

The ELASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

Issued by
**INFORMATION
OFFICER**

No 266

March/April 1971

RECREATION POLICY

"Public demand for countryside recreation is increasing rapidly. The Forestry Commission is in a unique position to help to meet this demand since it is responsible for almost 3,000,000 acres of land in Great Britain, distributed widely throughout the country. Further, forest and woodland have a greater capacity for absorbing people in the countryside without impairing the environment than other forms of land use. The Commission's staff, too, are highly trained and have long experiences in land management."

So started the Commission's Recreation Policy statement which was given to the Press at a conference at Savile Row on 5 April 1971. This statement was based on the recently issued SM 19 - Appendix I and was accompanied by the newly published illustrated leaflet "Recreation in Your Forests", "See Your Forests" and the camping leaflet, "The Forest Parks" booklet and "Forestry Commission and Conservation".

Our Chairman - Lord Taylor of Gryfe - who was supported at the table by Mr G G Stewart (Commissioner for Forest & Estate Management) and Mr C D Begley (Head of Forest Management Division), addressed the 35 journalists present emphasising that the Commission and its staff had longer experience and expertise in the provision of countryside recreation than any other body in Great Britain. He stressed past achievements and plans for the future of which mention of the possibility of setting up small groups of log cabins for short holiday lets in some forest areas particularly attracted Press interest. The Chairman also mentioned our new 'house-style' of notices (some of which were displayed in the conference room), our keenness for schools to use the forests for educational purposes, the litter menace, our range of publications and the rapid growth of public use of the forests and our camp sites. The many and varied questions asked showed that interest had been aroused; subsequent news media coverage has been most satisfactory.

PRINCE OF WALES COMMITTEE

A new organisation has recently been set up to take the place, in Wales, of the Countryside in 1970 Committee. It will be known as the Prince of Wales Committee, with His Royal Highness as Chairman, and among its members will be Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr, Senior Officer for Wales.

Speaking at a Press conference, the Prince of Wales said "The idea of the changes is to try and get away from the idea that the Committee is purely associated with the countryside, but to deal with all aspects of environment, including urban and countryside".

The Prince also announced the setting up of a Welsh Environment Foundation, which will be supported by public subscription and will give grants to various conservation projects.

CHAIRMAN AND LADY TAYLOR VISIT NORTHERN RESEARCH STATION

Chief Research Officer (North) and the staff of the Northern Research Station were particularly delighted that Lord Taylor, our Chairman, was accompanied by Lady Taylor when he visited them on Thursday morning, 18th March.

Lord and Lady Taylor were met by Mr. Brian Holtam and senior members of his staff, who conducted them on a tour of the offices, laboratories and greenhouses. Lord Taylor then talked to the assembled staff in the Library.

The weather was, unfortunately, cold and wet, but, in what has already become recognised as Northern Research style, a colourful display of flowers, gay dresses and happy smiles presented a warm and cheerful reception. Miss Rosemary Barron presented Lady Taylor with a bouquet of flowers on arrival, when both she and Lord Taylor were also given gay flowers for their buttonholes. They were both warmly invited to return to the Northern Research Station in, it was hoped, better weather.

PROMOTION

Congratulations to the following District (Forest) Officers I, on their promotion to Assistant Conservator (Forest), following the Interview Board held in February:-

Mr. I.A.D. Grant (North East England)
Mr. R.T.F. Larsen (West Scotland)
Mr. G.G.M. Taylor (Research)

NEW PRESIDENT OF BRITISH PAPER AND BOARD MAKERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. John Curtis, Chairman of Thames Board Mills Limited, has been elected President of the British Paper and Board Makers' Association which represents 99 per cent of the U.K. industry. Mr. Curtis, 57, joined Thames Board Mills Limited, largest manufacturers of packaging boards in Europe, in 1957, and was appointed to the Board of Directors in 1958.

Britain's paper and board industry is a major import saver. It is the sixth largest paper and board industry in the world, second largest in Europe and has an annual output of nearly 5 million tons worth over £500 million. More than 90,000 people are employed in about 175 mills, most of them situated in Buckinghamshire through to Kent, Lancashire, the West and South Wales, the Scottish Lowlands and Aberdeenshire.

At the same time, increasing use of home produced raw materials - timber from U.K. forests and waste paper - is limiting the importation of wood pulp. In 1969 a record 416,000 tons of wood pulp were made in Britain and 72 per cent of it came from home grown timber. In the same year the industry used 1,827,000 tons of waste paper.

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF METRICATION

A report from the Metrication Board says that the present overall public awareness of metrication is 62%. In all Regions more than half of those interviewed are aware of the change. In July 1969, when the first survey was taken, there was confusion between metrication and the change to decimal currency. This is no longer true.

There has been a steady increase in knowledge of the main metric units, and it appears that men are more knowledgeable than women of metric units except for the kilogramme, which is known to equal numbers of men and women.

The number of people expecting difficulty at work as a result of metrication has fallen steadily since the first survey. The overall percentage of those expecting such difficulty was: first survey 45%, second survey 40%, third survey 35%, and now 28%. The main source of knowledge about metrication is newspapers and the second main source is information obtained at work.

