

The FLASHER

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NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION OFFICIAL OPENING, MAY 8TH

The only thing which put a slight damper on the big Commission event during May was the weather: a thick and chilly "Scotch mist" enveloped the Edinburgh area all day, and the widespread fog meant diversions of planes and trains resulting in one or two guests having to abandon their attempts to attend.

In all, about 140 hosts and guests attended the opening ceremony which, though an official occasion, was also a very happy and friendly one. With so many people squeezed into the modest foyer, it was perhaps understandable that a 'chummy' atmosphere prevailed.

The Chairman, before inviting the Rt. Hon. William Ross, MBE, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, to unveil a commemorative plaque and thus formally open the new research station, recalled that the Commission's research interests had been represented in Edinburgh ever since 1919 with the appointment of one silviculturist, and how from this one official the staff has grown, as the importance of forestry research has increased in importance.

"Now, after years of working in cramped and scattered offices with inadequate research facilities", said Mr. Jenkins "the Northern Research staff of between forty and fifty scientists, forest officers and supporting staff, are housed in this specially designed building in which are incorporated most up-to-date and pleasant offices". He added that the NRS represented forestry throughout Britain, and that it was the 'Twin' and not the junior brother of Alice Holt Lodge.

Before unveiling the commemorative plaque which records the opening of the Research Station by him, the Secretary of State spoke about the important part that the Commission has played in Scotland's economy, a role which will become even more important with the implementation of the expanding planting programme there.

Mr. Ross went on to say that he had spent most of the previous night reading a fascinating two volume History of Scottish Forestry by Professor Anderson of Edinburgh and added "... I don't think we have quite come up to his demands in relation to the importance of forestry to Scottish economy, because he saw it in very much wider terms in the economies of growing timber".

Tribute was also paid by Mr. Ross to the Scottish Woodland Owners' Association and the Home Grown Timber Merchants' Association for their combined interest in the project. The former organisation gave the entrance gates of the new Station, and the latter the panelling in the entrance hall, library and the CRO(N)'s office. Mr. Ross concluded by complimenting the Commission on its good sense in siting the new Research Station on the Bush Estate in the Edinburgh Centre of Rural Economy.

In his speech of thanks to the Secretary of State, Mr. Brian Holtam, CRO(N), welcomed the guests, many of whom had travelled from afar. He then paid tribute to all who had worked so hard to make possible the day's event: the architects, the builders, Clerk of Works, Chief Land Agent, MPBW representatives and others including, particularly, members of his own staff, for their great spirit and zest during the difficult period of removal and settling in. A very special word of thanks went to the Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, for his gift of many plants for the Station's ornamental gardens and to the Student Gardeners for their great achievement in landscaping and planting the gardens in only a few weeks: to 'continuity' man Mr. R. Faulkner, and to the Edinburgh Centre of Rural Economy staff for all their willing help and kindness. Thanks also went to the 64 outstationed foresters of Research Division ".... on whom we depend so much".

Mr. Ross then planted a commemorative birch tree outside the main entrance, and the Chairman broke the Commission's flag from the staff.

The guests were then entertained to tea in the library, before breaking into small parties which were conducted round the laboratories and offices of the new Station, with which they were, understandably, considerably impressed.

The success of the event was due to the good organisation, advance planning and hard work of all at the Station, and to many little touches which made all the difference, like the floral decorations and the buttonholes of red and white heather presented to each guest on arrival. Some thirty Pressmen attended, and the event was duly reported in numerous newspapers and journals, with items also on radio and television.

The hosts for the occasion were: the Chairman, the Director General, and Commissioners Major Sir William Strang Steel, Bt., Lord Taylor of Gryfe, Mr. H.J. Watkins and Mr. G.G. Stewart. Unfortunately, Dr. F.C. Hummel was unable to be present, but sent a message of good wishes.

Among the distinguished guests present were H.M. Lord Lieutenant for the Counties of Lothians and Peebles, Sir Maxwell Inglis, Bt., His Grace, the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, Sir Douglas Haddow, Permanent Under Secretary of State for Scotland, The Hon. Lord Robertson, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Edinburgh Centre of Rural Economy, Sir William Gordon-Cumming, Bt., President of the Scottish Woodland Owners' Association Limited, the Hon. James Bruce, Chairman of the Scottish Woodland Owners' Association (Commercial) Limited, Mrs. John C. Balfour, President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, Dr. H.R. Fletcher, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Mr. T. McEvoy and Mr. O.V. Mooney of the Forestry Division of Eire, and Mrs. Betty Moira, the Architect.

As proud a person as any on this happy day was 19 year old Hamish Howell of Edinburgh, the youngest research worker at the NRS. He prepared the birch tree which the Secretary of State planted, and was there to see he made a good job of it!

RE-APPOINTMENT OF LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT

MISS SYLVIA CROWE

WE are happy to announce that Miss Sylvia Crowe, who has been Landscape Consultant to the Commission ever since April 1964, has accepted re-appointment to serve a further period of two years.

Miss Crowe is a Past President of the Institute of Landscape Architects and Acting President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects,

and enjoys world-wide repute in her field. She is author of the book "Forestry In The Landscape", and among her other published works are "Tomorrow's Landscape", "The Landscape of Roads" and "The Landscape of Power". She is Landscape Consultant to Harlow New Town, and acts in a similar capacity to the Central Electricity Generating Board for some of their stations.

