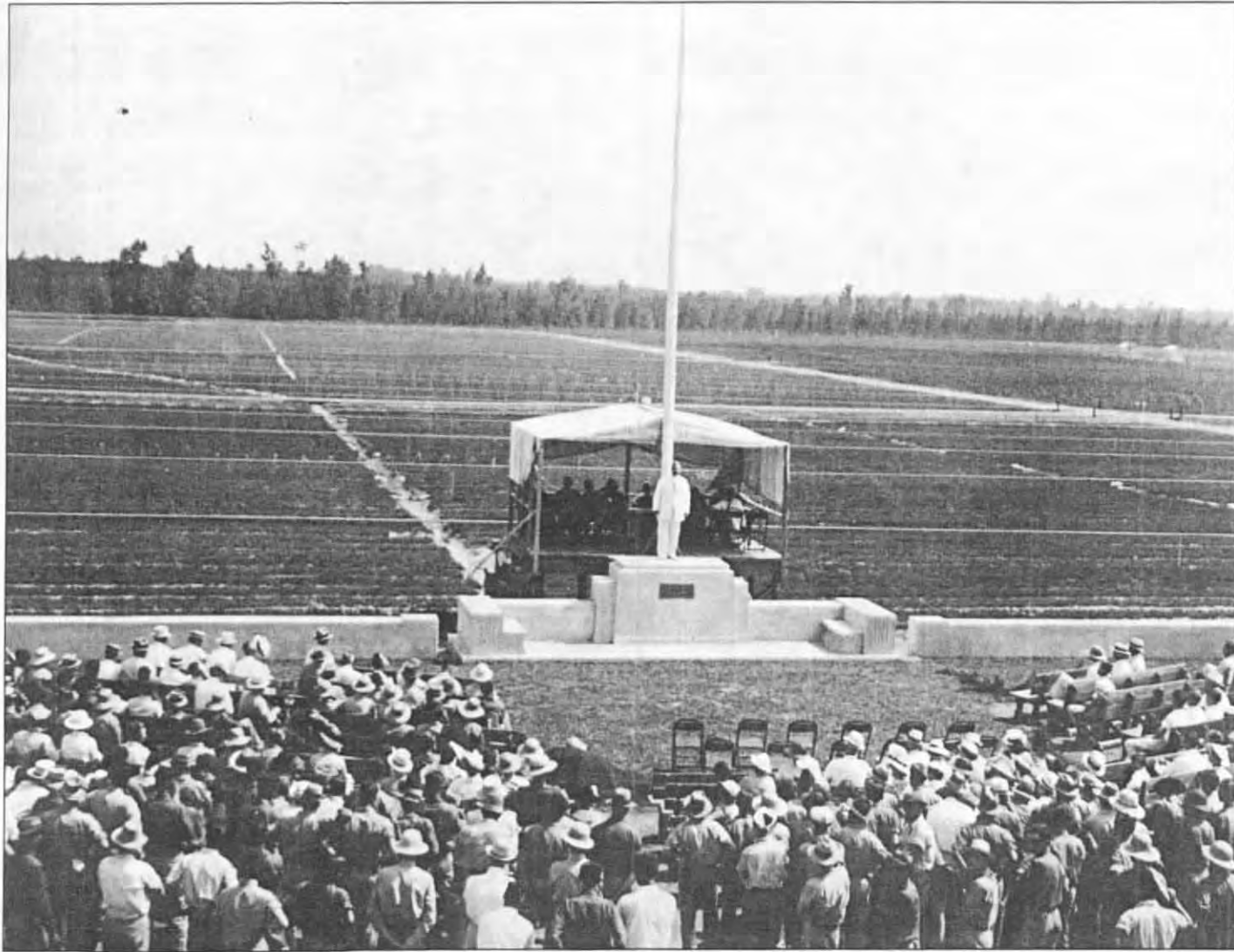
1936 – Animal power and man-power were as essential as machinery in those days; here mules pull a seed drill in newly prepared seedling beds at the Stuart Nursery.



The CCC at work in 1934 at Stuart Nursery. The predominantly manual nature of the work these men did is a fact which makes their accomplishments all the more remarkable.

Clockwise, from upper left: Preparation of new seed beds; the tedium of weeding loblolly pine seedling beds; sowing longleaf pine seeds.





Work such as that done at Stuart Nursery was the life blood of the CCC's everyday operations in Louisiana. Literally millions of the pine trees which were planted were germinated and tended in these fields.

Facing page, clockwise, from upper left: 1937 – Tractor pulling a seedling lifter; 1934 – Sorting lifted seedlings; 1937 – Seedling sprayer at work in the nursery; 1935 – Spraying longleaf with a Bordeaux mix.

Above: a scene of the dedication ceremony at Stuart Nursery in 1936. The background shows only a small portion of the nursery beds, nevertheless providing a good perspective of the operation's extent.

An impressive legacy remains

These accomplishments certainly put the Kisatchie National Forest “years ahead of the game” in fire protection and reforestation. If there had not been a CCC program, Kisatchie would not have nearly as many acres of 40- to 50-year-old timber that it boasts today. Through the CCC, Kisatchie was placed firmly on the road to rehabilitation much more quickly than if it had received only normal amounts of funding and manpower. Of course, much more remained to be done, and forest management itself is a never-ending process. No one disputed that the CCC was achieving its two-fold purpose of conserving some of the nation's natural resources and providing work for unemployed young men. However, with the outbreak of World War II, the Armed Forces and war industries took over the employment needs of the nation's young men and the CCC was disbanded in 1942.

Despite the hundreds of thousands of man-hours spent by the CCC on reforesting the Kisatchie, fighting fires, building hundreds of miles of roads and other improvements, few personnel, except those who were in the CCC themselves, are fully aware of the work that program accomplished. Few truly recognize how vital it was to the Kisatchie's crucial early years as it was transformed from bleak, cut-over lands to the protected, reforested, and well-managed forest it is today. To help remedy this situation, in 1983 CCC alumni and other groups held a celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the CCC's creation.



Above – Scenes like this one of a plantation on the Vernon Ranger District in 1937 characterize the appearance of extensive areas of Louisiana following the days of consumptive large-scale lumbering in the state. Recurring wildfires and feral livestock, especially hogs, made reestablishment of forests a persistent problem. Nevertheless the CCC persevered, and were successful in bringing back the lush forests enjoyed by the state's residents and tourists today.

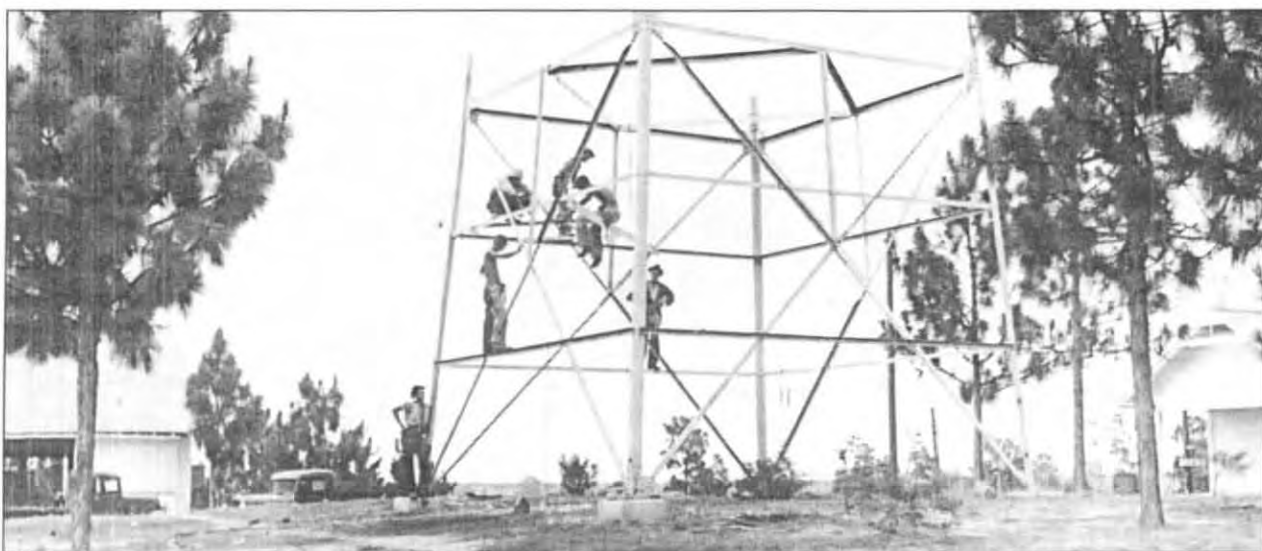
Facing page, clockwise from upper left: 1939 – Soil erosion was a severe and stubborn problem in many areas, as shown here on the Vernon Ranger District; 1937 – This “checkerboard” erosion control work, also on the Vernon District, is typical of countless rehabilitation projects carried out by the CCC; 1937 – Similar to the earlier scene of Stuart Lake, this scene depicts Valentine Lake (near Alexandria), meant for recreation purposes, under construction; 1937 – Forest recreation was popular in those days too, as evidenced by this scene of the Big Creek Recreation Area parking lot (near Pollock).





Above: As the cattlemens' saying goes, "good fences make good neighbors." It is more likely, however, that in 1937 this work was being done on the Kisatchie Ranger District in an effort to keep feral hogs out of plantations. *Upper right:* 1937 – Tractor and road grader, often used for constructing firebreaks. *At right:* 1930 – Firebreak. *Facing page:* 1937 – Loading gravel for surfacing firebreaks, many of which became permanent roads.





As suggested by the scenes on the previous pages, wildfires were a persistent problem in the predominantly grassy plains left for many years after the logging operations had ceased. Many firebreaks were required, and had to be regularly maintained by the CCC. These scenes emphasize the importance of detecting wildfires before they became uncontrollable, which grassland fires often are.

Beginning from the upper left—these 1937 scenes range from the most primitive "crow's nest" lookout on the Evangeline Ranger District. The center photo is the Whisky chitto Tower on the Vernon Ranger District. At the right is the Gardner Tower on the Evangeline Ranger District. At bottom left the CCC are erecting the North Tower (removed several years ago) at CCC Camp F-1 near Pollock. Although aircraft are now favored for efficient wildfire detection, many of these steel-framed fire towers can still be seen today in Louisiana.



Chapter IV Management: More than Growing Trees

But trees were where it began

The Kisatchie's first decade concentrated on reforestation, because there must be trees before their growth can be managed. Professional forestry and timber management are basic cornerstones of the Forest Service, and there is much more to the management of a forest than just planting trees.

Today, timber production is only one area of natural resource management. Under multiple-use management, all resources and uses are considered, involving specialists in many fields both on the forest supervisor's staff and on the ranger's staff. The management process is concerned with growth rates; site index variables; species selection; silvics; cutting rotations; aesthetics; multiple use requirements for wildlife, range, and recreation; insects and diseases; salvage operations; projections; sales; and harvesting.

But back in the very early days, the Forest Service did not have basic silvicultural information on southern pines. Forestry itself was a new science in America, and the Gulf Coastal Plain states lagged far behind in research studies. By 1904, central Louisiana lumberman Henry Hardtner had concluded from his own personal observations that timber could be grown as successive crops. But the basic silvicultural information had not been scientifically re-

searched until Hardtner asked the Forest Service to come to his lands and continue the test plots he had begun, studying them in more detail.

As the first chairman of Louisiana's Conservation Commission, Hardtner was responsible for getting the Forest Service to survey the timber supply in Louisiana in 1910. The resultant study by J. H. Foster, *Forest Conditions in Louisiana*, was published in 1912 as Forest Service Bulletin 114.

Hardtner also met with other Forest Service personnel and showed them the experiments that he was conducting on his own. Finally, in 1915, the Washington (DC) office sent Samuel Trask Dana to Urania to set up "permanent sample plots on the Urania Forest." This was six years before the Southern Forest Experiment Station was established in Louisiana. Back then, the experimental work of the Forest Service was called Forest Investigations, and Dana was assistant chief of that department. He was an outstanding researcher and later wrote what became a basic textbook in forestry schools, *Forest and Range Policy: Its Development in the United States*.

Compared with current prices, Dana's expense account for setting up the Urania plots seems unbelievably low. According to records in the National Archives, board for Dana's assistant, W. H. Thompson, for 4 days only totaled \$3. One roll of barbed wire cost \$3.50 and 5 pounds of staples only 20 cents. The total cost of the project amounted to only \$198.45. This covered:

...the cost of laying out the plots; setting up corner posts; measuring, numbering, and recording the trees, fencing Plots C-1 and C-4; felling the trees to be removed; cutting poles, stakes, ties, cordwood, etc., from the felled trees; and cleaning up the brush and tops; in fact, all of the field work connected with the project.

The value of the material obtained from the thinnings was equally low. Tram ties were listed at 4 cents each, and a cord of wood at only \$1. The thinned material from the entire project amounted to \$25.23.

The Forest Service paid only Dana's salary. Thompson's salary was shared by Urania Lumber Company and the Louisiana Conservation Commission, which also paid for all of the materials and labor. But the Commission received the thinned material. Of course, these were not thinnings on Forest Service land.

As had been earlier enacted by the Clarke-McNary law, under which the Kisatchie was established, one-fourth of the revenue from national forests had to be returned in lieu of taxes to the counties in which a national forest was located. Today, this amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars for seven of Louisiana's parishes. Such large payments to Louisiana have only been made possible by management—wise and careful stewardship—of the Kisatchie's forest land.

Certainly the citizens and foresters realized in the beginning that it would take

several decades before the reforested acres would be mature enough to harvest. But there were small timber sales even during the first few years.

Not every acre of the Kisatchie was bare when the government purchased the land; there were some trees remaining. Areas that had been logged using ox teams had not been damaged as heavily as those "skinned" by steam skidders. Therefore, there was some second growth on the earliest logged areas. In addition, some scattered tracts of timber had been left standing. But some of them had been damaged in earlier logging operations, and some were diseased and dying. It was important to salvage as much of this timber as possible while it was still usable. As early as 1932 the Kisatchie made its first timber sales, salvage cuttings of 198,000 board feet, which only brought an average of 48 cents per thousand for a total of \$95. That was a very small return, but as a report in the supervisor's office states: "That was the practical, realistic beginning of a resource management program." Six years later the volume harvested passed the 1,000,000 board foot mark, and by the 10th year it had surpassed 10 million.

Even more important was the increase in the standing timber volume each year. Reforestation and the wise selection of a relatively small percentage for annual harvest built up the standing timber such that the Kisatchie is now approaching its goal of a fully stocked, sustained-yield forest. Such an increase in timber sold and in growing

stock was due to a good combination of human and natural forces. Nature provided the ideal growing sites and climate, and the dedication and expertise of the Kisatchie National Forest's personnel were the second half of that formula.

The men on the ground

The early rangers played a very important role during Kisatchie's first decades. Rangers have always held the vital position of being the "men on the ground" with the dual role of representing the supervisor to the employees and the general public and, in turn, relaying the concerns of the public and the forest's needs to the supervisor.

The ranger was on the firing line, so to speak, catching flak from both directions. He was responsible for carrying out Forest Service national policy and, at the same time, seeing that the local needs and situations were carefully considered and adapted for the "greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." That was the important principle set forth by Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson in his famous Pinchot letter of February 1, 1905, when the national forests (then called national reserves) were transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. As Secretary Wilson pointed out in that same letter, this general principle "can be successfully applied only when the administration of each reserve is left largely in the hands of the local officers, under the eye of thoroughly trained and competent inspectors." Thus was inaugurated a degree of local autonomy, which, nevertheless, was held in check by the inspection ritual. In-

spections continue to be a regular part of Forest Service procedure. However, today, regular, uniform reports of plans and accomplishments, committed to computer storage, have reduced the frequency and intensity of inspections.

Long-time employees recall some interesting sidelights of inspections. Certainly none of today's rangers has the bad habit of spitting his chewing tobacco in the corners of the guard station as one early ranger did. Ken Conner figured it was to make the men clean those corners carefully. "We put up with it for awhile," Ken said, "but then we broke him of it; we got him a sandbox."

Another district had a ranger who is remembered for always hustling an inspection team out to the nursery, then conveniently up the road running north — right into the next ranger district. Yet another ranger let the supervisor show a visiting Congressman all over the "district," pointing out how things were being done, and never told them they had been off Kisatchie land for most of the tour.

A few of the early rangers are remembered as being anxious or nervous about inspections, but most were practical men doing the best they could with the funds and equipment at hand. They worked closely with their men, giving them credit when things were right, but telling them quickly if things were wrong.

Those early rangers had great responsibility. Not only was the headquarters advisory staff much smaller than it is today, but the rangers also had to administer much larger areas. From 1935 until 1952, the Kisatchie's 560,000 acres were divided into only 3 ranger districts. With smaller staffs than the six smaller districts have today, the ranger himself had to be much more personally involved with his men and the public.

Those early days were crucial ones in winning over the local citizens who for years had done as they pleased with stock, timber trespass, hunting, and fire on what had become government land.

On the Winn District, it was claimed that the legendary George Tannehill reduced the number of fires by hiring the woods burners. But in the "Burnin' Vernon," there simply was an insufficient number of jobs to hire them all. Guy Cox, a colorful early ranger for the Leesville District, had the following frank comments about those Vernon Parish citizens:

These people are altogether different from people on the Arkansas Forests, especially the people who live out on the forest. They are more clannish and are distant, suspicious and hard to get acquainted with. The Vernon was by far the toughest job. We had sociologists and psychologists borrowed from other agencies to study the causes of fires, likes and dislikes of the local people on the Vernon Unit.

Cox was referring to the Weltner Report, a lengthy study made by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan during 1940–1941. This was one of two surveys, the other in Florida, contracted for by the Forest Service to study the attitudes of woods burners in the South. The survey reported on the "especially delicate problem" in Vernon Parish where the clannish locals posed unique problems for the Forest Service and all outsiders.

Many outsiders considered these people inferior; however, they were very proud and independent and accustomed to having total control in their area. This situation had its roots back in Louisiana's early statehood days when the boundary between Louisiana and Texas was in dispute. There was a strip of land between the Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers over which neither state exercised full jurisdiction. Consequently, this strip became known as the Neutral Strip, or "No Man's Land," a lawless area that defied all authority.



An early special use case; Zion Hill Church, established long before the Kisatchie.

Many tales have come out of that section of the state, each telling perhaps embellished as time passes. It is a tribute, however, to the early rangers that they accomplished as much as they did despite the indigenous problems of that area.

Supervisor Frank Finison of the National Forests in Mississippi, reminiscing about his early years as ranger on the Vernon, describes early day public relations as "spit and whittle." One day a week the ranger would stop and visit with the local citizens living in and near the forest, sitting on their porches as they talked and whittled.

Kay Erwin followed Guy Cox by nine years as the ranger in Leesville, and later was in charge of Kisatchie's timber sales. He recalled, "if you drove up in a man's yard and were not invited to drink coffee within the first minute, you had better drive off, quickly."

Guy Cox, ranger on the Leesville District from 1937 to 1953, wrote of the difficulties with trespass and occupancy cases, problems common to all national forests. At present most of the occupants have signed agreements acknowledging Forest Service ownership. However, that was not the case in the early years. This is how Cox described the problems on his district:

We had 300 cases, from one-half acre to 100 acres. These were squatters, people who lived on timber company land some 20 to 25 years. They traded and moved around just like the land and improvements belonged to them. The improvements were poor in most cases. Some even had sharecroppers. It was a difficult job to collect for these uses. The ranger usually had to make several trips to make one collection. Some never paid. A few had to be hired in order to collect these fees. We tried about everything we could think of to get these people to move

or pay their fees. As soon as one moved, we rushed in and planted the area to keep some one else from moving in . . . We also moved them with our trucks, if they were willing to move and did not have to be hauled too far.

Despite these efforts, Cox tells of his embarrassment one time when the supervisor brought an inspector from Washington to view their problems. Cox thought he had selected an average special use case. But a stranger walked out of the house — he had moved in the night before in exchange for moving the former occupant.

Of course some occupancy cases were the result of confusion over land lines. Some of the lines were resurveyed by CCC crews directed by John Brothers, who explained how errors probably had occurred when the lines were originally established in the 1880s. "Back then," Brothers said, "when Bradford and Hagan surveyed that area in 1882–1886, they were paid only \$6 a mile and had to feed their crew and mule. No one was getting rich, and they weren't too careful. It was kinda like counting sheep — they'd miss one here and there." Further commenting on the matter, Lou Whitaker said, "I told 'em, 'You've got problems,' when I ran lines 40 years ago. Now they've made some trades to get shut of some problems of occupancy."

Kenneth Conner explained that even though it was not Forest Service policy, a number of the rangers he worked for in Natchitoches Parish had a die-out policy with the old "nesters," as the squatters were called. "Old nesters didn't know exactly where the lines were, and just put the fences where they wanted it, up 'til 1960."