A HANDY POCKET BOOK

The Timber Growers' Organisation Ltd., has just produced a useful little handbook called "Mensuration Information and Record of Prices (Metric Edition)", which has a semi-stiff linen cover on which is printed various metric measures and scales.

The inside is packed with extremely useful mensuration information such as acres to hectares, hoppus feet to cubic metres, chains to metres, etc. The 19 tables are all drawn up with forestry in mind, and some are based on Forestry Commission booklets. Besides other general information, there are also 15 blank pages incorporated in the centre to be used as a mensuration book.

One of the attractions of this publication is that it is obviously designed to slip easily into one's pocket, and feels as though it will stand up to a lot of daily use in the field. Priced at 12½p, it may be obtained post free from T.G.O. headquarters, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG.

POCKET RELASCOPES (METRIC MODELS)

Some members of field staff are accustomed to using home-made relascopes to assess basal areas per acre and the purpose of this note is to enable people who are familiar with the use of this instrument to construct new ones which will give basal area values in square metres per hectare, or to convert existing ones to give readings in these new units.

Provided the techniques of using the instrument and the characteristics of the sampling method are fully understood, the relascope is an efficient means of estimating basal area per unit area. In the hands of the uninitiated, however, the relascope can give misleading results and it should not be used without adequate checks.

The following table gives the sizes of blade and lengths of chain or rod for relascopes with a range of multiplication factors. The first section of the table gives the factors for relascopes with a constant length of rod or chain but with varying blade width. The other two sections of the table cater for varying standard diameters of brass, aluminium or copper tubing with consequent changes in the length of rod or chain for a given factor.

(table on next page)

BASAL AREA FACTOR (multiplier)	Standard Length of Rod or Chain (mm)	Width of Blade or Aperture (mm)	Outside Diam.of Brass or Aluminium Tubing (ins) (mm)		Length of Chain or Rod (mm)	Nominal Bore of Copper Tubing (ins)	Actual Outside of same (mm)	Length of Chain or Rod (mm)
0.25	500	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
0.5	500	7.1	$\frac{1}{4}$	6.35	449	$\frac{1}{4}$	8.79	621
1	500	10.0	$\frac{3}{8}$	9.525	476	$\frac{3}{8}$	11.96	598
2	500	14.1	$\frac{1}{2}$	12.70	449	$\frac{1}{2}$	15.14	535
3	500	17.3	$\frac{5}{8}$	15.875	458	$\frac{1}{2}$	15.14	437
4	500	20.0	$\frac{3}{4}$	19.05	476	$\frac{3}{4}$	21.49	537
5	500	22.4	$\frac{7}{8}$	22.225	497	$\frac{3}{4}$	21.49	480
6	500	24.5	$\frac{7}{8}$	22.225	454	$\frac{3}{4}$	21.49	439

Note: The outside diameter of brass or aluminium tubing will alter in time, but no changes are expected in the dimensions of such tubing in the immediate future. The sizes of nominal bore copper tubing are expected to remain unchanged.

If the factor of an existing relascope, currently measuring basal area in h.ft/acre, is multiplied by 0.292 296 the resulting answer will give the new factor for assessing basal areas in sq m/ha. These new factors will seldom be whole numbers and it is usually advisable to construct new instruments based either on the information given in the table above or by substituting values in the following formula:

$$F = 2\,500 \left(\frac{w}{l} \right)^2 \text{ where } \begin{array}{l} F = \text{basal area factor} \\ w = \text{blade width in mm} \\ l = \text{measuring rod or chain length in mm} \end{array}$$

For measurement of basal area of thinnings a relascope with a factor of 1 or less will usually be most appropriate. For standing crops one with a factor of 3 will normally ensure that between 7 and 15 trees are included in each 360° sweep.

A comprehensive note on the use of relascopes has been prepared and copies can be obtained from the P & E Branch, Alice Holt Lodge, quoting Appendix 1V of Cartographic Surveying Instruction No. 4. (The above item was contributed by Mr.G.M.L.Locke of Alice Holt Lodge).

TREES WILL RIVAL LIONS AT LONGLEAT

Lord Bath's estate at Longleat - famous for its lions and other beasts - is now having its 200-year old arboretum (4,500 acres) brought into a good state of repair, and all its 355 species of trees classified and catalogued.

The work is being undertaken by Mr. Edward H. Brook Boulton - now in his sixties - who was Head of the School of Forestry at Cambridge for 14 years before the war, and who for the past 16 years has been timber adviser on the long-term reconstruction work of HMS Victory (Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship) at Portsmouth dockyard.

Generally known as "The Pleasure Walk", the arboretum contains some of the largest and rarest trees from all parts of the world to be found on any private estate. One of the largest is a giant Wellingtonia with a circumference of nearly 21 feet, and one of the Californian Redwoods introduced in 1841 has a girth of 20 ft. 8 ins. The job will take a number of years, and this veteran arboretum is bound to become an added attraction when it is opened to the public in due course.

BOOK REVIEW

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF AN ENGLISH FOREST: THE WILD LIFE OF WYRE - BY NORMAN HICKIN

Only occasionally does a great English forest get its portrait painted in full length. Norman E. Hickin, well-known in the wood preservation field through his association with the 'Rentokil' organisation, is also an able field naturalist and a first-class illustrator. Fifty years ago he first visited Wyre Forest as a boy from his Birmingham home, fell in love with the place, and has returned there as often as possible ever since!

