



SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



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CONCERN FOR WORLD TIMBER

... World Forestry Congress

The Declaration published by the Eighth World Forestry Congress has expressed its concern at the prospect of a serious shortfall in world timber production.

"If present trends continue" states the declaration "and potential demands materialise, there is the prospect of a serious gap between the world's needs for industrial and other wood products and the capacity of the world's forests to supply these and other essential goods and services.

"This gap can only be avoided if the shrinkage of the forest area is halted, if natural forests are properly managed, if harvesting is more complete and more efficient, if there is subsequent full and prudent use of all products harvested, and if large areas of successful plantations are created and intensively managed."

Total world consumption of industrial wood (excluding fuel wood) is expected to rise from 1,326 million cubic metres in 1976 to 2,080 million cubic metres by the year 2000, according to one FAO estimate.

The Congress called on all foresters to re-affirm their total commitment to resource conservation, resource renewal and resource expansion.

Attending the Congress which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in October, were Mr George Holmes, Forestry

Commission Director General, Mr John Kennedy, Director Forest Management Division and Mr Gwyn Francis, Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing Division. They formed part of the 10-strong UK delegation led by Mr Holmes.

Forests for people

The theme of the Congress was "Forests For People". Mr Holmes presented the IUFRO paper in the main technical session on Forests for Quality of Life and a further five papers, prepared by Commission staff, were presented at satellite meetings by Mr Kennedy and Mr Francis.

Over 2,400 delegates from 104 countries heard the Vice President of Indonesia, Mr Malik call for a move away from the profligate wasteful use of forests to careful husbandry and an expansion of the resource. He stressed that many developed countries, by policies of multiple use and strict conservation, had chosen to import wood to meet their growing requirements rather than to increase the productive as well as social aspects of their own forests.

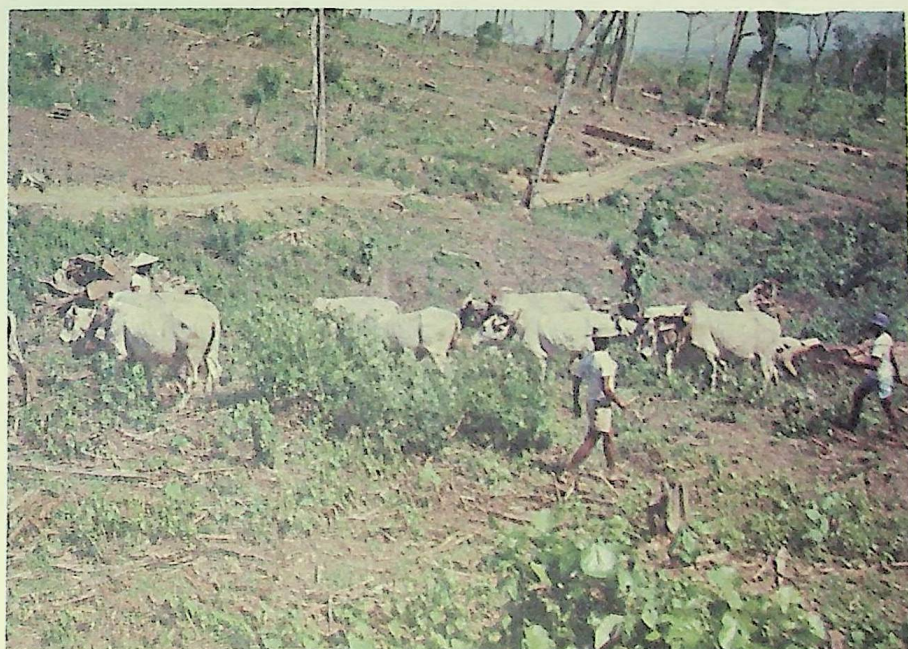
Mr S. L. Pringle, Chief, Policy and Planning, Forestry Department, FAO, referred to

a current FAO study on the outlook for forest products to the year 2000. He said that the amount of timber available for export from North America and Russia — both traditional suppliers to Britain — were likely to be reduced. North American exports of sawn softwood would decline towards 1990 and phase out completely by the year 2000.

Exports decline

For most wood products North America would be straining to meet home consumption from its own forest resources by 2000 and except for pulp any North American exports would be at the expense of domestic use.

In the USSR major increases are expected in domestic consumption of sawn softwood and products derived from pulpwood and chips resulting in considerable reductions in quantities available for export. The implications of the study so far for forestry was the need to extend the establishment of conifer plantations in accessible locations in both the tropics and temperate zones, and where appropriate, especially in the tropics, to ex-



Logging in Eastern Java — a team of white oxen pulling an 80-year-old teak. Photo: John Kennedy

tend the area of hardwood plantations.

Many of the points raised at the conference endorse the recommendations for expansion of Britain's forests contained in the Forestry Commission's report "Wood Production Outlook in Great Britain — a Review". The Review was the result of a study initiated by the Commission to appraise the likely supply and demand for wood in Britain on a longer time scale than had been tackled before, in fact until the year 2050.

The Study Group was set up because of increasing concern throughout the world about the future availability of fossil fuels and other finite resources. "We needed better long term estimates of the future productivity of our forests, our likely degree of self-sufficiency in wood products, and an informed judgment of the likely worth of our wood resources in future" said Mr Holmes.

Members of the Group were Mr Dick Richards, Mr Gwyn

Francis, Mr Arnold Grayson, Mr David Johnston and Mr Arthur Damerell of the Commission, and Mr E. J. Gibson of the Building Research Establishment, Princes Risborough Laboratory and Mr D. J. Santry of the Department of Industry.

Published as a consultative document and circulated widely among interested organisations and authorities the review points out that excluding areas unfavourable to tree growth, arable land, permanent grassland and existing woodlands, it is estimated that more than 3.0 million hectares of land in Britain could be planted with trees to produce economic crops of timber. 1.7 million hectares of this lies in Scotland and 1.3 million hectares in England and Wales.

Three options

The Review examines three possible planting options. 1) No more planting; 2) planting a further 1.0 million hectares; 3) Planting a further 1.8 million hectares.