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, 1970

THE subject of the Commission's first-ever exhibit at Chelsea was "Bark in Horticulture". The exhibit, which was organised by Mr. Jack Aaron of Harvesting & Marketing Division at HQ, consisted of a plunge bed with ornamental shrubs which had been grown in a bark/sand mixture; a section explaining the preparation of a potting compost from bark (and also featuring ammoniated bark); a floral display dominated by Coleus and Saintpaulia, but also featuring Cornus, Prunus, Begonia semperflorens, and pansies; a large colour photograph of daffodils forced in bark; and a display of priced F.C. publications, together with unpriced publications for free distribution.

The most public interest was noted on Tuesday, 19th May, when viewing is restricted to members of the Society and their guests, many of whom are members of the trade. Nevertheless, there were few slack moments on the other days, and at times all three Commission personnel on the stand were fully occupied in dealing with enquiries, which concerned the Commission's activities generally as well as the horticultural use of bark.

The exhibit was visited by Mr. Fred Loads (of Gardeners' Question Time, B.B.C.) and representatives of the "Amateur Grower", "Nurseryman and Garden Centre" and "Gardeners' Chronicle", and the local paper. Other visitors included the President of the Royal Forestry Society (Mr. Charles Venables), the President of the Orchid Society, and Mr. Rogers of the Timber Growers' Organisation.

Mr. Boardman of the John Innes Institute and Mr. G.L.E. Yates of the Merrist Wood Agricultural College also visited the stand, and both said that they would be interested in carrying out research work on bark.

THANK YOU

The Trustees of the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund would like gratefully to acknowledge a recent donation to the Fund of Ten Pounds from an anonymous giver. If perchance it came from a "Slasher" reader - Thank you, very much.

ARTIST'S TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSION

A painting entitled "The Deer Leap", by Mr. S.G. Brown, has been presented by the artist to the Commission. It will be hung in the Forest Museum at Cannock, which was opened last year as part of the Jubilee celebrations; the picture depicts a scene on the edge of the Chase.

Mr. Brown is former Chairman and now President of the Friends of Cannock Chase, and at the ceremony when he handed over his picture to Mr. J.S.R. Chard, Conservator NW(E), he related how he had first visited the Chase more than sixty years ago with a party of Scouts.

He paid particular tribute to the work of Chief Forester L.G. Morgan, who had spent more than forty years in the Forest, and who had contributed so much to the good relations between the Commission and local people and organisations. Mr. Brown added that without the work of the Commission "..... we should have lost this wonderful area of Cannock Chase".

BRITISH "PEN PAL" WANTED

In an official letter, Work Study Branch have been asked if they can find a "pen pal" for the 13 year old daughter of a German Oberförster. The young lady would like to write in English to a British girl and would be glad to receive letters in German from her. In short, a good opportunity for your daughter to perfect her German! Details from Work Study Branch at Alice Holt Lodge.

SAFETY

RINSE & RETURN

AN announcement from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, aimed at all users of pesticide products, urges them to "Rinse Out That Container".

MAAF says that the smallest amount of toxic chemical left in a used container can be a real danger to children and animals. If it gets into a ditch or stream it can also poison fish and livestock.

Empty metal or plastic containers should be thoroughly washed out and the washings added to the contents of the spray tank. Returnable containers should be washed out and sent back to the suppliers without delay. Cardboard containers and plastic sheet bags should be emptied completely and these and other combustible containers should be burned. Containers which will not burn should be flattened and buried at least 18 inches deep in an isolated area.

Partly-full containers should be tightly closed and stored in a safe place away from feedingstuffs and out of reach of children and animals.

Pesticides should never be transferred into other containers, especially beer and soft drink bottles.

M.O.D. FORESTRY

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE controls some 3,500 acres of woodlands in Wiltshire and plantations are managed on Salisbury Plain proper and also at Porton, Monkton Farleigh, Corsham and Colerne. It is hoped to increase this area, by systematic replanting, to 4,500 acres within the next 20 years. At the present time about 200,000 trees are being planted per annum.

Part of the woodlands are dedicated with the Commission whilst other woodlands are planted to improve and assist in military training.

The object of management of these woodlands are three-fold and can best be defined as follows:

- to enhance and preserve the amenities of Ministry of Defence property in Wiltshire;

- to provide and replace woodland cover for armoured, artillery and infantry training; and

- to produce good quality timber for sale.

Work of this nature requires a great deal of expertise, and in order to keep the Lands and Technical Officers of the Ministry of Defence abreast of the new forestry working techniques, a course of instruction is currently being given on Salisbury Plain.

The Course is under the direction of Mr. S.J. Cobb, the Ministry of Defence Land Agent at Durrington, and is being conducted by Mr. B.A. Painter, a Commission Head Forester on loan to the Ministry of Defence.

Students, who are drawn from Ministry of Defence Lands Offices in Southern England and Wales, are given a thorough briefing on the new systems employed in forestry; this is followed by practical demonstrations in the woodlands of forestry tools and machinery and exercises are conducted in the best modern methods of utilising men and machinery.

NEWS FROM H.Q. AND CONSERVANCIES

H.Q.

DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

THE COMMISSIONERS have announced that Mr. David R. Johnson, MA, has been appointed Director of Management Services Division, in succession to Mr. John Q. Williamson, MBE. The appointment will date from 1st June, 1970.

WILDLIFE ADVISER TO THE COMMISSION

MR. J.S.R. CHARD, B.Sc., Conservator of Forests for North West England, has been appointed Wildlife Adviser to the Commission in succession to Mr. P.F. Garthwaite, who retired recently. The Commission's Wildlife Adviser is responsible for advice to the Board of Commissioners on wildlife matters as they concern forest management and silviculture.

