

OKLAHOMA-FRED J. FORTNEY, STATE REP

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees held their spring meeting at Oklahoma City on April 22. Joe Freeland, NRCS Construction Engineer, gave an update and showed slides of construction being done on reclaiming of aging upstream flood control structures. Fifty one retirees and spouses were in attendance.

Thelma Keairns (Mrs. Qzzie Keairns) died April 26 after a long battle with cancer. Ozzie plans to move to Pittsburgh, PA to live near his son.

Billy and Marcella Wagner are back at Antlers and have built a new home on land southeast of Antlers, that was a part of his Grandfather's land. They are busy gardening and establishing an orchard.

Charles and Wilma Tarrant are content to spend time at home in Hinton after traveling the US and Canada, plus spending summers and fall in Colorado for the last several years. Charles stays busy with civic duties and helps with the local rodeo. He does do some fishing in some of those farm ponds he helped to build over the years.

Mike Elliott , Atoka, is enjoying retirement but wonders how he can stay so busy. He is active in the local Lions Club and has been elected to serve the next year as District Governor for Lions International for that area.

Bob Bourtlier served as Soil Scientist at Pawhuska, Norman and Oklahoma City before retiring in 1994. He and his wife have moved back to the home farm near Thomas. They are also enjoying traveling in their R V with family and friends.

Nolen and Virginia Denton now reside in Muskogee after moving from the farm near Okataha. Nolen's health is failing and their mobility is limited. Virginia says he enjoys reading and those interested in sending him a note may do so at 3409 Riverbend Dr., Muskogee, OK 74403.

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Matthew Sooter, 94, lives in Cheyenne. He worked 44 years for SCS at the time of his retirement in 1968. He lives alone in his home. His children live in Texas.

Gloria (Bums) Stafford lives near Perkins. Her husband, Henry , says her health is not good but they are still able to go places and do things.

Jesse and Marie Murrell of Norman don't get out much now. Jesse's health is not good and he uses a cane most of the time. Marie says she does the driving but they are not taking long trips. They want to say hello to everyone.

Jimmie and Roberta Frie recently made a trip to Alaska to visit their grandson and his family. He is in the Air Force stationed at Anchorage. Their daughter accompanied them also. Jimmie said they had a good visit and saw lots of beautiful scenery .

Don and Darlene Bartolina have returned from to trip to Oregon to attend their youngest son's wedding. The new daughter-in law was reared in Oregon. She and Scott both work in Illinois. They made some side trips and had a wonderful time.

Kenneth Blan has returned to his hometown of Antlers. He and his wife, Rebecca Jane, are active in the First Baptist Church there. Rebecca Jane is a member of the Pushmataha County Conservation District Board of Directors and Kenneth was also until he resigned to enter the race for District Judge. Kenneth says he was unsuccessful but he is providing legal advice on a part time basis, mostly to those who are unable to afford it. They have 13 grandchildren who are all in Oklahoma and close enough to see quite often.

Dwain and Carol Phillips vacationed in Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico this spring. Dwain continues to work part time for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. He is now grandfather as his eldest son, Shawn and his wife, have a new son. They live in Dallas.

Bobby and Shannon Davis of Marlow are regulars at the retirees meetings. Bobby retired in 1994 as Area Engineer at the Duncan Area Office. Bobby has a farm near Alex in Grady County that he enjoys as he fishes there and cuts wood for the fireplace. He is a good Samaritan as he repairs lawn movers for friends and once clipped the grass for his good friend.

Sandra Hough, Administrative Assistant at the Clinton Technical Services Office enjoys attending the retirees meetings. She says she is glad to take a day of annual leave to attend and see retirees she used to work with. She has even paid dues to become a member. Welcome to our group Sandra.

Gayle and Fred Fortney have returned from a 6-day trip to Washington, D.C. They provided the trip as a birthday gift to their 12-year-old grandson, Josh Fortney. They had a great time but came back with tired feet.

Carl and Jeanne Mackey spend their time gardening and canning in Kingfisher. Carl is pretty handy in his shop also. Their children, 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren helped them to celebrate their birthdays: Carl's 80th and Jeanne's 75th, by inviting friends in for the grand occasion.

Everett Cole and one of his sons enjoyed a cruise from Galveston, Texas to Cancun, Mexico and back. Everett said it was an enjoyable 4 days and that it was really a lazy time for them.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Fred Wheeler, 88, of Stillwater, died June 3, 2003. He had worked 37 years for SCS, retiring as Assistant Administrative Officer. His wife, Mary Lou, one son and two grand children, survives him.

Pat Cornforth, (widow of Kenneth Cornforth), 77, of Stillwater, died July 3, 2003. One daughter and two sons survive her.