Now he has produced a magnificent account of all its wild life - trees, flowers, birds, mammals, and insects. Wyre Forest, which covers 6,000 acres of hilly country west of the Severn, near Bewdley in Worcestershire, is remarkable for many rarities and survivals, and Norman Hickin knows them all. Roughly half this territory belongs to the Forestry Commission, and we have some outstanding crops of Douglas fir and European larch, as well as a new car park, picnic site and Forest Trails. The author - who finds conifers as fascinating as broadleaved trees - readily acknowledges the help he has received from two of our staff, Head Forester R.E. Young and Mr. Edwin George.

With 200 original line drawings showing every aspect of woodland wild life, from toadstools to bats and even fish from the Severn stream, this volume will help everyone who has to outline forest natural history for visitors, whether they work in the Midlands or elsewhere. The author's style is pleasantly readable, and he has a knack of fixing on the really remarkable facts about each creature. Did you know, for example, that the Great Spotted woodpecker will raid nestboxes and pull out unfortunate fledglings with its strong tongue? And have you heard of the "Whitty Pear", long believed to be the only True Service Tree, Sorbus domestica, growing wild in England? Just published by Hutchinsons, this beautiful book is excellent value at £3.

This review is by our Publications Officer, Mr. H.E. (Bill) Edlin.

ONION-SHAPED LOG LIFTER

Following some eight years of trials and experiments, the Bohemia Lumber Company of Culp Creek, Oregon, has developed a sophisticated balloon logging system as part of the normal operations.

Experiments proved that a static lift, onion-shaped, helium filled balloon did the best job, and is combined with a new-type variable interlocking yarder.

The balloon is 113 feet high, 105 feet wide, and with a minimum gas volume of 530,000 cu.ft. Made of Dacron, it is coated with Neoprin on both surfaces, and a coat of reflective paint is added to ensure a better seal and to protect the envelope from ultra violet rays.

It has a usable 'lift' of between 25,000 lbs. at sea level to 20,700 lbs. at 5,000 feet. Although it has great stability, it is not feasible to log in winds greater than 35 knots.

IT WAS THE BIRDS WOT DID IT!

There has been an interesting readers' response to the item headed "The Birds", by our Lyndhurst correspondent, in the last "Slasher".

Mr. Brian Bliss, HQ(L), says it is a "... well-known fact that grit helps the digestion of birds, especially passerines (perchers) and game birds such as pheasants and partridges, pigeons, and others". He adds that caged birds should have grit in

the bottom of their cages, as no doubt most readers will know.

A "Daily Express" reader asks a similar question (22.3.71.) as to why small flocks of birds are occasionally seen apparently feeding in the middle of the road, and the Expert's answer is that the birds need large amounts of "roughage" to aid their digestion.

So, it looks as if the mystery is solved, but what a perfect construction engineer's alibi for badly pot-holed roads: "It was O.K. yesterday - must have been the birds"!

MIND HOW YOU GO

There were 105 people killed on farms in England and Wales during 1970, which is 10 fewer than in 1969 but includes 24 children under 15 years of age, compared with 17 in the previous year. In Scotland there were 1,249 agricultural accidents in 1970, among which a total of 25 were fatal and 10 involved children under 15 years old. The main cause of these deaths was still the overturning tractor, but the number of such fatalities fell from 32 in 1969 to 25 last year.

Since 1956, more than 1,700 people have lost their lives in farm accidents in England and Wales alone. Of these, 490 were killed in overturning tractor accidents, and 267 of them involved children under 15 years of age.

Another very common cause of agricultural injury is falling, and it is thought probable that more time is lost to agriculture as a direct result of falls than from any other cause. While it is true that many suffer only relatively minor injuries, others are seriously handicapped for life and a number are killed. Many falls are caused by faulty or incorrectly used ladders - a lot of accidents result from the ladder suddenly slipping away. Badly worn, ill-lit or cluttered stairways are also great hazards, and outside steps which are often ice-covered or greasy in winter months, are especially treacherous.

Not enough attention seems to be paid to checking one's footwear. Well-worn soles provide no grip at all and offer little security from falling, especially when walking on smooth, wet concrete, wet leaves and similar slippery surfaces.

CREEPY!

A display advertisement in one of the national dailies recently announced there would be a "Meeting of the Holders of Frankenstein Stock, to be held in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, on March 19th, at 12 o'clock!

TIME ROLLS ON

Mr. W.J. Taylor, Tintern Forest, South Wales, writes:-

"When I left school and started work with the Forestry Commission in East Scotland my forest was situated about seven miles from my home town. As the area was a fairly recent acquisition, the gang consisted of a ganger and two ex-Timber Corps girls in whose company, needless to say, my education was widely broadened.

As a forester was not yet in residence in the area, recruitment of labour was rather slow in the initial stages, with the result that we had to cycle to work on a very undulating minor road. The thought of that arduous cycle journey at the beginning and end of each day throughout the winter months loomed menacingly in the forefront of our minds.