Under option 1) production

from present area of productive forest would double to over 8m cu metres by the year 2000 and just about treble to 12m cu metres by 2050.

Under option 2) production would increase to some 18 m cu metres by the year 2050.

Under option 3) which would virtually double the existing forest estate production would rise to 22m cu metres which might represent something like 25 per cent self sufficiency.

It concludes that a long term goal of creating on some of Britain's poorest land, up to a further 1.8 million hectares of plantations is technically feasible and appears to be a prudent investment. However it was not possible to study in any depth the implications for agriculture of the planting programmes considered, and these issues will have to be further examined in conjunction with agricultural interests.

See highlights of Forestry Commission's Annual Report in Centre Page feature.



The Director General, Mr George Holmes, plants a tree during the World Forestry Congress in Indonesia.

Queen honours four Commission men

Four Commission men are among those receiving New Year Honours.

MR GEORGE STEWART, Forestry Commissioner, Forest and Estate Management received a CB. Mr Stewart who has served with the Commission for 31 years has been a Forestry Commissioner for the past nine years.

He has been responsible for

important advances in several key areas, notably acquisition of land for planting, the introduction of advanced forest establishment and management techniques and the extension of recreation, nature conservation and environmental policies.

In private life his major interest is skiing. He is a Past President of the Scottish Ski

Club and until recently was Vice President of the National Ski Federation of Great Britain and Chairman of its Alpine Racing Committee.

MR MICHAEL LONG, District Officer, North Moffat District (S) has received an MBE. Mr Long has served the Commission for 35 years the last 20 in his present district where he has directed one of

the Commission's biggest planting programmes and also been responsible for the expansion of private forestry schemes in his district. Together these have amounted to over 60,000 acres over the period.

A keen lecturer in forestry subjects Mr Long was a founder member of the Moffat Hill Rescue Organisation and

is a former Commando.

The Forest Clerk at Rhondda Forest S (W) MR ARTHUR HAZZARD has received a BEM. A Past President of the Rhondda Society and has played a prominent role in the annual Rhondda Forest project.

A Leading Research Worker who has devoted his entire

working life to Westonbirt Arboretum, MR EDWARD WATTS has also received a BEM.

Mr Watts started work at Westonbirt at the age of 14 for the late Lord Morley and since the Commission took it over in 1956 he has done much to enlarge and enhance the collection which attracts an increasing number of visitors.

Axeman's Log

Jean heralds "new era" for Whitley Council

THE Forestry Commission Whitley Council moved into a new era with the appointment of Mrs Jean Thompson as the first full-time secretary for the staff side.

Jean has been with the Commission for eight years as a statistician at Northern Research Station responsible for the design and analysis of experiments in silviculture and related sciences. She has been Secretary of IPCS since April, 1978, a post she now gives up.

Jean said: "We hope that the appointment of the first full-time secretary will lead to greater involvement by members of staff in the affairs of the Commission and a speedier resolution of negotiations on all matters". Jean can be found in Room 213 at headquarters (Ext 435).

Dave Blatchford has been secretary on a part-time basis for two and a half years. He is in the Estates Section at Lyndhurst, SE(E).

The Whitley Council at its December meeting welcomed Jean to her new post and recorded its appreciation of Dave's hard work.

In brief

CONGRATULATIONS to Ken Whittaker, of Penninghame S(S) and Alasdair Cameron, of Invergarry N(S) who topped their respective forestry courses for City and Guilds at Inverness Technical College. Alasdair also won the RSFS Duke of Buccleuch Memorial Cup.

AN unusual circle of events in South Wales — the Commission are planting 300,000 trees by the M4 and peat for the planting holes has arrived in strong plastic bags (made from oil). The empty bags were saved and Forester Hugh Roberts gave them to Swansea City Council — to help in clearing away oil from the wrecked Christos Bitas.

WELL done the Ochil Forest Squad E(S). Their Blairadam Forest Social Club donated £105 to Kelly Old Folks as a Christmas treat.

KENT District Officer Bob Waters is transferring to Alice Holt to take up appointment as Census Officer. Bob was presented with an executive case from his colleagues to mark his nine years in the district.

A FOOTBALL challenge from East Scotland. . . . Their Conservancy team have had four wins from 13 matches with "defeats of the odd goal variety". Now they are willing to take on all-comers from other parts of the Commission.

AND finally . . . From a CAR in answer to a request for comment on an officer's spelling, punctuation and grammar — "Spelling erratic". No names are being mentioned of course.

Wonderland

THE forest in winter.
A glorious place,
Created by God
For the whole human race.

But how many will see it?
How many take time
To walk through the trees,
And see how they shine.

All white with the snow,
Twinkling bright,
Just see how they sparkle,
When caught by the light.

Icicles hanging,
River frozen still,
I've always enjoyed it
And I always will.

T. G. Sharkey,
Forest Craftsman,
Ennerdale.

TIM BECOMES PARK MANAGER

THE name of Forester Tim Laker has become firmly established among those responsible for the interpretation and management of the countryside since his appointment as Forest Interpreter and Deputy Park Interpreter at Queen Elizabeth Country Park three and a half years ago.

Over a quarter of a million visitors come each year to the Park which the Commission manages jointly with Hampshire County Council. Tim, who joined the Commission in 1965 and served at Alice Holt (P&E) and Bramshill (Bucklebury) before coming to the Queen Elizabeth Forest, has accepted the appointment of Park Manager on the County Council staff.

Much of the success of the Country Park is due to Tim's skill, enthusiasm and dedication. Through the development of the forest as an educational resource, and demonstration area for forest crafts old and new, trails, displays and audio visual presentations Tim has succeeded in presenting the forest and forestry to the visiting public. Additionally he has taken a full part in the management of the Park as a whole.

His colleagues wished him well in his new post which, fortunately, will still keep him well in touch with the Commission's work.

Richard's the champ

Congratulations to Richard Keddle, Forest Worker at Brycheiniog on becoming the Brecon and Radnor Men's Golf County Champion.

Richard who is only 20 years of age, finished the Competition in blistering style with three 3's, including two birdies. He had an overall total of 138 which gave him a four stroke margin over his nearest rival.

