

The GLASHER

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COMMISSIONERS' VISIT TO WALES

MEETING IN CARDIFF 21st OCTOBER, 1969

THE meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the 21st October was held in

Cardiff. This meeting had an individuality of its own for one of the Commissioners of some years' standing, Alderman E. Gwynfryn Davies JP is, fittingly in our Jubilee Year, at present Chairman of the Glamorgan County Council. At his invitation the Commissioners were privileged to hold their meeting in one of the Council Chambers in the County Hall, at which place they were later entertained to dinner as guests of the County Council.

The Commissioners were received by Alderman and Mrs. E. Gwynfryn Davies, and Mr. Gareth Jones, Deputy Clerk of the Council. Other guests included Sir Cennydd Traherne (Lord Lieutenant of Glamorgan), Alderman Lincoln Hallinan (Lord Mayor of Cardiff), senior officials from the Welsh Office and from Glamorgan County Council. Also present were Alderman E. Gwynfryn Davies' two sons, Gareth and Gerwyn.

After an excellent dinner, short speeches were made by Alderman E. Gwynfryn Davies, our Chairman Mr. Leslie Jenkins, Sir Cennydd Traherne and Alderman Lincoln Hallinan. = The company was then entertained by a programme of songs by two pupils from a nearby Comprehensive school; as is to be expected in Wales their singing was first-class and their performance of the aria "Papageno, Papagena" from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" well deserved the encore demanded

TOUR OF S. WALES 22nd OCTOBER

THE morning of the 22nd was unfortunately very

misty indeed and this detracted greatly from the forenoon tour. Accordingly, not much was seen of St. Gwynno or St. Tydfil forests, which were on the programme. However, the mist did not prevent the Commissioners from having the pleasure of meeting the two Head Foresters - Mr. W.E. Powell and Mr. I.O. Evans.

On the way to Taf Fechan the coach passed just close enough for the memorial planting, done by the late Mr. Fitzherbert, on a hill overlooking the site of the Aberfan disaster, to be seen. It will be remembered that a member of the public gave some money so that this memorial plantation could be established.

At Taf Fechan forest the Commissioners, who all along had been accompanied by Mr. J.L.W. Zehetmayr, Mr. J.R. Hampson - Assistant Conservator, and Mr. E.G. Owen and Mr. J. Hogarth, were met by the District Officer Mr. J.H. Currie and Head Forester J.F. Bowen. This forest covers 1,624 acres which are leased from the Taf Fechan Water Board. Planting started in 1947 and is now practically complete, though a further 600 acre acquisition is pending. The altitude is 1,000 to 1,800 ft. and its annual rain fall is about 100 inches. The principal species planted are S. 56%, N.S. 19% and J.L. 12%. As the soil is fertile and much of the forest sheltered, growth is good. Thinning has just begun with a present annual production of 30,000 H.Ft. As the forest lies entirely in the Brecon Beacons National Park, close to sizable urban areas, the public visit it in large numbers, mainly at week-ends, while school parties and the Armed Services use it the year round.

The Commissioners, during a half-hour walk through the P.52-3 plantations saw the work which had been done on the provisional picnic sites, forest trails, footpath bridge, and old cottages converted into shelters for visitors.

After crossing the Torpantau summit, the views from which of the Brecon Beacons were unfortunately denied by the mist, the tour took the Commissioners to Talybont forest where they were met by Head Forester E. Brown and Forester H.C. Hilton, and here a sandwich lunch was taken. The main road which runs through this forest is a scenic route to 90% of its users, and the wide views either side of the road made it essential to consider the visual effects of all forestry operations. The main purpose of the Commissioners' visit was to note the effect of opening up, line thinning etc. This was an area of small farms and fields; many hedgerows, as well as relict birch etc., in gulleys have been incorporated into the forest to give an increasingly attractive appearance as the hard lines disappear.

The forest area is 3,900 acres, of which 3,600 acres are planted. Some 2,000 acres are leased from the local Water Board. The altitude ranges from 200' to 1,800' and the soil is fertile. Planting started in 1938 and consists of S.S.24%, N.S. 19%, J.L.29%, E.L. 5% and D.F. 6%. The annual production is currently set at 100,000 H.ft.

The last call of the day was to Brecon forest, where the Commissioners were met by Head Forester G.H. McMillan and Forester J.F. Chambers. This forest has an area of 2,100 acres, the majority of which has been planted. Its altitude is 900/1,500'. Planting started in 1927. The main species are S.S. 40%, N.S. 18%, J.L. 15%, D.F. 8% and S.P. 7%. Growth is generally good except for the S.P. which is poor. Annual production is 150,000 F.ft. and the average Y.C. 170. Felling is about to start in the older parts of the forest.

The purpose of the Commissioners' visit was to see, during a circular tour and walk of about one mile, how the road system had been rationalised during the last six months; this has reduced a network of 18 miles, much of which was sub-standard and impossible to maintain mechanically, to one of 11 miles. The problems likely to be met at the start of felling were also discussed.

At the close of this visit the Commissioners were given a most excellent and typical bounteous Welsh forest tea at the Community Centre at Llaneglwys, laid on by Mrs. McMillan and her band of helpers. This most welcome hospitality was greatly appreciated by the visitors.

The night of the 22nd/23rd was spent at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, where the party were joined by Mr. Ted Rowlands MP, the newly-appointed Under-Secretary of State for Wales, who has been given special responsibility for forestry. Mr. Rowlands took the opportunity of meeting all members of the party and sat up late discussing forestry life, work and problems.

ON TO NORTH WALES 23rd OCTOBER

ON Thursday, 23rd October,
Mr. Rowlands, accompanied

the Commissioners on their morning tour of North Wales, this began at Kerry forest, where the Commissioners were received by the Conservator, Mr. J.H. James, his two Assistant Conservators, Messrs. Bannister and Crowther, and Mr. J.W. Elliott, the A. & F.O. The District Officer, Mr. R.E. Stumbles, assisted by Head Forester A.C.W. Evans, gave the party a brief description of the forest and outlined the windblow problem which has been recurrent.