Today, the Kisatchie has signed agreements for about 400 special uses. These include such recent permissions as rights of



A case typical of early special use problems — this one was on the Vernon Ranger District.

way for power lines, gas pipelines, and roads as well as older occupancy cases for such things as churches, cemeteries, and dwellings. However, the forest is still plagued with around 150 trespass cases dating back to the time the land was acquired and there were disputed boundary lines.

Another significant change has been in the amount of record keeping and training that the rangers are responsible for and must endure. During the earliest years, ranger districts did not even have clerks; so the men and rangers themselves had to worry with all the paperwork on rainy days and fire standby time. Guy Cox claimed in 1953 that rangers handled more business than a supervisor had 35 years earlier, and the paperwork continued increasing. Cox complained that during the first ranger meeting he ever attended "there was talk of cutting down paperwork, and that subject has been brought up at every conference

since, but the paperwork has increased 20 times." His succinct solution: "The only way to stop paperwork is to take those paper boys out of the supervisor's office and put them out in the field . . . in timber sales work."

Kenneth Conner agreed that Guy Cox hated anything that had to do with paper and pencil. As an example of this aversion, Conner told about the time Mary Walding in the supervisor's office tried to get Cox to keep up his records. Says Conner, "Even a call from George O'Conner, finance officer in the SO, did not change Cox's mind — he was not going to keep those records. Finally Miss Mary came over and stayed two weeks, getting things up-to-date."

In the written account of his experiences, Guy Cox failed to describe his unique filing system, but many recall that it left much to be desired. Frank Finison described it this way:

Cox never filed, he just threw, and to find something he remembered where he was standing when he threw it. When the office was repainted, they just painted down as far as the papers were piled on top of the desk. A cat even had kittens in the district desk.

Guy Cox was not a professional forester; however, this "self-made" ranger fully understood the basics of working with his men and the public. He saw the importance of public relations, saying, "It is not an 8-hour-a-day job; it is closer to 12 hours and 365 days per year."

Cox believed in the importance of on-the-job training and small discussion groups, saying, "Some of the best training I ever saw was a small group, three to six men, in bull sessions, on towers, in work shops or bunk houses, drinking coffee, just discussing everyday problems." He also believed in inspections, saying, "Every good man benefits by inspections regardless of who makes them. I am for less paperwork and more inspections from the top down to the last laborer." Some of Cox's former employees verified this belief, recalling that Cox might surprise them twice a month or twice a week for awhile, and then leave them alone. But Kenneth Conner said he could always count on Cox's leaving a box of shotgun shells in the standby cabin with a note telling him to "put some squirrels in the ice box."

Guy Cox was certainly a colorful character, but Kisatchie had another ranger who truly became a living legend — George Tannehill, who some say was the only millionaire ranger in the Forest Service. But it was not his wealth that made Tannehill famous. He served as Winn district ranger for 38 years, the longest tenure of any Kisatchie ranger and the second-longest stay in one district for the entire Forest

Service. Extensive interviews with former coworkers, relatives, and citizens of Winn Parish revealed a deep respect for Tannehill's professionalism by the Forest Service — he was among the earliest graduate foresters on the Kisatchie — and the love his fellow citizens had for "Mr. George."

Prior to being named Winn district ranger, Tannehill served on the Ouachita National Forest under Supervisor Arthur Hartman. When he learned that Hartman would be transferred to the Kisatchie, Tannehill requested that he too be assigned

to Louisiana, his home state, where the family had considerable land holdings. Tannehill was from Urania, where his relatives were associated with Henry Hardtner's Urania Lumber Company. For these reasons, it was Tannehill's choice to remain on the Winn District until his retirement, although his ability was recognized and he could have been promoted. However, as is often the case with local heroes, recollected events are flavored by embellishments until a colorful legend evolves. Who can say where fact and fiction merge?

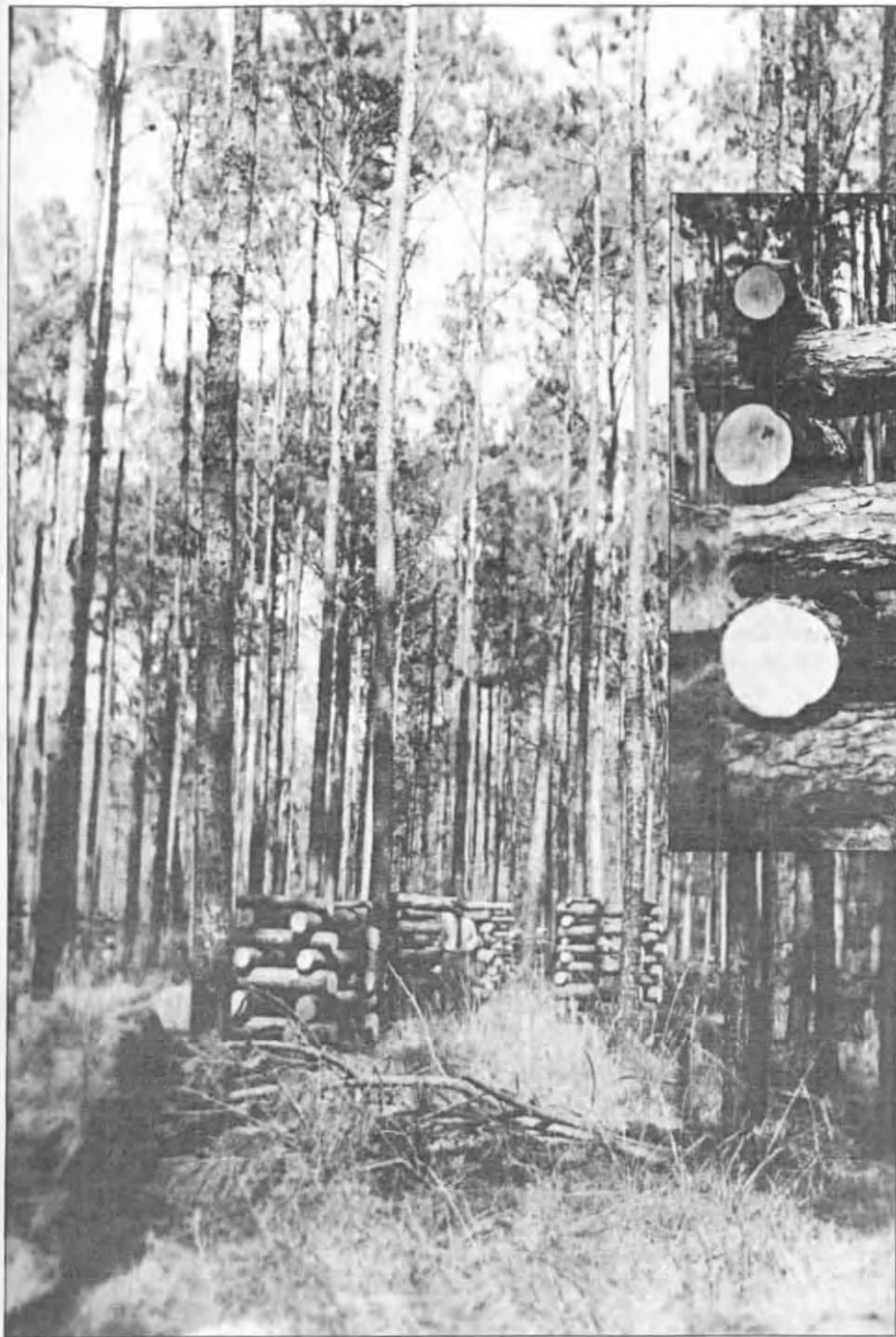
The following examples of typical "Mr. George stories" show the high regard with which he was held — some even to the extreme of claiming that "Mr. George was the first and last ranger on the Winn!"

One thing is certain: Mr. George believed in taking care of the forest.

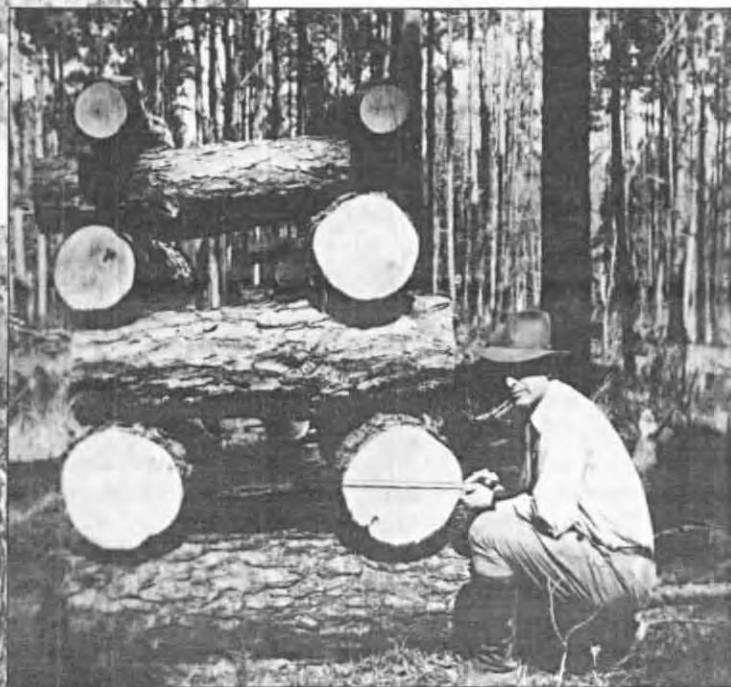
Horace Alexander remembers him as "different from any other ranger I have ever worked for — business type, didn't carry on any foolishness. If he promised you something, he'd work hard to try and get it done." Alexander and others also remember Mr.



A rare photo of Winn District Ranger "Mister George" Tannehill, riding through what some called the "Tannehill National Forest."



Labor was cheap and modern harvesting technology had not yet been invented in the early 1940s. **Left:** Forest officer in a woods scene where cordwood has been stacked for pickup. **Inset:** Posing by a stack of cordwood.



George as staying clean, even when he marked timber. Dressed in civilian clothes, with shirt and tie, he was always immaculate, looking as if he had "just stepped out of a band box."

Frank Finison, who served as his assistant ranger and later as supervisor of the Kisatchie, recalled that Tannehill was the "type that would not tell you any more than he had to, letting you go your merry way and get yourself into trouble." To illustrate this trait, Finison described an occasion when two fire inspectors from Atlanta came to the Winn District. They thought Tannehill should keep his towers manned that night

because the wind had not died down. After dark they telephoned Ranger Tannehill and with an excited "I-told-you-so" tone told him that the whole country was burning—they could see the glow in the sky from their hotel window. Tannehill let them rave; then he called Finison, and together they drove the Atlanta men out to Sparta. There they found a gas well flare burning, lighting up the sky just as it did every night.

Mr. George did not flaunt his wealth; in fact, one would never have known about it from the old automobile he drove. According to Finison, Mr. George gave away "two or three fortunes" because he was a "sucker for a sob story." But he kept his charity secret. Former coworkers insist that he would usually send help through a third party, with instructions not to say where the money came from.

The Forest Service tried to promote Tannehill several times, but he refused to leave the Winn District, believing that he could do more good on the Winn than anywhere else. He used his personal touch to get things, not for himself, but for the Winn District. As Senator Allen Ellender's political star rose in Washington, elevating him to president pro tem of the Senate, a call to "Cousin Allen" could cut through a lot of red tape. Tannehill also had a close relationship with Senator Russell Long, Huey's son, even though it has been claimed that Tannehill was sent to the Winn District mainly to counteract Huey's influence. However, all of those interviewed for this study insisted that "how you voted did not matter to Mr. George."

Another distinction that Tannehill held was having the first district clerk in the Forest Service, or, at least the first one in the Southern Region. In the early years the Winn District office shared the second floor

above the First Federal Savings and Loan Association with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The young lady employed by the ASCS, Willa D. Roark, began helping Mr. George with some of his paperwork during her spare time. Soon she began to work regularly for him, one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon and on Saturday. After a while, Mr. George sent in a time sheet for her, but the appointment papers were held up because at that time there were no ranger clerks. Mr. George asked that she be paid for the work she had

already done, and soon after that Winn District had a ranger clerk.

Mr. George is remembered fondly by those who worked for him as one of the smartest foresters they ever knew, "a man with a lot of horse sense as well as college sense. He didn't like to use too many words, but when he explained something, he made it real clear."

His coworkers also emphasized that he always wanted to "see lots of work going on; he didn't want you to sit down until you had finished." But he did enjoy cookouts and

fish fries; there were lots of them. However, the work had to be far enough ahead so that it would not fall behind schedule when they had such an outing.

Mr. George was a kind man but at the same time a demanding task master. Kenneth Conner recalls, "If you needed cussing, he did that, too. But if he chewed you out, which he seldom did, it was because you really did something wrong."

Perhaps the secret of George Tannehill's success was the fact that his men knew he "treated the lowest man on the job just the

same as someone from the supervisor's office." Kenneth Conner explained, "He made you feel like everything you did was important." Willa D. Roark, Horace Alexander, and Belton B. Weeks echoed those sentiments, pointing out that Mr. George always gave them credit, saying he was "only as good as the men below him."



Chapter V

The Kisatchie Drafted for Military Service

Louisiana, the Kisatchie, and the military

The Kisatchie National Forest had come a long way during its first decade, but progress stalled throughout the Depression. With FDR and his New Deal, new life flowed into the Forest Service both in terms of acquisition and manpower, via the CCC.

In Louisiana, the Kisatchie National Forest had utilized its CCC camps to the fullest, growing seedlings and planting thousands of denuded acres. Outside Kisatchie boundaries, the Louisiana state forester had done the same thing with his CCC camps on the 7,000-acre state forest and some private lands as well. But collectively, Louisiana's original cut-over area was so huge that hundreds of thousands of acres were still bare stump-wastes when the approaching World War II activities brought an end to the CCC program. This fact contributed to the succession of military events that occurred on the Kisatchie.

The State of Louisiana played a vital role in military training even before Pearl Harbor suddenly plunged the nation into World War II. As hostilities heightened in Europe, the President and Congress began their program of preparedness. Selective Service boards and draft procedures were inaugurated, military bases were enlarged or

created. But more than calisthenics and camp life were needed to turn civilians into trained troops for mechanized warfare. The Army needed room — thousands of acres, not only for camp sites, but also, of prime importance at that point in time, thousands of acres for war games. Casting about for such a location, the military chose Louisiana. This state filled the need admirably, having .5 million acres in national forest land which required only a letter granting permission for use — and equally important, a scattered population on submarginal land surrounding the national forest.

Decisions were made, orders signed, and troop convoys from all over the nation poured into the state for the famous Louisiana Maneuvers. Here on the Kisatchie and surrounding lands, soon-to-be famous "Ike" Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, and Mark Clark played their serious war games, directing and teaching the young recruits. Here, too, George Patton coached and trained his tank forces, even though troop trucks and dump trucks had to be pressed into service bearing signs that said "tank." Virtually every Army leader who later played an important part in World War II took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1940.

The first official action enabling the Army to use part of Kisatchie National Forest for a camp was in the form of a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of War dated January 7, 1941. This letter authorized the Army to use 27,615 acres on the Vernon Ranger District near

Leesville to establish Camp Polk. The area was later enlarged by other letters from the Secretary and also by a memorandum of understanding and by special use permits.

During World War II, the Army also used land on other ranger districts for additional camps and bombing ranges. The Catahoula District provided 5,700 acres for Camp Livingston and 35,000 acres for the Breezy Hill Artillery Range. As a result of the target training on the Breezy Hill Range, any standing timber was too full of metal to be commercially useful. After the war, the Army searched for live ammunition, and then all of the timber was felled and burned in 1947 to detonate missed items. The Army helped with the cost of rehabilitating the area, which was carried out in an important new method. According to Mr. Hartman, who was on the Southern Region staff at that time, Kisatchie Supervisor Hugh Redding had the area seeded by airplane — the first large-scale aerial tree-seeding project. It was a success and became an important demonstration project.

Other areas also felt the impact of the Army's World War II needs. From what is now the Evangeline Ranger District, 23,000 acres became Camp Claiborne, and the Winn District turned over the use of 3,000 acres for 3 bombing ranges, Eagle Mountain, Bandit Hill, and Gum Springs. On the Land Use Project in northern Louisiana, which later became the Caney Ranger District, 1,000 acres were used for the Caney Bombing Range. Today, 40 years later, the

military is still using about 20 percent of the Kisatchie's land. Here the nation trained for the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. The installation in Vernon Parish has been made permanent, its status changed from Camp Polk to Fort Polk. The Air Force now uses 3,200 acres of the Evangeline Ranger District for a weapons range.

Former Kisatchie Supervisor J. Lamar Beasley, now a Deputy Chief for the U.S. Forest Service, pointed out that the military has more impact on Kisatchie than on any other national forest where he has been, adding, "As the nation's needs change, so do the military bases. Fort Polk is really impacting on the Kisatchie, but we have done some land interchanges to relieve that situation somewhat." Beasley pointed out how important military units such as Fort Polk and England Air Force Base at Alexandria are to the local economy and to national preparedness. However, as a forester, Beasley has a deep concern over timber damage. He hopes the military can carry out its mission without damaging any more timber than is absolutely necessary. But, he emphasized, "In the end, the military people are excellent to deal with."

At first, it was quite an adjustment for the Forest Service to accept the Army's ways. Kisatchie personnel had posted signs during the maneuvers for the troops to stay on the roads and out of the planted pine plantations. Coworkers recall how upset Louis Whitaker became when he heard that troops were cutting young pines for camou-

flage. He rushed out there to run them off, saying, "You can't do that; that's government property!"

In addition, John Brothers, leader of a Kisatchie surveying crew, recalled the problem he had with barbed wire when the Army chose the site for Camp Polk. He explained, "We had strung twelve miles of fence around a plantation and just lacked 200 yards of closing it, when 'Pop' Eagles came out and told me to stop because the Army had decided to build their camp there." Shaking his head, he continued, "A new roll of barbed wire was only one and one-half feet in diameter when we took it out of the box car—but it took up 40 acres when we tried to roll it back up."

Guy Cox described the early effect Camp Polk had on the Kisatchie as follows:

It took 32,000 acres of the Vernon Unit for the camp, artillery range, small arms ranges, and maneuvering area. They moved people from all the north area, disrupted all our plans, wrecked all our plantation fences and other improvements.

When Cox mentioned moving people, he was referring to the government's expropriating lands so that the Army would have complete ownership of an area, not patchworked with scattered private holdings as Kisatchie was.

Despite his complaints, Cox concluded with the acknowledgment, "We had the best of cooperation with the Army and their personnel. They have been very cooperative in all our work, especially fire control, road maintenance, etc." Regarding fire control, Frank Finison said, "At times we had too much help from the Army; 'Pop' Eagles, Post Engineer, had been in the CCC, and he would have the guards turn civilian work-

ers away at the gate to go and help fight fire. Sometimes I'd have more people in my way than I could use."

Although the Army later assisted in maintaining roads, it was also noted for tearing them up. Kenneth Conner remembers that "during maneuvers you couldn't get to Bellwood without a horse or a four-wheel-drive vehicle." He was towerman at the time, and says that the road in front of the tower was so terrible that his horse was "belly-deep in mud."

Kisatchie received a "bonus" of sorts from the Army when it closed Camp Claiborne after World War II. The former patchwork holdings of private individuals within the gross boundaries of the forest had been taken over by the Army, whether the owners wanted to sell or not. These families had been paid for their land and had relocated elsewhere. Therefore Kisatchie had solid blocks of forest ownership when these camp lands were turned back to the Forest Service. Only one family successfully carried its case to Congress and regained its land. This was Sofronia Smiley Delaney's family. Two of her sons, Charles and Jim, as their father before them, were long time employees of the Louisiana Forestry Commission. Ironically, after the lengthy battle was finally decided in their favor, the Delaney land was once again expropriated—this time for the England Air Force Base bombing range.

Kisatchie and the military now

Today this bombing range presents special problems for the Evangeline Ranger District. However, Ranger Dale Fisher explained that the Air Force and the Forest Service had worked out cooperative plans for harvesting timber in the outlying safety zone. But there is never any access into the central impact area where live ammunition poses too dangerous a hazard. Timber in that area must be left alone. Not only can there be no harvest, but neither can there be any fire suppression. The forestry crews cannot enter the high impact area at any time.

This area is the second weapons range that the Air Force has had on Kisatchie. The present area, covering 3,200 acres, opened in 1972, replacing one less than one third the size which functioned from 1953 until 1972. Earlier aircraft using this range were A-7Ds assigned to the 23rd Tactical Fighter Wing at England Air Force Base. The A-7Ds were replaced by the more modern A-10 aircraft. A member of the supervisor's staff, Robert Johnson, serves as liaison with England Air Force Base, coordinating the activities of the two agencies.

Camp Polk's mission has been an interesting and varied one. Originally opened as an armored division training center in World War II, it served as a place to train more than 800,000 soldiers before the war ended and the camp was deactivated in 1947. Since that first closing, it has been reopened and closed several times and its mission changed with the needs of each emergency. During the Korean War it trained the 37th and 45th Infantry Divisions and the 1st Armored Division. Between the Korean

War and the Berlin Crisis two large maneuvers were held. Operation Sage Brush, involving 110,000 Army and Air Force personnel, was held in 1955, the same year during which Camp Polk became a permanent installation renamed Fort Polk. In 1959 Fort Polk hosted Exercise King Cole.