Carol IS the birdie!

THE stalwarts of the Forestry Commission Golf Society held their annual meeting this time at Hawkstone Park, Shropshire. Twenty two players took part and Duncan Stewart W(S) won the Open Championship Cup, and Hugh McKay NW(E) the Sutherland Cup. Miss Carol Derrick of Alice Holt was the first ladies' entrant — and won the ladies' prize! We're told that the booby prize was "justifiably" won by Bill Blake. . . .

This year's competition will be at Taymouth Castle, Perthshire.

Farewell Salute to the Colonel

LIEUTENANT Colonel David Rooke — known throughout the Commission as "The Colonel" — has retired after 11 years as Head of Information. Tribute to the Colonel's dedicated service was paid by Chairman John Mackie at a farewell presentation and messages of goodwill were received from forests and offices throughout the Commission.

Much credit must go to him for his efforts to increase public awareness of forestry and the Commission's changing policies, and his success in subduing many of the FC's early critics. He was responsible for producing the successful film "Woodland Harvest", and was instrumental in launching the new Slasher.

The Colonel was commissioned in 1936 and saw service in India, Palestine and Malta. He was on Field Marshall Montgomery's Planning Staff and was Chairman of the Assault Planning Committee responsible for the broad planning of the establishment of the bridgehead in Normandy during the first 48 hours of the invasion. He was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war the Colonel instructed at the School of Infantry in Wiltshire and founded, and was the first Master and Huntsman, of the School of Infantry Beagles — with whom he intends to hunt twice weekly in his retirement!

After his military service Colonel Rooke was extremely active in the world of theatre and opened a repertory theatre in Norwich. He was also manager of a theatre company and administrator for a touring ballet company.

The Colonel advised film producers on military matters — the most noteworthy being the film "Carrington VC" starring David Niven and Margaret Leighton.

He spent four years at the Ministry of Defence as senior information officer and then joined the Forestry Commission as Head of Information.



Colonel David Rooke (seated) with his successor, Mr Peter Drumm.

He had already taken a keen interest in forestry affairs — his stepfather was Conservator of Forests in Burma.

Colonel Rooke has been appointed public relations officer for the British Field Sports Society for the Glos area and will be in charge of their touring show caravan.

The Colonel hopes that his new appointment will help him maintain contact with his many friends throughout the Forestry Commission. He also intends to devote more time to his interest of breeding and showing Welsh mountain ponies.

New Head takes over

THE new Head of Information is Mr Peter Drumm who comes to the Forestry Commission after nearly 17 years with the Scottish Information Office.

Mr Drumm was Chief Press Officer there from 1971-76 and for the past two years has been Chief Publicity Officer.

A Yorkshireman, he worked in newspapers and public relations in the West Riding before joining the Government Information Services in 1958.

Book Review

European view

BIRDS of Lake, River, Marsh and Field by Lars Jonsson, published by Penguin Nature Guides at £1.95 in UK.

Whether or not one agrees with European membership on an economic basis there is no doubt that for many wildlife species, especially birds, membership is a fact. So that the upsurge of natural history books for the amateur observer do well, as this one, to observe on a European basis. And Lars Jonsson, ably translated by Roger Tanner, has combined simple and clear description (I like his Swedish-based interpretation of the noises some birds make!) together with attractive illustrations mostly based on the postures and the type of plumage that a northerner would actually see in the field in his own country. The sections are divided realistically, eg Perching Birds, Birds of Prey, etc, but I was

concerned to find in the latter no mention of eagles at all, nor of peregrine nor sparrowhawk. And although red grouse (confined to Britain and Ireland) are in, black grouse aren't. And dry land 'game' birds, together with rails cranes and bustards are in the birds of prey section! No ravens jays or magpies, nor red kites although the black kite is in.

All in all, a beautifully produced little book with damp-proof covers but a bit short on species that are not all rare: I mean, why Canada goose, but not Brent nor Barnacle?

Or of course, its because they're probably in the other 2 volumes, see preface. Good marketing, that!

R T F Larsen

THE EDITOR regrets that because of limitations of space, several items have had to be held back from this edition of "Slasher". Every effort will be made to include as many of these as possible in the next issue.

FOREST POET WINS £250

THE South Lakes District is already famous for the sculptures in the forest at Grizedale and the range of artistic talent has been extended by Dick Wilkinson, a poet at Dunnerdale Forest.

Dick recently entered a poem in the Sunday Times — BBC2 Poetry Contest and finished second out of 5,000 entries, winning a cash prize of £250 and making his television debut with an interview by Robert Robinson and a reading of his poem by Edward Woodward.



Dick Wilkinson

Dick has worked in the beautiful and remote valley for 15 years and spends leisure hours writing poetry. His winning poem (right) concerns the fate of the wartime airmen whose bodies were dug from their graves near Madingley in Cambridgeshire and sent to their homes in America.

The Nightingales of Madingley

Times in the long summer (to pocket until October the bit extra money) we dug up airmen buried at Madingley to ship on Atlantic a heavy packet a boat of coffins to those who want and did not want to have them home again like this.

Night-fliers, their swan-lines over the sea
Wheezing, some, a last song,
German bullet in the lung,
Fellow men whom here we say
a Philomel farewell to, whoever leaves
the rustling leaves
of moonlit Cambridgeshire their
nightingales
Last, everlasting song and sorrow,
when two friends heard it in the lane
Leaned their bikes against a thorn
Lay down on the road in horror
that grief could make so beautiful a sound
Men underground
came up and those on top went down.

Long night ago the nightingale
Buried the souls of two unburies
and waves of dead men crossed the barriers
of ocean, and yet the nightingales in
Madingley
Still tap my eardrum like a spade
on the coffin lid,
and which is which I cannot tell.

D. Wilkinson



Jack Avery with the hand grenade after it was "checked out."

Hand grenade gives Jack the shock of his life

WHEN cutting gorse on the side of the M27 near Southampton, Craftsman Jack Avery, of the Ringwood Forest Motorway Gang, received the shock of his life. The blade of his Husqvarna Clearing Saw struck an object that turned out to be a No. 36 Mill's Hand Grenade.

