



# The ELASHER

**FORESTRY  
COMMISSION**  
News & Views

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**THREE GAIN CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS**

THREE members of the Commission staff - Head Forester, Forester and a Senior Scientific Assistant - have been awarded Churchill Fellowships. The achievement of our colleagues is the more outstanding when one considers that there were only 75 successful applicants out of 2,322.

Miss LYNNE McMILLAN, the Senior Scientific Assistant, works in the Seed Store at Alice Holt Lodge. For her the award makes it possible to visit America where, it is understood, she hopes to visit the Eastern Tree Seed Laboratory in Georgia, the redwoods of Oregon and California, and the Seed Research Institute in New York.

Head Forester COLIN MacPHEE of Glencoe Forest, West Scotland Conservancy, hopes to go to Denmark to study multiple land use. Aged 39, he joined the Commission when only 14 and has worked his way up the ladder. He took over Fearnoch Forest from his father, has served at Strathyre and went to Glencoe about a year ago. Undoubtedly his service in West Scotland has been largely responsible for his interest in the subject he now wishes to study abroad.

Forester N. P. DANBY, who is 28, is on research work at Ardross Forest, North Scotland Conservancy and has previously served at Bush Nursery and Black Isle. He expects to undertake a tour of the coastal areas of North West America and South East Alaska to see natural growth of Lodgepole pine and also to become acquainted with forest and community life.

**\*\*WILD CATTLE OF LOCHGOILHEAD**

MANY and varied are the aspects of forest protection, but how many of our forests have been plagued with truly wild cattle? The question is asked by a Forester correspondent in West Scotland, who goes on: And how many trappers have shot cattle in protecting their forest and sometimes themselves?

Ardgarden Forest and Ardgail straddle a 20 square miles peninsula between the two sea lochs Loch Long and Loch Goil. In the 40's and 50's this was indeed wild country, unroaded and unbrushed; and, short of food reputedly because of heavy snow in 1947, cattle started to fend for themselves, with the result that the wild nucleus already well established by 1940 really multiplied. Cattle dotted the entire area, bulls were plentiful and, with self-breeding, the Angus, Galloway, Shorthorn Highland and Ayrshire characteristics partly disappeared. Instead, the ancient types re-appeared, with heavy shoulders like the bison. These external characteristics were coupled with speed of foot, a sense of smell more acute than that of the red deer, a fox-like cunning, and a strong desire to escape human company - unless you stumbled on a calf, whereupon the mother's shyness quickly turned to aggression.

As Ardgarden was gradually brushed the menace became greater; cattle were everywhere, tramping drains, rubbing bark and even stopping work as a particular bull went on the rampage near the female brushing squad. At this stage an attempt was made at coralling the stock, but with little success. Sailors assisted the locals and would get the animals only so far before there was a stampede back into the friendly forest. Once a shepherd was trapped for so long on top of a rock that the pawing bull below him had to be shot.

Once a few animals were penned and taken to market but then up went their tails and over the fences they went before the auctioneer could raise his hammer or even say "Going, going, gone!"



After this came the "stalking" by a firm of knackers. The first day resulted in a kill of only two, one a bullock at least 8-years old and so large it had to be halved before horses could drag it off the hill. When, eventually, only the wily and wilder were left, the forest staff took over and killed off the last 30 or so. To this day Ardgarten still has the legal privilege of shooting wild cattle should more appear.

If you have ever dragged a big stag you can pity the Ardgarten foresters as they struggled to load the carcasses on to the boat - the roads had not yet arrived. But gradually the wild west era closed and the wild cattle disappeared, leaving the high tops to the red deer and the stories to the folk lore of the future.

**\*\*COMMISSIONER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA**

MR. ANDREW WATT, Commissioner for Forest and Estate Management, leaves for Australia next month to attend the world symposium on man-made forests and their industrial importance, which is being sponsored by F.A.O. The symposium will be held in Canberra and will be preceded and followed by tours in which the eucalyptus will be studied.

**\*\*FORESTER IS MAYOR-ELECT**

COUNCILLOR LESLIE PEARCE, Research Forester in the Dean and South Wales, is Mayor-Elect of Monmouth. First elected to the Council in 1962, Mr. Pearce is chairman of the road safety committee and a member of the recreation, finance and estates committees. He is also a District Commissioner of Scouts, Superintendent of a local Sunday school and treasurer of Monmouth Field Club and Antiquarian Society.