In 1961 the Berlin Crisis caused the camp to be reopened for basic infantry training, and it continued this training through the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1965, Fort Polk was selected as the site to conduct Vietnam-oriented advanced training. Kenneth Conner described the Vietnam training thus: "They set up Vietnam-type villages with thatched huts made out of palmettos from south Louisiana. That area took up 6,000 acres of the Kisatchie District. The Army brought in a new group each week for seven years to train there." Conner served as the Kisatchie District's liaison with the Army, to see that they stayed within their agreement with the Forest Service.

As Lamar Beasley pointed out, Kisatchie National Forest and the military — both Army and Air Force — will always work closely in the nation's best interests. Certain land exchanges have eased some of the situations; Leonard Woike of the supervisor's office recently completed an exchange with the Louisiana National Guard at Camp Beauregard. But further impact may be felt if the proposal to locate the Louisiana Air National Guard at England Air Force Base is accomplished.



Chapter VI Post-War Management

Getting back to managing timber

After the pressures of wartime had ended and the manpower drain caused by World War II had eased, the Forest Service returned to its primary concern of timber management—timber stand improvement, reforestation, and related activities associated with increasing the productivity of the national forests.

On the Kisatchie, as elsewhere, the war had drained essential manpower, and it was not until peace returned that full complements of workers could undertake all the needed management work. This does not mean that the national forest went into a hiatus during the war. The Kisatchie's personnel had worked long, hard hours protecting the forest and producing vitally needed timber for wartime lumber and paper needs even though there were no provisions for overtime or compensatory time.

William R. Paddock, supervisor when the United States entered World War II, carried on in that position until September 1943. Following Paddock, Victor J. Dayharsh directed the Kisatchie's activities until the end of April 1945. His term as Supervisor lasted only 1½ years during the height of the war. Because of this, former employees who had recalled the previous supervisors were unable to describe Dayharsh. That was not the case with the next supervisor. The man

who followed Dayharsh as the 7th supervisor is remembered by many. Hugh Redding, who had earlier served as district ranger on the Kisatchie District in 1934 and as assistant forest supervisor from 1935 to 1937, was the forest supervisor for 12½ years.

Hugh Redding is described variously as: "the best con man on the Kisatchie;" one who believed in "every man working his heart out," or "not wanting anyone to spend any money."

Perhaps that last remark was prompted by the circumstances surrounding improvements on the Bellwood tower residence. The house had no modern conveniences such as inside plumbing, and none were authorized. The towerman, Kenneth Conner, put in his own pump and "bummed" materials for other improvements. When George O'Connor, finance officer under supervisor Redding, found out what the towerman had done, he felt that the ranger should be fired for permitting it. That ranger was colorful Guy Cox, who retorted: "No, you can't fire me; I can retire before you'd get the paperwork done — so you might as well go back to Alexandria."

Redding is remembered for "getting out in the field pretty regular," and for knowing every man by name. But being friendly did not mean he would put up with anyone not doing what was expected. He told the men, "If I can't depend on you, I'll tell you one time, and the next time you won't be here!"

Redding encouraged his men to improve themselves. He persuaded Ray Owers

to attend college at Louisiana State Normal in Natchitoches (now Northwestern State University). Owers still had to work, but he was allowed to swap out his time for night duty. Owers handled heavy equipment and did the original bulldozing to create the Longleaf Trail scenic road and recreation site (now Longleaf Vista). After attending Louisiana State Normal for several semesters, Owers was placed in charge of the Caney Land-Use Project at Homer.

Some of his coworkers recall that "Uncle Hugh" was quite a character, one who could spend an evening when out-of-town drinking water tumblers full of spirits, but he would nevertheless be up the next morning at six, whistling and singing, with no apparent ill effects.

Redding took his responsibility as administrator of Kisatchie's forests seriously, firm in the belief that forests cannot be separated from people. He strongly adhered to the basic policy of the Forest Service, which said that forests must be administered "not for the temporary benefit of a few individuals or companies . . . but from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Perhaps this view was what caused some of the timber companies to nickname him "The Commissar" because of his strict rules and regulations about cutting timber.

Hugh Redding was several decades ahead of his time in realizing the importance of input from the general public on national forest administration. He explained his po-

sition in the January 1952 issue of *Forests & People* magazine. His article, appropriately titled "Forests and People," states:

Forests are not a resource that can be enclosed behind a big fence and managed for a single purpose . . . Unless the public generally knows and feels that it is participating in the activities which are necessary to make forests productive, they not only refuse to cooperate and assist, but they actually may hinder the efforts in retaliation — because they were not considered in the formulation of the plans which concerned them at least indirectly.

Many who knew Redding would echo the summation voiced by one employee: "Hugh Redding — that was a good guy!"

Redding's length of service as the Kisatchie's forest supervisor has not been exceeded: from May 1, 1945 until November 16, 1957. In fact, he served twice as long as any other Kisatchie supervisor. The time of his service was a period of transition from wartime to peace, and the return to civilian life for millions of former servicemen.

Trees grown on the Kisatchie had "helped win the war." Now, under the supervision of Redding, the forest was called on again to help supply the great timber demands of the young veterans buying their first homes with government backed G.I. loans. Thus the demand for timber production from the Kisatchie did not ease up.

In Louisiana, hundreds of thousands of acres of land best suited for growing trees

still lay idle as owners waited for assurances that reforestation would prove profitable and practical. Some progress had been made in the mid-1940s as the state forestry organization recouped from the manipulations of Louisiana politics. The Louisiana Forestry Commission had begun rebuilding into a professional organization and made great strides under the guidance of then-new State Forester James E. Mixon, especially in fire protection and seedling production.

The Kisatchie and early industrial leaders in reforestation such as Industrial Lumber Co., Hardtner's Urania Lumber Co., and Great Southern Lumber Co., which had planted the world's largest man-made forest at Bogalusa, demonstrated what could be accomplished. The Louisiana Forestry Commission provided the necessary fire protection to encourage postwar reforestation.

However, a crop of trees takes decades to produce, and the postwar timber demand was immediate. Therefore, Kisatchie's early management efforts provided a large part of Louisiana's timber production in the 1940s and 1950s. Only in 1946 did the total cut slip below 20 million board feet. During the war years, the volume had increased dramatically from 6 million board feet in 1940 to 25 million board feet in 1944. Beginning in 1947, Kisatchie's production steadily increased for the next 5 years, reaching 40 million board feet in 1951.

Writing on the progress and management objectives of Kisatchie National Forest in 1952, Supervisor Redding set forth the goal of a sustained cut of 50 million board feet by 1955. This was successfully surpassed by the 1955 cut of slightly more than 72 million board feet.

Early days of management by objectives

The 1952 seven-page report in which the cutting goal appeared is a valuable review of the past and an expression of future goals for the Kisatchie. Unfortunately, the history file in the supervisor's office does not contain similar reports for other years; however, the 1980 *Forest Compendium: Facts, History, Statistics* is patterned after several booklets of information (some undated) titled, *Kisatchie National Forest*. Nevertheless, from the 1952 document, interesting comparisons can be made and basic philosophies traced. These are the management objectives listed in 1952:

1. Bring the Kisatchie's annual sustained cut to 50 million board feet by 1955, and to 100 million board feet by 1965.
2. Hold the annual area burned over by wildfires to .36 percent.
3. Plant at the rate of 2,000 acres per year until all plantation sites are adequately stocked, including direct-seeding, if appropriations are increased.
4. Apply Timber Stand Improvement measures at the rate of 20,000 acres per year.
5. Carry out all necessary prescribed-burning, which will require burning 100,000 acres during 1951-1955, inclusive.
6. Analyze and orient grazing on the Kisatchie National Forest with the ob-

jective of placing it under full control and management by 1955.

7. Maintain existing forest recreational areas. Increase population of the forest's wildlife by 1955 to where there will be 2,300 deer, 200 turkey, and 10,000 quail.
8. Develop public opinion in Louisiana in respect to forestry matters.
9. Develop a program of mutual aid and assistance with the Experiment Station, designed to facilitate both action and research programs.
10. As assigned, represent the U. S. Forest Service fully and efficiently in cooperative programs with private, State and Federal agencies. Emphasis for the present is on the new duties which have grown out of recent reorganization of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
11. So plan, organize, and orient the work that improved efficiency will result in accomplishing the goals set forth here without increase in funds, except those needed for temporary labor, supplies and equipment, and technical foresters as timber sale load increases.

In discussion of the 2nd objective, that of holding the area burned to only .36 percent, the report stated: "The job of number one importance is to protect the woods from wildfire." A tabulation was given for three 5-year intervals comparing the number of fires and average annual acreage burned. For 1949-1951, the average was 112 fires burning 3,050.3 acres. That was a decrease from the 1939-1943 average of 298.4 fires burning 14,485.2 acres.

The record of .05 percent burned in a single year (1955) occurred during Redding's term as supervisor. That record has never been equaled. During his last year on the Kisatchie, the percentage burned was .07, which stands as the second-lowest percent of acreage burned. That figure also was repeated in 1966, 1968, and 1971.

The 3rd objective on the 1952 list for Kisatchie National Forest was the goal of reforesting 2,000 acres per year until all the cut-over land on Kisatchie was planted. At the time of that report in 1952, a total of only 81,764 acres had been planted. It can be concluded from other references in the report that the majority of that work had been done much earlier by the CCC boys, because the statement is made that "by 1940 nearly 100,000 acres of these newly acquired lands were planted to pine trees." Furthermore, Stuart Nursery was producing a yearly average of 25 million seedlings, but all except 150,000 were being distributed to other agencies. Almost 14½ million went to the Louisiana Forestry Commission and more than 10 million were distributed to the Atomic Energy Commission.

These figures underscore Redding's announcement to the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Forestry Association in 1952 that, although progress had been made in restoring timber-producing forests, "THE JOB IS NOT YET DONE!! . . . the Kisatchie's lands are not fully stocked . . . and thousands of privately owned acres of potential timber land in Louisiana are not producing raw material or jobs."

Item number 4 on the management objectives list called for 20,000 acres of timber stand improvement per year. That work involves removing the undesirable or weed trees and culls, thus giving the desirable specimens better growing conditions as

to space, sunlight, water, and soil nutrients. In the early 1950s, timber stand improvement was being carried on as it had been during the CCC days — that is, chiefly by girdling the unwanted trees. The report states that 36,000 acres were treated during the two-year period of 1951–1952, very near the desired goal of 40,000 acres for a two-year period.

The 5th objective, prescribe-burning 100,000 acres during the next five-year period, was an important management practice which had not always been an approved procedure by the Forest Service. Total exclusion of fire in the woods was the accepted Forest Service policy until August 1943 when the Southern Region was given a special policy dispensation (with many restrictions). But prior to 1943 — in fact, before 1920 — some foresters believed that special use of fire could be beneficial in preparing sites for anticipated heavy seed fall, controlling brown spot disease, and reducing rough to minimize wildfire damage. However, the Forest Service had waged such a strong public information campaign against forest fires that open acceptance to prescribed burning was delayed for decades. Arthur Hartman, the Kisatchie's third supervisor, recalled "off-the-record" ways he and Ranger Guy Cox experimented with prescribed burning on the Red Dirt area of the Kisatchie in 1935 and later. As Hartman explained, "In the search for more specific knowledge, these actions were known to, and had the tacit approval of, our bosses." Regional Forester Joseph C. Kircher authorized five forest supervisors (including Hartman) to conduct administrative experiments in control burning up to 5,000 acres in longleaf areas whenever there was the prospect of a bumper longleaf seed fall. By the time of the 1952 report, prescribed

burning was a well established procedure, and acreages treated for the previous nine years were listed. There had been a dramatic increase from 9,590 acres in 1943–44 to 30,902 acres in 1944–45. The total for the year of the report was 21,367 acres.

Grazing, the 6th management objective, is a topic which plagued the Forest Service for decades. Abortive efforts were attempted to control livestock on the Kisatchie several times, but full regulation was achieved only in the latter 1960s.

The wording of objective 7 gives a revealing clue to the lack of prominence of the status recreation and wildlife had in the 1950s, compared to their status in the 1980s. At that time the Forest Service was mindful of recreation and wildlife on the nation's forests, but those aspects had not received the attention that came later with the Multiple Use Act passed by Congress in 1960.

Objective 8, "to develop public opinion in Louisiana in respect to forestry matters," is one of those nebulous goals that seem highly desirable, but insufficiently supported with funds and manpower to be fully achieved. That is not to say that public relations have been ignored; but throughout the Kisatchie's history, more — perhaps much more — could have been accomplished with better funding.

On the other hand, it must be pointed out that the 9th objective has been successfully accomplished. The call for "a program of mutual aid and assistance with the experiment station" has resulted in the highly acclaimed Alexandria branch of the Southern Forest Experiment Station. This agency has accomplished valuable research through the cooperation of the Kisatchie, which turned over significant portions of its forests for exclusive use by experiment station scientists.

The 10th objective, emphasizing cooperative programs with private, state, and federal agencies, refers to the Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950. Under provisions of that act, the Forest Service was directed to strengthen its cooperative programs and give technical assistance to private forest land owners and operators and to processors of forest products. As Richard E. McArdle, who became Chief of the Forest Service in 1952, pointed out, "Concerted effort by state and federal foresters, forest industries, and the land owners" was needed to increase private forest production in order to meet an expanding population's future timber supply. The State & Private Forestry division is now one of the three branches of the Forest Service, ranking equally with the National Forest System and Research.

Finally, the 11th objective discusses funding, which has always been a pressing issue. Supervisor Redding was to be commended for urging improved efficiency. However, that hardly seems to be a viable solution to ever expanding roles that the Kisatchie and the other national forests are called upon to play. His mention of temporary labor was an accepted practice on the Kisatchie. Many local residents, living in or near the forest, were regularly hired for planting seedlings and timber stand improvement. Former employee Clint Walker described himself and others hired on such a temporary basis as "ten-month babies."

More districts

Another accomplishment during Redding's administration, but not mentioned in his 1952 report, was dividing responsibility by creating more ranger districts. For the first few years, 1929–1935, the Catahoula was the only ranger district. In 1935, authority was further divided by the formation of two additional ranger districts, the Leesville and the Winn. The rangers of these three districts were responsible for all of the Kisatchie's lands until 1951 when a fourth district, the Evangeline, was created. This district was formed out of the southern portion of the Catahoula, comprising all national forest lands in Rapides Parish south of the Red River.

As Redding completed his long term as forest supervisor, the 1950 decade was drawing to a close. The next supervisor would bridge the transition from the 1950s to the 1960s. Solid accomplishments had been achieved; but in the tradition of the Forest Service, past achievements would never lull the agency into complacency. Growth and change have been the constant watchwords of this organization, ever seeking to deliver the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run.



Chapter VII

The Kisatchie Moves Into the Modern Era

The Latter 50s

During the latter 50s, more than one change came to the Kisatchie — a new supervisor, new planting emphasis, new directives from the chief's office in Washington, and new technology. In a way, it could be said that the Kisatchie modernized and caught up with the 20th century. However, some things remained the same — the Forest Service was still primarily concerned with forests. But the winds of change brought in new attitudes and concepts, and the “old Forest Service” began changing from a “family-type” organization to a more impersonal, professional machine.

Ray Brandt was named as 8th supervisor of the Kisatchie on November 17, 1957, when Hugh Redding was transferred to North Carolina. Brandt was already familiar with Louisiana and the Kisatchie, having served as Redding's assistant supervisor for 3 years, from 1953 to 1955. Brandt served as supervisor for almost 6 years, from 1957 until August 31, 1963. He is remembered by Louis Whitaker, Charlie Till, and others as “about as good a supervisor as we ever had — no sham or show, just a regular fellow.” Many also recalled that they never saw him perturbed. He has been characterized as “being more ‘family’ and coming around more often to the districts.”

Perhaps Brandt's administration was the transition term from the “old family-type” Forest Service — a time when everyone

knew everyone else, and all forest personnel shared a spirit of camaraderie and personal concern. Back in 1957, when Brandt took command, there were remnants of the old system mixed with initial steps toward new ways of performance. As the Forest Service increased its professionalism and the office workload became more demanding, the supervisors and the rangers had less time to spend in the field.

One of the most dramatic changes was the program of increased planting. Whereas previously the Kisatchie National Forest had planted as few as 150 acres per year, during the period 1958–1960 a determined drive reforested around 15,000 acres. Frank Finison and others recall those years as the “big push in planting.” By this time, technology had developed improvements to speed up the planting process. While Brandt was the acting supervisor in 1955, he forwarded an article by Assistant Ranger David Rosdahl to the Regional Office for publication in the *Quarterly Review*. The article discussed the results of planting longleaf pine by using a scalper attachment on the Lowther planter. The Lowther planting machine, even though it still required manual setting of the seedlings into the ground, marked a great advancement in reforestation.

Nevertheless, the technical improvements in planting operations were soon surpassed by the scientific advances in genetic research and the production of superior seedlings. Just as breeding research had

succeeded in producing better quality crops and livestock, plant scientists had been working toward the goal of improved pine trees. The genetic theories used successfully in other fields now were applied to selectively breeding better seedlings for reforestation.

Beginning during Brandt's term as the Kisatchie's supervisor, and culminating under his successor Hans Raum, the function of Stuart Nursery was changed from pine seedling production to pine seed production. The nursery operations which had played such a vital role in reforesting Kisatchie now wound down and were phased out by 1964. Thereafter, most seedlings planted on Kisatchie were grown at the Forest Service nursery in Mississippi. Two years before Stuart Nursery's closing, preparations were underway for a special seed orchard.

A carefully planned orchard area was laid out, protected by an isolation strip to minimize pollination from outside sources. Cuttings (scions) from superior trees were grafted onto established stock. These superior trees had been located and identified on the national forests of Louisiana and Texas. Selection as “superior” depended on whether a tree exhibited outstanding growth, form, and other qualities. The grafted orchard trees then produced cones and seed bearing the desired qualities from the original superior trees. Loblolly, shortleaf, slash, and longleaf seedlings grown from Louisiana's improved seed were returned to Louisiana

for outplanting on the Kisatchie. The Stuart Seed Orchard also produced improved seed from Texas sources and those seedlings were returned to Texas.

The Stuart Seed Orchard today is one of only 6 seed orchards in the 13-state Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service. Originally the operation of the orchard was administered directly under the Southern Region, but local administration is now part of the Catahoula ranger's responsibility.

While Brandt was supervisor, the final two ranger districts were formed and a new name was given to an older district. The Kisatchie Division of the Leesville District became a separate district in 1958. Its territory included national forest lands in Natchitoches Parish south of Red River. Frank Finison was serving as the Leesville ranger when the district was divided. He elected to become the new Kisatchie district ranger and moved to Natchitoches, where he established his office on St. Denis Street.

Kenneth Conner recounted an amusing tale about Finison and his new clerk, Gertrude Hirsh, who “wasn't used to working with woods people.” When Finison told her to order a dozen shovels, somehow she looked in the GSA catalog and ordered one gross of manure shovels instead of the regular firefighting kind. Conner continued, “When Frank got mad, he'd turn his pipe upside down. He hollered for her to come in where he had just seen the shovels, and yelled, ‘I don't know how *you* are going to use these, because the men certainly don't

need 'em!" Conner said, "Gertrude started crying, and then Finison softened up and told her, 'Shut up, you won't have to pay for them.'" Conner continued, "Those shovels stayed around a long time, then we finally spread them out all over the district."

The other district changes included changing the name of the Leesville District to the Vernon; and the creation of the sixth and final district, the Caney. This last district was formed from Soil Conservation Service Land Utilization Projects in Claiborne and Webster Parishes in north Louisiana. Originally these areas were part of the New Deal program to relocate farm families from submarginal land to more fertile sites.

Across the South, under this plan the Resettlement Administration purchased thousands of acres with badly eroded and depleted soils, on which farm families were "unsuccessfully attempting to make a living" with their traditional one-crop system of cotton farming. After purchasing these small farms, the Resettlement Administration's secondary objectives were the temporary employment of the farmers until they could be relocated; and the development of the land into uses for which it was best suited.

In December 1934, the Resettlement Administration had purchased 12,613 acres in Webster Parish for its Northwest Louisiana (LA-LU-1) Land Utilization Project. The following year, a second, larger tract of 18,527 acres was purchased in Claiborne Parish (LA-LU-2). These two tracts were later placed under Soil Conservation Service administration.

