

A.W.C. 81. P.S. PHOTOGRAPHY.

The FLASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

Issued by
**INFORMATION
OFFICER**

No. 253

January/February 1969

SIR WILLIAM LING TAYLOR C.B.E.

It is with great regret that we received the news of the death on 5th January of

the Commission's former Director-General.

Sir William Taylor was born in 1882. He entered Public Service in 1910 and served in the war-time Timber Directorate from 1916 until 1919 when he joined the Commission. Thereafter he was Deputy Surveyor of the Dean and Steward of the Royal Manors 1931, Assistant Forestry Commissioner for England and Wales 1932-1938 and Enclosure Commissioner, Forest of Dean 1934-1938. He was a Forestry Commissioner from 1938-1949 and Commissioner in charge of Home Timber Production for England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1939-1942. He became Director-General in 1947 which post he held until his retirement in 1949. Sir William was appointed C.B.E. in 1945 and was created a Knight in 1949. He was President of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain from 1936 to 1938 of which Society he became an Honorary Fellow in 1965. Other public service rendered by him included appointment on the Home Office Advisory Committee on Wild Bird Protection, the National Parks Commission, the Nature Conservancy and the University Grants Committee. Besides many contributions to technical and other periodicals, Sir William Taylor's published works include "Forests and Forestry in Great Britain" (1945) and "Estate Forestry" (1951).

At the funeral on 10th January, the Commission was represented by Mr. A. Watt - Commissioner for Estate and Forest Management, and Mr. J. Q. Williamson - Director, Management Services.

We would like to offer our sympathy to Sir Arthur Gosling, who was Director-General from 1949-1962, on the recent loss of his wife.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

Our congratulations to the following members of the Commission who were honoured:-

O.B.E. Mr. C. A. J. Barrington - Conservator S.E.(E)

M.B.E. Head Forester A. Rose - E.(S).

Honours were also awarded to others of importance in forestry who are not Commission members,

C.B.E. Professor M. R. Laurie of Oxford

O.B.E. Mr. A. L. F. Hills of Chiddingstow Causeway, Tonbridge, to whom we offer our felicitations.

BIRTHS

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. D. Furneaux of H.Q. E(S), on the arrival

in December of a daughter - Suzanne.

BALFOUR-BROWNE DEER TROPHY

As mentioned shortly in our November edition this trophy was awarded to Mr.

GERALD SPRINGTHORPE - the Head Stalker at Cannock Chase - N.W.(E). The presentation of the Trophy was made by Mr. Kenneth Whitehead - the well-known stalker, writer and authority on deer who is a Vice President of the British Deer Society. The ceremony took

place on 16th January 1969 in the Deer Museum at the Cannock Chase Forest Office before a large and distinguished assembly.

In his speech in commendation of Gerald Springthorpe, Mr. Whitehead made reference to the fact that this was the first occasion on which the Trophy had come to England. He paid tribute to all that Mr. Springthorpe had done to establish selective control of deer throughout the Midlands and the part he has taken and continues to take in the training of others in this technique. Mr. Whitehead also complimented Mrs. Springthorpe for all she has done to further public interest in and responsible attitude towards deer and all wild-life in our forests.

PROMOTION

Further congratulations to the following
on their selection for promotion to Chief

Forester:- Messrs. R.G. Braine S.W.(E); W. A. Lockhart N.(S); and J.J.Lee S.W.(E).

And to the under-mentioned on promotion to Head Forester:-

Ainsworth, P.H.	Denman, R.	Judge, J.N.	Proudfoot, L.O.	Webster, J.
Belton, G.C.	Henderson, A.A.	MacDonald, R.	Rayner, D.A.R.	Wiblin, J.M.
Collier, T.E.	Hodgson, M.	McInnes, D.F.	Reid, G.W.M.	Williams, J.M.
Daniel, C.E.	Hytch, F.A.L.	Marchant, R.E.	Shaw, D.L.	Wood, P.
Davidson, A.L.	Jones, D.	Patience, J.J.	Thomas, A.F.	Young, J.P.

RETIREMENTS

MR. I. GILLESPIE

A lively "ceilidh" marked the farewell given
on the 20th December to Mr. I. Gillespie,

District Officer, W.(S) on his retiral after twenty-nine years service, seventeen of which were spent in the West Conservancy.