**\*\*RETIREMENT OF HEAD FORESTER**

WITH the retirement of Head Forester L. H. WILLIAMS, affectionately known as "L.H." to his many friends, the Commission loses another stalwart. He joined us in 1926 and passed through the Dean School in 1928-30 and thereafter served in various parts of the country until the war years, during which he was engaged on timber production. Later he was fully occupied with private woodlands work and concluded his service by dividing his skills between private forestry and the more recently formed Bovey Forest.

Unfortunately "L.H." was plagued by a crippling complaint in his last year of service but his fortitude was admired by all with whom he came into contact. He and Mrs. Williams retire to live near their only son and, to wish him farewell and happiness, he was presented with a wrist watch by his colleagues.

**\*\*FOUR TIMES A CHAMPION**

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss BETTY LANDIMORE of Savile Row, who has won the Civil Service ladies' singles table tennis championship for the fourth time. She first gained the title in 1958 and repeated this success in 1962 and 1963.

The tournament covers the whole of England and Wales, the winners in the various zones coming to London to play off the final rounds. Most Civil Service Departments are represented in the competition and Miss Landimore received her latest trophy from Sir Robert Fraser, President of the Civil Service Table Tennis Association.

With Mr. PAUL BROOK, formerly at Savile Row and now on secondment to the Treasury, Miss Landimore played in the mixed doubles event but lost in the third round to the eventual winners. Miss Landimore, incidentally, has been a Kent County table tennis player and now plays for northwest Kent in the county league.

**\*\*WHAT IS A "LUGG"?**

AN ancient term used, it seems, exclusively in Herefordshire is "lugg". This refers to a seven-yards square piece of woodland, that is approximately one hundredth part of an acre, and in the eighteenth century oak coppice was valued at so much per lugg. It was the practice, when cutting coppice, to leave one maiden oak per lugg standing, or when converting coppice to high forest to leave one good coppice stem per lugg as a "grower". This term, says the local forest newsletter, should remain in use at Mortimer, where a hundred of the best stems per acre are being high pruned for high quality saw logs, i.e. high pruning one per "lugg".



**\*\*NOW, YOU DOODLERS!**

NOW for a quiz with something of a forestry flavour and directed to doodlers. Mr. ALAN MITCHELL, of Alice Holt Lodge, says he has tried to beat the four-letter anagram of STOP, POST, OPTS, TOPS. "If it can be beaten," he says, "the solution eludes me. My best five-letter combination is LEAPS (PALES, PEALS SEPAL, LAPSE, PLEAS) and of six letters the best is PLATES (PLEATS, STAPLE, PASTEL, PETALS, PALEST). And so I came to "FORESTRY COMMISSION". I got the rather apt "MISTY MOORS — CONIFERS!" and the rather laboured "O! TRIM MOSSY FIR CONES!"

Lack of a single "A" is rather limiting, but there may be better anagrams lurking in our title.

**\*\*RECORD WORTH HAVING**

IT is something new for us to receive a disc for review in this newsletter. This is one of the new Shell British Bird series of records and with our growing concern for wild-life and its conservation it is the sort of thing that should be welcomed by field officers. Its title, aptly, is "Woodland Birds" and the sounds of a wide variety of the inhabitants of our forests have been expertly collected by Lawrence Shove, who in 1964 was awarded first prize by the B.B.C. and the Council for Nature for a natural history recording. To help you pick out the characteristics of each bird's call there are two pages of notes in the record sleeve on which, too, the birds are featured in colour illustrations. The Shell Nature Records are on sale at all record shops and some bookshops and can also be obtained by ordering direct from Discourses, Ltd., 21 Manchester Square, London, W.1 at 12s. 6d., which includes postage. Like its predecessors, "Seabirds" and "Garden and Park Birds", this new record is a 7-inch L.P., 33 r.p.m.

**\*\*WHAT IS THE WHITE HART?**

MOST of us associate the name White Hart with an albino deer or (perhaps just as interesting when we are thirsty) a public house. The only point at issue here is that few of us (foresters excepted) know the precise definition of a white hart. We tend to regard it, perhaps, as a white fallow buck, which are fairly numerous, whereas in fact it is an albino red stag, five years or more in age.

It is difficult to establish without some research just why the white hart has been so strongly perpetuated in sign and symbol, mostly by its application to inns. It is, however, a fact that it has been used as an emblem for many centuries — Julius Caesar used it and so did Alexander, Charlemagne, and Richard the Second, who when he gained the throne saw that it adorned his accoutrement and that of his soldiers.

