NEAL and Samuel Barnett look on as Joe Wallace presents a certificate of appreciation to Fred

> May the message of that first Yuletide, of love and peace and giving, fill your heart and home.

TEAGUE MILLING CO.

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May you enjoy every blessing of this holy season.

Barnett (second from left) who retired after 30 years as a cooperative forest fire warden.



GRADY GAHAGAN, left, and Joe Wallace inspect Gahagan's fire tool box which is kept by fire wardens for emergency forest fire fighting.

Hot Springs Centers

(Continued from Page 1A)

the damage. Among the volunteers were parents, senior citizens, local students, staff from the local day care centers, a minister, Forest Service personnel, firemen, concerned citizens and 10 Mars Hill College students who took on the terrible job of hauling debris from the basement. The center missed only three days of operation as a result of the flood. The center then reopened in temporary quarters at the Hot Springs Elementary School. However, the coordinated efforts of volunteers and county personnel allowed the

center to reopen at the regular site after only two weeks of cleanup operations.

(Continued from Page 1A)

Warden program began early

in the century due to extensive

fires, poor transportation and

communications and small

forest service staffing. Local

people signed up to be war-

dens and recruited crews to

suppress fires in their local

area, many times taking in-

dependent action and con-

trolling the fires before the

forest service could get to the

In his presentation Friday

night, Wallace pointed out that

in the early years most of the

French Broad ranger district

was in young reproduction

since much of the land had

been cut over prior to forest

service acquisition. Fires destroyed many of these

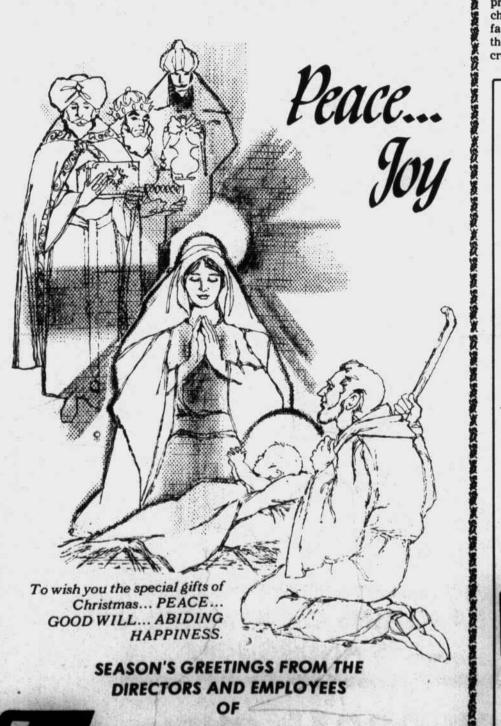
young stands and growth

began only after fire oc-

currence began declining in

Now the center has fresh paint on the walls, new linoleum, a repaired furnace and a new freezer on the way. Some new toys have been donated by individuals and church groups. The center is still involved in the process of trying to recover its losses. Funds from the Disaster Relief Program will be used to replace many of the items

Despite the destruction of a flood, the Hot Springs Day Care Center remains a vital part of the local community. The people of this community support their center because they know that the center provides an opportunity for a child to learn some important facts about the world and themselves in a pleasant and creative environment



French Broad

Electric Membership Corporation P.O. Box 337/Marshall, North Carolina 28753



AGENCY

Marshall

plains why about 78 per cent of the timber on the district is between 30 and 60 years old and only about 20 per cent is

older than 60.

'The fire warden system has contributed significantly to the outstanding present condition of our timber, wildlife, watershed, and recreation resources in the area," Wallace continued, "in many instances warden crews were virtually the only defense for protecting public as well as private lands.

Though modern radio communications, highways, 4drive vehicles reconnaissance aircraft. bombers loaded with retardants, and helicopter attack forces have decreased our reliance on warden crews, there are still many areas where they can attack a fire before or as fast as other forces can reach the scene.

"Immediate attack essential in the mountains," Wallace said, "because if you don't catch a fire before it gets rolling it will always get large and go out the top of the ridge. Today forest fires are

located by observed planes or lookouts which cover the French Broad district almost constantly during high fire danger. When a fire is seen observers then advise fire dispatchers as to location, rate of spread and best access

rough terrain or long travel distances are involved, a retardant drop is ordered to hold the fire in check until crews arrive. Bombers from Asheville or Knoxville drop hundreds of gallons of chemicals which help cool the fire and reduce spread. Water where available, is used extensively but after the modern methods of control stop the fire it is still the handtool crew which does the dirty, tiring job of mopping up, putting out burning debris which could

The wardens and handtool

rekindle the fire.

routes and if the fire is in crews are the infantrymen of the war waged against wildfires.

In Service

Harry W. Walker, whose wife, Maxine, lives in Mars Hill, recently was promoted to Army sergeant while serving as a radio teletype operator with the 37th Armor in Katterbach, Germany.

Sgt. Walker entered the Army in February, 1975.

attended Eastern He Kentucky University, Rich-

very

to all

our

loyal



Thanks. and a Merry Christmas friends.

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