More than one hundred friends gathered for the occasion in the Loch Gair Hotel, where they were welcomed by the Duke of Argyll's own piper, Pipe Major Ronald McCallum. After Mr. E. J. M. Davies, Assistant Conservator, W.(S) paid the first tribute and handed over a cheque to Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie on behalf of his many friends, various people paid eloquent testimony to Mr. I. Gillespie's long and honourable service - Mr. Alexander McLeod, Achnaba Estates Farm Manager on behalf of the farming community; Mr. Angus Davidson, Argyll Estates Forest Manager on behalf of the private woodland interests; and Mr. W. P. Thomson, District Officer, W.(S) - for his fellow officers.

Much lively fun followed, with dancing interspersed by songs given by various talented visitors, including Mr. J. Watson, Drawing Officer W.(S), Mr. D. McKellar, (Minard Forest) and Miss McVicar.

Forester W. Y. KEMP retired from the position
of Forester at Cushnie Forest, E.(S) on

13th December, 1968.

Bill Kemp is a man of Upper Deeside, and it was amongst its hills that his life's work was spent. His early years were spent in Royal service at Balmoral. When in 1932 King George V leased to the Forestry Commission the Birkhall woods, out of which Alltcailleach Forest was created, Bill Kemp was, as it were, taken over with the fixtures, along with his colleague Jack Rose, who retired in the spring of this year from the position of forester in charge of sawmilling there.

Mr. Kemp continued at the same forest, as Ganger and later Foreman, until in 1958 he was chosen to start from scratch the new forest of Cushnie. Ten years later he leaves as a record to his industry over 2,000 acres of thriving young plantations.

Mr. Kemp has come back to Deeside to live in retirement at Ballater. From his cottage he looks out over the woods in which much of his life has been spent. The District Officer found him absorbed in renovations when he called to present a standard lamp from his many well-wishers in the East Conservancy of Scotland.

Mr. Kemp retains a strong link with the local forest scene through his son-in-law, Mr. Tom Syme, who is on the forestry staff at Alltcailleach. However, with his family scattered through the Midlands, the south, and as far as Rhodesia, he expects to be travelling quite widely in the next year or two to visit them in turn. Our good wishes go with him.

The retirement of Forester W. F. SKENE from Delgaty, E.(S), on 27th December brings to an end the career of a hardworking and conscientious man.

Willie Skene joined the Commission in 1932 and after a short break in private service, returned as a ganger in 1943. Promoted to Foreman in 1946 he was moved in that capacity in August 1949 to take charge of the newly formed Delgaty Forest and was promoted to Forester in 1951.

Today Delgaty stands as a lasting memorial to him as there can be few men who, having moved in at the start, can leave behind them a fully planted and flourishing forest of nearly 2,600 acres. It is doubtful, too, if any forest of its size has been made more cheaply - no clerical assistance, no ganger, no trapper apart from Willie for long enough, and no forester's house.

Willie certainly had his share of troubles with labour in the early days and many good stories are told about them. At the time when Mr. R.J.G. Horne was District Officer he went there one day to witness the pay. "That'll nae be difficult", says Willie, "Yin's sick and the ither's awa' doon the road wi' his books".

Everything comes to an end, and on 20th December, Mr. Horne, now Assistant Conservator (H. & M.), along with a number of Foresters and the District Officer spent an enjoyable day looking at Willie Skene's handiwork. At the end of it he was presented with a "spy-glass" on behalf of his friends and colleagues.

Forester FRANK SHINN retired in January, having completed just over 36 years service with the Commission, in E.(E) Conservancy. Born and bred in the Thetford area, Frank Shinn started his career there as a forest worker, at the then current rate of 5/10d. per day.

Promoted foreman in 1944 and forester in 1948, he spent many years as fire-warden in Thetford Forest, and also had charge of the seed extraction plant there. Understandably, he has many vivid memories of forest fires at Thetford, including the last war period.

The last 8 years of his service were spent at Aldewood Forest, where his particular pride was his nursery. Best wishes to Frank Shinn and to Mrs. Shinn in his retirement.

Forester J.G. CHALMERS. After 44 years on Dartmoor, 38 of these with the Forestry Commission, Forester Jack Chalmers retired on the 1st January, 1969. In that time he has seen the bare hills of Dartmoor planted and grow into one of the most highly productive forests in the country.

At a gathering of foresters and forest workers, Mr. Chalmers was presented with a pair of Binoculars from many well wishers to acknowledge his loyalty hard work and achievement over these years.