"I served with the Dorset and Hampshire Regiments through the war, and am fully acquainted with the lethal potential of a Mill's Bomb," said Jack.

"The rest of the gang and I quickly put a safe distance be-

tween ourselves and the grenade."

"The first police vehicle to pass was flagged down, the grenade was sandbagged and the gang moved to the far end of the embankment for the rest of the day."

A Bomb Disposal Unit was notified and the grenade was defused and removed next morning.

Two lines of thought arose out of the incident. Had the soil used in building the embankment contained the grenade when delivered to the site, thus posing the possibility of more grenades being present? Or had it been tossed from a passing vehicle? It was decided that because

the Mill's bomb had appeared to be in the grass layer and was not coated with soil, it must have "arrived" fairly recently. This gave a "clean bill of health" to the embankment and saved the Army a long and tedious search.

Two days later, Craftsman Roger Hughes was operating the clearing saw when the blade, struck an object in the gorse. Roger's luck was in. He had found a horseshoe!

MAJOR AWARD FOR DEERPARK FOREST CABINS

THE Forestry Commission's timber-built holiday cabin scheme near Liskeard in Cornwall has won a 1978 Civic Trust Award.

Deerpark Forest Cabins, constructed in 1976, and extending over twenty acres in mixed woodland in Kernow Forest has been judged worthy of the Civic Trust Award — one of 24 such awards out of 1,100 entries — for schemes of outstanding environmental merit.

"Delighted" by award

"DEERPARK Cabins exemplify the high standard we seek to achieve in forest cabin development in other parts of the country," said Mr Richard Illingworth who now leads the Commission's Forest Cabins team. "Naturally we are delighted to have received Civic Trust recognition."

The Deerpark Cabins have been extremely successful since they opened in Easter 1977 and already they are virtually fully booked for next summer although a few vacancies still exist for May and June.

The thirty all-timber, self-catering holiday cabins "hint at adventure" says the Civic Trust. "Beautifully sited and designed, they show convincingly that quality is far from impossible in such chalet type developments."

In making the award the Civic Trust declares that tourism has left more scars on Cornwall than its mining industry. "It is therefore an occasion for rejoicing when a holiday encampment has transformed a derelict valley so positively... Wood is used for everything from roof finish to furniture.

Sited

"Cabins are imaginatively sited perched on old stone foundations, or ledged into banks and propped on stilts at varying levels where they can be enjoyed from every level.

Existing stone buildings have been simply rehabilitated providing warden's house, community rooms, and a laundry. A ruined engine house lives again as a play space.

"Landscaping is nature slightly tamed." The wild floor of the forest flows around and under the cabins. Paths are stone-chipped, steps are stone as found or turf-cut with timber risers. Car parking spaces are conveniently and discreetly located.

"Herdsfoot is captivating — a sense of holiday adventure has been achieved with imagination and consummate skill."

Cabins

Deerpark Forest cabins were the blue print for the Forestry Commission's cabin developments. The cabins were designed by architects Hird & Brooks of Cardiff who produced five basic cabin



Set amid the tranquility of the forest setting — the award winning cabins at Deerpark.

designs to meet the Commission's brief to devise a cabin system which would blend with varying woodland or forest environments often on rugged terrain. "The accommodation," said the Commission, "should impart a sense of adventure to the occupants and provide a contrast to their normal living conditions."

The scheme built on the site of a former gunpowder mill retains the atmosphere of its

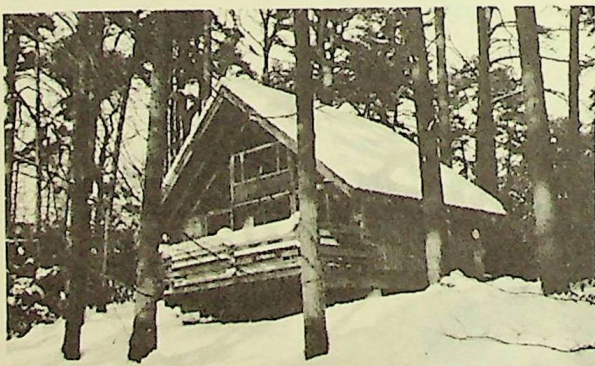
earlier associations. The mill pond has been restored, the mill wheel forms an attractive feature of one of the cabins and several derelict buildings have been sensitively utilised.

Success

The success of the scheme is due to the combined efforts of John Gwynn, the Forestry Commission's Principal Land Agent as Project Leader, Graham Brooks, Architect, Brian Jones, Forestry Com-

mission Site Engineer, George Hawes, Forestry Commission Clerk of Works, and local forest staff who were responsible for landscaping work and laying of footpaths under the direction of the Clerk of Works.

The second forest cabin scheme using the same system as Deerpark and the same consultant architect opened at Keldy Castle, Cropton Forest at Easter 1978. Plans are in hand for similar developments for Scotland and Wales.



Architect Graham Brookes captures the "winter wonderland" scene at Keldy Castle forest cabins in the North Yorks Moors.

Off-peak holidays — costing as little as £25-£45 per week for five or six people — can still be booked this winter at Keldy, Deerpark or Strathgryne in Scotland.

The new colour brochure on our forest cabins — and other holiday homes throughout the country — is available free from Information Branch, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Pram trail for Sherwood

A NEW complex of recreational facilities for visitors to Sherwood Forest was officially opened at Blidworth by the Deputy Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Captain R. F. Abel-Smith.

The facilities include bridle-paths, a pram trail, toilets and six small car parks.

District Officer Pat Winchester said: "Construction started in 1975 but the gale on the night of January 2,

1976, devastated large tracts of these woodlands. This was then followed by the numerous fires of the dry summer of 1976.

Enjoy

"To clear up the windblow and make the area safe before inviting visitors to enjoy this part of Sherwood Forest has taken time and it is only now that we can open up these facilities.

"This is a modest beginning to forest recreation and in the light of visitor reaction and pressure generated, it is hoped we may develop further recreational facilities elsewhere in Sherwood Forest where constraints permit."