MR. JOHN Q. WILLIAMSON, MBE.

AFTER 34 years with the Commission Mr. John Q. Williamson is off to take up an F.A.O. appointment with the Chilean Forestry Division. Truly one of the "characters" which this Commission seems able to produce in a quantity rare in these conformist days, he will be remembered in many anecdotes and any account of the Commission's achievements. But perhaps he will be best recalled for his boundless enthusiasm in the Commission's and forestry's cause both internally and in public. The Forest of Dean (perhaps his spiritual home?), the forests of Wales and many foresters who were trained by him in the vital period after the last war bear living tribute to this enormous zeal for his job and his interest in, and love of, people.

But we leave him to say for himself "Adios to the Commission":-

"I am glad that the Editor has allowed me to use these columns to say goodbye to all the friends I have in the F.C. before I depart for Chile. As many of you know, the Commissioners were good enough to second me to F.A.O. as forest adviser to the Chilean Government some three years ago, and during my stay there, one of my jobs was to prepare an acceptable plan of operations for a forestry project sponsored by the Special Fund of the United Nations Organisation.

"This plan, after much deliberation, has eventually been accepted by the Chilean Government who wish me to put it into operation. "Strengthening of the National Forestry Programme" is the project's name, and its main purpose will be to assist the Government of Chile in the organisation and initial operation of a model forestry programme in the most important forest region of the country, and at the same time to strengthen the Forestry Division of the Agricultural Service in dealing with the forestry problems of the country.

"If all goes well it will take five years to accomplish, and the project will employ experts in different disciplines from the developed forestry countries of the world. It will also provide equipment for forest development and award scholarships to selected Chilean forest officer counterparts to study the latest forestry techniques abroad. Chile is a fascinating country with tremendous forestry potential, and I only hope that an 'old sweat' like myself can do justice to the challenge!

"Leaving the Commission, my forestry home for 34 years, will be a real wrench, especially when we are all on the threshold of a new and exciting era of its history. But I have the consolation that my departure will help a little in the tricky matter of age structure and, in any case, I am only anticipating my normal retirement by less than 3 years.

"When I get settled into the new job I hope that the Slasher will find space for an account of my adventures in the New World, but in the meantime, I salute all my colleagues in the Commission and wish them happy forestry in the years ahead".

N.W.(E)

"THE COUNTRYSIDE THEATRE" - GRIZEDALE

In order further to encourage the general public towards a greater appreciation and understanding of Lakeland, an administrative body has been formed from local people to be known as the "Grizedale Society". The Society has now established the "Countryside Theatre" in part of the Forest Centre which opened to capacity audiences at Easter with two professional folk concerts and a lecture on "Wildlife in North America" by Professor Michael Thomas of the University of Syracuse, New York.

Many other talks, mainly of a natural history context and also exhibitions of Wildlife Art and Industrial Archeology etc. are being arranged.

Included in the cultural programme for the summer season are: "The Liverpool Scene" on June 11th: a programme of "Pop and Poetry". On July 11th "The Bliss of Solitude" (Richard Wordsworth) will be presented, and on August 15th there is to be an Andre Tchaikovsky piano recital. Dame Flora Robson and John Westbrook follow on September 5th in "A Pattern to all Princes", and on October 3rd, Sylvia Rosenberg will give a concert of violin music.

The whole scheme has received great support from many interested bodies, including the Countryside Commission, the Northern and North-West Arts Association, the Lake District Planning Board and the North Lonsdale R.D.C.

It is also hoped that the theatre will be used for conferences by various bodies such as natural history societies, and so on. The major use of the theatre, however, will be by the Forestry Commission, and organised visits to the forest will include a visit to the theatre to see the film "The Changing Forest", which will set the scene for the visit.

N.E.(E)

DEATH OF MR. T. V. DENT, MBE

MOST of his friends and colleagues will know that Mr. T.V. Dent who, until his retirement a week earlier had been Assistant Conservator in NE(E) Conservancy, died on April 11th.

He was attending a meeting of the Council of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust, of which he was an active member, when he collapsed and died almost at once.

He leaves a widow, son and three daughters.

Mr. Dent graduated at Edinburgh University in 1929 and took up an appointment in the Indian Forest Service where he remained until 1947. He was made MBE in 1946 for timber supply work during the war. In 1948 he joined the Commission as a District Officer in E(E) Conservancy and from there transferred to NE(E) in 1954. In 1955 he was promoted to Divisional Officer, becoming Assistant Conservator at the reorganisation in 1965. He retired on reaching the age of 61 on 4th April.

The funeral service at St. Cuthbert's, York, was attended by a large number of his colleagues from NE(E) Conservancy and elsewhere, and by representatives of his many friends in private forestry.

Mr. G.E. Godwin, Conservator NE(E) writes:-

"Tom Dent's death within a week of retiring shocked us all profoundly. It was typical of his modesty that he insisted on retiring without fuss, with no presentation and no formal speechmaking. In the event, the entire Conservancy Office staff gathered a few days before he left and he entertained us to wine and refreshments helped by two of his daughters, Kate and Brigid. The only things he would accept from us were his keys to forest gates, a nesting box similar to the 365 he had caused to be put up in Commission woods to mark ECY 70, and one SS plant raised in Wykeham nursery. Of course, a few words were said and Tom told us that he did not really feel that he was leaving us, and that we should be seeing him in the woods as before.