Mr. SAM. ANDERSON. Foreman at Keillour, E.(S), Mr. Sam Anderson has retired. His thirty years service have all been at Keillour. He started as a Forest Worker in 1938, was promoted to Foreman 1939 and has given faithful service to eleven Foresters during this period.

On his last day, his colleagues were present when Mr. I. S. Watt, District Officer, presented him with a cheque.

We wish him many years of happy retirement in his croft adjoining the forest.

OBITUARY

MR. F.F.C. PARSONS, M.B.E. Too soon after paying tribute to Chief Forester Frank Parsons on his retirement from Wareham Forest, S.W.(E), last August, we have the sad task of reporting his death on 13th December, 1968. He was taken to hospital the previous day, but the courage and vitality which had sustained him through earlier attacks were of no avail.

A large congregation attended his funeral service on 20th December, and tributes continue to pour in to the District Officer, Mr. M. C. Shirley. A substantial fund has accumulated, and any former colleagues who wish to add to it should send a donation to Mr. Shirley at Vauxhall Chambers, Trinity Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

It will be used to pay for a notice for his own research plot at Wareham - "Parsons Pleasure". This was the result of a lifetime's intelligent devotion to forestry, and it will become a permanent memorial to him.

Head Forester W. G. GRAY. It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of Mr. W. G. Gray, B.E.M., (R), on 22nd December, 1968 at the age of 67.

Bill Gray joined the Research Branch in 1922 and moved to Kennington Nursery, Oxford in 1925 where he remained for more than 40 years until his retirement early in 1967. He was one of the Commission's great pioneers and much that is good in modern nursery practice has its origins in his work and influence.

At Kennington, from its beginnings from, as Bill would say, "a B..... spade and a wheelbarrow", he created a research nursery unrivalled anywhere for sheer professionalism, meticulous work and quality of output. As a practical experimentalist, Bill was without equal, and he was a born horticulturist with a great "feel" for living plants. He possessed amazing patience, tenacity of purpose and inspired loyalty and affection in all who worked with him.

Under his control, Kennington became a world-famous research centre visited by innumerable scientists, foresters and students over the years. He was an immensely popular figure, and during the 1950s and early 60s he became well known to all Commission and Private Nursery Managers and Foresters through his frequent talks at Nursery Courses at Northerwood House. He developed a great love for this aspect of his work. His expertise and forthright manner captured every audience and he did much to advance the standards of nursery work throughout the country. His friendliness and generous help to all who sought his advice will long be remembered. In truth, it can be said that he became the Commission's key nurseryman, and forestry has lost a great forester and a great man.

Although forestry was a big part of his life, Bill was also active in local affairs. He was a founder member and lately President of the Kennington Horticultural Society, a Parish Councillor and, later, a Rural District Councillor and Magistrate for many years.

He is survived by his daughter to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Chief Forester JACK JENNINGS of South (Wales) Conservancy, who started his forestry career with Bill Gray in 1926, writes: "One of Bill's duties was to demonstrate nursery practice to the students at Oxford University and now and again he would get his leg pulled, but always came off best in the end. "If ever you get one of these chaps trying to be clever", he once told me, "give him a wheeled Planet hoe to hold. It only has one wheel and no legs and when you walk off they can't stand it up .. it soon quietens them down wondering what to do with it."

I last saw Bill in August, 1968. He had just cultivated the only odd corner of his text book garden. "It's lovely to have retired" he told me, "now I shall have time to do everything properly."

It is sad that he had so little time left to enjoy his leisure. For a long time I shall remember his kindness. I grieve for my old master and my oldest friend."

MR. E. SIMPSON. We regret to announce the sudden and tragic death of Mr. E. Simpson, stalker at Chillingham Forest N.E.(E) in December last.

Head Forester J. W. Telford writes: "As a previous Head Forester at Chillingham, I feel I can not let this sad occasion pass without paying my contribution.

It was my good fortune to know Eddie for 16 years. Firstly as a Skilled Forest Worker, (part-time warrener, part time handyman), in more recent years as a full-time stalker, throughout the 16 years, as a countryman and craftsman. His maxim was "if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well". From the planting of 2+1 transplants to the felling of a mature oak, nothing but the best would suffice. His love was the countryside, and in that he included the forest; if he saw an area not doing well, his concern was that the Forester should take action.

His skill and adaptability as a handyman was never more evident than in restoring an old park wall; the section he re-built made an adjoining section raised by builders look second-rate.