Mr Winchester said that this would assist in relieving pressures in surrounding recreational areas within Nottinghamshire.

Conservator Mr John James

said the complex at Blidworth Bottoms was the first in an on-going programme of providing more facilities for the public.

Capt Abel-Smith appealed to people who use the facilities to treat them with respect and not to abuse them.

Also present at the ceremony were senior ranger Nick Myhill, beat forester Cecil Much, chief forester Jim Barrowclough, and John Harper, the head forester.



Forestry Commission
58th Annual Report and Accounts 1977-78

The Forestry Commission's Annual Report for 1977-78 has just been published this month. This 'Slasher' presentation illustrates main points in the report.

(Designed by Bill Ball, Forest Design Branch)



8 per cent of Great Britain is forested. Half is owned by the Commission, a total of 862,000 hectares; the other half is privately owned. This year 6,507 hectares was acquired, an area of land approximately the size of Chester. (England 16, Scotland 6,417, Wales 74). Total cost was £2,494,000 – £164 per hectare.

Grant from Treasury
£24,700,000 (£27m year before). Salaries & wages £32,902,000
Pensions
£4,055,000.

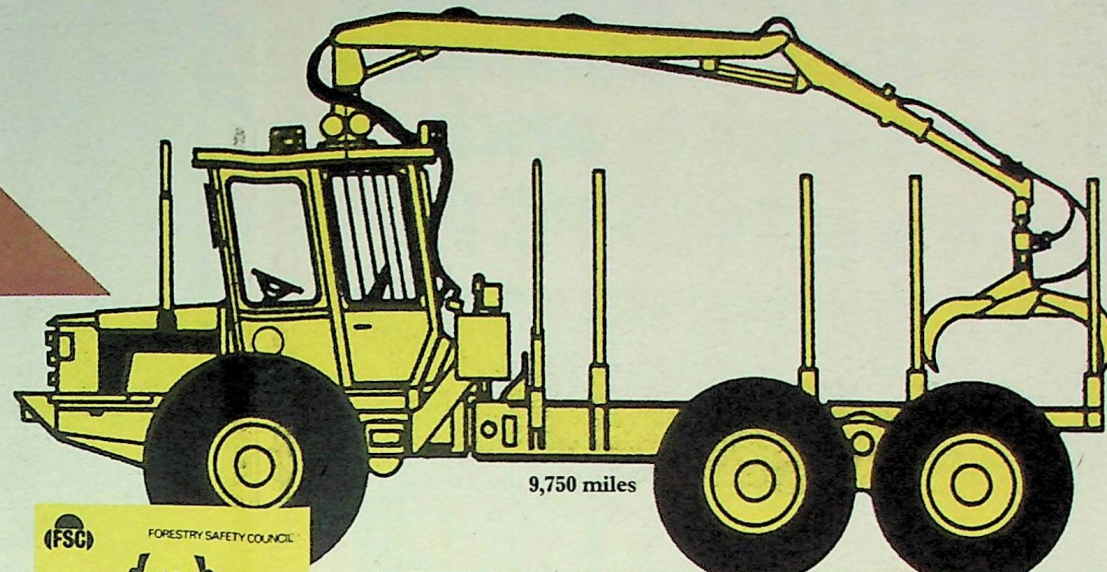
Wood production from the Commission's forests is expected to more than double in the next 20 years from an average of 2 million cubic metres in the last two years to 4.6 million cubic metres by the mid 1990's.

Planting.
New planting programmes are slowing as plantable land available decreases.
Total area planted in Great Britain was 17,192 hectares; 3,069 was restocked.
England 2,312
Scotland 13,174
Wales 1,706

Felling.

Total volume of timber felled last year was 1,965,000 cubic metres. (England 856,000, Scotland 703,000, Wales 406,000). Sales from timber came to £27,574,000.

Machinery and equipment. Total amount spent was £4,813,000. The most expensive deal was for three Valmet Forwarders, a total of £150,000. This 872K Forwarder went to South West England.



9,750 miles

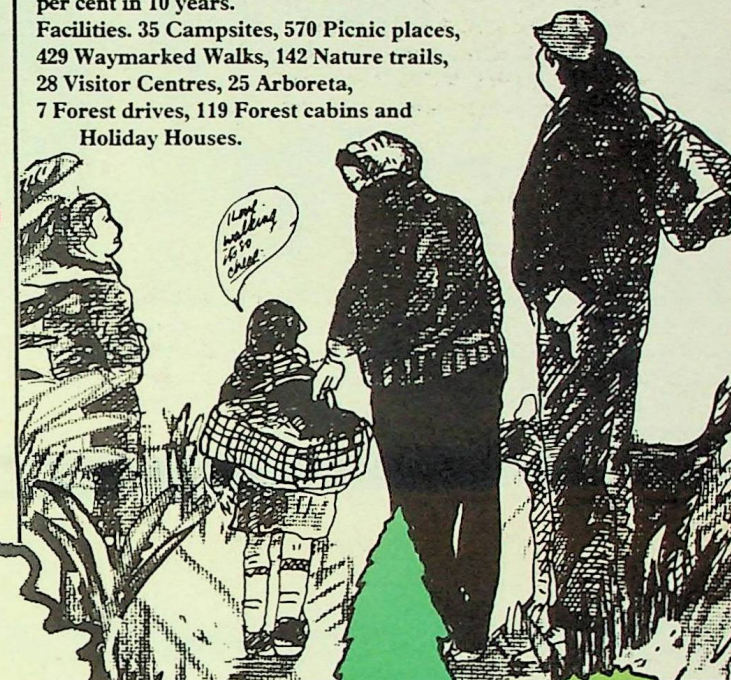


The cheapest item was a self adhesive warning label for chainsaw operators costing 3p each.

Safety.

The accident rate per 100 employees rose slightly from 7.6 to 8.0. 464 accidents were reported, compared to 437 last year. One of the accidents was fatal, the first since 1974. There has been a welcome reduction in the accident rate for employees under 18, which fell from 14.5 to 10.1 per 100.