June Terry, who was in charge of the LA-LU-2 Project when it was under the Soil Conservation Service, and who was transferred with it to the Forest Service, recorded some interesting comments about the project's early days. Terry explains why the local people gave up their land for the project:

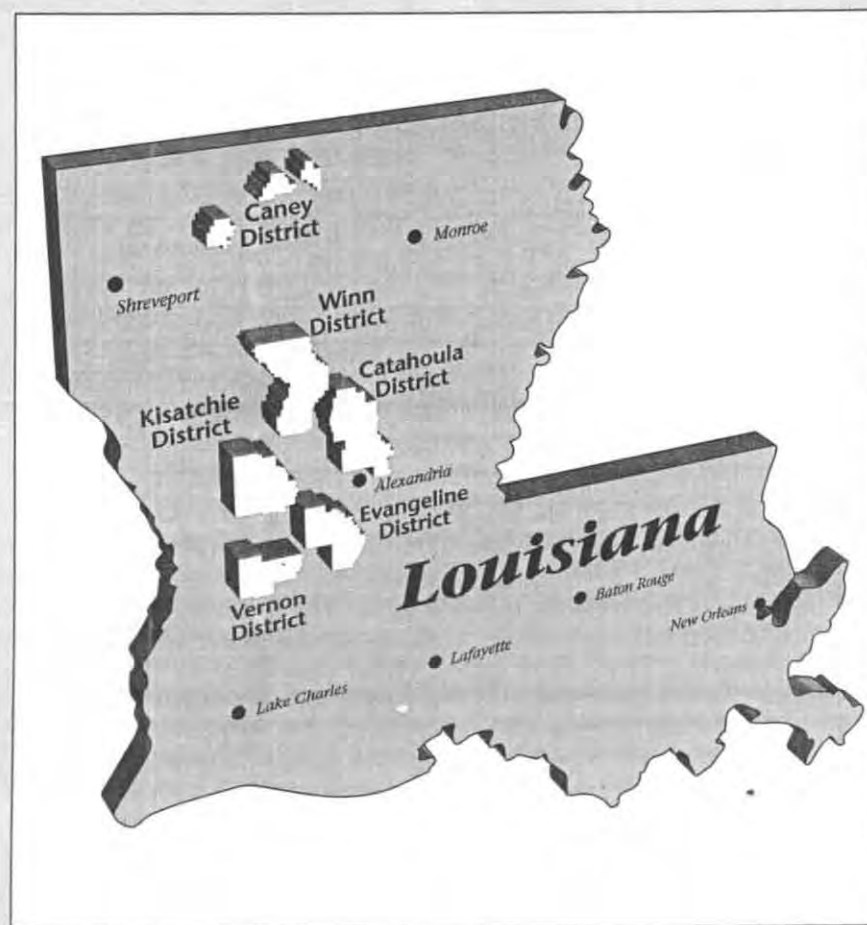
They just couldn't pay the taxes on their land. It was eroded, washed away, hill land that they could make, maybe, one bale of cotton for every ten acres. People just starving to death, that was back in the Depression days. So the government came in and paid the back taxes, and in the majority of the cases, paid the people who owned the land a little something for every acre.

The original plans had called for the impounding of several streams in the Bayou Dorcheat watershed, to form Caney Lakes and Corney Lake for recreational purposes. Also planned was the conversion of nearly 1,000 acres into improved pasture. The remaining — and largest — portions of the area were to be reforested and managed for timber production.

The original pasture plans were modified downward, and then phased out entirely in 1950, when the pasture was planted with pine seedlings. In 1954 the LU lands were transferred from the Soil Conservation Service to the Forest Service, pending final disposition. The Forest Service served as custodian of those tracts until the decision was made five years later to place them under the permanent management and administration of the Forest Service. Thus the Kisatchie's newly acquired 31,140 acres in north Louisiana became the forest's newest and smallest ranger district in 1959.

Ranger Districts Kisatchie National Forest

The Kisatchie National Forest differs from many national forests throughout the country in that it is comprised of six ranger districts which are geographically separate from one another. It evolved over time from one administrative unit, gradually being subdivided for ease of administration as lands were acquired.



More change...

Another event occurred that same year, which, although viewed as a calamity at the time, has since proved beneficial for the Forest Service in Louisiana. Fire destroyed the USDA Building in Alexandria, which housed several agencies and the Kisatchie supervisor's office.

The Evangeline Ranger Office was located a few blocks away on the second floor of the U.S. Post Office. Odom McDaniel, on the lands staff of the regional office, was assistant ranger for the Evangeline when the fire occurred. He said, "I remember that fire like it was yesterday. We parked our trucks at the corner of Jackson and Second Streets. When I went to pick up a truck, I saw the smoke and wondered if it could be the SO. I got a pickup truck and trailer and when the fire marshall let us in the building, we started hauling a lot of stuff out to the Evangeline Work Center. Then in a couple of days we got an old nurses' building at the V.A. Hospital and moved the office stuff from the work center to that nurses' home."

Of course, some things were lost in the fire; but Frank Finison, the Kisatchie District ranger at the time, remembers Miss Mary Hutchins telephoning to assure him, "You don't have to worry, I saved the payroll!" Supervisor Ray Brandt was in California at the time of the fire. Jack McElroy of the supervisor's staff found the vacant nurses' building on the hospital grounds in Pineville, and soon the whole building was "littered with soggy, black-edged, scorched records spread out to dry."

Since it had served as a residence for nurses, a great deal of remodeling was needed to transform the building into a suitable office facility. In the meantime, the staff

made the best of the situation and enjoyed teasing Brandt about his "mink-lined throne." (Some wag had decorated the private bathroom in what eventually became Brandt's office suite.)

In the fifties, more diversified demands were steadily being made on the nation's forests as the general public began to have more leisure time and demanded more recreational opportunities. The Forest Service responded to this need by launching Operation Outdoors in 1957. This five-year program was designed to improve and expand the recreational facilities on the national forests. The Kisatchie was a part of this effort, and inventories were made on the Kisatchie's recreational potential (this was the NFORRR; now NFRS).

On June 24, 1958, the Acting Regional Forester established the Longleaf Trail Vista and recreation area on the Kisatchie District. Longleaf Trail overlooks the most rugged hill and rock outcrop terrain of the Kisatchie Hills landform, topography unique for Louisiana. Locally, this area is known as the "Little Grand Canyon" because of its exceptionally rugged terrain. Construction of these facilities not only brought pleasure to its visitors, but it also made them more aware of Louisiana's national forest.

The supervisor and rangers were also working toward that same goal of making the public more aware of the national forest. A record on file in the supervisor's office shows that George Tannehill and Ray Brandt knew the importance of keeping the press informed about the Kisatchie's contributions to Louisiana and its cash payments to individual parishes. The files contain a copy of Brandt's 1958 letter to the *Winnfield Enterprise*, accompanied by a news release which George Tannehill had requested for the local newspaper. The article briefly re-

viewed accomplishments and emphasized that 25 percent of forest receipts were being paid to the parishes. Winn Parish's share was \$44,691 that year.

Further evidence of Brandt's appreciation of the value of public relations is a booklet which his office issued in 1959. The *Forest Report 1959, Kisatchie National Forest* is seven pages of mimeographed information for the general public enclosed by an attractive cover depicting a recreational site on one of the Kisatchie's lakes. The first page is a letter from Supervisor Brandt dated May 1959, and addressed to "Dear Friend." The letter briefly alerts the reader to what follows — "an outline of some of the highlights and accomplishments in the multiple-use management of the Kisatchie National Forest." Prominently mentioned is the all-time high for money paid to the parishes that year from the sale of over 80 million board feet of timber products. Brandt also pointed out that the Kisatchie was responding to the increased use of the forest for recreation and hunting and fishing by preparing "detailed multiple-use plans as guides in correlating the maximum use of all resources consistent with sound conservation practices." Brandt closed his letter with a warm invitation to the reader to visit the Kisatchie National Forest and stated, "We will welcome your suggestions for management of this public forest."

The following year, Congress enacted the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, which President Eisenhower signed. This legislation stated, "The National Forests shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes—in such combination and in such manner that they will best meet and best serve human needs." In effect, this law just confirmed what the fa-

mous "Pinchot Letter" had set forth as the guiding principle for the national forests back in 1905. But now that basic precept was mandated by Congress to be followed in perpetuity. This would prove to be no easy task, since various groups competed for their favorite use of the national forest resources and an ever-increasing population needed more and more timber products.

Although the Forest Service had been attempting to balance those demands throughout its history, the law now stated that they must listen ever more attentively to the public's demands. And the public's concerns became ever more vocal as the nation grew more aware of the environment and forces that affected it. As did other national forests which had been unnoticed by the majority of the population, the Kisatchie moved from an era of quietly "doing its thing" into the forefront of citizen interest. By 1969 that interest became sufficiently intense that Congress was caused to pass the National Environmental Policy Act, which called for all Federal agencies to prepare reports on the environmental impact of planned programs. And by 1976, Congress passed the National Forest Management Act, which requires full public participation in land management plans.

Seventeen years earlier, Ray Brandt's invitation in his 1959 *Forest Report* had anticipated this modern trend of involving the general public. But following those acts of 1969 and 1976 the Kisatchie, as well as the other national forests, would henceforth heed the call of progress by having citizens informed and involved.



Forest Supervisor Ray Brandt and his rangers and staff, during a forest management team meeting held at Caney Lakes' old lodge and cabins in 1960. Top row, left to right: Hugh Mobley, Odom McDaniel, Olin Aycock, Jerry Marsh, Dade Foote, Bob Lee, Bill Brandau, Frank Finison, unidentified, Ed Smith, Bob Johnson, Ivan Nicholas, Joe Duckworth, Jim McConnell, Ray Owers. Bottom row, left to right: Ralph Freeman, Walker P. Newman, Johnny Warnock, Monk Farnum, Kay Erwin, Ray Brandt.



Chapter VIII

The Kisatchie in the Sixties

Multiple use gets underway

The two decades following the passage of the 1960 Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act were marked by great progress for the Kisatchie. Timber yield was increased, and office procedures that led the way for regionwide adoption were developed. Nevertheless, two controversial issues arose that were handled by succeeding supervisors. Eventually, these issues, grazing and wildlife management, were resolved in the "best interests for the greatest number in the long run." But while solutions were being worked out, the Kisatchie suffered its few occasions of criticism and public displeasure.

Longstanding customs and traditions are hard to change voluntarily. The resulting tension often overshadows the progress being made in other areas. Such tension resulted when the Forest Service decreed that open-range grazing would finally have to end on all national forests. Especially in the South, the practice of letting cattle run free on any unfenced land was a firmly held custom dating back to the days of settlement and, at this writing, open range is still legal in certain parts of Louisiana. On the Kisatchie, small herds of open-range cattle and hogs were the rural subsistence way of life for many former timber workers left stranded when the mills cut out.

Attempts at controlling cattle grazing

on the Kisatchie had been made earlier, but for various reasons word had come down not to force compliance. In the mid-1960s it was finally decided that the time had come to control all grazing. By that time, the Kisatchie had its 9th supervisor, Hans Raum, who had succeeded Brandt on September 1, 1963. It fell his lot to enforce the grazing rules: only properly registered and tagged cattle would be allowed on the Kisatchie. For the natives accustomed to open range for generations, the realities of this ruling were quite disturbing, even though the Forest Service had been working toward such a goal for several years. A new development causing much distress was the rule that no Forest Service employee could have cattle on the Kisatchie. Longtime employees who had run cattle on the forest, registering them and paying the grazing fee, now were faced with a painful choice — either resign their jobs or sell their cattle.

Certainly that difficult choice made some employees characterize Raum as "a typical German-type forester, with a stern, Prussian manner." But all employees who were interviewed acknowledged that he had a job to do about the range problem, and he did it — firmly.

As a result, by 1969 the total number of cattle had decreased to approximately 5,773 head from the 10,000 head before the permit system was enforced. Grazing permits continued to decrease gradually until there were about 3,400 head of cattle in 1980, or, as the Forest Service expresses it more pre-

cisely, 39,891 animal unit months (one adult — or one cow and calf — per month).

In other areas of supervision Raum distinguished himself as an innovation and efficiency expert. One employee called him "a different breed of cat" and said, "That's when the paperwork on the districts increased until the rangers were doing what used to be done in the SO." Raum was decentralizing operations, trying to move as many men and as much money as possible out to the districts.

Early hints of technology

Because of Raum, the Kisatchie was the first national forest to microfilm its land acquisition records, according to Odom McDaniel of the regional office lands staff in Atlanta. The 1959 fire that had destroyed the SO in Alexandria forced the Kisatchie to reconstruct its records. In the process, McDaniel was able to establish a more uniform pattern for the arrangement of the records themselves. McDaniel, assistant ranger on the Evangeline at the time of the fire, explained,

I was brought in to the SO to restore the burned land acquisition records. We pulled in copies from the RO and the Federal Records Center. Then we recreated the land titles, page by page, for all of Kisatchie's acquisitions. It took a year.

McDaniel continued,

Originally, we had just kinda put stuff in folders, but during the reconstruction I sort of purged the records and put them in a certain order, putting the two most important documents first: the deed and the Attorney General's opinion approving the title. Next we filed the description and acreage and then miscellaneous papers such as appraisal and option.

In describing the role of the Attorney General's opinion on purchases, McDaniel referred to it as "sprinkling holy water on the transaction." Up until 1974 or 1975, McDaniel explained, the Attorney General had to approve all land purchases by the Forest Service. "You wouldn't believe the pains the federal government goes to to get a good title," McDaniel continued, "If there is a flaw in the title, then there must be a 'friendly condemnation.'"

The Kisatchie's format of arranging acquisition records was later adopted throughout the National Forest System. The Kisatchie also led the way nationally in two other processes concerning land records. Hans Raum was the motivating force in microfilming those records and preparing new atlases, mapping the land status record. The Kisatchie was selected as the "guinea pig" or trial forest for these projects before they were adopted nationwide.

Raum was responsible for hiring the Kisatchie's first professional law enforcement officer. In 1963 when Jack Boren,

retired Air Force special agent, began working to reduce incendiary cases on Kisatchie, there were only three other special agents with the Forest Service.

Hans Raum is also remembered for another accomplishment — refurbishing of the renovated V.A. nurses' building which had become the SO following the 1959 fire. Employees recount how Raum "somehow managed" to acquire attractive, all-new furnishings, including wooden desks that are usually reserved for GS-14s and above, in place of the makeshift, salvaged things they had been forced to use when they moved to that site.

The newly renovated and enlarged Forest Service quarters were unique in the nation because there in Pineville, all in the same building, were headquartered divisions of the Forest Service's three main branches — the National Forest System; State & Private Forestry; and Research, with its Alexandria Branch of the Southern Forest Experiment Station. The dedication of this facility on September 23, 1964, brought Forest Service Chief Edward P. Cliff from Washington as the keynote speaker for the occasion. Cliff praised the unique opportunity provided by the presence of the three branches:

This combination is appropriate and efficient. Our staff here will be dealing with closely related problems and striving toward common goals. It provides visible evidence of the close coordination between these three major areas of Forest Service responsibility.

Chief Cliff's words have proven true. Louisiana and the Forest Service have benefitted from the close cooperation among the three branches, heightened in this unique arrangement of joint tenancy.

Refurbishing of its headquarters was not the only new thing the Kisatchie experienced. Some employees noted that Raum was "like the new kid on the block — he came in with a lot of new ideas — he was more professional, more businesslike, and made a lot of changes."

In 1968 the publication of the most attractive booklet ever issued about the Kisatchie proved that Raum knew the value of public relations. It contained twenty-four 8x10-inch pages consisting almost entirely of photographs, many in full color. Inside the front cover was a letter addressed to "Friends," advising them that "this brief report explains — in pictures and words — the story of your Kisatchie National Forest." The letter continued:

The Kisatchie continues to provide the products and services which only a forest environment can produce. Water, wood, wildlife, forage, and recreation are coordinated by professionals to assure that these lands will meet the current and future needs of our expanding nation.

Then followed the warm invitation to "Visit your Kisatchie National Forest soon to see for yourself the story this book tells." The repeated use of "you" and "your" was a strong psychological pitch to give the general public a sense of proprietorship and increased interest in Louisiana's only national forest.

Discords and agreements too

However, one problem was rooted too deeply for Raum to eliminate: The differing opinions over wildlife management among the Forest Service, the state wildlife agency, and avid hunter groups. Although the Kisatchie was carrying out its multiple-use missions, some wildlife enthusiasts would have liked it just fine if the national forest's game management areas were managed solely for wildlife habitat. This issue dragged on throughout the terms of the next three supervisors.

During Raum's administration as supervisor a 20-year lease was signed with the Louisiana Tech University School of Forestry: 5 acres on the Caney Ranger District for use as the school's summer forestry camp. Retired Tech Forestry School Director Lloyd P. Blackwell explained that arrangements for a summer camp had been made during the school's first year in 1946. At that time, permission was obtained to pipe water from an artesian well on LU Project land to a surplus, metal, army hospital building. After President Eisenhower transferred administration of the LU lands to the Forest Service in 1954, the Kisatchie honored the special use contract with Tech.

The summer camp was moved to its present 5-acre site and a 20-year, renewable contract was signed in 1964. With such long-term security, Louisiana Tech has since invested in a large complex, "the most beautiful wooden units in Louisiana," including dormitories for men and women, recreation building, teachers' quarters, classrooms, and kitchen and mess hall. Although the summer camp site involves only 5 acres, the

forestry students carry out special studies on 20,000 acres of Kisatchie timber lands.

In April 1969, Hans Raum was moved up to the regional forester's staff in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Kisatchie received its 10th supervisor 2 months later.

B. Frank Finison, whose crews considered him "one of the best dang guys," came back to the Kisatchie and his "boys" in 1969, this time as forest supervisor. His first job on the Kisatchie had begun in 1955 as assistant ranger on the Winn under George Tannehill. When Finison was promoted to ranger of the Leesville District, George Tannehill assured the Leesville crews: "You boys ain't got no problem — Frank's gonna make a good man to work with." And work they did. A former crew member recalled: "Frank had a way of getting more work out of people than anyone I ever knew. He was one of the finest, hardheadedest, meanest, best men that ever was ranger. He could see a quarter-inch tilt in an eight-foot stud. And he had the tenderest heart in a man to be so hardheaded."

Finison was a graduate forester, but he operated as if he also had a degree in psychology. He had a special talent for getting people to like what he wanted them to do. The following episodes show two examples of that trait.

When the Forest Service first required its employees to wear hard hats in the woods, Finison knew that rule would meet stiff opposition from the country boys. So at first he did not distribute the hats, the gold color of which did not escape the mens' attention. Instead, only he and his assistant ranger wore them. Finally the crews began feeling jealous and asked when they would get gold hats. Only then did Finison distribute the hard hats. He recalled, "They put on their gold hats and marched off like Christmas."

Another example occurred while Finison was ranger on the newly created Kisatchie District. In one section of that district were many families with a common surname: Dowden. Finison hired many Dowden men as temporary workers. But instead of accepting the fact that their allotted time was completed, the workers called it "being laid off." Soon, word got around the district that Finison was "down on the Dowdens because everybody he 'fired' was a Dowden." So, Finison tried a different approach to the problem when the timber stand improvement money was cut off. He recalled, "It hurt to tell them I was out of money. So I called them together and said, 'Boys, I've got to lay off 15, and I'll leave it up to you to decide who gets to stay home and make his garden.'" Finison chuckled and finished his story, "Then they all wanted to quit and start their gardens. You just have to use a little psychology sometimes."

That same personal brand of understanding which Finison used with his men perhaps helped ease the tensions between Kisatchie and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission over boundary markers. But the wildlife problem had deeper roots than just how the boundaries should be marked.

In 1934, two areas of the Kisatchie National Forest had been designated as national wildlife management preserves. The records in the SO are incomplete on exactly when, and how the state wildlife organization came to control hunting, enforce the game laws, and manage the wildlife populations on those areas. For a long time after the clear-cut days of the virgin-timber harvest, those bare stump-wastes were unable to support a game population. George Tannehill brought the first deer from Arkansas in the 1940s to begin a restocking program on the Winn District.

But timber production remained the Forest Service's prime interest. An important part of pine production was the agency's program of timber stand improvement, in which unwanted species were removed to make more room for the desired species — pine. Hunters and wildlife personnel deplored the elimination of mast-producing trees. Even with the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, it was considered that the Forest Service was leaving an insufficient number of hardwoods to adequately support the desired wildlife population.

At that time, special interest groups were not flexing their muscle of influence to such an extent as they would later. As the citizenry became more aware of the environment, some demanded that they be heard through hearings, public input, and Congressional acts requiring that the public be informed and that Federal agencies listen to their demands. Nevertheless, killing hardwoods for timber stand improvement and cattle grazing were continuing to generate ill will that would later boil to the surface in the late 1970s. Eventually this led to the termination of the Forest Service's agreement with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

That state of affairs climaxed much later, under the second supervisor to follow Finison. But even if Finison had stayed longer than the two years he was the Kisatchie's supervisor, perhaps the wildlife problem would have arisen despite his talent in psychology.

Finison's way of getting people to do what he wanted may have contributed toward the Kisatchie's getting heaters and air conditioners for its light pickups and passenger cars. Or, maybe, it was due to the extreme heat that summer of 1969, when the deputy chief came to inspect the Kisatchie. Prior to that inspection visit, the Forest Service had ruled that these two items of comfort, indispensable today, were unnecessary in Louisiana. Although it may not have happened, it is not hard to imagine Finison driving the deputy chief down the hottest, dustiest roads he could find, because, Finison said, "Right after that visit, we got air conditioners and heaters."