This forest consists of 2,811 acres, of which 2,773 is planted. The forest runs up to a height of 1,530 ft. a site survey carried out in 1967 provided information about windblow which enabled an estimate to be made of the probability of this occurring on susceptible sites at any particular top height. A mathematical formula has been derived which makes it possible to calculate the probability of windblow which would justify anticipatory felling. A plan has thus been produced to clear S.S. at 55' and N.S. at 45' on susceptible sites. For the first five years this will result in a felling programme of 50 acres annually - 110,000 H.ft. It is anticipated that the replacement crop of S.S. with the advantage of deep drainage and a fertiliser regime, will raise the average Y.C. from 140/160 to 160/180.

After discussion about the windblow problem and its suggested solution, the party visited the windblow sites and then went on to watch the felling of some P.32 S.S. of Y.C. 180. During this walk round Mr. Rowlands took the opportunity to talk to our local officers and forest workers. In the afternoon a visit was paid to Radnor forest where Mr. Stumbles and his Head Forester, Mr. A. Maxwell, explained to the Commissioners suggested ways of effecting the replacement or enrichment of uneconomic broad leaved crops.

And so concluded what had been a most enjoyable and well-arranged tour. The interest of the many discussions which took place throughout the two days of the tour itself was greatly enhanced by the contributions made to them by Dr. Margaret Brough, Dr. Margaret Davies, Mr. Tudor Watkins, MP, Mr. M.L. Bourdillon and Mr. R.E. Griffith who accompanied the Commissioners.

THE SLASHER

THE FUTURE

IT is intended that "The Slasher" shall develop into

a more comprehensive form of house journal. This does not mean that the present contents shall be abandoned but rather that the depth and range of articles shall be increased.

As an example, many of the less technical articles which have previously appeared in the Forestry Journal will now find a place in "The Slasher", and it is hoped that all those working in the field will use the new journal as a place in which to publicise any ideas or discoveries they feel to be of general interest. It is also hoped that it may be possible to use this new "Slasher" as a means of rapid dissemination of information in a simple form from Headquarters to the field.

We will be extremely grateful to receive from both "Slasher" correspondents and any others who may wish to make them, comments and ideas for the future development of your house journal.

SAFETY

THINK-AND LIVE

Epitaph to a Careless Woodman

Beneath this tree lies poor old Fred
Who wore no helmet on his head
If you just mentioned 'Safty First'
He'd laugh his sides out, fit to burst.
A branch cracked off and struck his bonce
It only happened just the once.

Jack Jennings S(W)

So often, after reading about an accident, we are left with the thought that if only this or that precaution had been taken, the accident might have been so much less.

But there are occasions where we can be more positive, and be grateful that because someone did take the necessary precaution, he was saved from serious injury when misadventure befell him. The following two reports, both from North Wales, are cases in point.

"One of our men was working on roadside felling, when a broken-off branch crashed on his head. He was wearing his safety helmet at the time, and suffered no more than a headache.

While engaged on preparing ground, another F.C. employee was struck on the head by a falling tree. It is probable that he would have suffered considerable injury had he not been wearing a safety helmet. As it was, he received no injuries".

No blood, no sensational headlines, just a little thought backed up by a good deal of sound commonsense.

The editor of "Slasher" would welcome anecdotes from readers (no names - no pack drill) relating to "near misses" to life or limb which only came about by workers taking the trouble to think first about what could happen, and who used sensible safety precautions.

Mr. M.J. Penistan (Assistant Cons. SW/E) writes on the same subject and proclaims: "It pays to wear safety belts". Reporting on a recent holiday he spent in Canada he says: "The car in which I was being driven was involved in a very severe collision which resulted in the wrecking of the front of it and the overturning of the other vehicle involved. All three of us in the wide front seat were wearing lap safety belts and we escaped with very minor injuries.

The driver suffered a cut lip on the steering wheel; the middle passenger, a small child, received two black eyes - we know not how - and I was winded by the impact of the belt upon my solar plexus.

I tremble to think what would have happened if we had not been wearing belts for the impact was very severe. I bore the bruises across my stomach for over a week and still have a sore rib. Always a confirmed wearer of safety belts, I would pass on this experience to persuade others to do so also".

JUBILEE ACTIVITIES

MURRAY FOREST CENTRE

A LARGE gathering attended the presentation of a gift of a Scandinavian-type log cabin from a local landowner, Mrs. E. Murray Usher of Cally, to the Forestry Commission for use as an information centre at Fleet Forest. After a speech of welcome from the Conservator, Mr. J.E. James, the gift was accepted by our Chairman, Mr. L.A.W. Jenkins.

"The gift was made to mark the Commission's Jubilee year" said Mrs. Murray Usher, and also because she considered that the Forestry Commission had a major part to play in providing the type of leisure and enjoyment which was in character with Galloway - an area of incomparable natural beauty and rich in its wild flowers and wild life.

She added that she had made land available to the Forestry Commission over the years because she felt that when the industrial era of the area had ended in the early 1930's, the Commission seemed to her to be the ideal answer, not only to provide employment permanently but, in time, to attract ancillary industries.

In his reply, Mr. Jenkins spoke of the Commission's deep concern to ensure that our forests contributed to the ever-increasing public enjoyment of the amenities of the countryside, and that this Centre would meet a real and growing need. All kinds of amenities would be developed around it - camp sites, picnic sites, forest walks and nature trails and, in particular, it would be the hub of a number of forest walks.