It was with great relief that we were informed that transport was being laid on, commencing one Monday morning. We were to report at the Market Square in the town at

7 a.m. instead of following our tortuous cycle course at 6.30 a.m. We all arrived at the Square promptly - perhaps even early. The only vehicle to be seen was a Rolls Royce taxi run by a local hirer. Eventually, after looking around for our transport, the chauffeur of the taxi beckoned us across to his car and inquired if we were "the forestry blokes". To our amazement, after replying in the affirmative, he told us to get in or else we would be late for work. I am sure it took us most of the rest of the day - or perhaps week - to recover from the shock, although the car was not exactly comparable with "regal standards". Forestry workers travelling to work by Rolls - well, need I say more?

On reflection, I often wonder what the townspeople thought as we descended from our limousine after a day's planting, "piece bags" on our backs, tacketty (hobnailed) boots, and generally grubby appearance.

Eventually, a lorry driver was recruited and a very high-sided ex-naval type truck acquired. We were being 'elevated' to even greater heights. It was quite a physical effort to reach our wooden seating under the galvanised iron shack. Alas, gone were our days of glory!"

MORE PRODUCTIVE FORESTS NEEDED

- F. A. O. -

An international meeting of foresters who met in Rome recently, pressed for a more rational and intensive utilization of existing forests, and for the plantation of new ones. If this were not done, the world would be unable to meet the growing demand that both industry and environment imposed on the forests.

The 100 and more delegates - foresters, economists and forestry officials from 59 countries - were taking part in the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Ad Hoc Committee on Forestry from February 1st to 6th.

In their final report, delegates recommended that better use be made of existing forests, especially in developing countries. Training more foresters, improving the tree species through selection, up-dating forest logging and transportation techniques, were among the measures asked by delegates to increase the forest output.

The delegates asked for new forest resources to be simultaneously found through accelerated afforestation.

The committee also recognized the growing importance of environment in forest activities, and the social functions of the forests in tourism, recreation, employment and other spheres. The report insisted, however, that although "the supply of wood and the supply of social services, such as protection and recreation, constituted one single problem, the production function would remain as the first objective of forestry, and one of paramount importance."

BARGAIN BASEMENT

An advertisement in the Aldershot "Midweek News", issue dated 23 March 1971 reads:

"5-FOOT approximately cross-cut saw, £1-25, handle each end"

Well, now, where else would you expect to find the handles?

NEWS FROM THE CONSERVANCIES

London Headquarters

STAFF

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Peter Hermon of Finance (Accounts) Section at Savile Row on gaining his Associateship of Certified and Corporate Accountants (A.A.C.C.A.), following five years of study.

"AU REVOIR" TO JANET MCCOLVIN

IT was "standing room only" in the Board room at Savile Row on January 15th, when London staff met to say "au revoir" to Janet (Mary) McColvin. Janet was leaving on promotion for the Public Trustee Office, where we understand that she, along with twenty-five other girls, is doing something rather complicated in the audit field.

Janet joined the Commission in 1962 and had spent most of the time since then in the Secretariat. However, she always remained cheerful. She became something of an expert on the legal niceties of dedication and literally set her seal on every deed and agreement.

Many people in the Conservancies will have seen and spoken to Janet, for off duty one of her special interests was the Inforesta Drama Group with which she made several tours of the Provinces. Those who did meet her will be glad to know that so thoroughly nice a person is not completely lost to us, for she intends to keep contact with the Drama Group.

In the absence of Mr John Summers (who was indisposed), Mr Richard Williams, on behalf of Janet's friends in the Commission, presented her with a cheque and expressed all our hopes for her continued happiness.

YOUNG AS YOU FEEL

MR R G (RENÉ) HARLOW, aged 78, one of Savile Row's corps of messengers, was married on March 27 to Mrs Winifred Mansfield, at Southwark Town Hall.

If René follows his family 'pattern' of longevity, he has a fair number of years left to enjoy wedded bliss. His grandfather reached the age of 92, his grandmother 91, his father 87 and his mother 88.

He has been a messenger at HQ for nearly 12 years, and first started work at the age of 7 as a milkboy, earning 10p per week. This "Worthy" from the Old Kent Road is well-known in his locality, and he should be, as he has lived in the same street for the whole of his life. During the first World War he served in the Tank Corps and the Army Remounts, and was in the Volunteer Fire Service throughout the last war. He clearly remembers attending Queen Victoria's funeral.

Our very best wishes go to René and Winifred; they certainly support the old adage that you are "as young as you feel"!

Basingstoke Headquarters

STAFF

OUR GOOD WISHES go to DFO(I) Bill Lindsay Smith (Conservation & Recreation Branch), who left us at the end of March to take up a post with the Economic Forestry Group as Southern Region Manager at Berkhamstead. Bill first joined our ranks in February 1948 as an Industrial Worker.

North East England

BIG FAREWELL FOR "BLANKS"

ON February 25th a farewell party was held in "The Rose and Crown" Inn, Bellingham, to say goodbye to MR. VALDEMAR BLANKENBURGS, Leading Civil Engineering Assistant, who was to retire on the following day after twenty-three years' service in the Commission.

"Blanks", as he has affectionately been known in the Border area, is more or less unique, as he is professionally qualified in engineering and also holds a degree in Forestry from the University of Latvia, in which country he was born, although he is now a naturalised Briton. His cheerful, rubicund face and pleasant manner have endeared him to all his colleagues, and more than sixty people turned up at the buffet party, including engineering, forest and estate staffs.