Acts significant for the future

In addition to the outstanding contributions by personnel, the sixties saw input from other sources, namely the Congress. During that period Congress passed major legislation affecting the Forest Service, but the legislation was concerned mainly with preserving and enjoying nature.

Beginning with the 1960 Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, Congress proceeded to pass the Wilderness Act in 1964, and four years later the National Trails System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In 1969 Congress closed the decade with its National Environmental Policy Act. Then 1966 saw the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, followed by the Archeological Resources Preservation Act of 1980. All of this legislation, especially the last three pieces discussed here, portended a significantly more complicated future for the Forest Service.



Chapter IX

The Seventies: Plans, Plans, and More Plans

The advent of serious planning

During the decade of the seventies, the Kisatchie and the other national forests would feel the effects of Congress's concern for intricate planning. Congress directed by statute that complicated planning procedures must be followed in managing the national forests. Written plans, surveys, inventories, alternatives, proposals, and assessments — all of these would have to be projected for years ahead and must include public input. The seventies truly ushered in the era of planning and made a truth of Ranger George Cox's 1926 prediction: "The paperwork is gonna keep growing!"

Immediate planning and paperwork of a different nature were needed for the next program Congress passed, the Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970. This act established a three-year pilot program for the summer employment of young people, aged 15 through 18, to work on conservation projects on federal lands administered by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. The act was later amended to grant partial funding for the YCC to states wishing to participate on nonfederal lands, and was further amended to make the program permanent. This proved to be a short-lived permanency, since federal funding was dropped from the budget in fiscal year 1981 (September 1980).

During the 10 years that the YCC was in operation on the Kisatchie, more than 500 young people had the rare opportunity of working on Louisiana's only national forest, learning about the environment and conservation practices firsthand. For the participants in the program, it was a meaningful summer job which also made lasting contributions to the forest. The YCC built trails and recreational facilities, maintained work center buildings, built fences, marked timber, and studied environmental concerns. In such respects it was a direct descendant of the original CCC of the Depression days. However, the YCC included girls and was designed for only one summer's employment period of six weeks' duration for each participant. Whereas all of the CCC camps were residential with room, board, clothing, medical, dental, and educational needs furnished, the YCC groups were chiefly commuter-type day programs, with only safety equipment such as hard hats, safety-toe boots, and gloves furnished by the government.

The Kisatchie's first YCC program was a day camp held during the summer of 1971 on the Evangeline Ranger District. For the next two years, the Evangeline Camp was the only YCC program on the Kisatchie. In 1974 an additional camp was added on the Kisatchie District. Later facilities for a residential camp were built on the Catahoula District.

When the first YCC program was held on the Kisatchie National Forest in 1971,

Frank Finison was the supervisor. He was transferred that fall to Florida, as the supervisor of the National Forests in Florida.

After Finison was transferred, the Kisatchie did not receive his replacement immediately. For the next six months, administrative duties were handled by the deputy supervisor, Bruce Macko, who served as acting supervisor.

On June 4, 1972, the 11th Supervisor arrived and began working on Kisatchie. The new Supervisor, J. Lamar Beasley, is remembered as a hard worker who "was the first in, in the morning, and last to leave in the evening." Former staff member Odom McDaniel said, "He worked hard, and you can't blame him for expecting you to work a lot, 'cause he always worked even harder. He pushed and pushed, and we were all under constant pressure to excel."

Pressure was beginning to be felt from the new planning rules that the Forest Service had inaugurated. Not only was the drafting of environmental studies and impact statements required, but alternatives also had to be developed and presented to the public for their consideration.

Unit planning began while Beasley was supervisor. This process involved the preparation of comprehensive, detailed plans for the individual units, or subdivisions, of each ranger district. The unit plan had to include every facet of Forest Service activity that would occur within that geographical unit. These plans covered timber management, reforestation, timber sales, fire detection,

and suppression. The plans also included all of the other multiple-use factors of range, wildlife, special uses, minerals, and recreation. In addition, the unit plans had to address the problems and alternatives — environmental impacts — of the proposed work plans.

More acts and more directives

Soon another element had to be considered in all Forest Service planning. Congress passed the Endangered Species Act in 1973, which provided for the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plant species. On the Kisatchie, this meant that nesting trees of the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) had to be mapped and left undisturbed, even when they were located in the midst of mature timber that was ready to be harvested.

Thus, directives were piled upon directives until it seemed every aspect of forest management had been provided for. But that was not the case. Within two years, Congress extended its requirements with even more significant legislation. In 1974 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (PL93-378) required the Forest Service to prepare long-range programs for the next 40 years in 5-year stages. This act, referred to as the Resources Planning Act (RPA), was a very significant

conservation action because Congress had finally recognized that the administration of our natural resources must be planned and funded, not just on a year-by-year program, but on a thoroughly researched and considered long-range basis.

This latest legislation, the Resources Planning Act, did not find the Forest Service unprepared. Three years prior to its passage, the Forest Service itself had launched its own long-range study entitled "A Long Term Forestry Plan (Draft) - Environmental Program for the Future." This ambitious three-year study involved extensive effort on the part of all three branches of the Forest Service — the National Forest System, Research, and State & Private Forestry. It was completed in mid-1974, just before the RPA was passed by Congress. However, there would be no time to relax. The first national assessment and program called for under the RPA had to be submitted to Congress by the end of 1975.

Following close on that deadline, came a never-ending list of target dates for plans that the Kisatchie supervisor would be responsible for. And all the while, the supervisor must see that forest was producing more and more products and services for an ever-growing population. No wonder that McDaniel sighed, "We were under constant pressure, but Lamar Beasley always worked harder — he just wore us out." Special Agent Jack Boren pointed out: "Lamar is brilliant, has a very sharp mind, the computer type, and is aggressive." But McDaniel and others on Beasley's staff were quick to point out, "Lamar Beasley has a charisma about him; he came in slapping backs, and you'd work your heart out for him."

Best-laid plans

The catastrophic night of April 29, 1975 caused the Vernon District and SO personnel to work around the clock and literally "tore up" the Vernon's carefully laid management plans. A front blew through central Louisiana, spawning 29 tornadoes and flattening 30 million board feet of timber. Hardest hit was the southwestern Vernon District. A report on file in the supervisor's office describes the catastrophe:

In less than five minutes time tens of thousands of prime forest trees were literally torn from the ground, snapped and mutilated, forming a leviathan game of jackstraws over 1,100 acres in size. The area of greatest destruction was four miles long and up to a mile wide. One could traverse nearly the whole distance by walking across the trunks of downed trees.

Fortunately, no personnel were injured. Although all roads in the area were blocked, the threat of insect and deterioration made immediate salvage necessary. The report continues:

An intensive salvage operation was begun immediately. Areas of complete blowdown were delineated and marking crews were detailed in to mark damaged timber in adjacent stands. Roads were posted routing one-way traffic in anticipation of heavy logging traffic. Permission was obtained from the regional office to sell the timber using consumer weight scale tickets. A meeting was held with all the timber operators in the area explaining the situation and the need for rapid salvage. The area was divided into numerous sales and these were sold for quick removal before the timber deteriorated and insect problems developed.

R. A. "Bud" Burleson, Vernon ranger at that time, recalled that marking crews were brought in from all the other districts on the Kisatchie and even from as far away as North Carolina. Supervisor Beasley gave Kay Erwin temporary authority to approve all emergency sales. But Beasley also worked around the clock, securing the needed crews and regional approvals and personally checking the progress on the ground at least every other day.

Beasley is also remembered for the good rapport he had with the community and Louisiana's politicians — an important attribute for a federal service official. The Kisatchie prospered under its 11th supervisor, but soon he was called to Washington as associate deputy chief and later promoted to deputy chief of the Forest Service for programs and legislation.

The Kisatchie had kept its 11th supervisor 3 years and 2 months before he was succeeded by the 12th supervisor, Frank J. Ferrarelli, who remained almost 4 years.

When canvassed about the Kisatchie's leadership, employees and former employees from the SO, RO, and the field were in agreement that throughout the years the Kisatchie has been fortunate. Retiree Robert "Bob" Bates echoed this consensus about supervisors: "They were all good." And longtime employee Kay Erwin said, "Each one had his own methods, but I liked them all."

The Kisatchie has been blessed

Each supervisor was indeed a unique individual. Whereas Lamar Beasley had been described as "kinda informal, but you knew you were with the supervisor," Frank Ferrarelli is remembered as "real relaxed, someone who usually wore a sweater and shirt rather than a coat and tie." But staff member Boren quickly added, "He was a real sharp cookie, an on-the-ground doer — an engineer as opposed to a forester."

Kenneth Conner told this amusing anecdote about Ferrarelli:

The first year he was supervisor, we invited him to our annual 100-squirrel mulligan, but he didn't come. So, the next time I was in the SO, I asked him why he didn't come to the squirrel mulligan. He said he wanted to, but had to be somewhere else.

Then I asked him what kind of supervisor he'd be, because the ranger had told me that a good manager could be anywhere he wanted to, if he knew about it in time.

Well, he looked like he could look plumb through me — very solemn — then he burst out laughing. And the next year, he came to our squirrel mulligan.

But Ferrarelli had more to do than eat squirrel mulligan with the crews. Two big issues arose on Kisatchie along with additional Congressional legislation. In 1976 Congress amended the Resources Planning Act of 1974 to require full public participation in the development and revision of land management plans. This act also called for the integration of all the forest programs and divisions into one forestwide plan, com-

pletely integrating all aspects and programs. This new legislation is the National Forest Management Act (PL 94-588), referred to as the NFMA. Community leaders and other representatives from all segments of the area were invited to participate in public discussions in the hope that they would be informed and involved with the Kisatchie's planning processes.

Persistent disagreement

Meanwhile, the deep-rooted problems of wildlife habitat and grazing, which concerned some citizens and some state wildlife officials, intensified and finally erupted. There seemed to be a lack of effective communication, although the files show there was no lack of correspondence. Eventually, the arrangement that had been in existence between the Kisatchie National Forest and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was ended, and in 1975 the Kisatchie assumed sole operation of the forest's two game refuges (the two federal preserves).

The Red Dirt Game Refuge had been established in 1941. John Brothers recalls fencing that area of 43,000 acres according to instructions from Guy Cox and Hugh Redding "to figure out how to get the most area with the least fence." Then six deer were "planted" from the Ouachita National Forest. Brothers said, "Barney Eubanks was assigned the job of looking after the deer and he made pets out of some of 'em. And it wasn't too many years before hunters were taking out two to three hundred deer."

Wildlife indeed made a remarkable comeback from its near disappearance after the virgin timber was cut out. Before refor-

estation and fire protection programs began, the bare stump-wastes did not provide food or shelter for game. In fact, Bob Bates described Vernon Parish as "so poor, a possum would have to carry his lunch if he went anywhere." Other parishes suffered a similar plight. Artis and Edward Dowden and Bob Ray said the same conditions were found in Natchitoches Parish, where clear-cutting caused the deer and turkeys to disappear and the streams to fill up with sand.

Oliver Airhart recalled,

When I was a boy, Kisatchie was a deep creek, 12 to 15 feet deep year 'round. I could catch big mud cats — as big as 45 pounds — anytime. And big bass were in the creek where Kisatchie Tower is, but now there's no water. Kisatchie Creek had an enormous volume of water back then, but now you can walk from Odom Falls to Kisatchie, it's so filled up with sand.

Long-time employees credit the Forest Service, rather than the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, with bringing the game back through reforestation, fire protection, and preservation of some hardwoods. In the early days, the Timber Stand Improvement program appeared to the general public as an attempt to create mainly pine stands. But the Forest Service had made some provision for wildlife needs even before 1960 when the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act required it.

Although for many years the Forest Service had relaxed its timber stand improvement practices and had dramatically curtailed cattle grazing, there were still extremists who wanted hardwoods instead of pine and deer instead of cattle on Kisatchie National Forest.

As supervisor, Ferrarelli must be commended for the pains he took to try to get the Kisatchie's message out to the general

public and to wildlife groups through tours, public meetings, and publications.

To continue interest in conservation and to call public attention to the Kisatchie's multiple-use contributions, Ferrarelli issued a public relations booklet similar to that issued by Ray Brandt in 1959. The 1978 booklet contained 21 pages of information spirally bound within a cover which featured an outline map of Louisiana showing the districts of the Kisatchie National Forest. The text portion presented a brief background of the Kisatchie and then discussed the topic headings of land classification, soil and water, air, fish and wildlife, timber, range, recreation, human resources, minerals, research, and military uses. Also included was a table listing the annual receipts and payments to the state from 1932 through 1978 as prescribed by law. These funds represent 25 percent of the total forest receipts which Congress had mandated as



"The land was just as open as a rug when you drug out all the furniture. And there wasn't no game... a possum would have to pack a lunch..."

payment to the parishes in lieu of taxes. The bulk of the receipts comes from the sale of timber products, carefully planned to thin overcrowded young stands or to harvest mature stands. The money that the state received had risen dramatically from only \$111.47 in 1932 to \$2,759,308 in 1978.

The following year another booklet, similar in format and content, was issued by Ferrarelli's successor, Kisatchie's 13th supervisor, David L. Hessel. Hessel arrived in Louisiana July 1, 1979, too late to do more than update the previous booklet. The 1979 edition had the same format, and most of the content was identical. However, Hessel added an important first page — important because it caught the reader's attention with a summary of the year's highlights.

This summary briefly listed the forest's 12 best accomplishments, a well-presented strategy for getting the Kisatchie's message across to the public. Hessel's knowledge and use of the value of public relations was shown to be particularly keen the following year, when he issued the 1980 edition of the information booklet. By then Supervisor Hessel had been in office over a year, sufficient time to restyle and refine the publication. The 1980 booklet was similar in appearance to its predecessors, but 7 additional pages had been added within an attractive, professionally designed and printed cover. And all of it appeared under the new title, *1980 Forest Compendium: Facts, History, Statistics*.

Important new sections of the booklet dealt with law enforcement, safety, cultural resources, and fire management. The Kisatchie's 13th supervisor showed a broad overview of his responsibilities, a fact which was supported by the assessment of one of his staff: "He's the manager type. You better have all your homework done."

Roads and wilderness

Another staff member pointed out that Hessel will be most remembered for his emphasis on transportation planning on the forest. One of his prime projects as supervisor was getting the entire transportation system classified according to the Forest Service's new designation system and upgraded where needed. This project involved first, planning for future resource management; and second, development of the system through needed repairs, widening, bridge replacement, and the construction of new access roads. Much of this road improvement was being done on original CCC-built roads and bridges which were designed 40 years earlier for much smaller and lighter-weight trucks.

Supervisor Hessel reported that during fiscal year 1980 more than 80 miles of roads on the forest had been reconstructed, 30 additional miles of new roads had been built, and 10 bridges had been replaced.

Also noted was the announcement that Congress had declared 8,700 acres of the Kisatchie National Forest as a wilderness. This declaration came after several years of study and public involvement and after several other pieces of legislation had paved the way. More than 9 million pristine acres in other national forests had been designated as wilderness areas by the Wilderness Act of 1964, but all of those areas were located in the West. That legislation, however, also called for the study and consideration of primitive areas and other possible sites as wilderness areas.

Ten years later, the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1974 designated 16 small areas in the

East and South (but none in Louisiana) as new wildernesses; and again called for continued study of possible additional areas.

The second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation document, commonly known as RARE II, made allowances for the heavily used eastern forests; it relaxed the qualifying criteria from the required "completely roadless" condition to include consideration of areas having one-half mile of road or less per 1,000 acres of land. Therefore, three scenic areas in Louisiana were inventoried and considered at public meetings. The three sites in Louisiana were the Kisatchie Hills, Cunningham Brake, and Saline Bayou. Extensive studies and plans involving 10 alternative actions finally resulted in the recommendation that only the Kisatchie Hills area be designated as a wilderness area.

Because such action would remove thousands of acres from commercial timber use, it was understandably opposed by timber-using industries. However, the general public supported this move, and Congress designated the Kisatchie Hills, in the Kisatchie Ranger District, as a wilderness. This Congressional action meant that all roads within the area were to be returned to a natural state and that no timber harvests, reforestation, or any other timber management practice would be performed there. Hunters and the public-at-large would be allowed access only on foot or on horseback.

It was recommended by some citizens of Natchitoches Parish that this area should be named "The Caroline Dormon Wilderness," since, at long last, Miss Carrie's favorite site in the Kisatchie Hills was to be preserved in its natural beauty.

Recreation, fire and timber

Reports of other recreational opportunities were listed in the *1980 Compendium*. These include the Wild Azalea Trail on the Evangeline District and the Sugar Cane Trail on the Caney District, both of which are part of the National Recreation Trail System. All of the six ranger districts have developed recreation sites providing campgrounds, and four of them provide water-oriented recreation. During 1980 the forest hosted 183,500 visitor days on developed recreation sites and more than 340,000 visitor days on dispersed recreation use, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and canoeing. Also during 1980, construction of a swimming beach and day use facilities at Kincaid Recreation Area got underway.

But besides working on recreation areas, Kisatchie personnel carried on their annual forest management tasks as well. At that time, the Kisatchie was managing its forest lands under the Timber Management Plan for 1971-1983. Primarily, this plan called for a sustained-yield forest, divided into blocks of even-aged stands, which could be managed and harvested more economically than the all-aged trees which were intermingled throughout the entire forest. To achieve an even-aged stand, an entire area had to be cleared and planted. Thus, all the merchantable timber in a designated area was sold, and the land was site-prepared to receive another crop of trees.

In the Southern Region, even-aged stands were limited in size to no more than 80 acres each. However, on Kisatchie, the average size of the clear-cut pine areas was only 45 acres each. Even on these small

blocks, cutting practices were modified where necessary to preserve endangered species and to enhance wildlife key areas, stream filter strips, highly visible areas, and bottomland hardwoods.

Among the management tasks completed on the Kisatchie during 1980 were the reforestation of 6,900 acres, completion of watershed restoration on 115 acres of eroded land, completion of intensive soil survey work on 259,000 acres, and an extensive soil survey of the entire forest.

The 1980 *Compendium* also reported that over 58,000 acres were treated with prescribed burns to reduce wildfire hazard, improve wildlife habitat, and improve the range resources. Despite this precaution, 292 wildfires burned 5,423 acres in 1980, due to the very dry weather. This large number of fires was the seventh highest in the history of Kisatchie National Forest. Not since the late 1930s and early 1940s had there been so many fires. A comparison can be viewed in the annual fire summary table in the appendix of this history.

The present methods for detecting and suppressing wildfires in the forest are quite different from those used during the Kisatchie's early years. Back then most fire detection was done from fire towers. These were crude ones at first — sometimes just a platform in a tree. In contrast, detection by aircraft patrol has today largely replaced the use of fire towers. Once a fire was located, crews were summoned by the Forest Service's own telephone system. The actual suppression was literally "firefighting," each crew member fighting the blaze with a flap, rake, or pine top. During the CCC days, the flap and rake were the main tools, but a backpack pump was also used. This was a five-gallon can of water, carried on a man's back, which was used with a hose to drown out

patches of fire. Those cans were heavy and awkward, and the man who did not grab a flap or rake first was saddled with the backpack pump. Tank trucks went out to the fires but these were unwieldy and often presented problems, such as bogging down while attempting to refill from a stream.

When plowing fire lines with a tractors and back-firing finally became the accepted methods of firefighting on the Kisatchie, it was quite an achievement. The relatively level terrain in the Southern Coastal Plain lends itself to mechanized equipment and methods unsuited to mountainous areas.