Among the 140 or so guests present were the Earl and Countess of Galloway, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Kirkcudbright, representatives from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and County of Dumfries, the Chairman of the South West Scotland Consultative Group and representatives from organisations connected with land use such as National Trust for Scotland, Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Trust, Tourist Boards, Royal Scottish Forestry Society and the Scottish Woodland Owner's Association. In addition members of the Regional Advisory Committee were present.

After the official opening and viewing of the Centre many guests took advantage of a walk through the forest before being entertained to tea at a local hotel.

JUBILEE ACTIVITIES

FEARFUL GIANTS.....

GHOSTLY BIRDS.....

Jubilee celebrations until almost the end of September, by which time the winners of their great School-children's Essay Competition were known.

NORTH EAST England Conservancy staff were kept busy with

More than 150 children from 42 schools in the Yorkshire and Teesside areas took part, and the rules were that they should visit Dalby forest, then write an essay, relating their thoughts and describing the features which impressed them most.

A lot of the children, especially boys, described forest fires in graphic and horrifying detail, so at least it shows that youngsters are aware of fire hazards in woodlands. Others wrote about the "Fearful Giants" and "Ghostly Birds", and one ten-year old wrote that she had the impression that ".... men with guns are after me"!

Here is a 'quote' from one of the essays, from another ten-year old:

"As we gambolled through the wood, beneath trees large and small, treading on the soft carpet of pine needles, we saw men cutting a lovely tree, which made me feel sorry for the poor tree". Timber!

AND ARTISTIC TOADS

At Bakewell, NW/E, the Commission's Jubilee was

celebrated in a novel fashion, The local dramatic society, the Peacock Players, produced the well-known play "Toad of Toad Hall", full of wild life characters, in conjunction with a Forestry Exhibition at the local Town Hall.

This combination of events filled the Town Hall to capacity for three nights at the beginning of October, with a total audience of about 600 of all ages. Thus was useful publicity given both to the work of the Commission and to the talented group of local actors who benefited from their most successful production to date.

Head Forester H. Bennett and Forester A.A. Ward of Matlock forest were responsible for the preparations which made the Exhibition a success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

H.D.R. LARGENT, B.E.M.

CONGRATULATIONS were the order of the day, at a ceremony attended by

Conservancy and District staff Foresters and fellow-workers in the Santon Downham District Office E/E on 28th October, when Mr. H.D.R. Largent was presented with the British Empire Medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, the Earl of Stradbroke. The medal was awarded to Mr. Largent in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Lord Stradbroke was accompanied by Lady Stradbroke and supported by the Deputy Lieutenant, Air Vice Marshal Vincent, and Mrs. Vincent, the Chairman of Santon Downham Parish Council, Mr. E. Longwood, and Mrs. Lingwood, the Conservator for Eastern England Mr. G.W. Backhouse and the Administration and Finance Officer Mr. A.J. Searle. Among those present at the investiture were friends and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Largent.

In paying tribute to Mr. Largent, Lord Stradbroke spoke of the conscientious, efficient and loyal service he had given throughout his years with the Commission.

Mr. Largent, he said, joined the Forestry Commission in 1939, and apart from three years war service with the Royal Navy he has worked in Thetford Forest these last 30 years. During his career he has performed efficiently most of the major forestry

operations and at present is a very highly skilled production worker.

Mr. Largent was one of the original members of the Thetford Consultative Committee, and has been Secretary of the staff side of this Committee since 1952. In this capacity he has contributed much to foster good relations between management and workers and his advice and suggestions, based on his experience, has increased efficiency particularly on production methods. He plays an active part in the local village life and is a member of the Santon Downham Parish Council.

D. MORE, B.E.M.

IN the Queen's Birthday
Honours List Mr. David More

of Achray Forest W/S, was awarded the British Empire Medal, and Lord Mansfield, the Lord Lieutenant of Perthshire made the presentation at a ceremony held at the David Marshall Lodge, Aberfoyle.

Present at this occasion were friends and workmates, local staff, members of the Regional Advisory Committee for West Scotland and Mr. George Stewart, the Conservator. With the Lodge as a very appropriate background, and perfect visibility to enjoy the magnificent views, the occasion was a very happy and pleasant meeting. Mrs. More was presented with a bouquet by Elizabeth Hutchinson the Achray Forest clerkess, and a delightful afternoon tea was provided by the present warden and his wife, Bill and Agnes Leishman.

As a local man, David More has seen many of the plantation forming the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park established in this attractive area on the Highland Fault Line. Indeed, as he has been an employee since 1935 he has planted and maintained a fair number of them. The Queen Elizabeth Forest Park area stretching from Loch Lomond to the Trossachs has long been popular with the tourist, and the number of visitors increases annually.

In 1960 the Carnegie Trust presented to the Commission the David Marshall Lodge, a large stone building of 4,000 square feet floor space, fully equipped with tables, chairs, refreshment kiosk, toilets, display cases etc., and the Commission appointed David More as the first warden. It soon became clear that this was a fortunate choice, since he and his wife set a very high standard of maintenance and service which has become a tradition of the Lodge. As the number of visitors has now risen to 80,000 per annum this is no mean achievement.

Mr. More resigned from the post in 1968 and is now back on full time forest work as a Ganger at Achray Forest.

MR. ARNOLD RUMBOLD

MR. RUMBOLD, Assistant
District Officer at Taunton,

was present at the Somerton rail crash last June. He has now received an unexpected gift in the form of a handsome pigskin wallet from some people he helped at that time.

Despite injuries to himself, Mr. Rumbold carried an American couple - Mrs. and Mrs. Robert Fruhling of Florida - to safety from their shattered rail compartment.

Mr. Rumbold was off work for some time after the crash, suffering from delayed shock.

MR. B.F. I'ANSON

MR. I'ANSON of Ilton, near
Masham, Yorks, NE/E has been

awarded a second National Safe Driving Certificate. The presentation was made by Head Forester Mr. J. Cumming.

