

Fri 2nd Aug

Orderly today. Off the weeding, wow!! Got off my mark quickly and had everything done by 10:00! Down to the shop not once but three times! Had a moment of panic when I almost let the boiler fire go out but it recovered and went OK, phew!! A very good day so went swimming. (gasps of amazement from peasants!). Water very clear, great under it. Spent a packet at Jock's then shower and bed.

Tues 6th Aug

A warm, close day. We were at Kingshouse felling and clearing a new road so I took my motorbike (it's come in handy already). Felt very tired. Started off felling small stuff with Bochle. Then at about 12:00 we started clearing up, dragging etc. Went down to shop after dinner then cleaned up bike and got it settled in. Listened in, shower and bed.

Thurs 8th Aug

Still at Laggan. An overcast day with a bit drizzle which didn't penetrate the trees (thank goodness). Again time went by OK. Got back for pay and found Squash waiting. Had a natter with him then went down to the pub with him and had my first drink for a long time. Came back and lay around then made some toast and listened in. Shower then bed early, talked for a while.

Sat 10th Aug

Bracken cutting at Creagan again. A dampish morning but no shelter. After ten I was cutting coppice alone, had a wee pep talk with Jimmy Allen (about forestry as a career!). Didn't do much after dinner. Played two games of billiards, won 1, lost 1. Then out and up the Balquiddar road on the bike. Brought my gallon up to over the 100 miles (no' bad). Played, and won, another game of billiards after I got back. Listened in, shower bed, read.

Tues 13th Aug

Bochle and I the only guys in the nursery till Mike came down off the hill with a bust hook! Still counting the lines furiously and getting on not bad. The end is on sight. We're feeling the strain though, it's sore on the back all right. Started to drizzle after three but it didn't really start raining till after 5:00 (worst luck!). Did very little after dinner. Lay around, made some toast then listened in, bed early.

Thurs 15th Aug

Orderly today, Bochle cook. The results can be imagined! Got the place cleaned up before ten. Went to the shop and Post Office then started to play billiards!! Finished at three and after lighting my fires went and got my pay. Went out for a wee run on the machine after 7 o'clock just to keep in practice. Listened in then shower and bed.

Fri 16th Aug

I was alone in the nursery till just before ten when Bochle joined me and we finished the lines count between us by twelve. A nice warm morning, a change from the usual! Place swarming with wasps, got one or two. Just after lunch we helped Mary to load the lorry (600 stobs in 70 minutes!) warm work. Then went back and worked out our totals till after three. Then did one seed bed! Went down to the garage and got bike filled up then went down lochside. Shower then bed after Jock came.

Tues 3rd Sept

A clear fairly warm day, just a wee bit cloud to cool the place down. We were on weeding, lifting the biggest weeds in the bottom nursery and I felt pretty miserable! A fitting welcome back! Back to the old habits, did nothing at night apart from listening in and playing Alex at billiards. Had a shower then bed and a wee natter.

Wed 4th September

A wet morning so we were peeling in the wet weather shed. Had a natter with Jimmy Dewer and generally mucked around. About 11:00 we went across to the nursery to clean up for some inspection!!! I was on the spade and rake skimming the weeds off the path. A fine day eventually. After dinner I rushed off and climbed one of the beech trees at the wet weather shed. Listened in after and played Alex billiards.

Fri 6th September

A dull morning. Preston and I were weeding till just before 9:00 when we were given clubs of axes and taken with Jimmy McKenzie to the new Rhuna road where we were felling, snedding and binging wind-blows. Didn't get far with our clubs! Rain at noon, never stopped for the rest of the day! Got real wet so packed in and got to the bothy by three to dry out, great! Got some stuff at Jocks, shower and bed.

Tues 10th September

Back to work on the brackens at St Fillans. Started on the place where I started last year, wow! Not too bad a day, only one wee shower in the afternoon. Had a large scale war in the bothy at night, three raids in fact. Our dorm got tipped twice!! Had quite a good time.

Wed 11th Sept

Back at St Fillans in the bracken cutting. Further up the hill today. Alex, Edinburgh and I formed a wee squad of our own. A wet afternoon so we had quite a lot of sheltering. Did very little at night. Listened in for a while and read a bit. Shower and then bed.

Fri 13th Sept

Still at the bracken cutting. This time Bochle, Alex, Broony and I formed a squad. After three we had a competition throwing our hooks into a dead tree! Found a wee lizard and decided to take it home. After dinner went out for a game of 3-a-side football. We won 6-3. I got at least 2 goals. Went to pub for a stout then got train home, Edinburgh at about ten o'clock.