"And he would have been warmly welcomed by every forester in the Conservancy. He was held in quite exceptional regard and affection by every member of the staff. Unfailingly courteous, kind and considerate, he was absorbed in every aspect of the job. The whole English countryside was his subject and he could talk absorbingly on every aspect of it. He was far from being a ruthless planter of commercial forests, but he absorbed and applied each new advance in technique and management if it satisfied his standard of what was genuine and what was right. He was widely known and respected in the fields of private forestry and natural history in Yorkshire, and a past Chairman of the Yorkshire Division of the Royal Forestry Society. We are all the poorer at his passing."

His old friend and colleague, Mr. Robin Drummond, MBE, lately Assistant Conservator North Wales writes:

"Tom was my best friend during our time at Edinburgh University Forestry Department. He was always a character who liked to take the unusual line, as exemplified in scoring the winning try, enabling Forestry to win the Stebbing Cup for the first time.

"We went to India together, and Tom went to Bengal where he became an authority on the capture of wild elephants. He often lived hard and rough - a fact which may have contributed to the severe arthritis from which he latterly suffered. At least he died as he would have wished - quickly, and following his real interests to the last."

It is fitting that Tom Dent's last major planting project should be a popular feature of this year's Touring Show Unit. It was chosen to illustrate the Commission's execution of its belief in multiple land use and how, by bringing the regional planning authorities, the Nature Conservancy, and other interested local Naturalists' Trusts and voluntary bodies, into planning at an early stage, the interests of all, including the Commission, may be served.

E(E)

PRODUCTIVITY

EAST (ENGLAND) CONSERVANCY have done it again! In March 1969 we reported that E(E) had exceeded receipts for produce of over £100,000 in a month. They have now achieved another "milestone" by obtaining gross receipts of over a million Pounds in F.Y.69/70; actual receipts were £1,017,286 of which £894,035 (88%) was in respect of produce.

During the year, over a million H.ft. has been felled at Thetford Forest in each of the last two quarters of the year. We think that this is the first time that any Conservancy or Forest has achieved figures of this magnitude.

East (England) hopes to go one better during F.Y.70/71 by obtaining receipts of over one million Pounds for produce alone.

RETIREMENTS

CHIEF FORESTER C.W. REDFORD, BEM.

AT a gathering of Forestry Commission staff held on Wednesday, 11th March,

Chief Forester C.W. Redford, BEM, was presented with a Carpentry Set to mark his retirement after nearly 40 years with the Forestry Commission.

The presentation was carried out by Mr. G.W. Backhouse, Conservator of Forests for East England. Prior to the presentation Mr. Backhouse referred to Chief Forester Redford's long service with the Forestry Commission.

The presentation, which was held at the Village Hall, Santon Downham, was attended by Forestry Commission staff from all over East England. During the ceremony Mr. Perry, District Officer Thetford, presented Mr. and Mrs. Redford with an illuminated scroll granting them the freedom of Thetford Forest. Mrs. Redford was presented with a brooch by Mr. Backhouse and a bouquet of flowers by Miss J. Rule.

HEAD FORESTER CHARLES A. BLOOR

In spite of snow and frost and an inauspicious date, there was a very well-attended gathering at the "Red Lion", Yardley Hastings, on Friday, 13th February. Some had travelled over a hundred miles to pay their tribute to Mr. Bloor. Soon there was enough warmth and well-being inside the Red Lion to make the well-wishers forget the cold outside.

Mr. N.S. Munro, District Officer, spoke of the fine work Mr. Bloor had done, and Head Forester E.J. Acott, on behalf of the District, presented him with a nest of tables in oak and a cheque, expressing the esteem and respect in which he was held by his colleagues who had always found him helpful and ready to advise. Mrs. Bloor was presented with a bouquet.

Mr. Bloor joined the Commission in October 1927. After attending Forester Training School in the Dean he was posted to Thetford, serving there, in the Chilterns and Northamptonshire, where he ended his career in charge of Yardley Chase. During the war he was a temporary District Officer with H.P.T.D.

At a later meeting, farmer neighbours presented him with a Parker pen set and an alabaster table lamp. Mr. and Mrs. Bloor, with their two daughters, have settled in the nearby village of Denton and our good wishes go with them for a long and happy retirement.

NEW FOREST/S.E(E)

CHANGE OF SCENE

AFTER twentyone years in the New Forest, Head Forester John Wood has been transferred to Ashford in Kent, where he will be employed on giving advice to private woodland owners in the area.

John Wood has been in charge of what is now known as Ladycross since 1954. "When I took over what was the old Stockley beat of the Forest", says John "I succeeded Jimmy Adams, who had been in charge since 1927. It was quite a job".

A keen amateur film maker, John Wood became well-known in the Forest through his illustrated lectures on various aspects of forestry and the countryside. He was long associated with Brockenhurst Grammar School through his liaison work on field work and geographical studies, and his assistance with the Cadet Corps at the school. His successor at Ladycross is Head Forester Richard Devine from Maresfield Forest in Sussex.

S.W(E)

"FIRST FOREST" HAS A PARTY

TO celebrate the part that forest workers have played in the creation of our forests over the past 50 years, past and present forest workers at Eggesford Forest met on the 23rd March 1970 in Flashdown Plantation where the first planting by the Forestry Commission was carried out fifty years ago.

Mr. Stan Forrester, the District Officer in North Devon for the Forestry Commission, paid tribute to the forest worker. He said that the Forestry Commission was extremely fortunate that they have been able to rely on the loyalty and co-operation of hard working staff. Working in the Forestry Commission, he said, was much more like working in a small firm, rather than one as large as it now is.