ON PROMOTION

Technical Works, Grate 1 (Mech.)	S. Gawn.	H.Q. (O/S)
Senior Clerk of Works (T.W.G.11)	R. Raisborough	W.(S)
Senior Executive Officer	C. Ridley	H.Q. (B)
Technical Works, Grade 'B' (Mech.)	W. J. Muddle	H.Q. (O/S)
District (Estate) Officer 1	F. D. Barrett	E. (E)

BOUQUETS.....

AROUND the autumn of each year many letters come

CAMP SITES

in to the Commission from satisfied campers, saying how much they've enjoyed their stay, and of course besides the bouquets there are one or two well-meant criticisms or suggestions, which are duly investigated in an effort to improve our general service and amenities.

With public recreational facilities being steadily extended in the Commission forests, the flow of letters - reflecting the public's reaction to our efforts - is increasing. We print just two of these letters as a small tribute to those of the Commission's staff who work so hard to promote the good reputation of our camp sites.

Mr. Alan Cameron of Maidenhead says:

"I write to you, as a caravanner, to express to you and all your officers concerned, my appreciation of the really splendid National Forest Park Caravan and Camping site at Glen Trool. We visited this during our recent holiday in Scotland and were struck not only by the scenic beauty of the site's situation, but also by the well-planned facilities and amenities of the site. It was a pleasure, for example, to find adequate washing and toilet facilities, sensible arrangements for the supply of water and disposal of rubbish and a competent and friendly warden. This was our first visit to a Forestry Commission site and now we look forward to visiting others.

I should like to conclude by expressing the hope that it will be possible for the Forestry Commission to increase the number of such delightful sites."

Mr. J. H. Jackson of Heanor, Derbyshire writes:

"During the past nine months I have twice written to you for a supply of your booklets on Forestry Commission Camp Sites, which you have promptly supplied, and which we have been pleased to distribute to grateful campers in this district.

As one of these campers I have visited many camping sites throughout the Country during the past few years and I must say how grateful my family and I have been to find the cleanliness and comfort of your forestry sites, together with the friendliness and courtesy of your wardens and their wives. We cannot speak too highly of their kindness and efficiency.

Our last visit this season was three weeks ago when we spent a few days at the Beddgelert site, where your warden Mr. Easton made us very welcome, and it was a delight to see such a well organised site which upholds your high standard for modern day camping.

Our grateful thanks to your organisation for all they are doing for we country lovers. I look forward to the day when we in Derbyshire can spend an occasional week-end, or even a full week, in a Forestry Commission site in our Peak National Park".

If any F.C. Staff have used our various camp sites during last season, Mr. Lax of Estates Management Division at Basingstoke would be interested in hearing from them. Criticism may be either critical or complimentary - so long as it is objective.

WE HEAR THAT.....

FROM MORTIMER FOREST NW(E)

THE third and last of
long established Head

Foresters at Mortimer, Mr. Joe Brandon has just retired, and he takes with him the good wishes of all for his retirement. He came to Shobdon from Delamere where he had been for many years, but he started his career with the Commission at Cannock 43 years ago. A fuller report is given under "Retirements".

To take his place, Mr. B. Brooke has come from Kinver where, amongst other things, he ran a successful nursery.

Forester Terry Birch has left Mortimer to sample the northern air at Grizedale, and to exchange with Forester D. Wood. Forester C.W. Wood has also joined us from Rowland, so to parody a saying, "You can't see the trees for the Woods". (A Head Forester named Wood is now in charge at Delamere).

The year was saddened by the death of Mr. Horace Galliers. We have also lost through retirement, Mr. Jack Booth and Mr. "Bill" Marsh; our good wishes to them.

A Curling Club, with a membership of some 36, has been formed among the South Scotland Conservancy office staff. They have been fortunate in obtaining a fairly generous allocation of ice at the Lockerbie Ice Rink, and although they have only a very few members who have previously curled, the enthusiasm of the learners who have already played this season is such that those who have not yet had the opportunity of "throwing the stones" can hardly wait for their turn.

Conservator Mr. J.E. James, who is President of the Club, has kindly donated a trophy to be played for during the season, and there will be great rivalry among the rinks to have the honour of being first named on the trophy.

The South (Scotland) Conservancy held a most successful golf outing over the Dumfries and County course, Dumfries, on Friday, 12th September. Seventeen players, some from as far apart as Glasgow and Kielder, enjoyed excellent golfing conditions and the winner proved to be Mr. S.K. Fergusson of Bennan Forest, S(S). Second equal were Mr. T. Kirkup (Kielder) and Mr. F. McNicol (Wauchope). Mr. R. Sloper (W(S) Conservancy Office) won the sweep.

The golf outings are proving to be more popular each year but there would appear to be golfers in the Commission within reasonable travelling distance of Dumfries who, for one reason or another, do not hear of the events. Anyone who has not so far participated and who wishes to be notified of future events should drop a line now to Mr. W.D. Gordon in the Dumfries Office.

"NESSIE"

KEEN amateur photographer,
Mrs. Rena Thomson, wife of

a member of the Commission's staff at Aberfoyle, took a worthwhile picture of the Loch Ness Monster from a vantage point at Inverfarigaig, overlooking the Loch.

One can't really see "Nessie", but the characteristic wave patterns caused by the 'Lumps' can be clearly seen, and it was good enough to be printed across three columns of the Scottish Daily Express. Says Rena Thomson "I saw something moving in the Loch, and I dashed out and took a snap of it". Anyone taken a picture of an English or Welsh Monster?

MR. DONALD MACGREGOR

MR. WILLIAM Ross, M.P.,
Secretary of State for

Scotland was host recently to 140 people from all over Scotland who have assisted the police in the past year. They met the Secretary of State at a reception in the Great Hall, Edinburgh Castle. Among those invited was Mr. Donald MacGregor, Head Forester at Strathyre, West Scotland.