Tues 17th Sept

Bracken cutting. I tagged on to Alex and Broony and we spent the morning together, joined by Edinburgh and Tojo after twelve. We had a wee game of tossing the caber! Then our squad was sent to a rocky gully where we spent the rest of the day. A dull day but never came to rain (drizzled a bit though). Down to the shop with Mike then read and went to bed after a shower.

Thurs 19th Sept

Finished with the bracken. At Laggan brashing. Quite a nice day. Got the work mania in the morning and was doing over 40 an hour! Went at a more natural speed in the afternoon. Got pay so had a pontoon session after dinner, I won a shilling for a change. Over to post office to post a letter. Out for a game of football. 3-a-side again. Got tanked 0-6 this time, ball far gone though.

Tues 24th Sept

Still on the brashing. Edinburgh, Barclay and I were mainly together. Had a wee natter between ten and twelve (Willie was away then!). After that we were brashing on rather a steep burn bank! Barclay and I finished up the day doing pine. After dinner went up to Balquidder on the motorbike for a run. Got back and went out for a game of football, won 12-5 (got 3). Listened in, shower and bed.

Thur 26th Sept

On the brashing again at Laggan. Another cold day to start with but heating up later on. Took a notion to myself and did two hundred trees (One pound five bob) in the day so I guess I would do OK at piecework. Didn't work too hard at that! After dinner we got ready and went out for a wee game of football. Timed 20 minutes each way. We got lashed 3-15, a good game. Shower and bed.

Sat 28th Sept

We were in the wet weather shed peeling all morning. Felt a wee bit sick but did my half day. Willie in bad fettle till after ten when he cheered up a wee bit. Lay around after lunch then got ready and Edinburgh and I got a lift into Callander (Milk van!) at about 2:30. Wandered around, met Dick and his wife and had a natter. Got a haircut. Saw "Doctor at Large" at night. Felt grim, bed right away.

Mon 30th Sept

Up at 6:30 gasping for a drink. Got some tea then back to bed for a spell. Up, dressed, packed and off to see the doctor on the 8:30. Got flu! Home on 9:30 train. In the house before noon and had lunch – fast work! Slept all afternoon and most of the evening. Got a temp of over 100 degrees but not to worry! Watched TV for a wee while.

Mon 14th Oct

Up fairly early (About 11:00!) and did as much of my aero model as was possible. Up to doctor's and got my final at 2 o'clock. Got ready and Mum came down to see me off on the 4:20 train. A very boring journey. In just after 7 o'clock. Only Sprog in our dorm – rest got flu! Got settled in, bed early – no sheets – and wrote a letter to Peggy.

Thur 17th Oct

Broony and I were given brashing saws and went with Jimmy Allen to where the boys had been brashing above the village over a year ago. They're doing a road there at last. Five men on piece work, J Dewar, Fred, Bruce, Bob C and J Sinclair. So till ten Jimmy Allen and I marked their road top and bottom sides. Till three Broony and I brashed uninterrupted then went back to marking. A wet afternoon. Had a music session at night!

Sat 19th Oct

I was back at my brashing spot, with a full squad this time though. Barclay and I worked together as much as possible. Turned out a fairly good day but in the afternoon I got a fire going. Stayed in the bothy and read, apart from a wee sortie to the shop. Went to bed early.

Tues 22nd Oct

Gregor and I spent the morning together on the seedbed cover construction. A dry day without yesterday's showers. Got on fine. Later Broony joined us and finally Barclay (at 4 o'clock). We did seven covers, a record up to now – good for us. Got a letter from Peggy today and I may see Anna on Saturday, Yahoo!! Had quick shower etc and I was in bed by 7:30!

Wed 30th Oct

Alex and I on the trestles again, we've finished the (*seed bed covers*) at last. Our first day of school so a 'halfie'. I cleaned up the bike then took it for a wee run up to Keip farm to see how it was running. After that I went up the Shein for a stroll to keep back in trim. Dull but no rain till night when we were at school! Got a nice bump on my shin from playing football practice, more injuries, a walking hospital!!

Thurs 31st Oct

Another school day so a halfday. Therefore we were naturally put to weeding in the nursery! A cold wind and occasional driving rain so it was no joy! After teabreak we were put into the seedbeds sheltering beneath the birch covers (skiving a bit too!). Sheltered twice, got paid and got soaked! Lit the fire and sat beside it all afternoon. Into school at night, got Pedro for English and Civics from now on. Listened in when we got back.