Mr. Godwin, Conservator, warmly thanked Mr. Blankenburgs for his loyal service to the Commission and presented him with a telescopic lens with which he is to indulge in his favourite hobby of photographing wild life; it is in this field that future contact would probably be maintained with the Commission, as he may be engaged to exercise his professional skill with the camera for the Commission in the Border area. He was also presented by his Civil Engineering worker friends from Kielder with a beautiful stick on which a skilfully carved horn handle had been fitted.

"Blanks" gave a humorous and witty reply to Mr. Godwin's remarks by relating several anecdotes from his service with the Commission, and concluded by saying that if Englishmen were reputedly off-hand and unfriendly, and Scots were "tight-fisted", then he had had the good fortune never to meet either an Englishman or a Scot.

He is to continue to live locally and we shall no doubt be seeing much more of him.

Other guests included Mr. E.H. MacMillen, Chief Engineer, Mr. T.A. Murdock, Conservancy Civil Engineer, Mr. J.B. Stocks, Assistant Conservator, Forest Management.

GENERATIONS OF THEM

HEAD FORESTER GEORGE SHARP, whose father and grandfathers were all Foresters, and whose three sons are timber merchants, retired from the Commission at the end of forty years' service, mostly in North East England. Following training at Parkend Forestry School in 1931 he served first at Thornthwaite, then on to Ennerdale, Kershope, and finally to York Forest where he finished his time.

Mr. Sharp was known for his creative turn of mind, with a particular flair for mechanical developments, and one of his successes which became universally known throughout the Commission was his development of the York Line-out Plough. He was also enthusiastic about public use of forests.

At a farewell dinner held in his honour at the Granby Lodge Hotel on February 26th, he was presented with a wristwatch and a tankard, in the presence of a large number of friends and colleagues, his wife, two sons and his daughter. In the tankard was a small tree labelled "The 153rd Millionth".

Mr. Sharp will still remain "in the business", as he intends to help his sons with their timber business in York.

South East England

HE "SPOKE TWO SPOKES"

SE(E) said "Ffarwel" at the end of February to MR. and MRS. DICK FRANCIS. Dick retired on St. David's Day as Head Forester of Chiddingfold Forest, where he had been since 1939.

He transferred his allegiance from farming to forestry in 1934 in his native North

Wales, and began his career with a few months' forest work which was terminated abruptly by a lay-off of workers. Towards the end of that year he was recalled and posted to the Dean School as a student, and from which in 1937 he was posted to Fine-shade, Northamptonshire. In February 1939, as Foreman, he was transferred to Chiddingfold SE(E) where he has stayed through several administrations until his retirement.

An impressively wide range of friends, colleagues and associates met to give Dick and his wife an appropriate send-off in the village hall at Dunsfold, in Surrey, on the 26th February. Ian Wood presented him with a shooting stick on behalf of the local staff and colleagues, and said that he had known Dick for some 22 years, during which he had undoubtedly had some disagreements with him. But it was a fair measure of the quality of Dick's personality that he could remember none of these. All the forest staff would miss him greatly: it is fair to say that he never lost the human touch in dealing with his staff, of whatever position, and that all were free to discuss the 'pros' and 'cons' of a decision before that decision was made.

Mrs. Francis was presented with a bouquet of glorious spring flowers by Mrs. Madge Cooper, who came to the forest as a land girl and is still a very active member of the staff.

Mr. Dallas Mithen, Conservator and Deputy Surveyor, then presented Mr. Francis with a cheque from colleagues in all branches of the Commission. In so doing, he paid tribute to Dick for many achievements - his perseverance in the early days in learning the job and its technicalities in a foreign language were not least in his career, and one attribute, (not generally appreciated or known about) which Dick possessed, was his ability to charm adders. On an inspection they are always known to be present in those areas of the forest where an inspection is least welcome! One Conservator, now long retired, was particularly susceptible to this situation. Mr. Mithen also recognised the part played by Foresters' wives in the running of a forest, and added his grateful thanks in this respect to Mrs. Francis, with those he gave to Dick for his many years of really worthwhile service to the Commission.

Dick, in his reply, traced something of his career, to the entertainment of those present. At a very early competitive interview another candidate convinced himself of success because "I speak two spokes"; fortunately for us, Dick did too, and he was there to prove it. He had seen many changes in his years at Chiddingfold - not in his forest staff, who he was glad to say didn't change very much, but in ideas, techniques, and particularly in those who planned his work. In 32 years he has served under five Conservators, six Assistant Conservators and thirteen D.O's, and he was delighted so many of them were present. Considering this list, and the current policies of retirement, perhaps there might even be the possibility of part-time work for retired Foresters?

AN EARLY DAM-BUSTER?

"SLASHER" Correspondent JOHN CHAPMAN (Lyndhurst) writes to say that Foresters around the Aldershill area in the New Forest are used to coming across bits and pieces of weaponry when clearing undergrowth. It was a war-time missile testing range.

The other day, Trainee Forester Mike Casserley found three sections of the nose cone of a very broad missile. This was collected by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit of the Royal Engineers.

As Dr. Barnes-Wallis used this range in his initial trials for the successful dam-busting bomb, possibly the missile could have been an early land-hopping version before the idea of bouncing on water was developed.