With respect to other workers, he was undoubtedly the most conscientious I have ever met. Time meant nothing to Eddie, and this became even more evident in his recent years as a stalker. If deer were doing damage, it was his job to stop them, and it was his pride that time and weather meant nothing until he achieved this.

The nearness of his cottage to the Forest office meant that all callers, of whatever rank, were offered the hospitality for which the Simpsons were well-known throughout the district. And it is to his widow and family that all who met Eddie and Mrs. Simpson will join me in sending sincere sympathy.

JIMMY O'HARA. It is with regret that N.W.(E) Conservancy Office have to record the death of their Paper-Keeper on 22nd December 1968. Although he had only been with us a comparatively short while he had a long background of Public Service and was very well known throughout the City of Chester. It was in the early '20's that he joined the Cheshire Regiment and found his vocation as a P.T. Instructor. On leaving the Army in 1936 he joined the Post Office but was re-called just prior to the outbreak of the war; on his return in 1945 he served for 21 years as a Night Supervisor at the Chester Telephone Exchange. During all this period he regularly gave instruction in Physical Training, but he was also very well known for his activities in organising shows and pantomimes for the children. In fact it was at a rehearsal of a pantomime he was producing this Christmas that he collapsed. The funeral took place at St. Oswald's Church on Friday 27th December, when a large congregation, including representatives of the Post Office and the Forestry Commission, assembled to pay their respects.

To his wife, married daughter and grandchildren, we extend our deepest sympathy.

MR. RONALD BROWN. We also regret to report the death this month of Ron Brown who served as a C.O. with the Commission in London and Basingstoke.

LINES WRITTEN AFTER A TOOL CHECK

We are grateful to Chief Forester R. J. JENNINGS, S.(W), who surely qualifies for the title Bard Laureate of the Commission - for the following contribution:

Six rusty Schlich spades on a shelf in the tool store
A cracked iron maul and a worn splitting wedge
Two seven-pound axes, a number three shovel,
Three long handled gorse hooks badly notched round the edge,
Four packsprays, five drain drags, a left-handed rutter,
One fire horn whose harsh notes will echo no more,
Six slashers, two crowbars, four forks and a mattock
To be marked 'Written off' on the A.64.

Who used this equipment and what were they doing
To bend the steel handles and crack wooden shafts?
What jobs did they follow, were they labourers, woodmen
Or Jacks-of-all-trades and unskilled in their crafts?
What trees did they fell with those heavy old axes?
Where did they dig with that T-handled spade?
Whose calloused hands cut a drain with the rutter?
Who broke the long crosscut and filed down the blade?

The tools for the 'Write off' were used on the mountain
On the moorland and bog where our forests now stand.
They were wielded by men who ignored the rough weather
Cutting turfs on the hillside and planting the land.
And now when I mark them for 'scrap, burn or bury'
I pause for a moment and it seems to me
That both workers and tools after 50 years service
Deserve mention in this year of our Jubilee.

LONGEVITY

IN 1952 Professor Harlow - professor at the College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York, took back to the U.S.A. some acorns from the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest. In answer to an enquiry from Professor Harlow about this oak's history Mr. J. S. R. Chard - Conservator N.W.(E) wrote the following full and interesting reply which we are grateful to him for permission to print.

"Dear Professor Harlow,

"I have been asked to reply to your enquiry of 3rd December about the Major Oak.

"The appearance and condition of this tree have changed very little since Victor Jackson reported on it in 1952. It has however become very much more of an attraction to visitors,

and this is creating problems for the owners of the Thoresby estate on whose land it grows. Parking is controlled at some distance but the trampling each year of many thousands of sight-seers wears off the turf, and gravel has had to be put down over a large area. A retired estate woodman has been given the concession of selling picture postcards of the tree, and in return for this he keeps a watch on it and prevents vandalism.

"I am interested to see that your offspring from it (the Minor Oak?) has reached a height of about 50 ft. in 37 years. It is probably growing faster than its parent did at the same time of life. Sherwood remained as forest until a late period very largely because the soil is so poor (Bunter sand and pebble beds) and the rainfall is so low (barely 25 ins. a year) and is not a site on which foresters would choose to grow our native oaks today. The American red oak does rather better but in general we replant with pine. Incidentally the wild deer of Sherwood still find sanctuary in our new plantations, despite the spread of towns and industry over the surrounding countryside.