Visitors. 24 million visits were made to Forestry Commission land during 1977. The number of visitors has increased by 50 per cent in 10 years.
Facilities. 35 Campsites, 570 Picnic places, 429 Waymarked Walks, 142 Nature trails, 28 Visitor Centres, 25 Arboreta, 7 Forest drives, 119 Forest cabins and Holiday Houses.



253,000

200,000

Private Forestry.

Grants from Forestry Commission totalled £1,267,000.

Planting.

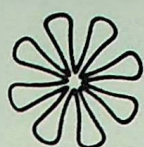
Total area planted was 8,299 hectares (England 1,839, Scotland 5,833, Wales 627)

Felling.

Total volume felled was 453,000 cubic metres. (England 292,000, Scotland 5,833, Wales 627).

200,000 cubic m. was hardwood, 253,000 cubic m. was softwood.

PRODUCTION TO DOUBLE IN 20 YEARS



Nature News

Prickly problem in Devon

A STRANGE newcomer to the British wildlife scene has been busy making itself "at home" in the woodlands of Devon.

The newcomer is the prickly porcupine — and it has been leading trackers from the Ministry of Agriculture a merry dance in their efforts to pin down the animal.

It's not known exactly how many of the animals are on the loose although several have been trapped during recent years. What is known is that this prickly customer has adapted well to the climate and vegetation of the South West and with no predators — apart from man — appears to be quite capable of surviving and indeed thriving.



Crested Porcupines "at home" in Edinburgh Zoo. This is the kind of porcupine on the loose in Staffordshire and are similar, although slightly larger, than those breeding in Devon.

Photo by courtesy Willy Newlands, Edinburgh Zoo.

The story of the arrival of the porcupines goes back to 1969 when a pair of Himalayan or Hodgson's porcupines escaped from a wildlife park near Okehampton. The animals had been acquired direct from Calcutta in India.

No more was heard about them until 1971 when a number of quills were found and damage to young conifers by barking around the base of the trunk was first reported. It was then realised that a new alien mammal was at large in the English countryside and that they had multiplied in number.

The arrival was so significant that it has merited special mention in Christopher Lever's book "The Naturalised Animals of the British Isles".

The book says that a survey

in 1973 showed that young Norway spruce at Folly Gate had been attacked, and that the Forestry Commission estimated damage of between £500 and £1,000 at Springett's Wood.

Sightings

A number of sightings of both live and dead porcupines was reported from an area of about six miles radius from Okehampton during the years. Evidence has been found of porcupines occupying badger setts.

Head Ranger Jack Cockburn, wildlife adviser to South West England Conservancy, said: "We think there are still porcupines about — but not in our woods."

"They appear to be in private woodlands at the moment

and our ranger has been called in to help to find them.

"The damage caused by the porcupines has been fairly light because there are not many of them. But damage could be substantial if they increased in number.

"We are keeping a close eye on the situation."

Porcupines are also "on the loose" in Staffordshire following the escape in 1972 of a pair of crested porcupines from a botanical gardens. A number of trees have been attacked with larger areas of bark being removed than in Devon. It was clear that the crested porcupines were attacking some of the most economically valuable trees in the area and Mr Lever said they had "proved themselves a serious threat to forestry interests."

Birdwatching holidays

SPECIAL weekend holidays have been devised of interest to birdwatchers — both expert and beginner.

The holidays are called "Birds for All Seasons" and there are eight different holiday weekends during January, February and March 1979, at centres suitable for the Norfolk coast, North Kent and Stodmarsh, the Exe and

Tamar Estuary and South Devon, the Suffolk Marshlands, Broads and coast, the Yorks coast and Dales, and the Northumberland coast.

The bird watching holidays have been devised by Trevor Gunton, development officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The weekends cost from £34 and include two nights' accommodation.

English breakfasts, two dinners, two substantial packed luncheons, coach visits to bird watching areas, expert local guides, film shows, talks and slide shows, hotel service charges.

Further details can be obtained from: "Birds for all Seasons", Paul Hensey, Dept FC, 7 Stratford Place, London W1A 4YU.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

CRACK SHOT FRED GOES ON STALKING

AFTER 30 years as a District Officer, Fred Weston has retired. His job has taken him to several parts of the country including Norfolk and the South-East but Fred has spent the last 13 years in North Yorkshire, in charge of the Pickering District and he will continue to live in the area in his retirement.

Fred has a lifelong interest in nature and wildlife. For the past few years he has been the Conservancy adviser on wildlife protection, management and control and in his retirement he will continue his association with us in the voluntary capacity of advising on deer control and management.

One of his favourite past-times is deer-stalking — Fred shot his first buck at the age of 16 — and contrary to the popular conception that deer-stalking only takes place in the Scottish Highlands all his stalking has been done in English woodlands.

A crack shot, Fred put his considerable abilities to the

test, and at great risk, when during the war he was a rear-gunner and then squadron gunnery leader in Blenheims, Sterlings and Wellingtons. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1942.

Controlling major fires

ED WARD has retired from Wykeham Forest where he worked as a tractor driver. He had completed 47 years' service and during that time has operated all types of tractors and bulldozers.

His experience was put to the test in 1976 when he was in great demand helping to control the major fires on the North York Moors.

On Friday, December 1 Fred planted an oak tree in a prominent position on the Commission's viewpoint at Cowhouse Bank in Hambleton Forest. This is a well frequented spot with a magnificent view northwards into the North York Moors National Park — a spot incidentally which he had first seen from a Blenheim some 38 years ago.

He will be particularly remembered by colleagues for the quality of his lining out work. Ed perched himself on the mudguard to ensure that his lines were straight. Such care, and the tractor travelling at only 8ft per minute! Ed and his wife will continue to live at Brompton on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors, an area they love.

5/10d A DAY FOR ERNIE!



Chief Forester Hugh Stickland presents 'Ernie' Grimwood with his fly rod and reel.

ERNEST GRIMWOOD, Forest Craftsman at Kielder Forest, has retired after over 44 years' service with the Forestry Commission. In 1933 he worked as a lad for a farmer who hired him to the Forestry Commission to 'lead' plants onto Whickhope Forest.