South West England

CHARLES RUSSELL AND BERT PARRY RETIRE FROM DEAN

THE DEAN FOREST Annual luncheon at the Angel Hotel, Coleford, last December, was the occasion at which friends and colleagues said farewell to HEAD FORESTER CHARLES RUSSELL and FORESTER BERT PARRY, on their retirement from the Commission.

Bert joined us more than 40 years ago, serving in South Wales, the New Forest and the Dean. Charles joined in 1948 after leaving the Dean Forester Training School, and has served on various beats within the Dean.

District Officer (Dean) A. Joslin, in making the presentations, thanked both men for all their years of loyal service on behalf of the Commission and assembled guests. Mrs. Hetty Evans - Forest Clerk at Coleford - presented bouquets to Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Parry.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS' SERVICE

THE Westberry Hotel, Bodmin, was the venue for the gathering of some forty friends and well-wishers to say farewell to FORESTER GEORGE JENKINSON. When presenting him with an electric drill the Conservator, Mr. G.D. Rouse, said George probably held one record which could not be broken by anybody else in the Commission to-day: he started work at Thetford Chase in 1925 at the age of 14, and apart from breaks at the Dean Forester Training School and with the army, he had served the Commission continuously for 45 years. He had been posted to Bodmin in 1931 and since that date his record read like a tourist's guide to the South West England Conservancy.

District Officer M.G. Harker presented a bouquet of chrysanthemums to Mrs. Jenkinson, and Forester J.R. Hambley gave them a collection of flowering shrubs, including camelias and azaleas which he had raised in his own garden, in order to stock George's new garden near Perranporth. A most enjoyable social evening was organised by Head Forester R.S. Whale.

East Scotland

RETIREMENT OF ED GRIGOR, GLENISLA

DECEMBER 31st saw the retiral of one of the stalwarts of East Scotland, HEAD FORESTER ED GRIGOR of Glenisla. Although a native of Keig, Aberdeenshire, Ed's family came to Drumtochty when he was 7, and he joined the forest squad at the age of 18, in 1928.

His sterling qualities earned him early promotion to Ganger, and when the war came he was Foreman at Drumtochty. He was promoted Forester in 1942 and in 1948 took over the new acquisition of Glenisla, which he built up from scratch to 5,685 acres in frequently adverse conditions in a hard part of the world - a fitting tribute to his skill and effort.

During the war he had parts of his right hand blown off by a grenade, but it is typical of him that he vowed to continue to write and shoot with it, and indeed he does, being a very good writer and an excellent shot!

At a gathering of colleagues on the eve of his retirement, Mr. R. Cathie, Assistant Conservator, and Mr. F. Donald, District Forest Officer, paid tribute to Mr. Grigor's hard work and loyalty to the Commission and handed him a cheque as a token of regard from his friends. Replying, Mr. Grigor wished to thank all his well-wishers, and regaled the gathering with some near-incredible tales of the early days in Glenisla.

Mr. and Mrs. Grigor are retiring to the Kirriemuir area where he hopes to continue his hobbies of gardening and shooting.

Glenisla will not be the same without Ed.

AUGUST WAS HIS LUCKY MONTH!

FORESTER J.R. FRASER, who retired at the end of January, started with the Commission in December 1937 as a Forest Worker at Whitehaugh Forest, Aberdeenshire. In 1939 he transferred to the Home Grown Timber Production Department of the Ministry of Supply and stayed there as a Ganger until 1945, when he transferred in the same grade to Pitfichie Forest.

He was promoted Foreman in August 1947, and in August 1955 was promoted to Assistant Forester. In August 1958 he was promoted to Forester on transfer to Clashindarroch Forest, where he remained until 1964 when he was transferred to take charge of Newtyle Forest.

A large company of District Officers, Foresters and their wives attended a presentation gathering at Newbold House Hotel, Forres, where Assistant Conservator Mr. Ray Horne handed a cheque to Mr. Fraser. A keen fisherman, Jimmy Fraser had previously received a fishing bag from the forest squad.

West Scotland

TWENTY-ONE YEARS AS
FOREMAN JOINER

A large gathering of colleagues and friends met at the Lochgair Hotel on February 26th to honour MR. LACHLAN BELL on his retirement after many years' service as Foreman Joiner at Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead.

In presenting a cheque to Mr. Bell - to which many friends had contributed from a wide area - Assistant Conservator (Estate) for West Scotland, Mr. W.A.J. Johnson, recalled that 21 years ago, when the Commission had offered a special appointment of Foreman Joiner, he and Mr. D. McKellar (who later became Chief Clerk of Works) had no hesitation in appointing Mr. Bell from a large number of applicants.

For 21 years, Mr. Bell was believed to be the only Foreman Joiner in the whole of the Commission, and had proved very worthy of their confidence in him.

A number of other guests paid tribute to Mr. Bell, and Mr. Eddie Tyson thanked him particularly on behalf of the Cairnbaan Estate squad for all the help and consideration he had given during the time he had been their foreman. Miss Mary Campbell - who works with the estate squad - presented Mrs. Bell with a bouquet, and the evening continued with a ceilidh.

North Wales

MR. C. J. HOPKINS

WE regret to report the death of FORESTER CYRIL J. HOPKINS, which occurred suddenly at Boynhelyg, Carno, on February 4th; he was 66.