"English oak traditionally takes 300 years to grow, stands 300 years in its prime (a 'veteran'), takes 300 years to die (a 'dotard'), and when dead takes at least another 100 to 200 years to decay. The Major Oak is getting somewhat past the middle of its dotage, and although hollow and 'stag-headed' is still increasing slowly in girth - from 30 ft. to about 32½ ft. in the past 100 years. The cavity in the trunk has been widened from about 7 ft. in diameter to over 8 ft. in the same time. It is entered through a narrow opening on the south side. Up to seven people can sit in it in comfort, and I have heard claims of 20 being squeezed in standing, but this must have been decidedly uncomfortable and fairly dangerous!

"The tree stands near the centre of the original forest in a part known as Birklands, which was one of the last sections to be sold off by the Crown into private ownership. This area contains the skeletons of many similar but somewhat smaller trees long since dead, their hollow shattered trunks and gnarled branches giving the whole place a rather desolate appearance. Very few younger oaks have come up to replace them, and the 'greenwood' now, as the name suggests, consists mainly of birch. There have been several instances in which the wood of these dead trees, on being split open, has revealed the impression of various royal ciphers or brands of reigns from James I to William and Mary (i.e. during the 17th century) showing that at one time they had been selected and reserved for the Navy, but for some reason never felled.

"Formerly there were many other named trees in the forest, but only a few are now left. One which collapsed last year was known as the Shambles Oak or Robin Hood's Larder. There were iron hooks inside its hollow trunk, once used for hanging up the carcasses of deer. The most famous is the Parliament Oak. Edward I held a parliament under it in the year 1290 when he was hunting in Sherwood Forest, so it was a large tree then. By the middle of last century it had dwindled to four separate segments of the original trunk. Three died but on the fourth the bark grew completely round the old wood to form a new stem. This still carried a considerable amount of foliage when I first knew it thirty years ago. Acorns were collected from it and several of the saplings raised from them were planted within the circle of the rotted stump to provide a lineal successor. I have not been recently to see how this is thriving.

"After the last war the Forestry Commission set up a Genetics Section, and the geneticists took scion material from a number of famous trees, including the Parliament Oak and the Major Oak, and grafted it on to new root stocks to put into their 'tree bank'. In their vegetative characters, as well as in their life histories, these ancients display a vigour and vitality which is not just of sentimental interest, but undoubtedly has inherent value for future programmes of tree breeding.

"P.S. To add a personal note, did you know that one of the principal enclosures in Sherwood Forest is called Harlow Wood - now taken up partly by a hospital and sanatorium?"

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

HEAD Forester JOHN PARKER, E(E), and
his wife Phyllis in their new book

"The Practical Guide to Ornamental Waterfowl and Exotic Garden Birds" recount their experiences of over 35 years or more in the management of many varieties of fowl. John Parker is well known for his capable observations on many forms of wildlife and the partnership of husband and wife has produced feature articles for the magazine "Cage and Aviary Birds" over the past 8 years. In recognition of their pre-eminence in this field, they were invited to write this book and so to open up a new world of enthusiasm for both the devotee and the uninitiated. The authors after pointing out that one does not need to be a country squire to own a garden full of exotic birds proceed to explain the management of the Hawaiian Ne Ne Goose, the Rosybill, the Chiloe wigeon (not misspelt) in addition to Pea

fowl, Jungle fowl, pheasant and quail. They show how one can participate in this pastime with pleasure and profit even in the smallest suburban back garden. The price is £2 2s. and the publishers, ARCO, London.

COWAL DISTRICT DANCE

FOLLOWING long established custom the Forestry Commission in Cowal held its Annual Dance in Dunoon on Friday, 13th December, 1968. Excellent entertainment was afforded by Frazer McGlynn's band, the piper Mr. Neil Campbell and by Miss Grace Higgins and Miss Mary MacNicol who recently won gold medals for singing and dancing.

Despite the inauspicious date the function was attended by 258 people, representing not only a complete cross section of Commission employees, contractors and neighbouring farmers but also a goodly selection of townsfolk.

Thanks to the able ministrations of the M.C., Mr. Jack Sallie, W(S), the evening was voted a great success by all attending, though the Treasurer remains to be convinced that it was a financial one.

Among the visitors all were delighted to see were Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Robbie heading a small but select contingent from the Conservancy Office. hope that their reports will encourage a larger party from Glasgow to join us next year. Also very welcome were Bill Sutherland and Iain Goodlet with their good wives, from as far afield as Edinburgh, who seemed satisfied that the traditions of the Cowal Dance were being upheld.

