

THE FLASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

Issued by
**INFORMATION
OFFICER**

No. 238

October, 1967

SUDDEN DEATH OF "DOUGIE" GRAHAM CAMPBELL

Basingstoke since November 1965, came as a profound shock to all who knew him. He was 46.

THE sudden death last month of Mr. DUGALD GRAHAM CAMPBELL, Assistant Conservator in the Forest Management Division at

"Dougie", writes Mr. JOHN DAVIES, Assistant Conservator, West Scotland, "was at school at Eton and went up to Oxford just before the war, with a considerable reputation as a rowing man. On the outbreak of war he joined the Argylls and saw service in the Middle East and was taken prisoner in 1942 in North Africa. He escaped from a prison camp in Northern Italy and for a time lived rough behind the German lines. Eventually he was able to rejoin the British forces but in so doing was badly wounded.

"After the war he studied forestry at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1949. He served in the North Scotland Conservancy and then as an Assistant Acquisition Officer in Edinburgh. Then he did a spell as District Officer in South Scotland, before his promotion to Assistant Conservator.

"Dougie was a remarkable man. I suppose the key to his character was a passion for truth. He was exceptionally conscientious and industrious and modest beyond belief. And yet beneath this self-deprecating exterior lay a wonderful sense of humour but being a shy man this was only apparent to those who knew him really well. Like his father before him, Dougie was a famous piper, and was well known as a judge at competitions in Scotland."

Mr. P. F. GARTHWAITE, with whom Dougie worked at Basingstoke, also pays tributes to the latter's virtues and adds: "It is on the personal plane, however, that he must most be mourned and our deepest sympathies go to his widow and two children, and to his mother and father."

A burial service at Holy Trinity, Brompton and a memorial service at Lochgilphead were each attended by many of Dougie's colleagues and friends.

**MEMORIAL TO FORMER CHAIRMAN

Mrs. MAXWELL MACDONALD, only child of SIR JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, unveiled a bronze plaque set in a large rock to commemorate the forestry work undertaken by her father from the end of the 19th century until he died in 1954. All the woodlands and the major part of the Corrour estate now belong to the Commission. Sir John was Chairman of the Commission from 1929 to 1932.

A SIMPLE but moving ceremony took place at Corrour in Inverness-shire last month when

The ceremony took place on the occasion of the visit to Corrour of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain, of which Captain MAXWELL MACDONALD is Past President. Some 100 members of the Society were present from universities, research, private forestry, the timber trade and the Commission. As the plaque was unveiled Capt. Maxwell Macdonald, in the distance, played a lament on the pipes.

Before inviting Mrs. Maxwell Macdonald to perform the ceremony SIR HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE, our Director General, said Sir John was one of a band of far-sighted foresters who, even before the turn of the century, were planning for a great expansion of forestry in the Highlands. In 1910 or thereabouts surveys were carried out and planting followed, with the result that the

woods now spread from end to end of the Great Glen. At the time, Sir John's task must have been thought by some to be an impossible one - establishing largely spruce plantations in the almost tree-less deer forest at Corrour. Planting was, in fact, begun at about 1,300 ft. above sea level, a height at which, in those days, most foresters would have ended their planting. Sir John tried out new techniques, with largely untried species, undertaking in effect field scale research projects and using, for instance, the novel Belgian method of planting on turves, fertilisers and turf nurseries.

**THE ABERNETHY PEARL

IF your forest is near the right river and you are a good diver with outsize lungs, you may find a fortune. In the Tay, for example, which flows by several of our forests and wherein a Mr. Abernethy, the only professional pearl fisher of that river, has found a pearl believed to be worth £10,000. About half an inch in diameter, it was discovered in a fresh water mussel and has since been on display in a local jeweller's shop. Mr. Abernethy's technique, in case you want to follow it, is to search the river bed by looking through the bottom of a glass held in the water. The location of the find, not surprisingly, has been kept secret, so that we cannot help you further!

Pearls are also found in the Conway river in North Wales, in the fresh water and edible mussel. According to ancient records, "pearls found in such mountain rivers are plentiful and commonly large, though few are well coloured. Several ladies of Denbighshire have collections of pearls found in the River Conway".

It is, however, of interest that a month after Mr. Abernethy's major find another pearl, weighing 28 grains, was discovered in the Tay. Altogether this river has yielded about 40 pearls this season. The reason given is that because of the dry summer the river has been abnormally low, making the location of mussels an easier job.