WINCHES AND BEER

WE have to thank Mr. Tom Robbie
(Asst. Cons. H & M) of Scot-

land West Conservancy, for sending in this report on the staff's Educational outing. He writes:

"Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to find something novel, interesting and educational. After much deliberation the staff of West Scotland Conservancy decided on Loch Ard and Strathyre Forests.

At Loch Ard clearance of timber blown in the gale of 15th January, 1968, is still in full progress and demonstrations of the ordinary and "skyline" double-drum winches created much interest. Mr. R.T. Hurst, District Officer, demonstrated the various products prepared by each team from the windblown timber, and the grave shortage of transport was evident from the large stocks of prepared timber at roadside.

The party adjourned to the David Marshall Lodge for lunch, and then over the Duke's Pass (Duke of Montrose) to the Trossachs and Strathyre.

The new log cabin designed and built by Head Forester Donald MacGregor and his staff holds much of interest to visitors to the forest. After a brief view of the history of the forest, the party gallantly tackled the forest walk, scheduled for 1½ hours. At the end of this walk, Mr. MacGregor invited suggestions for improvements. Suggestions included:- Cutting steps on the steeper parts, provision of handrails, provision of seats at various points, piped drinking water and supplies of beer at strategic points - an indication of the lack of training of some of the office staff. A good meal at Stirling helped to revive the party".

NEW GAME CONSERVANCY

ALL concerned with wild life
management and game birds will

be interested to hear that a new body, the Game Conservancy, has been evolved through the merging of the Eley Game Advisory Station with the Game Research Association.

The new Conservancy will be based at Fordingbridge; it plans to maintain about five or six scientists and the same number of consultants in the field, many of whom have been working on their subjects for over twenty years. The Conservancy will also have an advisory panel of scientists, distinguished in many disciplines - veterinary research, entomology, botany, and so on - upon whom it can call for guidance and advice.

The booklets originally published by the Eley Game Advisory Station will remain, and visits to Fordingbridge will continue to be organised from time to time.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh has consented to become the first President, the Chairman will be Colonel Peter Fleming and the Director, Mr. Charles Coles.

Further information about membership rates, services and facilities offered may be obtained by writing to the Game Conservancy, Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

GENUINE ANTIQUE

SIR Anthony Lambert reports from the British Embassy, Lisbon (letter to "Country Life" September 11), that he was given an olive tree- reckoned by experts to be two thousand years old - which he planted in the Embassy garden in May and which is now bravely putting forth new shoots.

The 2,000 year old tree came from a grove at Serpa in the Alentejo - a distance of several hours by truck - and it weighs nearly two tons. A team of gardeners from the Lisbon parks toiled throughout a whole night to manhandle it up a flight of steps from the street.

From a photograph, the gnarled old tree looks like an impressionist statue of a Roman gladiator; at least this is how it appeared to me when I considered it must have been first planted in Roman times, somewhere around the birth of Christ.

I wonder how many other people can claim to have successfully transplanted a 2,000 year old tree. Perhaps there is hope for the youngsters who trustingly plant the family Christmas tree in the garden after it has done its duty in the front room.

RETIREMENTS

MR. L. SINCLAIR

HEAD Forester Lawrence Sinclair, son of a Perthshire sheep farmer, started work as a forester on Lord Haldane's estate at Gleneagles in 1919 - the same year as the Forestry Commission was founded - and after having seen service with the Peruvian Government, on its experimental farm, he returned to Britain to join the Commission in 1926.

At an informal ceremony at Duror on October 26th, Mr. Sinclair was presented with a cheque and tobacco pipes by his colleagues and friends, as a mark of their esteem on his retirement. His wife was presented with a bouquet.

Following service on secondment to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, where he came under the guidance of the late Charles Lammont whose knowledge of trees and shrubs was profound, Lawrence Sinclair returned to the Commission to start Fearnoch forest in 1926. On promotion to Grade 2 Forester he moved to Glenduror in 1931 where he remained, apart from a brief spell at Loch Ard, until his retirement, having started his second forest at Creran in 1954.

With his background knowledge of agriculture, Mr. Sinclair always had good relations with his farming neighbours; he was an enthusiastic worker on the civic side, being a founder member and Treasurer of the Community Centre at Kentallan and Duror, Group Secretary of the National Savings movement at Duror and for the last three years been a member of the North Lorn Community Service Committee.

Generally regarded as a "Father-councillor" figure by all his many friends of the community, the Commission have agreed that - further to mark the occasion of his retirement - part of Glenduror Forest shall in future be known as "Sinclair's". This part is the "Spruce Cathedral" containing the finest stand of sitka spruce in the forest, planted in 1923 and now rising to 100 ft. in height.

MR. W. R. DOHERTY

KEEPING up the tradition of "never let 'em go quietly", staff of the South Wales Conservancy gave W.R. (Bill) Doherty, a memorable 'send-off' on the occasion of his retirement in August.

Speaking on his last day to all the staff at the Cardiff office, Mr. Doherty explained that he was retiring with very mixed feelings, adding that an A. & F.O.'s job

depended on the spirit of the office staff themselves. He had had wonderful co-operation and would look back with pleasure and satisfaction at his tour of duty in Cardiff; he was sure that the same co-operation would be given to Mr. J. Hogarth, his successor.

The main function was held later at the Brynffynon Inn, Llanwonno in the heart of St. Gwynno forest. Organised by Eric Blundell and Head Forester W.E. Powell, it was a resounding success - the only complaint being that about twice the number turned up as had been expected. Proof in itself of "W.R.D.'s" popularity!