Ernie started work for the Forestry Commission on May 16, 1934 on Smales Forest where he had to walk from Stannersburn to work for 5/10d a day. Throughout the 1930's he worked on Smales, Chirdon and Whickhope Forests draining and planting.

Ernie was called up in 1941 and served in the Army. After the war he recommenced at Allery Bank, Chirdon until 1947 when he moved to Kielder Forest.

In 1955 he started on harvesting work with a bowsaw and axe, buying his own chain saw in 1958. He had four more saws of his own before switching to a Commission saw. He stayed on production work until September 1977, when he became a member of the fencing gang until his retirement.

His colleagues joined together at the Castle and Chief Forester Hugh Stickland presented Ernie with a fly rod and reel and Mrs Grimwood with a box of chocolates. He praised Ernie for his renowned hard work.

Conservator Tony Spencer also came to Kielder and presented Ernie with his long service certificate.

BOB HAS MORE TIME FOR THE BIRDS!

ROBERT BLACKWELL, Leading Ganger at Kielder Forest has retired after 32 years, all of which has been spent in the North Tyne Valley.

The occasion was marked by a presentation of a retirement gift from friends and colleagues in the Kielder Castle Information Centre.

Mr Blackwell will continue to live in Butteryhaugh Kielder and will be able to devote more time to his hobby of breeding zebra finches which has earned him national repute.



Chief Forester Hugh Stickland (left) bids Bob Blackwell well in his retirement.

EAST ENGLAND

Eddie retires — and presents gift to FC!



Pictured (above) with the painting is District Officer John Kelly who made the presentations to Eddie (on the left) and Wally (on the right), and who in turn received Eddie's painting on behalf of the Commission.

FORESTER Eddie Cavell neatly "turned the tables" when he retired from Thetford Forest. For after being presented with a cheque Eddie surprised the assembly by himself presenting a painting to the Forestry Commission!

The painting is of Bramwell Woods where Eddie worked in 1963. The "about turn" presentation was made at a ceremony at Brandon marking the retirement of Eddie and fellow Thetford forester Walter Smith, who between them have clocked up 66 years' service for the Forestry Commission.

Eddie who has worked in the area for 24 years, has unfortunately been forced to retire early on health grounds. He and his wife are moving to Somerset. Wally, who was presented with a clock, has served for 42 years and intends to continue working as a ganger.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

After the "big-uns" — salmon beware

FRED BELSHAW, EO in the Estates Section of South Scotland has retired after 25 years' service with the Forestry Commission all of which was spent in Dumfries.

Prior to his retirement Fred had a prolonged spell of sick leave, and at his own request his retrial presentation took place in his home where Mr John Davies, Conservator, who was accompanied by Mr R. B. Stewart, A&FO, handed over a cheque and conveyed the good

wishes of all his colleagues for a long and happy retirement.

Fred has always been a keen salmon fisher and now that his health has improved, and with extra time at his disposal, it is hoped he will enjoy that pursuit and land some "big uns".

More recently Fred has taken up photography and it was on this interest that he hoped to spend at least part of the money with which he had been presented.

Rose Bowl

TED STONES has retired from the Dalby roads squad after 30 years' service.

Conservancy civil engineer Tom Murdock presented Ted with gifts of a painting and silver rose bowl at a ceremony at Dalby Village Hall. Mrs Stones received some flowers.

30 years in the forest office

MARIE PURSLOW has retired after serving as a Forest Clerk for over 30 years.

At a ceremony at the Santon Downham Forest Office she was presented with a Long Service Certificate by the Conservator, and Margaret Dixon, a colleague in the Santon Downham Office presented her with a clock subscribed to by her many friends.

The Conservator, Mr Rod Hewitt thanked her for all the good work she had done and wished her a very happy retirement.

RESEARCH

Farewell to Kilmun

JOHN RANKIN McFarlane joined the Forestry Commission in February, 1927 and retired this year thus completing fifty-one years with the Commission, broken only by his service in HM Forces in the Second World War.

John worked in a number of forests in the West Conservancy (Scotland) including Barcaldine, Fearnoch, Inverliever, Lock Eck and Benmore.

His last eight years of service were spent with the Research Division based at Kilmun.

At a gathering of his colleagues at the Research Office, Kilmun John was presented with his Long Service Certificate and with suitably inscribed gifts to mark his retirement and his long number of years with the Forestry Commission.



John McFarlane

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

FAREWELL AT THE RING OF BELLS

BOB FIFE, Head Forester at Mendip for the past 8 years, has retired. Following service in the Somerset Light Infantry he went to Lynford Forestry Training School, Thetford, in 1948 whence he was posted as foreman, first to Collingbourne (Savernake) and then shortly afterwards to Hartland in North Devon.

On promotion to Forester he transferred to Fernworthy where he became very much a part of the local community. This period of eight years he claims to have been the most enjoyable of his career.

Specialist duties then took him further east to Taunton and his first acquaintanceship with Mendip Forest where he was destined to spend his last

years of service with the Forestry Commission following promotion to Head Forester in 1970.

A farewell gathering of friends and colleagues from the south-west was held at the Ring of Bells, Wookey, where the Conservator, Mr Leslie Troup, presented Mr and Mrs Fife with a set of Waterford sherry glasses.

SOUTH WALES

Retirals in Wales

MANSEL HARRIS, Workshop Manager at St Hilary for the past seven years, has retired after 30 years service with the Commission. He joined at Chirk Depot, N(W), and served there for 23 years as Mobile Mechanic and Workshop Manager before transferring to South Wales in 1971 to take charge of the new St Hilary Workshop.

ALBERT BAKER, lorry driver at St Hilary Workshop, has retired after 25 years service at Tair Onen and latterly at the Workshop. A presentation on behalf of his colleagues was made to Albert at a party at the British Legion Club, Cowbridge.

LENA GRIFFITHS, Personal Assistant to Mr John Zehetmayr, Senior Officer Wales, left after 14 years' service. Lena's exuberance and sense of fun and helpful nature will long be remembered by all who knew her. She received a gift of a Waterford cut glass jar from her colleagues.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

Peter says goodbye to Chester

AT a lunchtime reception in the Blossoms Hotel, Chester, Forestry Commissioner George Stewart presented a camera to Assistant Conservator Peter Legard to mark Peter's retirement after 28 years with the Commission. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Legard.