WEST SCOTLAND CONSERVANCY SOCIAL EVENING

WEST Scotland Conservancy staff and friends enjoyed a 'get together' with District Officers and their wives on 10th December 1968 in the Carola Restaurant, Glasgow.

The company comprising about 75 were welcomed by Mr. G.G. Stewart, Conservator, and the opportunity was taken to say 'Au revoir' to Miss I.L. Boyd, former Superintendent of Typists, and Mr. I. Gillespie, District Officer, who both attended as guests.

Dancing was a combination of old time and modern to suit the tastes of the age groups present and the evening was voted a huge success, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr. John Watson who acted as organiser and M.C.

Miss Boyd, after 29 years service with the Commission, regrettably retired on the grounds of ill health in November. At a presentation held in the office she was the recipient of a coffee table from the staff.

CALLING ALL WIVES

MRS. JEAN STEWART, wife of Mr. George Stewart, Conservator W(S), has had the following idea to which we willingly give support and publicity.

To encourage the wives of all members of the Forestry Commission, past and present, to take part in the celebration of Jubilee Year, it has been decided to produce a book of recipes.

The idea is to incorporate well-tryed regional or local recipes which are not only delicious in themselves, but also reflect the character of their area. Brief notes will be welcomed on any tradition or anecdote associated with any particular recipe. As an illustration of what is meant, here is a note explaining a Newfoundland recipe - "Trappers and hunters, in years gone by, carried pork buns for emergency rations. These they called "Pork Toutens". Toutens included enough pork and molasses to keep them from freezing, and were suitable for quick "boil-ups" on long trips".

Please send your favourite recipe, as soon as possible, to: Mrs. G.G. Stewart, Laverockbrae, Balmore, Torrance, Glasgow.

1968 WINDBLOW - FIRST YEAR'S CLEARANCE

WE hear that whilst visiting the Aberfoyle District Office to discuss, amongst other things, the financial trends of the first twelve months' working, Mr. T.A. Robbie, Assistant Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing, W(S), chanced to pick up that day's copy of the "Financial Times" lying as yet unread in the office. On quickly glancing through the pages of "Company News" he was quite shattered to read the headline "ABERFOYLE'S NET LOSS £70,900. A further group net loss of £70,901 against £43,080 was incurred by Aberfoyle Plantations (tea) in the year to 31st July 1968" The sheer relief expressed by him upon reading the word (tea) was a joy to behold!

OCCASIONAL TREES

MR. M.C. SHIRLEY, D.O. Dorchester,
SW(E), sends in the following

interesting note and challenge to readers.

"Tree planting can be an effective way of recording important events or information for future generations. For instance, at the Springfield Estate in the North Cotswolds, near Chipping Campden, a nineteenth century owner planted a group of woods representing the disposition of forces before the Battle of Waterloo. These are called 'Waterloo Woods'. Perhaps readers know of similar instances which are worthy of note.

"Also in the Cotswolds, at Rendcombe Estate near Cirencester, woods were planted a about 100 years ago to represent symbols which are significant in the Jewish faith. I did not discover precisely what the significance was, but the woods certainly embellish the landscape in a striking way.

"In Dorset, especially in the Bridport locality, the landscape is often dramatised by clumps of pines planted on hill tops. These according to local tradition, are 'plague clumps' which mark the places where victims of the black death were buried. This legend is also told in parts of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

"Coming to the present day, and motorway planting in particular, surely the claim in your September issue that the Bucks areas is 'the most motorway concentrated district in the Commission' is false. The Glos/Worcs/Herefordshire district, now managed by Stanley Rogers, has three motorways covering 75 miles, and a further 40 miles under construction. Which district can beat this?"

A FURTHER CHALLENGE

A diary note from Research Head
Forester JOHN KEENLEYSIDE which

reads: "17.8.68 - 15 years service completed to date during which time I have had perfect attendance at work." Any more like this?

... And Yet Another

HEAD FORESTER W.S. STOTT, SW(E), tells us that his wife, Mrs. Hilda M. Stott, was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace for the Honiton and Ottery St. Mary Division of the County of Devonshire in December 1968. Before coming to Honiton Mr. Stott served in Norfolk and Lincolnshire. His wife has been a member of the Honiton Borough Council; a member of the East Devon Water Board; concerned in the supporting parents' movements of the Scouts Association, in the work of the British Legion, in education, and in politics, and at present works part-time with the Devon County Welfare Department. It is evident that all work and no play has not made Jill a dull girl, as she recently qualified as an Associate of the International Dance Teachers Association (Old Time Branch) - in company with her husband - and runs an Old Time Dance Club in Honiton.