Mr. Hopkins - a native of Pontrhydygroes - first joined the Commission as a Forest Worker in 1931 at Dovey, and was made a Ganger in 1938. He served with the H.T.P.D. during the War and on his return in 1947 he was posted as Foreman at Hafren, then moving to take charge at Carno in 1948, to which was later (1952) added responsibility for Bechan Forest. Both of these were recently incorporated into Ceri Forest.

In 1948 he was promoted to Forester, and he retired in January 1965. The funeral took place at Bont, Llanbrynmair.

South Wales

RETIREMENT OF HEAD FORESTERS

T. H. (JACK) LEWIS AND
T. G. (TREVOR) SAUNDERS

ON the evening of December 17th, a large gathering of colleagues and friends assembled at the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny.

The occasion was a social evening arranged to bid farewell to two South Wales "stalwarts", HEAD FORESTER T.H. LEWIS and HEAD FORESTER T.G. SAUNDERS, who were due to retire in a few days' time.

T.H. (Jack) Lewis joined the Forestry Commission in March 1927 and entered the Dean School in September of that year. It seems that there was no need for two years' practical experience in those days! On leaving the school he served for short periods at Rheola and Brechfa before going to Crychan in 1931 to start what is now one of our largest forests. Finally, he transferred to Mynydd Du in 1939, where he remained for 31 years. Surely this might be a record for length of service in charge in the one place?

Jack comes from a family of Foresters, and it is interesting to record that his great-great-grandfather was a Forester in the Dean around 1800 and was the first tenant of Russells Lodge, which was built in 1811. His great-grandfather was a Head Forester in the Dean, his maternal grandfather also worked for the Officer of Woods, while his father - who retired as Head Forester at Tintern in 1948 - served for 50 years and was in the first class in the Dean Foresters' School in 1904. This must constitute a record of sorts and it is not finished yet as, of course, his brother is now Chief Forester at Cannock Chase.

Trevor Saunders joined the Forestry Commission in 1924 at Llanover Forest (now Ebbw), and it was during this time that Mr. A. H. Gosling, later to become Director General, was a Forester at Llanover. Trevor was at the Dean School from 1930 to 1932 and on leaving there he was posted to South West England, but returned to Caeo Forest in South Wales in 1935, where he stayed until 1941. He was then transferred to Michaelston (Coed Morgannwg) where, by dint of very hard work he transformed one of the most inhospitable looking industrial valleys in South Wales into a very lovely forest. In 1947 he was transferred to Tintern and to Monmouth in 1951.

Forester Mike Lawson of Mynydd Du took the Chair and the main business of the evening was introduced by the Conservator, Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr, who deftly sketched the highlights of these two very remarkable careers. Then came the presentations. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis received an electric hotplate and a stainless steel tea service, and Mr. and Mrs. Saunders a barometer and a similar tea service. The recipients suitably replied, and after various colleagues and ex-colleagues had had their say, the evening continued in social and reminiscent mood. Finally, all present wished their ex-colleagues' health and happiness in retirement, and came away feeling - rather sadly perhaps - that South Wales was never going to be quite the same again.

DINNER-DANCE FAREWELL FOR
CHIEF FORESTER D.M. MORGAN

IN the September edition of "The Slasher", in the article entitled "Exit the Planters-Enter the Harvesters", Danny Morgan of

Cymer S(W) wrote his farewell to his many friends of the Commission. He had indeed made many friends in his long service of 45 years in the South Wales forests, the first four years as Forest Worker in Rheola Forest. After two years at the Dean School he served at Brechfa, Margam and Cymer Forests, gaining promotion along the way from Foreman to Chief Forester.

During this long time he planted trees by the million and proved himself a true forester. Not always agreeing with younger trends in forest practice, but never preventing his juniors "getting with it". Danny was not only a forester, he was also a naturalist and countryman, and his juniors never tired of listening to him holding forth on country law, and fauna and flora. His great knowledge of the

countryside served Danny well during his service at Margam Forest, where he was keeper of the Commission's Margam herd of fallow deer.

In December last, many of his friends attended a function which was both the South Wales Conservancy Annual Dinner and Dance, and an opportunity for them to say their farewells to Danny. At the function the Conservator, Mr. J.W.L. Zehetmayr, presented Danny with a typewriter on behalf of his friends and colleagues, and Mrs. Zehetmayr presented Mrs. Morgan with a print of a scene in Coed-y-Rhaiadr - another old haunt of the Morgans.

Yes, Danny had made many friends in forestry and in the many other activities he pursued during his leisure time.

We shall reap the harvest that Danny has sown, and we all wish him a happy retirement in Nantfyllon, Maesteg, on the very edge of the forest he knows so well.

OBITUARY -

CHIEF FORESTER NORMAN SMITH, MBE WE report, with deep regret, the death of Chief Forester Norman Smith, MBE (Rheola Forest), who passed away on February 16th following a long illness, at the age of 63.

One of his many colleagues - Chief Forester D.M. Morgan (Cymer Forest) - who had known him all his working life, contributes this sincere appreciation of his old friend:

"Stubborn, determined and self-reliant; shrewd, thrifty and very artful. Any, or all, of these terms could be tagged to Norman Smith. A character if ever there was one, and many a tale could be told of his exploits, but they would take up too much space in the 'Slasher'.