**"NONSUCH" SEARCH IN VAIN

THE search for a Commission tree to form the main mast of the "Nonsuch", the replica of the 17th century sailing ship now being built by the Hudson Bay Company, nearly succeeded. It was ascertained that there were approximately five large pine in Coed Caerdydd, South Wales, which merited inspection, two of them at least coming within the required specification. News of their existence came from Mr. R. M. BURNETT, the local Forester, who appropriately enough has seagoing associations in that he is skipper of a Royal Naval Auxiliary Service vessel lying at a South Wales port. It was his suggestion that the selected pole might be towed from Penarth to Appledore, Devon, where the "Nonsuch" is being built.

Alas, contact on behalf of the builders of the "Nonsuch" with Mr. Burnett came too late and the trees were no longer available. The search for the right tree, it is understood, now continues on a private estate in the south west.

While on the subject of sea-going craft it will be recalled that we recently said little or no reference was made in the Press of the constructional use of timber in Gypsy Moth IV, in which Sir Francis Chichester sailed round the world. Enlightening information now comes from Mr. ROGER LINES, Silviculturist (N), who says that his brother is one of the yardmanagers at Camper and Nicolson, who built Gypsy Moth, and has told our colleague that the boat was constructed of 3.5 mm thick mahogany, with six layers of veneer cold moulded.

**THE BIBLINS OPENED

A GREAT day for youth and the Dean recently, with the opening of the Biblins Youth Adventure Centre, to the building of which the Commission, through the Deputy Surveyor Mr. R. G. SANZEN-BAKER, has given a great deal of moral support.

With the agreement of the Commission, work on the Biblins, a fine log cabin in the Wye Valley below Symonds Yat, began more than two years ago. Every weekend since volunteers from youth organisations have been strenuously engaged so that now the cabin consists of a large mess room with kitchen and verandha, two bunk rooms and two rooms for leaders, and a basement which will not only store canoes but can be used for indoor games. There is accommodation for 50

persons, male and female, so that numerous young people from industrial areas will be able to live in an atmosphere of freedom and adventure. At the same time they will learn a great deal about the forest. The cabin will also have obvious benefits for those who take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Jack Longland, Director of Education for Derbyshire and a well known broadcaster, who unveiled the Biblins sign and received the key from Mr. Sanzen-Baker.

A local Dean newspaper carried a special tribute to the latter, as follows: "Even if no other evidence existed of the value of Mr. Sanzen-Baker's work as Deputy Surveyor, for as long as it exists the Biblins Log Cabin will be a memorial to him. But for his enthusiasm, guidance and hard work, this youth adventure centre would never have left the realms of ideas."

****RECEIVES HIS B.E.M.**

MR. GEORGE MACKAY, Ganger at Borgie Forest, North Scotland, recently received the British Empire medal which he was awarded in the last Birthday Honours list.

The presentation was made at a local hotel by the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, LORD MIGDALE and among those present were LORD MONCRIEFF, County Convener of Sutherland, and LADY MONCRIEFF; members of county and district councils and, from the Forestry Commission, Mr. H. A. MAXWELL, Conservator; Mr. R. A. INNES, Assistant Conservator; Mr. T. S. B. MACBEATH, Administration and Finance Officer; and Mr. D. B. PATERSON, District Officer. The present Head Forester and Forester at Borgie were also present, together with a former forester, Mr. PHIPPS.

It is believed that Mr. Mackay is the first serving industrial worker to receive the B.E.M. for services to forestry. He joined the Commission in 1920 and his Identity Number (1/1/19) is an indication of his length of employment. He started at Borgie as a seasonal worker, as was the custom in early days; in 1929 he transferred to Inchnacardoch and then to the Research Branch, returning to Borgie in 1935. During the last war he served with the Lovat Scouts, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Royal Engineers.

In 1946 Mr. Mackay attended the first post-war Forester Training course at Darnaway and gained top place. He has since been at Borgie and was promoted to Ganger in 1957.

****CALLING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS**

A COLLEAGUE who has fairly recently joined the ranks of licensed amateur radio operators is Mr. W. A. LINDSAY-SMITH, District Officer, whose home address is 22, Kingswood Crescent, Copthorne, Shrewsbury. "I would be grateful," he says, "if a CQ call could be put out in The Slasher. My call sign is G3WNI and I would operate on 160,80 or 20 metres - preferably on 80 metres. If there are enough interested operators within the Commission we may be able to arrange regular activity nights."