This, too, was the time of Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr's speech in presenting a cheque subscribed to not only by Mr. Doherty's friends and colleagues in South Wales - but by many others throughout the whole of the Commission. Replying, Mr. Doherty thanked all concerned for their kind thoughts and wishes, and spoke of his happy years in South Wales. A few exploits that stood out in his memory over his 46 years of Government service were also recounted.

Mrs. Doherty was not forgotten in the proceedings for she was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Miss C. Thorner of the - Cardiff office; further presentations of an inscribed tankard and walking stick were made by Mr. L.H. Williams H.Q. (B) on behalf of the staff, to Mr. Doherty and H/F M. Davies respectively. The formalities were wound up by a speech by Chief Forester W.T. Jenkins, who spoke highly of the manner in which Bill Doherty had, without exception, dealt with all C.S.U. matters concerning the Forester grades. Mention must also be made of a last-minute mystery presentation in the form of a rustic name-plate in Welsh.

In the month or so before Mr. Doherty's departure, the "send-off" organisers in South Wales received a host of requests from subscribers to the presentation fund, to pass on their sincere wishes for a long and happy retirement; this was done.

MR. J. BRANDON

IT was in 1926 that Head Forester Joe Brandon first started as a Forest Worker at Cannock when some of the earlier plantations were being established; it was at that time, during the General Strike, that miners from the surrounding pits came to carry out some of the planting. He became a ganger in 1939 and in October '41 was promoted to Foreman on being transferred to Delamere. Mr. G.W. Jones was the Forester-in-charge at that time and no doubt there are many serving members who still recall that period. He was promoted to Forester 2 in 1946, and Forester in 1949. Whilst at Delamere he was involved in both nursery and produce operations.

In 1955 Joe moved to Mortimer where he ran a successful nursery raising seedlings into trees, and more important, boys into men. He was kind and considerate of other people's needs.

At a gathering of his colleagues at the "Lion" in Leintwardine he was presented with a clock and a cheque. He and his wife plan to settle for the present in Shobdon near their married son and daughter, and our good wishes go with them for a long and happy retirement.

MR. W. S. DOUGLAS

WILLIAM S. Douglas retired from the post of Forester at Whitehaugh, E(S), in mid-September, thus bringing to a close a career of 45 years with the Commission. After a spell as forest worker he went to the Old Beaufort Forest School before going to Tentsmuir in 1930 as Foreman. A stay of 17 years at Newtyle, latterly as Forester, was broken by service with the H.P.T.D. Finally in 1952 he moved to Whitehaugh.

Willie is one of those men who seem to be most at ease when out among the trees they look after. Certainly to those who went with him through the forest it was obvious where his heart and interest lay. Indeed, so well did he know his forest that there were times when one almost suspected he was on nodding terms with the individual trees.

We wish him and Mrs. Douglas well in what we feel sure will be a long and carefree retirement.

OF GENERAL INTEREST

CONIFER REGENERATION

MR. S. A. NEUSTEIN (Research, Scotland) is currently drafting a paper on Natural Regeneration of Conifers in Great Britain for the Conifer Conference, 1970, and intends to include a check-list of species for which natural regeneration has been observed.

In order to make the list as comprehensive as possible he would welcome assistance from all concerned in recording occurrences, especially of the rarer conifers. All that is required is a note of location (Forest, estate, etc.), species and comment on frequency (e.g. only once, frequent, etc.).

Early replies would be appreciated.

SLIDES FOR LECTURES

THE official colour slide collection at Alice Holt is being reorganised during the winter months, with a view to providing a better service. The Principal Photographer regrets that this should coincide with the lecture season, but the reason is that a large number of slides will have to be duplicated and the colour laboratories can offer a better service for this in winter than in summer.

Will members of staff who may wish to apply for the loan of colour slides during the winter please note that only a very limited number (in one or two basic sets of forest operations, and wildlife and amenity) will be available from 1st November 1969 until 31st March, 1970 inclusive.

NORTHERWOOD HOUSE SOCIAL CLUB

THE rules of the Northerwood House Social Club stipulate that two Committee Members must be elected annually.

Mr. P.J. Langley, D.O.I. at H.Q. Basingstoke and Mr. E.G. Winterflood D.O.I. (New) are due to retire and have offered themselves for re-election.

Other nominations are invited from any members of the non industrial grades down to H.E.O. and Head Forester (or analogous grades in other classes), and should reach Education & Training Branch, Basingstoke by 30th November.

If no other nominations are received by that date Messrs. Langley and Winterflood will be regarded as elected.

SCHOOLS FORESTRY

COUNTRYSIDE AWARDS SCHEME

FIELD Staff who have schools in their areas which undertake forestry studies should note that a Countryside Awards Scheme is being organised as a U.K. contribution to European Conservation Year - 1970.

The scheme is being organised jointly by the Standing Committee of "The Countryside in 1970", the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the Council for Nature, and the County Councils' Association.

Projects qualifying for awards cover a wide range of subjects, all of course dealing with conservation in one form or another, and there is a long list from which to choose.

Awards will be in the form of specially designed plaques, and it is hoped that H.R. The Duke of Edinburgh will present these. The Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves and its associated County Trusts are acting as agents for the scheme.

Full details and application forms are obtainable from S.P.N.R. headquarters at The Manor House, Alford, Lincs. Latest date for receipt of applications is April 30th, 1970.

DOWN YOUR WAY

THE B.B.C.'s perennial programme "Down Your Way" is now preparing its schedule of programmes for the first three months of 1970.

Locations from which participants will be selected are London, Runcorn, Rickmansworth, Westbury, Shirley, Batley, Egham, Pentre, Newton Ayeliffe, Bucklers Hard (Near Southampton), and Bellshill and Fallin in Scotland.

If any reader knows of any particularly "Interesting" people, will they contact Miss Phyllis Robinson, Outside Broadcasts (Radio), B.B.C. P.O. Box 1.AA, Broadcasting House, London W.1.