Mr. Fulford, Head Forester at Eggesford, welcomed the several retired workers who were able to join the party on a bright Spring morning. Also present was Mrs. Eileen Down, married to one of the present forest staff, and daughter of Mr. E.C. Kibble, who was for twenty-six years in charge of Eggesford Forest.

Plots of Douglas fir and Norway spruce have already been planted by the present forest squad. On this occasion, all the retired forest workers were traced, Mrs. Down, Mr. Jack Kingdom (the oldest member of the present squad), and his wife, planted trees to extend the avenue started by Lord Clinton and the Forestry Commission's Chairman in December.

Needless to say, many yarns were exchanged on times past, the talk continuing over a quiet drink at the Eggesford Bar.

N.(S)

MR. HAMISH A. MAXWELL, B.A.(FORESTRY)

MR. H.A. MAXWELL, Conservator North (S) retired on May 19th after more than 22 years' service with the Commission. He is succeeded by MR. R.A. INNES, B.SC.(FORESTRY), who was previously Assistant Conservator North (S).

Brought up in Inverness and educated at the Inverness Royal Academy, Mr. Maxwell graduated from Oxford University in 1931 and went on to join the Burma Forest Service

where he remained until 1942, serving in a number of specialist posts including those of Forest Economist and Game Warden.

As a member of the Burma Reserve of Officers, Mr. Maxwell served in the Army in Burma and India - being mentioned in Despatches and reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His main service was on the Chinese frontier, where he was attached to the Kachin Levies.

Mr. Maxwell joined the Commission in 1948 and was assigned to the East Scotland Conservancy at Banchory. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Conservator in 1951 and moved to Aberdeen. He was transferred to the West Scotland Conservancy headquarters in Glasgow where he served for five years until his promotion to Conservator in 1958, when he moved to the Commission's Scottish headquarters in Edinburgh. In 1963 he transferred to the North Scotland Conservancy headquarters at Inverness to succeed the Commission's present Director General, Mr. J.A. Dickson, CB, LLD, as Conservator for North Scotland.

Like many of the Commission's Staff on retirement, Mr. Maxwell will continue to lead an active life as he has been appointed to the Scottish Committee of the Nature Conservancy, is a member of the Highlands & Islands Development Board Consultative Committee, and he has also agreed to act as Secretary for the Northern Region of the Scottish Woodland Owners' Association (Commercial). He will continue to live near Inverness.

FAREWELL DINNER

On Friday, 29th May, 120 friends and colleagues of Hamish Maxwell met to do him honour at a Farewell Dinner held in the National Hotel, Dingwall. Mr. R.A. Innes, who has succeeded him, was in the Chair, and paid warm tribute to the many fine qualities displayed by Mr. Maxwell and the excellent work that he had done in his seven years as Conservator in the area.

Mr. Innes then introduced our Director General and called on him to make the presentation of our farewell gifts. The Director General thanked Mr. Maxwell for the fine work he had done throughout his service and made reference to the sterling qualities of integrity, diligence and fairness he had always displayed. He then presented Mr. Maxwell with an office chair, a barometer and a wallet of notes on behalf of his many friends, not only in North Scotland Conservancy but throughout the whole of the Forestry Commission.

Mrs. Maxwell was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mrs. I. Fleming of the Conservancy office.

In his reply Mr. Maxwell thanked everyone for the help and loyalty he had received from them and their kindness in giving him such handsome gifts. He was especially grateful that he had been privileged to serve for the last seven years in what was to him the finest Conservancy in the Forestry Commission.

Mr. George MacKenzie, until recently Conservator in East Scotland, added his good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

E.(S)

MR. EVAN McLEOD

APRIL 28TH was the last day of Mr. Evan McLeod's service with the Forestry Commission and on the 17th he was joined by his colleagues in the Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin, and presented with a set of tumblers and tray. He had

previously been presented with a golf bag by the workers at Newton and Roseisle.

Evan McLeod joined the Forestry Commission at Monaughty in 1923 and after practical experience at that forest, trained at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, returning to the North-East of Scotland to serve at Bin and Clashindarroch Forests.

He left the Commission before the war and rejoined in 1940 when he took over a sawmill with the Home Grown Timber Production Department of the Board of Trade at Glen Tauchers which was later to become part of Rosarie Forest. His last 14 years of service was spent at Roseisle which was joined with Newton Nursery as one unit in 1965.

Mr. and Mrs. McLeod have moved to Wester Unthank Farmhouse, Duffus, Elgin, Morayshire. We wish them both well in retirement and hope that Evan spends many happy days on the golf course at Elgin, where he is a popular member of the local club.

HEAD FORESTER WILLIAM McDONALD

MR. WILLIAM McDONALD, Head Forester,
Drumtochty Forest, retired from service

with the Commission at the end of March, 1970, after a long period of service extending to forty-six years.

Starting as a Forest Worker in 1924, Mr. McDonald progressed through Ganger, Foreman, Acting Grade I Forester ranks to Head Forester, continually accumulating experience of forestry and the management of forests, experience which he put to good use when in charge successively of Kirkhill, Tentsmuir and Drumtochty Forests.

In opening the proceedings at a tea party at Drumtochty organised by the local staff and their wives in honour of Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mr. I.J. Stewart, District Officer, referred to the pleasure he had had in working with Mr. McDonald and forecast that his name would be associated with Drumtochty for a long time.