So done, Mr. Lindsay-Smith. We hope fellow operators among our readers will get in touch with you direct. For our part we know little or nothing about this form of spare time diversion, except that it is important and rewarding and that more than one potential great tragedy has been averted by the alertness of amateur radio operators. It may well be that such enthusiasts within the Commission have some interesting stories of their own to tell and, if so, we would be pleased to hear from them.

****FIRST OF 41**

OUT of 41 entrants for the Associate Examination of the Institute of Wood Science this year, Mr. J. HOWARTH, Forester in the East England Conservancy, gained first place and was awarded the Bryan Latham Prize.

Each candidate was required to submit a thesis on an approved subject and to sit for a theory paper in timber technology, and among those successful, in addition to Mr. Howarth, was Mr. J. B. RICHARDS, Forester in the Dean. Our congratulations to both.

****MAKE THIS A MUST**

SPORTS and Social Club dance, Alice Holt, Saturday, 11th November, 8.30-12.30, in aid of St. Christopher's School for Handicapped Children. Tickets 5s. to members, 6s. 6d. to non-members.

****HELPING POLICE AT CANNOCK**

WEEKS after the ghastly event, the hunt for the murderer of little Christine Darby, whose body was found in Cannock Chase, continues. It is now possible to say something of the role played by Commission staff early in the inquiry. For example they helped in supplying detectives with a large-scale map of that part of the forest where Christine's body was discovered, this map being shown on television. A forestry contract worker, Mr. JIM LEACH, discovered the child's shoe, which was regarded as useful evidence. Indeed, the forest itself played a part in that for a time many of the trees became sites for the display of posters through which the police appealed for information.

****ANCIENT TOMB AT SHIN**

THE Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments has recently excavated a chambered tomb on Ord Hill, Shin Forest, in the North Scotland Conservancy. This is of the type known as a passage grave and it has yielded some interesting finds in pottery and flint blades. Many cremated bone fragments were also discovered together with charcoal, which will later be used in dating the remains.

****TREES IN A HURRY**

THE forest plots at Bedgebury, which flanks the famous Pinetum of that name near Goudhurst, in Kent, are planted on a poor, leached, acid silt where a pH of 4.6 is considered reasonable if not good and the mean annual rainfall is 33 inches. But they include two plots where the tree are really "with it", writes Mr. A. WESTALL, Head Forester with Silviculturist, South.

These are *Nothofagus obliqua* and *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, he goes on. The former, also known as Roble beech, is a native of Chile. After 29 years it had a standing volume of 2060 h.ft. per acre and a total crop yield of 3902 h.ft. per acre. The other species, of course, is well known. This, also after 29 years, had a standing volume per acre of 3613 h.ft. and a total yield at 6,781 h.ft. per acre.

Can anyone improve on these figures for a hardwood of reasonable quality and a conifer which would probably be a lot easier to sell if larger quantities were available, taking into account the poor site and low rainfall?

****ABOUT FOREST NAMES**

FROM time to time someone has a bright idea which, put into practice, proves a time-saver. This is true of a document issued by our Publications Officer, Mr. HERBERT EDLIN, on behalf of the Research Branch and, in particular, Dr. DON PHILLIPS, who sought to meet the needs of the Pathology Section. The document is a list of all the Commission's 400 or so forests in alphabetical order and by using it one no longer has to stand, myopically, before the over-printed O.S. maps to decide which forest is in which Conservancy.

It is interesting to glance at the forest names as they appear in this new form. Among the quaintest in English there are Alice Holt (S.E. England); Clatteringshaws (S. Scotland); Leapmoor (W. Scotland); Poorstock (S.W. England); Rumster (N. Scotland); Watermeetings (S. Scotland); and Wigsley (E. England). We would say that among the most attractive are Beechwood (E. England); Pen Beat, Bucklebury (S.E. England); Fountains (N.E. England); Kerry (N. Wales); Mildmay (S.E. England); Moffat Water (S. Scotland); and Rosarie (E. Scotland).

The forests with the shortest names are Ae (S. Scotland); Mon and Edw (N. Wales); Hay (S. Wales). In England there are seemingly none with fewer than four letters - Bere (S.E.); Dean; Goyt and Hope (N.W.); Plym and Wyre (S.W.); and Wark (N.E.).

The longest single name is, of course, Clatteringshaws (S. Scotland), with Clashindarroch (E. Scotland) next and runners-up in the way of Achaglachgach and Achnasheilach (W. Scotland); Inchnacardoch (N. Scotland); Montreathmont (E. Scotland); Tighnabruaich (W. Scotland); and Watermeetings (S. Scotland).

As for tongue-twisters, what do you make of Achaglachgach and Tighnabruaich?