I knew him for more than forty years, went to the Forestry School with him; worked cheek by jowl with him when I was at Coed-y-Rhaiadr, and again before we both retired, he from Rheola and I from Cymer.

Like many other foresters, I did not always see eye to eye with Norman. Our opinions often differed; on social matters, on techniques, on methods and on management; we disagreed, we argued, and sometimes the arguments became somewhat heated - over sheep straying from Rheola in to Cymer, or vice versa.

However, we were both foresters with the same interests at heart, even though we viewed our respective responsibilities from different angles. That was one of the bonds that held us together. The other was that we were both countrymen, and in this direction we had much in common, resulting in very many happy days and many escapades together.

Norman was one of the most genuine men I have ever met. His word was his bond. If one made an appointment with him, the place or the time did not matter; if he said he would be there, he would be there, right on time.

For more than a year he was never a day without pain, and to those who visited him regularly it was indeed heart-rending to see him a little weaker at each visit. On February 20th, with a large gathering of foresters and friends to pay their last respects, he was laid to rest in the little village cemetery at Pont Erwyd, Cardiganshire, not far from the place where he took his first charge and where the plantations on the hillsides bear witness to the labour of his hands in the early thirties.

As the last rites were being said over his grave, it seemed to me a coincidence that a lark, as it rose heavenwards, should utter a few fitful notes as if it, too, wished to add in its small way a requiem to a departed countryman and a true country lover.

Throughout his long illness, Norman was tended with love and devotion by his wife Beryl, and to her, all Norman's friends and colleagues tender their deep and sincere sympathy.

Research

MR. J. M. LITTLER

WE report with regret the sudden death on February 14th of Mr. Jack Littler, Clerical Officer in the Accounts Section at Alice Holt Lodge.

Jack Littler had been a member of the Commission's staff for less than three years, starting first as a Clerical Assistant in the Work Study office at Alice Holt and then transferred (on promotion to C.O.) to Common Services, following his success in the Civil Service Commission's Clerical Class competition. Later, he moved to the Accounts Section.

He will be remembered as a quiet and conscientious colleague, but in a wider sense he will be remembered more for his service to this country. A native of Lancashire, he entered King's College, London, in 1932 and - on completion of his studies - was commissioned in the Royal Air Force in 1936. He had two spells of operational flying, first in the Middle East (Egypt, Greece, etc.) in 1939/41 and later, before and after 'D' Day, over France and Belgium. He retired in 1961 with the rank of Wing Commander.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and two sons.

Northern Research

PRIZE FOR

FORESTRY COMMISSION AUTHOR

MR. BRIAN HOLTAM, Chief Research Officer (North), has won the N.D.G. James Cup

Competition of the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The award was made for the best article (in the opinion of three judges appointed by the Council of the Society) in the four issues of the Quarterly Journal of Forestry for the year.

His winning article was "Co-operative Marketing of Roundwood in Britain" which was published as the leading article by the Society in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry Vol. LXIV No. 3, July 1970, and was from a paper presented by Mr. Holtam at a conference held jointly by the Timber Growers' Organisation Ltd., and the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland at Attingham Park, in Shropshire in October 1969. The conference had been arranged by Mr. Frank Best, formerly Conservator for North (Wales).

The Scottish Woodland Owners' Association and its associated Company, Scottish Woodland Owners' Association (Commercial) Ltd., found the paper of particular interest and circulated reprints to all their officers. It has also aroused interest in South Africa where moves are being made to develop co-operative forestry.

In that same quarter another paper by Mr. Holtam on "Forestry and its Dependent Industries in Scotland" was given pride of place as the leading article in Scottish Forestry, the quarterly journal of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. He had presented that paper to a Symposium on Biology and Industry in Scotland held by the Institute of Biology at Dundee, in April 1970.

FOOTBALL: BASINGSTOKE v LONDON

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 24th March, those stalwarts of the sporting code - H.Q. London and H.Q. Basingstoke - met yet again in battle at Stratton Park Football Ground, Basingstoke.

London were oozing confidence for this, their third attempt, to lay the Basingstoke demon. Basingstoke, realizing that London's youngsters meant business this time, had taken the precaution of giving all their players a rub down with the "Sporting Life" (Keith Lilley still had the newsprint on his knees)

Ken Millsom, the Basingstoke captain, won the toss, as usual, and with Peter Clapham, the London skipper muttering "Fix", the game began - London playing uphill and against the wind.

A Basingstoke goal by Gordon Campbell separated the sides at half-time. The game so far had been scrappy, with neither side really able to command. Ken Bicknell was playing well despite his persistent handling of the ball.

In the second half, fortified by the advantage of wind and gradient, the London team pressed forward, but another goal by Campbell and a change in wind direction meant more trouble for London. Thanks to the good 'keeping of Roger Gravett the scoreline read 2 - 0 up to 3 minutes from time.

However, 3 goals in 3 minutes put paid to a respectable scoresheet. John Tinker and Peter Atherton (2), were the marksmen.

Despite the 5 - 0 result, the two sides were evenly matched and, who knows perhaps one day if the pitch was level, and if the wind stopped for an hour or two, and if

Well done, Basingstoke!