Is there a record here?

The undermentioned non-industrial staff changes have been notified to this office during the month of December 1968.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Name	Grade	Location	Remarks
Ashworth, R.I.	D(E)OII	Aberfoyle W(S)	
Matheson, R.J.	Head Stalker	Ardross N(S)	On promotion from Stalker (Industrial Grade)
Shaw, M.	Head Stalker	Black Isle N(S)	On promotion from Stalker (Industrial Grade)
Friskien, J.F.	T.W.G.III (Mech)	Rosefield S(S)	On promotion from Foreman Mechanic (Industrial Grade)
Pittendreigh, D.B.	T.W.G.III (Mech)	West Tullos E(S)	On promotion from Foreman Mechanic (Industrial Grade)
Rosher, W.J.	T.W.G.III (Mech)	Thetford E(E)	On promotion from Foreman Mechanic (Industrial Grade)
Williams, R.	T.W.G.III (Mech)	Kielder NE(E)	On promotion from Foreman Mechanic (Industrial Grade)

TERMINATIONS

Kemp, W.Y.	Forester	Cushnie E(S)	Retirement
Little, A.G.	Forester	Banchory HQ(P & E)	Resignation
Mills, E.W.	Forester	Savernake SW(E)	Retirement
Molloy, C.	Spt.of Works(T.W.G.III)	Thetford E(E)	Resignation
Turner, C.L.	E.O.	H.Q.(B)	Retirement

TRANSFERS

Name	Grade	Old	New
Grant, I.A.D.	D(F)O I	Inverness N(S)	Kielder NE(E)
Perry, D.J.	D(F)O I	Kielder NE(E)	Thetford E(E)
Sale, J.S.P.	D(F)O II	Carlisle NW(E)	Dolgellau N(W) Return to Permanent Station after Temporary Transfer
Acott, E.J.	Hd. Forester	Fineshade E(E)	Hazelborough E(E)
Biggar, A.	Hd. Forester	Glenarrochty E(S)	Edensmuir E(S)
Jones, T.G.M.	Hd. Forester	Breidden N(W)	Ruthin N(W)
Roberts, G.	Hd. Forester	Hazelborough E(E)	Rockingham E(E)
Thow, G.B.	Hd. Forester	Inglismaldie E(S)	Rosarie E(S)
Webster, J.T.	Hd. Forester	Dunwich E(E)	Wendover E(E)
Bain, J.	Forester	Edensmuir E(S)	Tentsmuir E(S)
Jones, J.G.	Forester	Alice Holt H.Q.(P&E)	Gwydyr H.Q.(P & E)
Lane, P.B.	Forester	Hazelborough E(E)	Thetford E(E)
Livingstone, J.	Forester	Fleet S(S)	Fleet H.Q.(P & E)
Maisey, A.J.	Forester	Dolgellau H.Q. (P&E)	Rheidol N(W)
Miller, A.C.	Forester	Thetford E(E)	Santon Downham E(E)
Moules, T.R.	Forester	Cropton H.Q.(P & E)	Slaley NE(E)
McBurnie, A.	Forester	Ae S(S)	Greskine S(S)
Schofield, R.	Forester	Kesteven E(E)	Rockingham E(E)
Tinsley, M.	Forester	Apethorpe E(E)	Wensum I E(E)
Thom, F.G.O.	Forester	Fort Augustus HQ(P&E)	Inshriach H.Q. (P & E)
Wallis, K.E.	Forester	Nagshead SW(E)	Dean H.Q. W(S)
Webb, M.H.	Forester	Alice Holt H.Q. (P&E)	Alice Holt D(R)

TRANSFERS (Cont'd)

Name	Grade	Old	New
Wigzell, M.R.	Forester	Dolgellau H.Q. (P&E)	Gwydyr H.Q. (P & E)
Allingham, J.	C.E.A.	Fort Augustus N(S)	Cairnbaar W(S) on Promotion to L.C.E.A.
Hawes, G.V.	C.E.A.	Cairnbaar W(S)	Aberfoyle W(S)
Wittering, W.O.	S.E.O.	Olney W/S	Alice Holt W/S