The Conservator, Mr. E.G. Richards, who was accompanied by Mrs. Richards, spoke of Mr. McDonald's competence and efficiency as a forester and manager and expressed appreciation of the way he had, at each of his Forests, enhanced the good name of the Commission in the minds of the local population by fostering good public relations. Mr. Richards, after referring to Mr. McDonald's interest in wood-working and gardening, for which he might find more time available in the future, called on Mr. Ray Horne, Assistant Conservator, who had been a friend and colleague for many years, to present to Mr. McDonald a cheque signifying the good wishes of all for the years ahead. Mrs. McDonald was presented with a bouquet.

MR. IAN STEWART

MR. AND MRS. IAN STEWART and their
sons, Hugh and John, entertained to

luncheon in their home a representative gathering from East (Scotland) Conservancy on Wednesday, 27th May, 1970. The occasion was to mark the retirement of Mr. Ian Stewart, District Officer, Brechin, from the Forestry Commission after 22 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

Mr. Stewart graduated in 1937, had a short spell as a forest worker in Alltcailleach Forest in East (Scotland) and later was in charge of a large district in the northern part of the Conservancy. His district at this time included Queen's and Inshriach Forests now in North (Scotland). Later, he played an important role in the post-war private woodlands schemes in East and West Scotland. When the Commission was re-organised, Mr. Stewart took over a District in West Scotland, and in 1967 he rejoined East (Scotland).

Mr. E.G. Richards presented Mr. Stewart with a cheque on behalf of his colleagues in the Commission, and paid tribute to the extremely professional standards which Mr. Stewart had maintained throughout his service in the Commission.

In thanking his colleagues for their gift Mr. Stewart said he wished to thank particularly all the foresters who had given him such loyal and encouraging help throughout his career, and to the administrative and executive staff of the Commission who had always been helpful and cooperative in their dealings with him.

N.(W)

MR. JOHN DAVIES

AFTER 44 YEARS of loyal and conscientious service to the Forestry

Commission, John Davies, Lledr Forest, retired on 10th April.

A modest man, never wishing publicity but always cheerful and very efficient in his work, John is a remarkable man for his age and could outpace men far his junior. In June 1969 he was selected to attend the Forestry Commission Jubilee Celebration at Edinburgh.

At a small gathering of his colleagues at Wibernant, overlooking the Lledr Valley, Mr. J.H. James, Conservator North Wales, paid warm tribute to his loyal and faithful service and presented him with the "Long Service Certificate". The first in North Wales to receive the award. The staff at Lledr presented him with a clock which had a suitable inscription on the dial.

Also present were District Officer G.F. d'A Savage, together with the Head Forester and Forester. All his friends in N(W) and elsewhere join to send John Davies their very good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

SCOTTISH GOLD

Mr. D.W.L. Robertson, C.E.A. in the North Area N(W), was married recently to Miss A. Clegg, of the Gwydyr Castle. The wedding ring was made from gold 'panned' by Mr. Robertson in Sutherland.

RESEARCH

RETIREMENTS

CHIEF FORESTER JAMES FARQUHAR, MBE

CHIEF FORESTER JIMMY FARQUHAR, of
Silviculture North Section of Research

Division retired in March, after 35 years in forest research and over 40 years in forestry.

Jimmy Farquhar was a student at the Beaufort Forester Training School from 1926 to 1928, and was a Ganger at South Laggan Forest and a Foreman on Sample Plots before joining Research in East Scotland in 1931. He was in charge of all the early experimentation at Teindland, experimentation which has improved tree growth on a notoriously poor soil from 'almost nil' (the experiment area was well known for its S.P. of diminutive height but great age) to 'rapid and successful'. In 1936 his research territory was extended to cover part of the north of Scotland, and from 1941 to 1945 he was responsible to the Research Officer, for all research in Scotland, and also for a series of investigations under H.G.T.P.D.

He became a Head Forester in 1946 and was stationed at Tulliallan in 1950 with

oversight of research in the Borders and N.W.(E) Conservancy. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1962. In 1966 he became a Chief Forester and, in addition to his immediate charge of Silviculture research in East, Central and South Scotland, he undertook many special investigations which took him to most parts of the country.

Jimmy Farquhar made important contributions to research in many ways. His work on heathland afforestation problems and on peat planting was outstanding. He played a large part in the establishment of the first experiments in Shetland, has been in charge of them ever since, and has been responsible for advice to Shetlanders on tree planting - not an easy task in that windswept environment! He was in charge of experimentation with poplars in Scotland and, more recently, has been researching into herbicides.

Jimmy Farquhar's retirement was marked by a visit to the new Northern Research Station, and a dinner in Edinburgh in the evening, at which he and Mrs. Farquhar were guests of honour. Mr. G.G. Stewart, Commissioner, Forest Management, paid a warm tribute to Jimmy Farquhar, and Mr. G.D. Holmes, Director, Research gave a speech of appreciation and good wishes on behalf of Jimmy Farquhar's friends in Research and presented him with a gift of his choice, in M.L. Anderson's "History of Scottish Forestry". Mr. J.A.B. MacDonald, formerly in charge of Research in Scotland, presented a mounted section from a tree from one of the original Teindland Experiments, and Mrs. D.K. Fraser presented Mrs. Farquhar with a bouquet of flowers.

Professor J.D. Matthews, Aberdeen University, Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr, Senior Officer, Wales, Mr. D. Crawford, of S.W.O.A., Mr. R. Hendrie and Mr. G. Pringle, from Silviculture South Section of the Research Division, Miss Irene Gray, and Mr. Holtam and members of staff from the Northern Research Station were among those present to wish Jimmy Farquhar a very happy retirement.