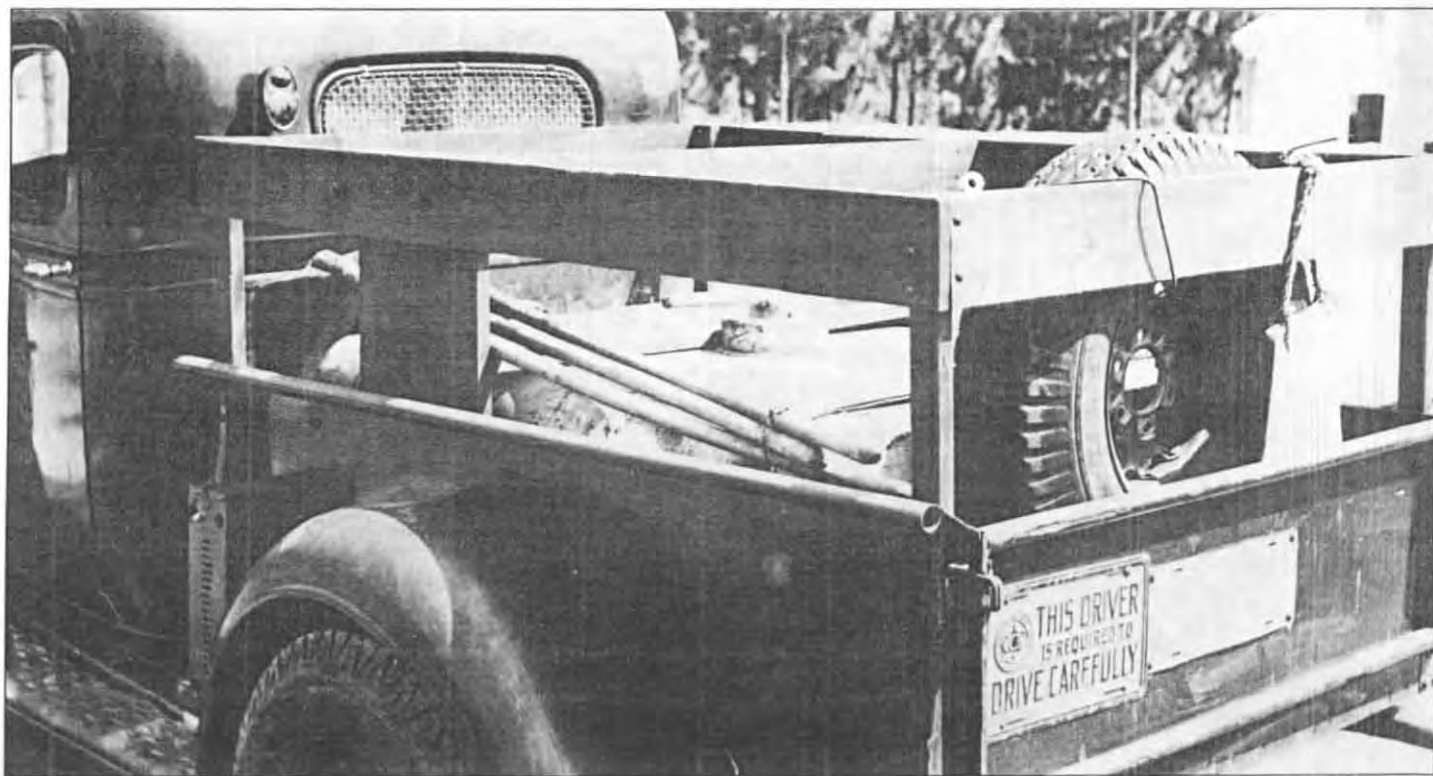
Retired employees Clint Walker and Elmo Welch still laugh about Evangeline

District Ranger Dale Fisher's introduction to the Kisatchie's method of fire fighting. Fisher was accustomed to firefighting in mountainous terrain. As they recall, his first request as the new ranger on the Evangeline in 1969 was to inspect the fire cache, a special box of hand tools for digging and cutting. Fisher could not believe that the crew did not have a fire cache, insisting, "You've got to have one, that's what you fight fires with!" "Oh, do you mean the tractor and plow?" answered the crew. "Finally we found that ol' box, but we had to solder the lid," Walker recalls. "It hadn't been used in so long it had rusted out."

There have been other important ad-

vances in the Kisatchie's constant battle against fire. The communications system has been upgraded from hand-cranked telephones to two-way radios installed in offices, trucks, airplanes, and tractors. Weather and fuel conditions have been carefully studied and a rating system developed to predict fire danger probability. The physical condition of the fire crews themselves is now checked by periodic "step tests" to determine physical fitness for endurance and stress.

On the other hand, the apprehension of woods arsonists was still a difficult task despite the expertise of the forest's special agent. However, he had trained at least one



Anyone driving a vehicle always carried fire tools, a tradition that holds even today during periods of high fire danger.

member on each ranger's staff in law enforcement investigation and apprehension. The 1980 *Compendium* reported that incendiaryism accounted for 66 percent of the man-caused fires during the 5-year period, 1976–1980. An average of 226 fires burned 3,102 acres for the same 5-year period. The statistics for 1980 had raised the averages because it was such a bad fire year, with 292 fires burning a total of 5,423 acres.

But other sections of the report held more pleasant news. Under the heading of human resources was listed accomplishments

in human resource training and employment programs such as YCC, Young Adult Conservation program (a year-round employment opportunity for young people) and the Senior Citizens program which gave part-time jobs to retired men and women.

The 1980 *Compendium* also mentioned the Kisatchie's continued cooperation with Fort Polk and the Army's use of 85,000 acres of national forest lands for special training exercises during 1980.

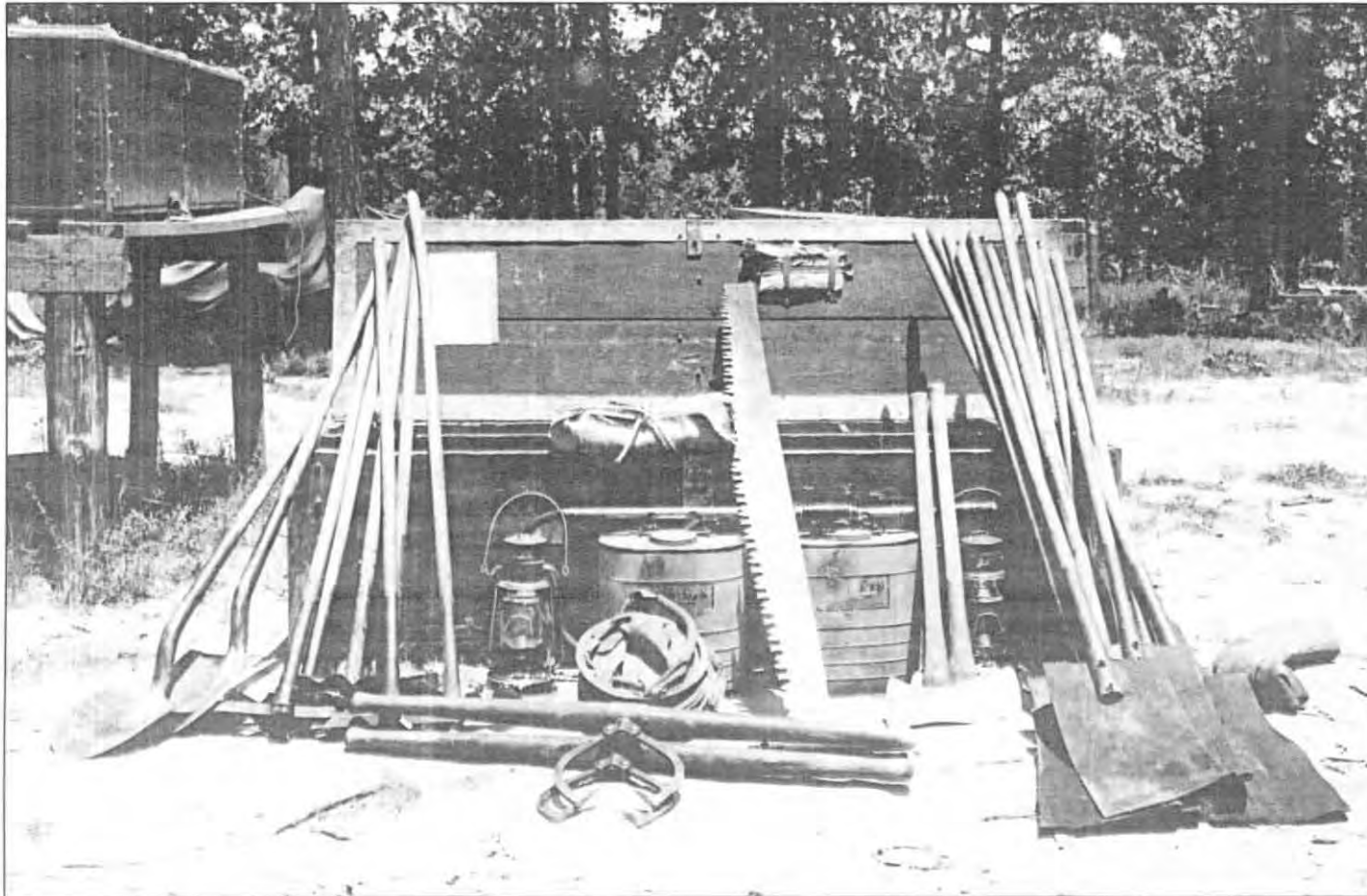
A report on the volume and price of

timber sold shows that the Kisatchie continued receiving strong demand and high prices for its timber products during fiscal year 1980, even though depressed markets had caused a slight drop in demand. The volume sold amounted to 149.9 million board feet for a total of \$18,360,388. Payments to the parishes amounted to \$2,328,512, or an average of \$3.90 per acre, making Kisatchie again the leading per-acre income producer among the national forests in the South.

Finally, the 1980 report noted that

Kisatchie celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1980, the same year that the U.S. Forest Service observed its 75th anniversary. Both the parent organization and its Louisiana offspring had grown, developed, and matured into fine adulthood, serving their nation with an unending supply of timber, range, water, wildlife, recreation, and beauty.

Caroline Dormon did not live to celebrate Kisatchie's 50th anniversary, but she had watched its early progress with great interest. Certainly, had she been alive in 1980, Miss Carrie would have been proud.



On page 53 the photo of cutover land is captioned, "The land was just as open as a rug when you drug out all the furniture. And there wasn't no game... a possum would have to pack a lunch..." One can imagine how a wind-driven fire would behave in such a setting. And, as can be seen from this 1937 photo of the equipment contained in a typical fire cache, a man would certainly have wanted to have a lunch along with him if he anticipated doing much work with tools like these.



Chapter X

The Kisatchie's Future: The Eighties and Beyond

The second half-century

The Kisatchie moved into its second half-century with confidence, sound leadership, and nature's bountiful provisions of ideal soil and climate for fast-growing timber. No drastic changes were evident as the Kisatchie completed its 51st year — just continued wise stewardship by highly trained and dedicated professionals.

During July 6–10, 1981, Kisatchie hosted the prestigious Southern Forestry School Deans' Seminar & Tour. This was the 24th annual tour, designed to show academic leaders in the South outstanding examples of sound forest management. In three previous years, the tours had passed through the Kisatchie as they traveled from Tennessee and Mississippi. This year, the entire tour was conducted in central Louisiana, with an emphasis on the Kisatchie's "rich productivity" of wood, water, forage, wildlife, recreation, and minerals.

At this writing the Kisatchie's timber areas lacked only 2.9 per cent being fully stocked — an important production factor, and a record that leads all other national forests in the Southern Region.

Supervisor Hessel's 1981 *Digest of Forest Facts* included the "Highlights of Fiscal Year 1981 Activities," and, again, the citizens of Louisiana found listed the steady growth of improvements and accomplishments that

they have come to expect from their national forest. These included continued reforestation, prescribed burning, soil survey work, erosion control, and improvements to the transportation system. Grazing was continued on 5 ranger districts, involving nearly 220,000 acres of the national forest. Only the Caney Ranger District provides no grazing.

The *Digest* also noted the final completion of a mutually beneficial land exchange of 1,584 acres with the Louisiana National Guard. Because of this exchange both agencies have more convenient access to their holdings, having swapped separated tracts for contiguous ones.

Also noted: the forest continued its various human resource programs by employing 140 persons in the Young Adult Conservation Corps and the Senior Community Service Employment Program. The Kisatchie's role in the latter program was featured in local TV news and newspapers, giving justly deserved praise to the excellent service being provided by the Kisatchie's 50 or 60 devoted senior citizen employees.

Another means of better acquainting the public with the activities and goals on the forest has been an attractive tabloid-size newspaper issued by the Kisatchie in January 1981 and 1982.

A disappointing note in the *Digest* explained that, despite continued construction on Kincaid Recreation Area, the facility was not yet open; additional funding was needed to complete the complex. Federal

budget cuts had diminished the Kincaid project priority, so that the opening date was uncertain.

The federal budget, however, was not the only segment of the economy to feel the recession. Nationwide, the housing industry slipped into a sharp decline thus affecting timber-using industries. In Louisiana, the recession hit the wood-using industries such a severe blow that several mills were closed and the demand for timber and timber prices fell sharply. Despite the drop in demand, Kisatchie sold 141.8 million board feet of timber products and had only 4 million board feet on which no bids were received. These sales and other forest receipts amounted to almost \$8 million, of which almost \$2 million were distributed in lieu of taxes to the 7 parishes containing national forest land.

Three ranger districts on the Kisatchie supply vitally needed water to seven community water systems. These include the South Grant Water Corporation, Inc., and Big Creek Water Supply Rapides Parish Water District Number 3 on the Catahoula Ranger District; and West Winn Water System, Inc., and Tannehill Water System on the Winn Ranger District. There are also three systems being supplied from the Evangeline Ranger District: E. M. C. Water System, Inc., Gardner Community Water Association, and the largest of all, the City of Alexandria.

Hope for new agreements

While the Kisatchie National Forest continued its management and protection of the land and wildlife habitat on the forest's two national wildlife management preserves, Jim Barrett, staff officer in charge of timber, range, and wildlife, did not rule out the possibility that perhaps sometime in the future joint management agreements could be arranged with Louisiana's wildlife agency. Barrett stated, "We would like to place all of the Kisatchie under wildlife management by the state if a satisfactory means of meeting all of our multiple-use concerns can be correctly balanced."

Other important resources on the Kisatchie are its minerals, especially oil and gas, sand, and gravel. Although there are also deposits of salt, clay, and low-grade iron ore, there is insignificant commercial demand for them. However, the oil and gas deposits are moving out of the lease stage and into actual exploration and production. The United States owns mineral rights on about half of the Kisatchie, with about half belonging to third parties. This resulted from allowing the owners to reserve mineral rights when the land was sold to the government. There are now 17 producing wells on the Winn and Caney Ranger Districts. Additional drilling and continued seismic exploration is expected on other districts.

In the future, the Kisatchie will continue feeling the impact of the military, with approximately 20 percent of its area under active military use or restricted by contaminated ranges from World War II training exercises.

Arson and law enforcement

The Kisatchie's law enforcement program will continue striving to minimize or eliminate the incidence of, not only incendiary fires, but also rowdyism in recreation areas, littering, theft of timber and other federal property, trash dumping, and vandalism. Although prosecutions have been successful in several cases of theft and trash dumping, vandalism continues to be an inexcusable, costly, and pointless act against public property. This problem is not confined to the Kisatchie, but is suffered by all agencies and industries serving the public with recreation facilities. The outlook for forest fires on the Kisatchie seems to be approaching its objective of containing 90 percent of all wildfires to 14 acres or less.

Excellent detection and training of the three-man tractor-plow units has made the primary initial-attack force quite efficient. In addition, prescribed burning has been increased during the last 10 years from 20,000 to 70,000 acres per year, thus reducing the risk of damage from wildfire. However, since weather cannot be controlled, the forest can still expect high fire incidence in extremely dry years.



In the unending battle against woods arson, tire tracks were just as important to the investigator in those days as they are today.

Management planning begins

At this writing, the Kisatchie was operating under its current Timber Management Plan which extended for 12 years and 2 months (July 1, 1971 – September 30, 1983). But Supervisor Hessel and his staff began work in 1981 to comply with Congress's mandate that future national forest management planning must follow certain prescribed processes set forth in the National Forest Management Act of 1976 with its final regulations as issued in September 1979.

The Kisatchie was among six national forests in the Southern Region which were requested to have the important first part of their management plan, the *Analysis of the Management Situation* (AMS), prepared six months earlier than the rest of the region. Kisatchie continued its tradition of leadership by completing its AMS first. The document was carefully reviewed by the regional staff and served as a model for the other national forests in the region.

This whole planning process was much more involved and detailed than the general public realized. It was not merely a simple task of deciding which areas would be harvested or prescribe-burned during the immediate future. These new plans were to guide all management activities on the Kisatchie for periods of 10 years or longer, also providing a basic outline of the Kisatchie's offering of goods and services through the year 2030.

The Forest Interdisciplinary Planning Team — made up of professionals in the several areas of forest and wildlife management, engineering, soil science, landscape architecture, recreation, environmental protection, range management, mineral resources, hydrology, planning, and budget — were involved in an eight-step process. These steps were:

1. Identification of issues
2. Development of planning criteria
3. Inventory
4. Analysis of the management situation
5. Formulating, estimating effects of, and evaluating alternatives
6. Selection of a final alternative
7. Implementation; and
8. Monitoring and evaluation

By the spring of 1982, the first four steps had been carried out. Public comment was utilized in identifying the following major issues to be addressed in the Forest Plan:

1. How should the Kisatchie manage the timber resources to meet the demand for wood products and the needs of the other resources?
2. What measures are needed to assure a balanced wildlife program?
3. How much and what kind of outdoor recreation should be provided and where should it occur?
4. How should the Kisatchie coordinate range management activities with the other resources?
5. How should the Kisatchie's transportation system be managed to meet resource needs and public use?
6. How can the Kisatchie respond to the increasing demand for mineral products with a minimal impact on the other resources?

After the major issues had been decided, the planning criteria were developed and a careful inventory of all needed data brought up-to-date. The fourth step, compilation of the *Analysis of the Management Situation* (AMS), is when that document is reviewed at the regional level. This study assesses the Kisatchie's overall ability to supply goods and services in response to public demand.

Following the final acceptance of the AMS is the formulation of alternatives, covering a reasonable range of differing approaches which address and respond to the identified major issues listed in the first step of the planning process. Each alternative must represent the most cost-efficient combination of management activities to meet the objective.

The next step involves presenting the *Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* to the public for review and comment. After a three-month review period, the public comments are analyzed and used in the development of the final *Forest Land and Resources Management Plan*. Then, at long last, comes the implementation, and ongoing evaluation as to how well the plan performs. In the meantime, long before the 10-year period is over, the Kisatchie will be busy, again, on plans for the following 10-year period.

Esprit de corps cited in study

The Kisatchie shared in the pride felt by the Forest Service resulting from the agency's being listed as "one of the top 10 organizations in the nation," among those in both the private and public sectors. Kenneth A. Gold, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, conducted a detailed study of the nation's most successful organizations over a period of one and one-half years.

According to Gold's findings, Forest Service personnel have a deep, genuine commitment to its mission of managing the national forest lands "which involves balancing two sets of interests — protection of the land and wildlife, and recreation on the one hand; and timber production on the other." Gold also noted that "unlike many other Federal agencies, the Forest Service is very much a career organization." He found there "clearly exists a high esprit de corps, which is punctuated by the fact that the leadership of the agency had always risen up from within the organization, and is essentially nonpolitical." Gold further commented on the strong commitment to delegate authority and responsibility to the lowest level possible in the field. He noted that this was only possible because of the "high degree of professionalism combined with the fact that most managers have themselves served in the field."

Gold's conclusions, while directed to the Forest Service as a whole, certainly reflect conditions on the Kisatchie.

Louisianians can look to the decade of the 1980s and beyond with the assurance that their only national forest will continue meeting their needs under the guidance of professionals who, while following Forest Service standards, will be aware of Louisiana's heritage and traditions. And if those needs change, the Forest Service will meet each new challenge with the adaptability it has shown since Gifford Pinchot first set down the principle of the most good for the greatest number in the long run.



Epilogue

In addition...

...to tracing the history and development of the Kisatchie National Forest, this work has also noted some of the nebulous and definite effects of Kisatchie's being a part of Louisiana — a very special state in the hearts of its citizens. Louisianians cherish their land despite their ambivalent attitude toward the rough-hewn redneck and Cajun ways of life, swamp and hills, and its tradition of Huey Long politics. Yet, strangely enough, the state has had a Republican governor — chosen by an overwhelmingly Democratic electorate. Although it was the Cajuns who were first noted for their *joie de vivre* — enjoying life and fun times — that attitude has spread northward over the state. And it's a state where the citizens have reelected officials despite indictments (at least one was reelected while in jail), and where burning the woods every spring was a tradition long-held by stockmen.

The Kisatchie's record has certainly been outstanding. Its excellent leadership and dedicated personnel have transformed a seemingly hopeless, barren wasteland into the leading income-per-acre producer of the Southern Region. It has handled with aplomb situations that could have staggered lesser organizations, such as the intense impact of the military and the once-high incidence of woods arson as an accepted way of life. By providing areas for investigative study by the Southern Forest Experiment Station (housed in the same complex as the supervisor's office), the Kisatchie has been a part of what many southern foresters consider the greatest contributions to coastal plain forestry.

The Kisatchie has played important roles in the testing of direct-seeding experiments, both on the area assigned to the Experiment Station and on its own districts. Dr. Peter Koch's chipping head-rig and whole-tree harvesters revolutionized southern pine handling. And Koch's flake board and scrub hardwood utilization plans are creating increasing demands for timber products. The list goes on: range studies, southern pine beetle research, superior seedlings, genetically improved seed orchard, and fertilization experiments. The complex shared by the three branches of the Forest Service — the National Forest System, Research, and State & Private, has provided a closer cooperation than is possible when they are located miles apart.

The Kisatchie's products have contributed much to Louisiana's economy and the unusual cooperation and goodwill found in Louisiana between the Kisatchie and industry was recently voiced by one of industry's representatives who said, "Out West, it's 'them' against 'us.' Here in Louisiana, with the Kisatchie, it's us!"