COMMISSION VISITORS' BOOK

THE Visitors' Book which was started at the Bush Exhibition is now lodged in the Chairman's office.

Many distinguished signatures were entered in the book at that time, and it is felt that it would be appropriate that the book should be used by Conservators whenever they are visited by distinguished persons, so that a record may be kept of those notable people who, from time to time, interest themselves in our activities.

OBITUARIES

MR. A. D. HOPKINSON

IT is with regret that we report that Mr. Hopkinson died on October 8th at his home near Dumfries. He was in his 81st year and retired just over 20 years ago from the post of Conservator East (England). Prior to that he was Deputy Surveyor (Dean) and earlier he was Divisional Officer for the old West Division.

Mr. Hopkinson maintained his interest in the Commission and many in South Scotland will no doubt recollect the part he played on the occasion of Mr. J.A.B. Macdonald's retirement dinner.

More recently, we were glad that he was able to attend the opening ceremony of the Jubilee exhibition in Dumfries. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

MR. JAMES LAIDLAW

THE sudden death of Jimmy Laidlaw on 1st September meant the passing of a great character in South Scotland.

Jimmy joined the Commission from the Post Office in 1949 and the whole of his service was spent on Establishment and Welfare work, in which field he was generally recognised as an expert. He was ideally suited for his duties.

He had the ability to gain the confidence of all with whom he came in contact - from Conservators to Forest Workers, was renowned for his down-to-earth, straightforward speaking when he considered it necessary, and above all was a generous and kind person, full of common sense. He was a ready listener and he will be sadly missed by his numerous friends both within and outside of the Commission in Southern Scotland.

MR. J.M. WIBLIN M.M.

WE regret to announce the recent passing of Mr. John Martin Wiblin,

Head Forester at Coed-y-Brenin forest, at the early age of 45, at his home at Maesgwyn, Gaullwyd.

He was transferred to Coed-y-Brenin in May on promotion, after serving nine years at Lake Vyrnwy forest, Llanwddyn, on the Liverpool Corporation - Forestry Commission joint afforestation partnership.

Mr. Wiblin had a distinguished Army career, and won the Military Medal. He lived for some ten years at Talybont, Cards., and was a popular figure with villagers and colleagues alike. He is survived by his wife Delyth, a son, and two daughters.

Some dozens of mourners, representing a wide section of the community, attended the funeral service at St. Wddyn's churchyard.

The undermentioned Non-Industrial staff changes have been notified during the month of September, 1969.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Name	Grade	Location	Remarks
Gubby, M.A.E.	C.E.O.	H.Q. (B)	Return from Secondment to N.E.D.O. on promotion
Dewar, J.	D(F)O II	Lincoln E(E)	Through Open Competition
Selmes, R.E.	D(F)O II	Brampton NW(E)	Through Open Competition
Tindall, Miss S.A.	T/Cart. Drtswoman	HQ(P&E) Basingstoke	

TERMINATIONS

Douglas, W.S.	Forester	Pitfichie E(S)	Retirement
Saunders, J.A.	Forester	Hazelborough N(W)	To take up Teacher Training
Seniscal, B.	Forester	Newton & Rose Isle E(S)	Medical Retirement
French, J.	T.W.G.I(Civil) Eng.	Cardiff S(W)	Medical Retirement
Rolfe, A.W.	H.E.O.	H.Q. (L)	Transfer on loan to Civil Service Dept.
Holland, B.	E.O.	NW(E)	Transfer to Civil Service Commission on promotion to H.E.O.
Niven, T.P.	E.O.	HQ(L)	Resignation
Batko, S.	Exp.Off.	D(R)	Retirement
Varley, J.F.	A.E.O.	D(R)	Resignation

It is with regret that we record the death of the following officers:-

Laidlaw, J.C.	E.O.	S(S)
Wiblin, J.H.	Head Forester	Coed-y-Brenin N(W)

TRANSFERS

Name	Grade	Old	New
Gascoigne, C.A.H.	Asst. Cons. (E)	Aberystwyth N(W)	Aberdeen E(S)
Francis, G.J.	D(F)O I	Ruthin N(W)	Cardiff S(W) Transfer on promotion to Asst. Conservator. (F)
Wilson, J.F.	D(E)O I	Chester NW(E)	York NE(E)
Jones, A.T.	D(F)O II	Gwydyr F.T.S. HQ(E & T)	Faskally F.T.S. HQ(E & T)
Johnstone, R.C.B.	D(F)O II	Lincoln E(E)	Alice Holt D(R)
Brooke, B.L.	Head Forester	Kinver NW(E)	Mortimer Shobdon NW(E)
MacKenzie, J.H.	Head Forester	Haughmond NW(E)	Kinver NW(E)
Pemberton, F.	Head Forester	Oakmoor NW(E)	Leanachan N(S)
Skinner, F.C.	Head Forester	Bovey SW(E)	Somerset SW(E) On P.W. duties
Webster, J.	Head Forester	Clocaenog HQ(M/S)	Coed Sarnau HQ(TTS)

/Billany, D.J.

TRANSFERS Contd.