(Note:- Jimmy Farquhar has also asked that his thanks be relayed by the Slasher to all those who contributed towards his retirement presentation).

CHIEF FORESTER JOHN WEATHERELL

JOHN WEATHERELL, the Chief Research Forester at Wykeham, retired at the

end of March, after a career in forest research remarkable for length and achievements.

He started his forestry in 1928 as a forest worker at Hamsterley Forest and was trained at the Dean Forester School in 1929-31. He was involved in research in 1931, first at Parkend and then at Oxford, where he was promoted Foreman in 1932. In 1933 he was transferred to Allerston where he worked until his retirement. At Allerston he was successively promoted through the then forester grades to become a Head Forester in 1950, and a Chief Forester in 1965.

John Weatherell is chiefly renowned for his work on heathland afforestation at Allerston where he was involved with every kind of experiment. He was concerned with heathland cultivation from the beginning, with trials of species and with the problem of heather suppression. His published work includes "Experiences with Leguminous Nurses in Forestry", written in collaboration with his colleague and friend Maurice Nimmo; "The Checking of Forest Trees by Heather" and "The Use of Nurse Species in the Afforestation of Upland Heaths". His help is acknowledged in several major publications, particularly Bulletins 22 and 32. He took a leading part in experiments in planting in the polluted areas of the Pennines. More recently he has been concerned with forest nutrition, regeneration studies and genetics.

John Weatherell has had a long and close association with researchers from Universities, primarily with G.W. Dimbleby at Oxford, and later with researchers from Sheffield and Hull Universities. Interested visitors to his area could count on a

warm welcome, sound advice and frequent argument (which the visitor was hard pressed to win!).

His retirement was marked by an excursion, organised and led by him to experiments in the Allerston area, followed by a dinner in the evening at the Thornton Dale Hotel in honour of both him and Mrs. Weatherell. The excursionists faced a cold moorland day but were thoughtfully warmed up by John Weatherell by argument and debate on one of his latest experiments in landscaping by rigg and furr to drain impervious clay soils.

At dinner in the evening, Mr. G.D. Holmes, Director Research, spoke of John Weatherell's achievements, gave him warm good wishes for his retirement from his many friends and presented him with a gift of his choice, a slide copier. Mr. J.A.B. MacDonald, a former Silviculturist North, presented him with a 'slice of his past' in the form of a mounted section from a tree from an early Wykeham experiment, and Mrs. K.A.S. Gabriel presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Weatherell.

Many of John Weatherell's friends were present, including Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr, Senior Officer Wales, Professor J.D. Matthews from Aberdeen University, Mr. G. Godwin, Conservator NE(E), Mr. Hammersley of Duchy of Lancaster Estates, Dr. J. Read, of Sheffield University, and members of staff from the Northern Research Station, Alice Holt and NE(E) Conservancy. John and Mrs. Weatherell will continue to live at Scarborough.

(Note:- John Weatherell has asked that thanks be conveyed through the Slasher to all those who sent him good wishes and joined in his retirement present, as it will be some time before he can thank everyone personally).

LETTERS

LOST ACRES AND LOST WAYS

Research Forester Eric Crofts of Tulliallan Nursery W(S) writes:

"I was disappointed to discover, after I had completed a lot of work on a lengthy article on the waste of land and aesthetic disadvantages of forest rides, that the splendid F.C. Journal was no longer to be published.

"My paper is much too comprehensive for the Slasher, and would suffer much in condensing, so the world of forestry is denied my gem of original thought. But your readers might be interested to know that accurate measurements of forest maps in NE(E) have shown that up to 25% of a forest area is under unproductive and unsightly rides. The average wastage in the areas measured (all non-agricultural, crop-covered, forest areas of about 200 acres each) is 12% to 15%.

"In the last issue of Slasher my colleague, Research Forester John White of Wykeham, commented on the ease with which one can get lost in an unfamiliar forest, and as the former cartographic draughtsman for NE(E) Conservancy in which his Research projects are situated, I take his complaint personally.

"For seven years until 1969, I lovingly cared for my forest maps and used a legend which, although not in the Maps Code was agreed to by H.Q. Drawing Office, whereby forest roads stood out clearly. On Wykeham Forest maps, all roads, motorable rides and other rides are clearly distinguishable. A personal arrangement with civil engineers brought in new information as roads, or sections of roads, were completed, and the map transparencies brought up-to-date. A mailing list of all interested parties,

including Research Head Foresters, meant that they were given amended map prints as soon as the additions were made.

However, people will keep on using old map prints. I lost a Conservator this way when he used a map nearly a year out of date and went along a new road which had been thrown across a large forest area in a short time by our industrious engineers, but he found his way back".

(We have asked Mr. Crofts to send in his article, so perhaps this 'gem of original thought' may not be lost after all. ED.)

FROM THE PAPERS

PAPER OUTPUT UP

Output from British paper mills continued its upward trend during the first quarter of this year, although the rate of growth was slower. During the three months the mills turned out a record 893,000 tons of paper compared with 881,000 tons during the same period of last year.

Production of board (grades over 220 g.s.m.) on the other hand, was down to 331,000 tons, compared with 347,000 tons a year ago, giving a total output of paper and board of 1,224,000 tons, practically the same as last year's 1,228,000 tons.

These figures were published on May 19th, 1970, by the British Paper and Board Makers' Association, representing 99 per cent of the U.K. industry.

Exports from U.K. paper and board mills amounted to 59,000 tons and worth £13 million, were up by 15 per cent in volume and 18 per cent in value.