That sentiment could also sum up the general feeling throughout the state: Louisiana citizens are justly proud of *their* only national forest.

This history has traced the development of the Kisatchie, touched on its concerns, painted sketches of key personnel, and noted the "miracle" of its rehabilitation. In conclusion, one realizes that the Kisatchie is both a typical national forest and one that has been touched by the magic of being part of Louisiana. Forest Service personnel who have been fortunate enough to be assigned to the Kisatchie have, indeed, found the "Forester's Dream."



A Ten-Year Update by the Editor and the Author

Into the nineties

The original manuscript for this history was completed early in 1982. At that writing Chapter X anticipated the eighties, most of which still lay ahead, and described the Kisatchie National Forest's plans, goals, and objectives for the coming decade. Following that was an epilogue, a brief denouement winding down the story.

When the history was being compiled there was nary a desktop computer in sight at the Alexandria Forestry Center, and only one or two dedicated word processors. This kind of technology was not yet even a gleam in the eye of the average district ranger. Although the people of the Forest Service did not realize it then, the agency was poised on the brink of fundamental change. Not long afterward, the Kisatchie and the Forest Service indelibly marked their passage from the eighties into the nineties with a gigantic leap into the magic world of modern-day electronic technology.

Now every Forest Service office's ordinary fixtures include individual "dumb" terminals, and desktop personal computers as well, slaved to a central file-serving minicomputer — which is just a notch or two beneath the power and capability of a 'mainframe' computer. Although the days of the paperless office have not yet arrived as once predicted, and the traditional interoffice routing slip is still used as always, information is also passed instantly and effortlessly

through electronic conduits. Perhaps one day electronic mail, popularly called E-mail, will render the hard copy obsolete. Perhaps, but not just yet.

When the Kisatchie's initial Data General (DG) minicomputer and its network of wiring was first installed at the Pineville office no one suspected that it was the mere blazing of a trail that would eventually become an information superhighway. For a time, most personnel either ignored the DG or regarded it with some dread. But the few early adapters approaching it gingerly soon warmed to its marvelous capabilities. First began a trickle of electronic mail, not much more than a novelty in the beginning. Then on a curve that steepened so rapidly it seemed to point straight up, demand for the use of the DG system skyrocketed; nearly overnight, it seemed, everyone wanted access to a DG terminal. For several years there were too few of them to go around.

By 1985 everyone had suddenly seemed to realize that this developing network, still in its infancy, allowed instantaneous contact with any other office, any unit of the agency. And within a few short years, the convenience of E-mail and the more powerful data processing capabilities of the DG revolutionized the ways that the Forest Service communicated internally, kept its records, and compiled and evaluated its information. In fact, before the original Forest Plan was completed, the DG was responsible for a lot of the initial number-crunching required to analyze forest resource

facts and figures which eventually became the basis for presenting management alternatives to the public.

The DG revolution was only the beginning of a great transformation in the way the Forest Service was to conduct its affairs. Although technology marches on, this capable agency is now ready for it. A good thing, too, because developments since the advent of the DG have been mind-boggling.

Today there are two new computer technologies in use which deserve mention. And, of course, the Kisatchie leads in their use. The geographic information system (GIS) and the global positioning system (GPS), which began as separate technologies, are today being melded together to become an unbelievably powerful tool for recording, evaluating, and displaying extremely detailed information about a fantastic array of forest resources.

The GIS and GPS technologies combine the precision of computer digitizing and satellite positioning to permit super-accurate mapping and compilation of essential forest resource and management data, data of any kind. Just as electronic mail will one day obsolete the interoffice routing slip, these two systems are eliminating the need for the traditional forestry measurement tools, the chain and the compass. The use of GIS and GPS has transformed the forest planning process. Because of them the original Forest Plan, formulated in the eighties, will pale by comparison to its revised cousin. The alternatives to be presented in a new

Plan in 1994 will represent fewer educated guesses and a great deal more hard, reliable information than ever before.

Now the eighties are but a memory. A time of great change, they seem to have passed so quickly. The nineties are well underway. Everyone these days already looks toward the turn of the century. But wait — only technological advances have been considered here. What happened to people and resources in the eighties? What else is happening in the nineties? And now that this final decade of this century has begun, how will these years be remembered? What's ahead for the year 2000 and beyond?

Perhaps now, at a time when the Kisatchie National Forest is revising and refining its management plans for the 21st century, it is fitting to bring the history up to date; to pick up loose ends and take a look at how the Kisatchie fared in the eighties — and the nineties as well. Did it fulfill its goals? Were there significant changes in the forest's management, its policies, and its administration?

Americans now live in the information age; an instant, E-mail-it-now, fax-it-today society. Immediately if not sooner is the prevailing attitude. In this atmosphere of expanding technology, rapidly unfolding events seem to overlap one another like the fast-flipping pictures of a hand-crank cinema; you hardly have time to perceive one before another takes its place. And forest management requirements continue to evolve with the demands of a society whose

sophistication and awareness of the world around them grows continuously. Coping becomes ever more difficult, not only for forest managers, but for everyone. It is an increasingly frenetic life for all people.

So, let's slow down that hand crank and take a good look at a few individual pictures, to see where the Forest Service and the Kisatchie are now. In addition to reviewing the past, it seems equally important to examine today; comparing the Kisatchie's current outlook for the future with plans that were put forth in 1980; examining new national directives and local developments which have changed those plans.

In 1985 the Kisatchie's planning team completed the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Plan; Forest Plan), culminating the work of more than five years, a series of rigorous steps and processes required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Then-Forest Supervisor Robert Joslin took considerable pride in the fact that the Kisatchie's Forest Plan was the second in the Southern Region and among the earliest in the nation to garner final approval.

The fundamental reason for formulating a forest plan, any forest plan, is to establish guidelines; to set down rules for the management of a national forest. And so it was with the Kisatchie. With the Forest Plan, a direction was established.

The forest was divided into management areas — not to be confused with timber management compartments, which are logical subdivisions on the ground used for project-level planning. The Forest Plan specified generally what kinds of management treatments, if any, were called for in each area; how much timber was to be harvested, how an area was to be replanted or returned to a vigorous growing condi-

tion, and what percentage of each age class of timber across the forest should be left standing. Of course, the Plan's direction also described other management responsibilities on the forest such as those in recreation, fire, soils, air, water, and wildlife management. But, as poet Robert Burns once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-gley."

Pine beetles and woodpeckers

Forest Supervisor Danny Britt explained during a 1992 interview that when the implementation of the Forest Plan was initiated in 1985, it was expected to guide the management of the Kisatchie for at least 10 years. However, Britt observed, "Little did we know that shortly after the plan was put into effect the forest was to suffer the worst beetle epidemic in our history." From 1985 through 1987, nearly 30,000 acres of prime timber were lost to the southern pine beetle, thus drastically altering the patterns of the Kisatchie's planned timber harvest.

Whereas the Plan had called for 5,000 to 6,000 acres to be cut annually in future years, the beetles wiped out perhaps 6 times that amount in only 2 years. As much of the timber as possible was salvaged, but mills could not handle all of the damaged trees — the beetles had attacked private and industry lands as well as the Kisatchie, and the market became quickly glutted. This sudden alteration of the timber resource — a resource under carefully planned management, remember — caused a big change in the forest's ability to meet future harvests. Britt explained, "In the long run that land is not out of production, of course. It was

replanted, so it still has the capability of producing timber, but in the short term this makes a big impact."

Another event requiring changes in planned management actions came just two years later, the issuance of significant new policies for protection of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker's habitat. The Kisatchie had been operating under the 1985 *Handbook* guidelines, developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For several years three ranger districts, the Kisatchie, the Evangeline, and the Vernon, were considered as one red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) population — one large gene pool — and thus for a time felt the strengthened regulations to a lesser degree than national forest areas which were home to smaller RCW populations.

But after surveys throughout the South in 1988 and 1989 had indicated significant declines in RCW populations on national forest land, the Forest Service brought emergency protection measures to bear in some areas. These interim measures, called standards and guidelines (interim guides, or S&Gs) placed specific limits on management options within three-fourths of a mile of each active or inactive RCW colony.

In 1991 the regional forester issued a supplement strengthening the interim guides. These strengthened S&Gs will remain in effect until new long-term RCW management direction is issued, which should occur in 1994. A draft environmental impact statement and proposed RCW management plan was under public review at this writing. The 1991 supplement also divided the Kisatchie-Evangeline-Vernon RCW population into three separate populations because of their distance from one another, thus immediately requiring more stringent protection of these smaller gene

pools and reducing the levels of timber to be harvested around each RCW site.

Although they have gotten a lot of attention, control of southern pine beetles and enhancement of woodpecker populations are not the only ecological concerns to be considered prior to a timber harvest. No less important for evaluation during timber management planning are protection and enhancement measures for streamside zones, the Louisiana pearlshell mussel, rare bog-plant communities, Saline Bayou National Scenic River, and a number of other environmental considerations.

Remnants, roads & recreation

Over time, three other forces also have resulted in a gradual reduction of timber harvested annually on the Kisatchie National Forest. These might be termed as the three "Rs" resulting from the activities of man — remnants, roads, and recreation.

The eighties saw steadily increasing demand for recreational opportunities on public land. The Forest Service responded with the National Recreation Strategy Project, developed in 1987 and 1988. The goal of that strategy is to achieve customer satisfaction by providing more recreation services of higher quality. This is the first "R."

An integral part of the strategy has been working with public groups and forming partnerships for assistance in building recreational facilities; such as off-road vehicle trails, horseback trails, group picnic shelters, improved camp sites, interpretive centers, and enhancement of fishing opportunities. Formal Challenge Cost Share (CCS) agreements have been made with such pub-

lic organizations as the Fish America Foundation; the Nature Conservancy; the National Wild Turkey Federation; Quail Unlimited, the Civilian Conservation Corps Reunion Group; the Good Sams Club; the Cenla Quail Hunters' Association; the Lake Charles Rod & Gun Club; the South Vernon Sportsmen's Association; and the Acadian Dirt Riders, an off-road motorcycle club. These CCS agreements have also been formed with other government agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, and several universities.

Increased recreational opportunities often result in greater public access needs; thus, the second "R": roads. Along with construction of a few new roads, the improvement of existing roads with wider rights-of-way for a variety of purposes is an ongoing process which influences not only the efficacy of timber production, but general access to the forest.

The third "R" is a relatively recent development. As noted in the earlier chapters of this history, archeology — or the study of "remnants" of the past — was not a primary management consideration at the time of the Kisatchie's establishment in 1930. The National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), however, established a need for intensified archeological studies, surveys, and preservation. In 1977 the Kisatchie hired its first professional archeologist, who served more or less as the archeologist for the western zone of the Southern Region and was shared with the national forests in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama.

The NHPA increased the Forest Service's responsibility in the protection of cultural resources. By the mid-1980s the agency's interest in and support of archeology had

increased concomitantly. In 1983 the Kisatchie acquired its own archeologist, and the full-time staff now stands at four archeologists. In 1988, the Cultural Resources Technician program was instituted. Under this program the Kisatchie sent seven employees to Arkansas for intensive training in site identification and other nonarcheological duties.

The Kisatchie announced in its 1988 *Annual Report* that approximately 19 percent of the forest had been surveyed and more than 1,400 sites had been recorded. By 1992 these figures had grown; 30 percent of the forest had been inventoried, and more than 3,000 sites were recorded.

The Kisatchie's present archeologist Alan Dorian reports that the majority of discovered sites are prehistoric hunting and lithic (stone) workshop sites. These include 17 large lithic quarry sites and at least 40 large-scale occupations with multiple-component (more than one time period) deposits. Approximately 400 sites of the historic period have been recorded, ranging from small homesites and refuse dumps to the remains of the large sawmill community of Fullerton. Both this sawmill site on the Vernon District, and the original location of Louisiana State University at the forest supervisor's office in Pineville, are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

All sites destined for ground-disturbing activities must be surveyed for any archeological or historic significance before decisions can be made and actions undertaken. If important cultural resources are identified they are protected; but if avoidance is impossible, scientific excavations and analyses are conducted.

Since 1991 the Kisatchie has received excellent media coverage for its participation in Louisiana Archeology Week, spon-

sored by the State Division of Archeology (SDA). Louisiana Archeology Week activities have been carried out with substantial financial support from the Kisatchie, in the form of a CCS partnership with the SDA, and is now a national model for educational programs of its type. In 1992 and 1993 Dorian and his team instructed more than 1,000 eighth graders in the proper excavation of a prehistoric site at Valentine Lake Recreation Area, near Alexandria. The students dug, scraped, and sifted the soil, bagged the discovered artifacts, and thoroughly enjoyed getting dirty while they learned the techniques and the ethics of archeology.

Less is better? Yes, no, maybe?

The preceding called attention to influences that reduce the area available for timber harvest. Whereas in the past timber production was an overarching goal, in the eighties the Forest Service began broadening its focus in multiple-use management and actively sought ways to better serve its many constituencies.

The new slogan, "Caring for the Land and Serving People" now sums up the Forest Service's evolving priorities and its determination to ensure a more balanced mix of opportunities in the national forests: maintenance of natural beauty; healthy fisheries; plentiful wildlife for observation and hunting; reinvigorated endangered species protection; fresh, high quality water; careful management of essential minerals; stepped-up cultural resources preservation and interpretation; more and better developed and dispersed recreation facilities; and timber sales. These things are all what the

public — the owners of the national forests — have communicated to their elected representatives, and to the Kisatchie, as desirable yields of a national forest. Both the Congress and the Forest Service have responded.

Louisiana citizens have been less demanding than environmentalists and special interest groups in other areas of the nation. In fact, in an October 4, 1984 *Alexandria Daily Town Talk* article Kisatchie National Forest Supervisor Bob Joslin was quoted as saying, "Louisiana people just don't give a damn. I've worked all over this country and Louisiana people seem to care less about their national forest than anybody." This was his reaction to the lack of public interest in reviewing and commenting on the original Forest Plan which was in formulation at the time. Joslin's comment did produce a response, and the Forest Plan was improved as a result, but perceived public apathy remains a concern for the Kisatchie's professionals as they strive to find a management balance reflecting both professional judgment and public opinion.

Efforts continue to overcome an apparent lack of public interest in the more technical aspects of forest management. For example, direct pleas have been made in each annual report and informational newspaper produced by the Kisatchie since 1989 — for more communication, greater public participation in management decisions. As Forest Supervisor Danny Britt urged in a 1992 publication, "We would welcome the chance to talk with you concerning any management direction you think we may need to consider." In another he stressed the importance of such communication with this comment: "The national forests would not exist as they do today if you did not want them. And without your opinions and assis-

tance finding meaningful management direction would be difficult . . . we are aware that your satisfaction is essential to our future." Requests such as these continue to elicit a low volume of responses even though the American public's interest in national forests is steadily rising and its tastes in recreation and wildlife opportunities are continually evolving.

Is there a down side to the changing priorities of the Forest Service and the Kisatchie? Perhaps, if reductions in the available timber produce the expected direct and indirect effects. Will reduced timber sales cause hardships? Once again, perhaps, but none so drastic as have occurred in the Pacific Northwest. Here on the Kisatchie, the total volume of timber made available for sale has not decreased as significantly as in other national forests, and the forest's timber production is expected never to sink to those levels.

Louisiana has not heard an outcry resulting from protection of the endangered RCW such as that which ensued from the protection of the northern spotted owl — which, incidentally, is only a threatened species. Mills here are not closing and disrupting entire communities as has been the case in California, Oregon, Washington, and other places. But the long-traditional 25-percent payments of national forest revenues, dedicated income for the Louisiana parishes which contain national forest land, will gradually diminish, although it will never disappear, as it virtually has done in some parts of the West.

For those rural parishes without other major sources of income, this diminution of annual payments will significantly impact essential revenues they have come to rely upon for maintenance of roads and schools. This has been a worrisome prospect for

several police juries (parish governing bodies), who recently lobbied for more than the legally required 25-percent portion of the Kisatchie's gross annual receipts. But the law was not changed. It would have to be changed for the nation as a whole, not just for Louisiana. This seems an unlikely event in the political climate of the nineties.

Can the recreational opportunities and the recent and ongoing improvements in recreation facilities offset the changes in timber management? Will they make up the revenue shortfall? Who can predict such intangibles? The Kisatchie does measure the number of its visitors. But despite many new and improved inducements for the public to enjoy themselves in the outdoors, a recent survey conducted by the Kisatchie in cooperation with LSU shows that forest recreation visitor statistics remain essentially unchanged.

Perhaps an insufficient number of Louisiana residents are aware of what the Kisatchie offers, despite the Forest Service's diligent efforts to obtain publicity. Supervisor Britt recently called the Kisatchie "Louisiana's best kept secret" and pondered how more visitors might be attracted from the southern part of the state, where the larger concentration of Louisiana's population is located. Britt shook his head and lamented, "What the Kisatchie needs is some mountains."

What's new in the nineties

In addition to the evolution bringing about reduced timber harvests, the Kisatchie, as well as the entire Forest Service, has undergone other changes since this history was

written. A remarkable new development is that the Kisatchie's planning and recreation staff officer is a woman: Cynthia Witkowski-Dancak. During the early eighties, the Kisatchie had few women in the field and none in supervisory positions. Then in 1985 the Kisatchie brought Cynthia on board. She was not only the first woman ranger on the forest, but the first in the 13-state Southern Region. After two years of managing the Caney Ranger District in north Louisiana, she served on a special project team in the regional office for a time and then returned to the Kisatchie in her present position.

This was an early sign of yet more new Forest Service direction, formally declared by agency Chief Dale Robertson in 1988: "...to strengthen the agency's overall workforce through diversity." To achieve this goal he emphasized concentration in five areas: recruitment, retention, upward mobility, organizational culture and public awareness, along with internal understanding. The chief further explained, "To accomplish this goal, we must incorporate affirmative action into our workforce management and planning process."

The Kisatchie's recruitment efforts emphasize outreach to women, Americans of all ethnicities, and persons with disabilities. To encourage more minorities to enter agriculture and natural resource occupations, the Kisatchie provides two scholarships to Southern University; annually conducts a Youth Opportunities in Forestry program; frequently makes special visits to the state's Native American tribal chairpersons; and maintains contacts with organizations for the disabled. Robertson's direction has produced results; by 1992 women represented 34 percent and minorities 19 percent of the Kisatchie's workforce.

But the Chief's diversity goals also required that multiculturalism extend beyond employment, to the services and benefits that the Forest Service provides for the public. The Kisatchie is meeting these goals too, with significant improvements in facility access for the disabled, and the recent inauguration of special seminars and special deer seasons for hunters with disabilities.

More policies and programs

The nineties also ushered in other new policies and programs. In June 1992, Chief Robertson announced a nationwide policy called Ecosystem Management (EM) that will manage "public land in ways that will be of benefit to people while maintaining a healthy and productive environment." This new concept, EM, has more breadth than does the Forest Service's traditional management, which was based on the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960. Instead, EM resembles human holistic treatment in that it considers the whole forest ecosystem.

The Kisatchie, always among the innovators and early adapters in the Southern Region, had already conducted a conference on EM before the chief's announcement. Thus, the Kisatchie has again emerged as a leader, taking the vital first step essential to EM: electronically compiling detailed inventories, maps, and descriptions of the forest's natural communities.

That formidable task is being conducted through cooperative projects with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Natural Heritage Program, the Louisiana Nature Conservancy, and Forest Service volunteers. Northeastern Louisiana Uni-

iversity is cooperating in a project to sample and monitor vegetation in the Kieffer Prairies Research Natural Area on the Winn District. Louisiana State University is cooperating in a study of fire's role in enhancing natural communities of the Vernon District. This study monitors the influence of prescribed burning during various seasons. Other projects involve locating undiscovered bog and glade communities and studying uneven-aged forest management.

Rules, regulations, and policies seem never to decrease; instead it appears they simply multiply. To mention only a few new projects driven by new policy or emerging need, the Kisatchie staff is now working on determining the limits of acceptable change for the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness; on animal damage control plans for beavers, in order to safeguard the pearlshell mussel; and considering the protection of the Louisiana black bear, now that it has been officially listed as a threatened species.

Forest management must now insure that only minimal, temporary damage is done to Kisatchie's primary critical soils. To aid in this planning, soil surveys are underway. A lot has been accomplished and this work should be completed by 1995.

Because of the detailed planning required by this multiplicity of new policies and regulations, within the ranks of Forest Service management personnel there now is a growing group of highly specialized professionals with widely diverse academic credentials. Since the agency can only employ so many people, and since timber harvest levels are diminishing, the ratio of foresters to other professionals continues to shift. Some wags have joked that the Forest Service might eventually have to change its name. Another new policy, however, should allay such notions.

The Forest Service's Interpretive Services Program (IS) has been reorganized. All upcoming projects must now demonstrate the mutual interactions and influence of humans and the environment. Starting with the overall theme that forest stewardship values have changed through time, each IS project must relate to one or more of four subthemes — *human interaction with nature*; *rebirth of a forest*; *timber is a renewable resource*; and *the forest is an ongoing ecosystem*.