Name	Grade	Old	New
Billany, D.J.	Forester	Rheola S(W)	Alice Holt D(R)
Blake, I.A.	Forester	Cymmer S(W)	Rheola S(W)
Blud, M.	Forester	Ebbw S(W)	Margam S(W)
Dickinson, H.	Forester	Wendover E(E)	Eveden E(E)
Edwards, B.F.	Forester	HQ(L) (ASU)	Neroche SW(E)
Griffiths, D.	Forester	Rhondda S(W)	Coed Abertawe S(W)
Ham, H.O.	Forester	Laughton E(E)	Hazleborough E(E)
Hollingsworth, H.K.	Forester	Wykeham D(R)	Inchnacardoch D(R)
Jefferson, P.F.	Forester	Kirroughtree S(S)	Bareagle S(S)
Judge, J.N.	Forester	Wareham SW(E)	Malvern SW(E)
Kinsey, W.R.	Forester	Glengarry N(S)	Fiunary N(S)
Lloyd, R.G.	Forester	Brechfa S(W)	Cymmer S(W)
MacLean, J.P.	Forester	Hallyburton E(S)	Pitfichie E(S)
McNeil, J.B.	Forester	Inchnacardoch D(R)	Bush Nursery D(R)
Robertson, G.K.	Forester	Dovey Corris N(W)	Myherin N(W)
Sharp, H.O.	Forester	Parkend HQ(TTS)	Dean HQ(E&T) Temporary post as T/Hd Forester at Dean F.T.S.
Spencer, J.B.	Forester	Hamsterley NE(E)	Wark NE(E)
Thick, F.W.	Forester	Cotgrave NW(E)	Haughmond NW(E)
Watt, G.D.	Forester	Fort Augustus HQ(W/S)	Inverness HQ(W/S)
Webber, C.W.	Forester	Bettws-y-Coed D(R)	Westonbirt D(R)
Morgan, J.F.	S.Supt.of Wks. T.W.G.II	Dalby NE(E)	Brampton NW(E)
Shea, E.G.	E.O.	SE(E)	HQ(L)
Atwell, B.H.	E.O.	HQ Audit Edinburgh	S(S)
Gowler, D.G.	E.O.	HQ(L)	NW(E)

Staff commencing or returning from service or official visits overseas

Dr. J.A. Dickson	Dir. General)	
Mr. G.D. Holmes	Dir. Research)	
Dr. D.H. Phillips	S.P.S.O.)	Forestry Study Tour - Germany
Mr. G.G. Stewart	Conservator)	29th September - 3rd October
Mr. J.N. Kennedy	Asst. Cons.)	
Mr. W.P. Thompson	D.F.O.I)	
Mr. R.M. Brown	D.F.O.II)	
Mr. J.G. Grevatt	D.F.O.I	Study of Swedish Forestry. Use of Computers - Sweden 29th September - 18th October
Mr. A. Whayman	D.F.O.I)	I.U.F.R.O. Meeting on Thinning and Mechanisation -
Mr. R.T. Bradley	D.F.O.I)	Sweden 7th September - 14th September
Mr. J.Q. Williamson	Dir.	Lecture to Austrian Forestry Service - Austria 15th September - 19th September

The undermentioned Non-Industrial Staff changes have been notified during the month of October, 1969.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Name	Grade	Location	Remarks
Miller, A. D. S.	D(F)O I	Llandovery S(W)	Return from Secondment to Trinidad
Smith, R. G.	D(F)O II	Hambleton NE(E)	Through Open Comp.
Wood, L. C.	Supt. of Wks.T.W.G.III	Cairnbaan W(S)	Through Open Comp.
Brasier, Dr. C. M.	S.S.O.	D(R)Alice Holt	Through Open Comp.

TERMINATIONS

Bennett, A. P.	D(E)O I	Aberdeen E(S)	Resignation
Gram, A. K.	D(F)O I	Cardiff S(W)	On Secondment to Fiji
Dixon, J. R. H.	D(F)O II	Lyndhurst New	Resignation
Brandon, J. W.	Head Forester	Mortimer NW(E)	Retirement
Sinclair, L.	Head Forester	Glenduror W(S)	Retirement
McFadyen, D.	Forester	Inverliever W(S)	Retirement

TRANSFERS

	GRADE	OLD	NEW
Illingworth, R. P.	D(E)O I	HQ(B)	Aberystwyth N(W) On promotion to Asst. Cons. (E)
Campbell, J. A.	Head Forester	Creran W(S)	Glenduror W(S)
Danby, N. P.	Forester	Ardross D(R)	Northern Research Station - Reslin D(R)
Roe, F. J.	Forester	Monmouth S(W)	Rhondda S(W)
Smith, J. F. D'Arch	Forester	Dartmoor SW(E)	Exeter SW(E)
Spernagel, M. R. T.	Forester	Dovey Valley N(W)	Lake Vyrnwy, N(W)
Tait, A. A.	Forester	Craigvinean E(S)	Strathardle E(S)
Webb, R. G. J.	Forester	Kesteven E(E)	Mundford E(E)
White, J. E. J.	Forester	Drumtochty D(R)	Wykeham D(R)
Williams, P. L.	Forester	Lleyn N(W)	Gwydyr N(W)
Turnbull, I. McW.	C.E.A.	Cairnbaan W(S)	Aberdeen E(S) On promotion to Leading C.E.A.
Smith, R.	E.O.	H.Q.(B)	E(E) Santon Downham
Pearson, W. E.	E.O.	SE(E)	H.Q.(L)

Staff Commencing or returning from Service or Official Visits Overseas

Mr. E. G. Richards	Conservator	E.C.E. Timber Committee - Switzerland 6th October - 10th October
Mr. D. R. Johnston	Conservator	Consultant on Forest Management - Yugoslavia 19th October - 2nd November
Mr. R. Faulkner	Asst.Cons.	O.E.C.D. Meeting - Control of Forest Reproductive material moving in International Trade - France 14th October - 16th October

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Staff Commencing or returning from Service of Official Visits Overseas Contd.

Mr. G. D. Keighley	D.F.O.I	Symposium on Ergonomics and Eighth Session of The Study Group of Vocation Training and the Prevention of Accidents in Forest Work - Germany 20th October - 24th October
Mr. G. D. Keighley	D.F.O.I)	FAO/ECE/ILO International Seminar on Forest
Mr. D. A. Bardy	Hd.For.)	Worker, Training for Highly Mechanised Forestry Operations - Finland 6th October - 17th October
Dr. D. H. Phillips	S.P.S.O.	European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation - Italy 16th October - 17th October