Imports of paper and board continued to enter the country at a high rate. At 647,000 tons, costing £52 million, they were up 14 per cent in volume and 22 per cent in cost. They accounted for 36 per cent of U.K. consumption during the first quarter of 1970 compared with 33 per cent a year ago. U.K. consumption of paper and board was up nearly 4 per cent during the quarter.

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY'S NEW PRESIDENT

Following two years of distinguished service as President of the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, Mr. Charles J. Venables, OBE, retired from office at the recent annual meeting in Hexham.

He was succeeded by Mr. R.H.B. Hamersley, MVO, JP, who is agent for the Duchy of Lancaster estates in Yorkshire. The Society's new Vice-President is Lord Inglewood, a woodland owner in Cumberland.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF TRADA

Mr. Felix Palmer is the new Chairman of the Timber Research and Development Association. Mr. Palmer is a director of Churchill & Son Ltd, the London woodbrokers. He entered the timber trade in 1928 and has been Vice-Chairman of TRADA (1968-1970), Chairman of the Softwood Agents' and Brokers' Association (1966-1969) and a member of the Executive Council of the Timber Trade Federation of the U.K.

Mr. Palmer has devoted much time and energy to problems connected with the

international transportation and handling of softwood timber, and since 1964 he has been the Timber Trade Federation's nominee to represent the timber trade as adviser to the Board of Trade on the timber committee of the ECE in Geneva.

NEW LAND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Mr. George Chetwynd, CBE, who is at present Deputy Chairman of the Commission, will take over when Sir Henry Wells, CBE, who has been Chairman of the Commission since its inception, retires at the end of June. Mr. Chetwynd's appointment is for a period of three years.

NO CHANGE SINCE 1970 B.C.

As a contribution to European Conservation Year, the Department of Human Environment put on a small exhibition in London entitled "The Countryside in 1970 B.C." It showed panoramas of the Wiltshire Downs and the Cleveland Hills, together with reconstructions of what they probably looked like in late Neolithic times. The nature of the evidence on which the reconstructions were based was illustrated with colour photographs and photomicrographs.

Though it may appear that palaeoecology has little connection with modern problems of environmental degradation, this is not so. Major changes of ecosystems took place during the prehistoric period and some of these have left their mark even on the present-day scene. Another point which emerges from such studies is that the attitude of man towards his environment to-day is basically what it was in prehistoric times - to get what he can with little regard for the consequences to the environment.

The exhibition will be displayed at the Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, W.C.1. in November, when anyone interested is welcome to visit it.

FALL OF MAN

One of the best known landmarks in the New Forest, the "Naked Man", has fallen down again. A report in a Hampshire newspaper says that the dead, beetle-riddled oak near Wilverley Enclosure is thought to have been used as a gibbet, and its last victim was a highwayman named Markway.

The tree was first depicted by Isaac Taylor on his map of Hampshire in 1759, and is shown there with stubby arms as 'a naked man', with two disjointed limbs grotesquely extended and is probably the earliest accurate picture of an individual tree on any English map. It has fallen before and once more it will be righted and propped up by the Commission.

BOOKS

An authoritative, well illustrated little book "Birds of the Dean Forest Park" has recently been published by the authors, Messrs. John Niles and Stephen Cooper.

The authors have spent several years observing and recording the natural history of the Forest of Dean and its surroundings, and this book contains the result of their researches in easily digestible form, including a check list of birds to be found, a useful bibliography, and addresses of local organisations and societies.

Recommended to all interested in ornithology, copies may be obtained (price 8/6d post free) from Mr. Stephen Cooper, Chestnuts Lodge, George Lane, Littledean, Glos.

GAME CONSERVANCY

The first Annual Review of the new Game Conservancy makes very interesting reading, as most of its contents deal with conservation in one form or another.

Contained within its 96 pages are a number of articles which may have an appeal to our readers; amongst them are such titles as "A Suggested Scottish Woodland Policy", "Acclimatisation of Game Birds", and "Planting Small Areas for Game"; these and others, are well illustrated by pictures and diagrams.

The Review is supplied free to members of the Game Conservancy, but may be purchased (7/6d post free) from the G.C. offices at Fordingbridge in Hampshire.

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ARTICLE "BANK"

The editor would like to remind his readers that articles on various subjects, chatty, light or serious, but all naturally needing to serve the general interests of Slasher readers - which takes in all Commission employees - will be gratefully received.

Serious (but not too esoteric) articles of the type which may have been submitted for the Forest Journal - now ceased publication - will be especially welcome, together with supporting photographs, line drawings, etc.

These contributions are required in order to build up a reserve of material for the new Slasher.

Much as we agree that literary works deserve payment, readers will appreciate that Slasher is a purely internal and free publication, so we regret contributions cannot be paid for.

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STOP PRESS

MR. PHILIP NICHOLLS

The Prime Minister's office has announced that H.M. The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Philip Nicholls to be a member of the Forestry Commission as Commissioner for Administration and Finance, in succession to Mr. P.F.R. Beards who has retired on health grounds.

The appointment, which will take effect from June 15th, 1970, is at Under Secretary level.

Mr. Nicholls has been an Assistant Secretary in the Treasury since 1954. He was educated at Malvern College and Pembroke College, Cambridge, and from 1936 until 1940 he was Assistant Master, and then Senior Master, at Malvern College.

After war service, during which he attained the rank of Major, he joined the Foreign Office as a Temporary Principal in 1947, transferring to the Treasury in 1949.

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