These subthemes should encourage those old-time foresters who made their Forest Service careers their very lives, those who sometimes sadly note that "the newcomers don't wear green shorts." That quip is a dual reference to the traditional ways of timber production and to the forthright devotion and complete priority that many past employees have given to the agency.

Although in reality this statement is no reflection on the new cadre of specialized professionals now being infused throughout the Forest Service, it is heartfelt by many who say it. Change never comes easy, and it is not coming easy now. Those with long careers behind them were trained and institutionalized in ways which expressed certain mandates, mandates that today are swiftly changing. It is not always in a human's nature to change easily. Some do, some never do, but reluctance toward change is no indication that the old ways were wrong; they were not. It is simply that the agency's management emphasis is different now, evolving dramatically in response to public desires. Times change, and so must the Forest Service. Any difficulty or pain being experienced are associated primarily with the very swiftness of change, and not necessarily with change itself.

What's ahead in the next century?

Despite a few grumblings from old-timers and retirees, it is a certainty that Kisatchie National Forest has withstood the test of time. Despite the evolution of its parent agency's mission it will continue to be a fertile growing ground for trees.

This is as it has always been. Nature is on the Kisatchie's side — Louisiana's temperate climate, its ample rainfall, and its gentle topography all make ideal growing conditions. Southern pines regenerate more easily than commercial species in other regions of the country; they generally grow faster and have evolved shorter natural life spans. These things bode well because, as the nation turns its eyes from the Pacific Northwest toward the Southeast, they ensure that the Kisatchie will remain among the most productive national forests in America.

As the 21st century approaches, Louisiana's only national forest is being polished like a fine gem; to be ultimately less commercially productive perhaps, but still with many facets to catch the public's eye. In place of Gifford Pinchot's single-purpose motto, "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run," the Kisatchie is implementing all of the Forest Service's directives for diversity — diversity in personnel, diversity in multiple uses, diversity in the variety of the public groups it serves, and diversity in the Forest Service's new concept of ecosystem management.

Diversity: a new aspect added to the constant of continuous change. Change is certain to remain now as the hallmark of the agency, and the Kisatchie will remain as always "A Forester's Dream." Of course, it will also now fulfill the dreams of many other specialists, fine men and women of differing ethnicities and from diverse walks of life, as they ply their skills — and that is not at all bad. No, not at all. It is merely a sign of our changing times and the new priorities of a dynamic nation.

The new ones and the older ones, the traditional and the diverse, the professional and the technician, they will all work together toward a bright future. With ever more specialized skills and evolving technologies they will carry on, maintaining the Kisatchie and preserving its rich legacy as things truly worthy of pride.

Miss Carrie *would* be proud.

— Ronald W. Couch
— Anna C. Burns



Appendix A

Land acquisition through purchasing for the Kisatchie National Forest began in 1929, but was suspended during the depths of the Depression (1930–1933), resuming after Franklin D. Roosevelt became President. The high point in acquisitions came in fiscal year 1934–1935 when a total of 272,554 acres were purchased, thus quadrupling the size of the Kisatchie. Purchasing was stopped in 1942, except for those tracts of land which were already in the process of acquisition.

Only 215 purchases were needed to obtain the total of 531,351 acres acquired from 1929 to 1944. The bulk of this acreage, 85 percent (456,900 acres), was acquired from timber companies in only 34 sizeable purchases. During this period only 12,200 acres were purchased from 168 small landowners.

The Kisatchie's 1980 total of 597,661 acres included lands transferred from the Army, and former Soil Conservation Service Land Use Projects. The remainder of the increase over the 1944 total has been acquired largely by land exchanges and small special purchases.

Early Land Purchases for Kisatchie National Forest 1929 – 1944

Period Inclusive Dates	Area Acquired In Period (acres)	Average Price Per Period (dollars)	Total Cost of Land (dollars)
1929 – 7-1-33	78,237	3.80	297,629
7-1-33 – 7-1-34	13,020	1.66	21,651
7-1-34 – 7-1-35	272,554	1.92	523,099
7-1-35 – 7-1-36	49,034	2.39	117,114
7-1-36 – 7-1-38	72,143	5.22	376,572
7-1-38 – 7-1-40	13,994	3.75	52,510
7-1-40 – 7-1-44	32,369	3.03	98,101

Summary

Period	Acres	Average Price	Total Cost
1929–1944	531,351	\$2.80	\$1,486,676



Appendix B

The Civilian Conservation Corps' Principal Contributions to Kisatchie National Forest July 1933 to June 30, 1941

Nature of Work	New Work		Maintenance		
	Unit Type	No. Units Completed	Man Days	No. Units Maintained	Man Days
Bridges – Vehicle	job	261	21,728	51	2,214
Equipment Store Houses	job	36	4,321	18	896
Lookout Towers	job	18	4,215	18	885
Buildings – Other	job	120	1,537		
Fences	rods	208,066	701,022	379,882	12,210
Telephone Lines	miles	212	5,901	2,227	6,969
Truck Trails	miles	298	193,374	3,522	68,818



Appendix B

Clearing Lake Sites	acres	61	9,883
Field Planting/Seeding	acres	113,918	126,134
Forest Stand Improvement	acres	11,272	7,086
Nurseries	man-days		112,906
Tree Seed Collection	bushels	48,888	18,408
Fighting Forest Fires	man-days		21,511
Fire Breaks	miles	614	59,868
			2,751
			56,315
Fire Hazard Reduction	acres	2,450	52,395
Fire Prevention	man-days		8,691
Fire Presuppression	man-days		21,352
Insect Pest Control	acres	6,091	2,531
Equipment Repair	man-days		16,905
Surveys — Land	man-days		8,192
Surveys — Type	acres	60,678	1,550
Timber Estimating	acres	121,296	3,312
Marking Boundaries	miles	737	3,986



Appendix C

A Summary of Forest Fires in the Kisatchie National Forest 1931 to 1993

Calendar Year	Acres in Forest	Number of Forest Fires	Acres Burned	Percent of NF Burned
1931	66,983	131	2,300	3.43
1932	75,598	88	8,100	10.71
1933	78,237	126	5,800	7.41
1934	78,395	331	7,600	9.69
1935	88,455	276	9,800	11.08
1936	413,020	798	17,000	4.12
1937	481,837	313	5,100	1.06
1938	485,204	494	12,800	2.64
1939	490,549	356	6,324	1.29
1940	499,157	260	23,000	4.60
1941	505,044	200	4,311	0.85
1942	531,738	342	18,151	3.41
1943	536,305	334	20,640	3.85
1944	538,658	242	5,179	0.96
1945	538,658	197	3,198	0.59
1946	538,698	134	2,632	0.49
1947	543,325	223	5,805	1.07
1948	547,464	152	2,712	0.50
1949	547,520	54	948	0.17
1950	560,585	82	1,753	0.31

1951	560,565	200	6,450	1.15
1952*	560,565	189	4,600	0.82
1953	560,632	107	1,495	0.27
1954	560,632	212	3,338	0.60
1955	560,543	77	278	0.05
1956	560,543	126	705	0.13
1957	560,543	47	385	0.07
1958	560,571	76	1,540	0.27
1959	591,409	94	1,007	0.17
1960	591,409	119	6,115	1.03
1961	591,409	59	754	0.13
1962	591,409	137	1,738	0.29
1963	591,409	187	3,817	0.65
1964	591,572	112	1,395	0.24
1965	591,559	126	1,584	0.27
1966	591,676	85	393	0.07
1967	593,292	184	1,568	0.26
1968	593,292	116	423	0.07
1969	593,292	228	2,118	0.36
1970	593,789	246	3,116	0.52
1971	594,679	95	400	0.07
1972	594,679	118	618	0.10
1973	595,216	41	813	1.37
1974	595,216	90	711	0.12
1975	595,216	142	5,312	0.89
1976	595,562	246	4,442	0.75
1977	595,562	219	2,360	0.40
1978	597,039	205	2,047	0.34
1979	597,039	172	1,295	0.22
1980	597,661	298	3,531	0.59
1981	597,661	159	2,755	0.46
1982	597,760	125	812	0.14
1983	597,847	110	1,131	0.19
1984	598,931	98	947	0.16
1985	599,323	73	423	0.07
1986	600,122	169	2,796	0.47
1987	600,320	136	8,958	1.49
1988	600,516	117	1,040	0.17
1989	600,620	132	2,477	0.41
1990	600,780	95	924	0.15
1991	600,780	38	497	0.16
1992	601,050	61	1,808	0.30
1993	602,090	83	1,428	0.23

Note: The discrepancies in the comparative acreages displayed in Appendices C and E are due to disparate reporting times; calendar years for fire management and fiscal years for timber management.



Appendix D

A Summary of Volume & Value of Timber Sold and Harvested in the Kisatchie National Forest 1932 to 1993

Fiscal Year	Volume Sold (1,000 board ft.)	Volume Harvested (1,000 board ft.)	Timber Receipts (dollars)	Total Receipts (dollars)
1932	198	198	445	445
1933	133	133	123	123
1934	271	271	310	310
1935	974	974	1,229	974
1936	463	463	1,521	1,521
1937	767	767	7,368	7,368
1938	3,586	3,586	21,013	21,013
1937	4,851	4,851	31,466	31,466
1940	6,587	6,587	33,514	33,514
1941	9,139	9,139	45,513	45,513
1942	11,271	11,271	59,227	59,227
1943	23,757	23,757	204,539	240,539
1944	25,615	25,615	200,139	200,139
1945	23,177	23,177	199,276	199,276
1946	17,602	17,602	157,081	157,081
1947	26,950	26,950	173,032	173,032
1948	28,169	28,169	311,279	311,279
1949	33,453	33,453	405,386	405,386
1950	34,765	34,765	450,639	450,639
1951	43,117	43,117	409,614	409,614

1952	36,212	36,212	620,660	620,660
1953	44,701	44,701	606,940	606,940
1954	47,475	47,475	615,803	615,803
1955	72,057	72,057	783,878	799,800
1956	64,625	64,625	861,752	937,774
1957	52,500	52,500	689,531	755,624
1958	60,400	60,400	833,914	906,141
1959	74,700	74,700	1,121,421	1,192,118
1960	70,120	70,120	1,026,023	1,111,420
1961	83,700	83,700	1,384,387	1,483,337
1962	71,500	71,500	727,543	831,495
1963	69,500	69,500	850,764	959,460
1964	64,363	65,978	837,697	984,660
1965	73,090	72,048	868,883	1,032,541
1966	84,105	49,100	1,127,107	1,313,823
1967	97,068	76,636	1,670,413	1,853,094
1968	89,793	86,707	2,359,611	2,560,924
1969	75,906	78,355	2,731,564	2,947,791
1970	99,185	84,503	2,081,897	2,300,358
1971	122,247	87,155	2,277,982	2,530,687
1972	139,174	107,029	4,929,718	5,146,473
1973	139,720	112,680	5,527,473	5,742,847
1974	150,020	134,524	8,182,543	8,408,398
1975	194,573	127,264	4,583,390	4,794,432
1976	172,158	148,269	6,256,189	6,494,626
1976 (TQ)	45,532	51,570	2,135,982	2,180,899
1977	150,091	137,565	6,999,534	7,240,753
1978	157,682	161,416	7,740,892	8,098,372
1979	154,267	147,570	9,880,846	10,278,904
1980	149,940	144,394	8,770,302	9,314,048
1981	141,818	101,972	7,409,507	7,994,019
1982	139,686	73,744	7,888,567	8,845,406
1983	185,894	112,980	14,930,686	15,494,286
1984	165,880	130,390	17,866,448	18,685,789
1985	207,500	217,000	8,832,955	9,625,572
1986	165,000	117,000	12,064,064	12,708,944
1987	136,690	166,610	13,199,192	13,693,251
1988	128,480	164,210	10,678,201	11,214,791
1989	126,860	108,380	10,058,495	10,599,883
1990	96,580	155,960	13,335,791	13,914,772
1991	112,390	122,060	10,555,696	11,249,988
1992	96,760	142,680	14,301,237	15,554,753
1993	76,780	81,670	9,443,137	9,669,894

Note: The "TQ" next to the second entry for 1976 indicates the transition quarter, a 3-month period (July 1 – October 30) between a change in the Federal Government's fiscal years.



Appendix E

A Summary of Payments to the State; and of Kisatchie National Forest's Acreages & Receipts – 1932 to 1980

Twenty-five percent of Forest receipts from timber, grazing, land uses, recreation fees, and minerals are returned to the seven parishes containing national forest land. The amount received is based on acres of national forest land in a parish.

Fiscal Year	Acres in Forest	Total Receipts (in dollars)	Payment to Louisiana	\$ Amount per Acre
1932	75,598	445.88	111.47	0.0015
1933	78,237	123.76	30.94	0.0004
1934	78,395	-310.56	77.64	0.0010
1935	88,455	1,229.76	307.44	0.0035
1936	413,020	1,521.36	380.34	0.0009
1937	481,837	7,368.05	1,842.01	0.0038
1938	485,204	21,013.57	5,253.39	0.0103
1939	490,549	31,466.88	7,866.72	0.0161
1940	499,157	33,514.34	8,378.58	0.0168
1941	505,044	45,512.77	11,378.19	0.0225
1942	531,738	59,227.19	14,806.80	0.0278
1943	535,305	204,538.87	51,134.72	0.0953
1944	538,658	200,138.96	50,034.74	0.0929
1945	538,658	199,725.82	49,931.46	0.0927
1946	538,690	157,081.46	39,270.36	0.0729
1947	540,089	173,031.35	42,788.71	0.0792
1948	547,464	311,278.65	77,819.66	0.1421
1949	547,464	405,386.83	101,346.71	0.1851
1950	559,829	450,693.28	112,673.32	0.2013
1951	560,565	409,613.84	102,403.46	0.1827

1952	560,512	620,660.24	155,165.06	0.2768
1953	560,512	606,940.26	151,735.07	0.2707
1954	560,512	615,083.80	153,770.95	0.2743
1955	560,543	799,800.99	199,950.25	0.3567
1956	560,543	937,773.80	234,443.45	0.4182
1957	560,543	755,634.50	188,906.13	0.3370
1958	560,571	906,141.40	226,535.35	0.4040
1959	560,571	1,192,118.38	298,029.59	0.5317
1960	591,566	1,111,420.49	277,855.12	0.4696
1961	591,409	1,483,337.64	370,834.41	0.6270
1962	591,409	831,495.54	207,873.89	0.3515
1963	591,564	959,460.34	239,865.09	0.4055
1964	591,637	984,660.22	246,165.06	0.4161
1965	591,571	1,032,541.73	258,135.43	0.4364
1966	591,530	1,313,822.69	328,455.67	0.5553
1967	593,291	1,853,094.38	463,273.60	0.7809
1968	593,117	2,560,923.00	640,130.91	1.0794
1969	593,447	2,947,891.31	736,947.831	0.2418
1970	593,789	2,300,357.66	575,089.42	0.9685
1971	594,759	2,530,686.36	632,671.59	1.0637
1972	594,849	5,146,473.14	1,286,618.28	2.1629
1973	595,216	5,742,846.78	1,435,711.69	2.4121
1974	595,361	8,408,397.83	2,102,099.46	3.5308
1975	595,589	4,794,432.25	1,198,608.05	2.012
1976	595,562	6,494,626.00	1,623,656.50	2.726
1976TQ*	595,562	2,180,898.89	545,224.75	1.000
1977**	596,869	10,100,574.24	2,525,143.56	4.230
1978	597,039	11,037,234.00	2,759,308.00	4.6217
1979	597,637	12,741,284.76	3,185,321.19	5.329
1980	597,663	9,314,048.10	2,328,512.03	3.90
1981	597,672	7,994,018.92	1,998,504.74	3.34
1982	597,769	8,845,406.23	2,211,351.56	3.70
1983	597,839	15,494,281.58	3,873,570.39	6.48
1984	597,933	18,685,788.59	4,671,447.15	7.81
1985	599,017	9,625,571.68	2,406,392.93	4.02
1986	600,102	12,708,943.82	3,177,235.97	5.29
1987	600,231	13,693,251.22	3,423,312.82	5.70
1988	600,574	11,214,790.75	2,803,697.70	4.67
1989	600,619	10,599,883.11	2,649,970.79	4.41
1990	600,764	13,914,772.43	3,478,693.12	5.79
1991	600,764	11,249,988.31	2,812,497.08	4.68
1992	601,398	15,554,753.03	3,888,688.27	6.47
1993	602,090	9,669,394.28	2,417,348.58	4.01

* TQ (Transition Quarter) – A 3-month as the Federal Government's fiscal years were changed, from the period January 1–June 30 to the period October 1–September 30.

** Returns of revenues – Prior to fiscal year 1977, returns to parishes were based on 25 percent of net Forest Service receipts. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 changed this to 25 percent of the gross receipts, effective October 1, 1976.

Note: The discrepancies in the comparative acreages displayed in Appendices E and C are due to disparate reporting times; fiscal years for timber management and calendar years for fire management.



Appendix F

Forest Supervisors of the Kisatchie National Forest 1928 to 1993

Forest Supervisor	From	To
1. Charles A. Plymale	9-14-28	1-1-35
2. Clinton G. Smith	2-1-35	5-31-35
3. Arthur W. Hartman	6-1-35	4-30-36
4. Philip H. Bryan	5-1-36	10-31-39
5. William R. Paddock	6-1-40	9-15-43
6. Victor J. Dayharsh	9-18-43	4-30-45
7. Hugh S. Redding	5-1-45	11-16-57
8. Ray W. Brandt	11-17-57	8-31-63
9. Hans R. Raum	9-1-63	4-19-69
10. Benjamin F. Finison	6-15-69	11-21-71
11. J. Lamar Beasley	6-4-72	8-16-75
12. Frank J. Ferrarelli	8-31-75	6-30-79
13. David L. Hessel	7-1-79	1-9-83
14. Robert C. Joslin	2-20-83	12-19-87
15. Danny W. Britt	1-17-88	



Appendix G

District Rangers of the Kisatchie National Forest 1929 to 1993

* This information was taken from available Forest Service records and from personal interviews with employees. Although this is not a precise record it is as accurate as can be reasonably established.

Catahoula District

1929	P. E. Ackerman
1930-1935	Francis L. Grimes
1936	William C. Callender
1937-1943	O. F. Schumaker
1944-1949	Clarence M. Evenson
1950-1951	William H. Croke
1952-1955	McClain B. Smith, Jr.
1956-1960	John F. Beal
1961-1965	Hugh E. Mobley, Jr.
1965-1972	Robin D. Shaddox
1972-1976	Charles J. Saboites
1976-1985	Clyde Todd
1985-1988	Sam Brocato
1988-Present	Bobby Sebastian

Vernon District

(Originally called the **Leesville District**, name changed in 1959)

1935-1936	Ewart D. Potter
1937-1953	Guy Cox
1954-1955	A. P. Mustian
1956-1958	B. F. Finison
1959-1960	John W. Chaffin, Jr.
1961	Cecil R. Brooks
1962-1964	Harry K. Erwin
1965-1972	Joe D. Duckworth
1973-1976	Roger A. Burleson
1977-1984	Richard A. Wilcox
1984-Present	John Baswell

Winn District

1935-1973	George M. Tannehill, Jr.
1974-1976	Thomas E. Fraser
1977-Present	Kenneth T. Crawford



Appendix G

Continued Listing of District Rangers 1929 to 1993

Caney District (Originally two LU projects in Minden & Homer. Made a district in 1959)

Minden Unit	
1954-1959	Hugh G. Dunn
Homer Unit	
1954-1957	June O. Terry
1958	Harold R. Owers
1959	Ralph H. Freeman
Combined	
1959-1961	Ralph H. Freeman
1962-1963	Thomas L. Connell
1964-1965	Robin D. Shaddox
1966-1970	Robert M. LaVal
1971-1973	Gene S. Jackson
1974-1976	Joseph E. Clayton
1976-1979	Clint Floyd
1979-1983	Larry Grimes
1983-1985	Sam Brocato
1985-1986	Cynthia Witkowski
1987-1989	Douglas Webb
1989-Present	Stephen Cannell

Evangeline District

1952	William O. Stewart
1953-1955	Bryce Ledford
1956-1957	Bill Brandau
1958-1962	Nathan A. Byrd
1963-1969	William D. Blackburn
1969-1985	Dale O. Fisher
1985-1990	Clyde Todd
1991-Present	Jim Burton

Kisatchie District (Formed in 1959)

1959-1961	Benjamin F. Finison
1962-1965	William L. Sherrer
1966-1968	George W. Whitlock
1970-1973	Charles E. Hinson
1974-1978	Jimmy Walker
1978-Present	Tom Fair



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- Miller, Otis 6-9-82
- Nitz, Joel 4-17-81
- Owers, Harold 5-10-81
- Ray, Bob 6-10-81
- Roark, Willa D. 6-18-81
- Squires, Buddy 6-5-81

- Till, Charles 6-12-81
- Walker, Clint 6-19-81
- Weeks, Belton B. 6-18-81
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