Yet there is no evidence that use of the sign of the white hart brings or brought good fortune. Caesar and Richard died violently, and Alexander of a fever. It is, however, of interest that in a frieze on the cenotaph to Alexander in Istanbul there is a warlike scene in which a white hart appears among the warriors and their horses.

In his "The Taverns of Old England", H. P. Maskell says the white hart marked a new development of the English inn in that it led to speedy recognition. In the last century the White Hart at Bishopsgate claimed the year 1480 as that of its establishment, while Jack Cade made his headquarters in the White Hart in the Borough and, in the yard of this inn he beheaded one "Hayaydine of Sent Martyne".

Another odd thing about the white hart is the remarkable forms in which it appears in "pub" or other signs. This is undoubtedly because in heraldic art it is accepted that there is little or no difference in the physical appearance of deer, no matter what the species. It can be seen standing in some signs and lying down in others, sometimes wearing a crown, sometimes collared and chained.

It would be interesting to hear from Foresters of any unusual experiences they may have had where the true white hart is concerned.



**\*\*LAUGHING WITH THE LANCET**

THAT usually staid and respectable journal "The Lancet", conjuring as it does thought of scalpels and scars, thrombosis and thyroids is hardly the place in which one would expect to find a reference to forestry, however obtuse. But there it was, in a recent issue, under a heading "In England Now. A Running Commentary by Peripatetic Correspondents". And here it is, condensed somewhat for lack of space:

Wine-and-cheesing it recently with about 200 more sufferers we got jammed up against a sandalled, whiskery character, open as to neckshirt and mouth, and claiming to be a research scientist with the Forestry Commission. Far from thinking he should never see "a poem lovely as a tree" he had a chip on his shoulder the size of a California redwood, and needed an audience. Thus we learned that when it comes to making wood, there are few things as inefficient as trees, presenting as they do in odd shapes and sizes, and persistently sprouting useless appendages like leaves and branches. The ideal tree, said our lecturer, nearly poking our eye out with a bit of cheese on a stick, would be square in cross-section. It would hasten to grow vertically without branches and it would not get itself covered with bark and moss. Trees like these would soon be produced by hybridisation and plant hormones under the green-fingered genius of him and his helpers.

He complained that the trees allotted to him were stubbornly unco-operative and reactionary, probably because they'd grown up in the feudal atmosphere of a big private estate his department had taken over, where the ground was fertilised with the bones of generations of oppressed workers. We said did he know that under every sapling the ancient regime buried the body of a ritually strangled female slave? He seemed a bit dubious about this but after another half pint proclaimed that he could well believe it ..... he finished our drink for us and very decently approved our suggestion that a few trees be allowed to grow branches on which to hang the landed gentry and recalcitrant waiters. He warned us, however, that in future trees would be programmed pragmatically to conform to whatever growth-patterns the State commanded. Sentimental, non-Party, escapist yearnings for leaves, twigs, and so on, would not be tolerated, although museums might be allowed to preserve a few plastic models of old-fashioned trees and flowers.

And so on .....

All of which prompts us to observe to the learned Peripatetic Correspondents: "Who do you think you're kidding?". Or perhaps "Physician, heal thyself!" would be more appropriate.

**\*\*SEEN FROM THE FIRE TOWER**

FROM time to time we have published names of tree species that can be seen from fire towers in various forests. New Forest now enters the list. We are pleased, writes a correspondent, to accept the challenge from the Dean and to state our case for the Emery Down fire tower, from which the following species can be seen:

- Oak, Chestnut, Beech, Lime, Tulip Tree, Japanese Larch,
- European Larch, Douglas Fir, Corsican Pine, Scots Pine,
- Pinus Radiata, Cupressus Macrocarpa, Thuya, Abies Grandis,
- Sequoia Gigantea, Cupressus Lawsoniana, Norway Spruce,
- Sitka Spruce, Cedar, Poplar, Sycamore, Holly, Birch, Yew,
- Alder and Picea Morinda.

The Rhinefield Ornamental Drive can be seen, but to include the species which are recognisable would "mill off" all would-be challengers.

**\*\*DEATH OF MR. J. P. MACKIE-WHYTE**

NEWS has just reached us of the death this month of Mr. J. P. MACKIE-WHITE, formerly Chief Land Agent for Scotland, who retired in May, 1964. His many friends and former colleagues will learn of his passing with the deepest regret for, apart from the quality of his work for the Commission, he was known for his warm and friendly personality. He had served in Scotland since 1930 and reached Conservator rank in 1946.