

R.A.Lunsford, 20 Years Barnardsville



Troy Gregg, 36 Years **Shopes Creek**



Julius Patton, 57 Years South Toe River



Oscar Simmons, 41 Years South Toe River



Vernon Banks, 55 Years Barnardsville

209 Years Of Dedicated Service

By James R. Covington U.S. Forest Service The U.S. Forest Service pays tribute to five of the most de-

dicated men to be found any where in North Carolina or any other state. These five men represent more than two

CENTURIES of work as U. S. the Toecane Ranger District.

Forest Service Fire Wardens on AU.S. Forest Service Fire

Warden is a man who voluntarily keeps a cache of fire fighting tools on his premises and is ready to attack any "wild fire" that may occur on the National Forests day or night. The fire warden generally has from 6 to 12 trained fire fighters, whom he can pick up on a moment's notice, to assist in fire control. The men are paid for their time spent in the actual suppression of the fire.

Prior to the days of 2 -way radios, modern vehicles and paved roads up every hollow, the warden played an essential role in the protection of our forests. A warden was strate gically located in each area of a Ranger district. He was a man who was performing an invaluable service and was respected by everyone in the community for his position and dedication.

Julius Patton has been a fire warden on South Toe River since the U.S. Forest Service originated in 1913. Patton, Banks, and Simmons can relate details of individual fires that occurred forty or fifty years ago, just as vividly as if they were talking about yesterday's news. All of these "old-timers" cherish the fact that they were able to help in protecting the National Forest in their area.

Recently, Johnny Mc Lain, District Ranger of the Toecane

Ranger District, presented each of these wardens with an award for many years of meritorious service in protecting the na tural resources of the National Forests. Each of these menstill maintain a well-kept fire cache and are ready and willing to battle that "destructive demon" whenever he might occur. Such devotion is rarely experienced.

To these gentlemen goes our sincere thanks for a job well-

Shape Up!

The summer season is drawing near and now is the time to get in shape for the visits to the lake, swimming pools and beach resorts.

The Exercise Class will be held at Burnsville Elementary Gymnasium each Monday and Thursday evening from 7:00 p. m. until 8:00 p.m. The class will be open to any lady from age 16 to 60. The class will begin Monday, March 16,1970 and will continue for 12 weeks.

All ladies interested in the class be at Burnsville Elementary Gymnasium Monday night March 16 at 7:00 p.m. further information is needed contact Charlie M. Hensley, Instructor, at 682-3732 682-2126.



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