Peter served in Scotland, Wales and England, with his last 12 years at the Conservancy Office, Dee Hills Park, Chester. During his time at Chester he has been responsible for the planting and care of woodlands throughout the North West England Conservancy, an area stretching from Stratford-on-Avon to the Scottish Border.

More than 60 friends and colleagues, including a number of Foresters who served with him, attended the presentation.

EAST SCOTLAND

Aggie will be sorely missed



MISS Agnes Campbell has retired after a full and happy 30 years working at Newton Nursery, Laigh of Moray Forest.

During the past five years Agnes has been one of the few lady gangers in the Commission. Renowned for her racy tongue, Aggie will be sorely missed at Newton.

Mr George Holmes, the Director General, presented Aggie with her long service certificate.

Aggie is pictured (above) with Chief Forester Struan Stewart (left) and the DG (right) with many of her colleagues in the background.

Jim moves North

Senior Ranger Jim Reynolds is pursuing his interests of natural history and photography in Inverness-shire since retiring from Dunkeld.

He joined the Commission 25 years ago and was a forest worker at Hallyburton/Kinfauns before becoming senior ranger at Dunkeld where he was a first-class stalker. His trips to Glen Prossan by motor cycle and side-car became almost legendary.

RUCKSACKS SEE HIKER JOHN ON HIS WAY

AFTER nearly 30 years' service with the Forestry Commission, being based in the Forest of Dean, the Chilterns, Wales and North West (England), District Officer John Osmaston has retired.

Colleagues and friends gathered at the Barn Restaurant, Bakewell, to wish him a long and happy retirement. At the gathering, Mr John H. James, Conservator NW(E), thanked John for his very loyal service to the Forestry Commission and presented two lightweight framed rucksacks as John and his wife are keen on hill walking.

A sum of money was also presented for John to buy tools to be used during his retirement. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Osmaston by Mrs Ibbotson, District Office Clerk at Bakewell.

MAROONED!

Three forest workers take to the hills to escape floods

A GANGER and two of our forest workers were marooned at Shin in the North of Scotland when the River Oykel burst its banks flooding the road up to 30ft deep in places.

Roads and fences were washed away and even deer were drowning in the torrent of water.

Here **CHIEF FORESTER HUGH MACKAY**, of Shin Forest, tells how he ploughed through water in a landrover in an attempt to rescue the men — and how they finally had to tramp miles over the mountains to escape from the flooding.

AFTER many hours of continual and torrential rain, Shin forest office received a radio call from ganger Roddie Macleod reporting unpassable flooding on the Rosehall-Ullapool county road.

This was quickly followed by a call from Innes Macleod and Ian Cameron reporting that they were on the wrong side of a 30ft flood chasm on the road to Benmore Lodge. Radio instructions were passed for Innes and Ian to abandon their Land Rover and walk to meet Roddie at the Benmore/County Road Junction. Returning to Lairg via Ullapool.

This had to be altered when a police report of road flooding at Altnacealgach Hotel came through. Roddie and his squad were told to head east and eventually came to a watery halt marooned on a higher stretch of road just west of Oykel Bridge Hotel.

I set out from Lairg by Land Rover, keeping in radio contact with Roddie and Forestry clerkess Cathy Fraser, with the latter passing Roddie's road reports to the police and road authorities. Beyond Rosehall the road was under

two feet of water with Langwell Farm completely surrounded, the occupants being rescued an hour later by helicopter.

The River Oykel had risen 6 feet, with rocks and boulders the size of cars being literally tossed over and over. Just past Oykel Hotel the road disappeared under water with only 5 or 6 feet of roadside telegraph poles in view.

A quarter of a mile away across this newly formed Loch, Roddie's van was just distinguishable through the lashing rain. Roddie and company left the van and took to the hills above the Loch eventually reaching the Land Rover soaked and exhausted with horrific accounts of rivers 12ft above normal, roads and fences washed away and even deer being drowned.

The vital statistics

BOB MURDOCH, Head Forester at Achnashellach, reports that on the day the three men were marooned — October 5 — he recorded a rainfall of 2.3 inches.

Bob, who takes weather readings for the Met Office, here gives the vital statistics for the Autumn...

Achnashellach gets its fair share of rain but September and October 1978 were exceptionally wet months.

Since we take observations at the Forest Office at Craig for the Met Office, perhaps a few figures would be of interest.

Total rainfall for September was 370mm (14.6in) and October was 366mm (14.4in). The wettest day of the two months was Thursday, 5th October when 58.6mm (2.3in)

fell in the period 9 am Thursday to 9 am Friday.

There were 14 days in the two months when over 20mm (0.8in) fell and 4 days when over 30mm (1.2in) fell. Average daily rainfall for September and October 1978 was 12mm (about ½ in) compared to 8.5mm (0.3in) last year.

At Coulin Pass on high ground at the forest boundary the rainfall readings for September and October were 408mm (16in) and 438mm (17.2in) this year.

GO AHEAD FOR PLANTING AT BEINN GHUILEAN

THE "go ahead" has been given to the controversial planting of Beinn Ghulean, a 1,153 ft hill behind Campbeltown in Argyll.

Following objections to the planting from Argyll District Council, the Forestry Commission sought the opinion of the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Bruce Millan. Mr Millan has now said he concurs with the Commission's proposals.

Some local residents opposed the planting proposals — but 600 residents signed a petition to the Director General, Mr George Holmes, asking the Commission to proceed with the plans. And the West of Scotland Regional Advisory Committee were "unanimously and wholeheartedly" in favour of the planting proposals.

The design concept was prepared by landscape consultant Mr Clifford Tandy and our own landscape architect Mr Duncan Campbell who was responsible for the detailed preparation of the plans.

Duncan said: "I am

delighted to hear that Mr Millan has approved the planting of Beinn Ghulean.

"We now have an excellent opportunity to show the public at large as well as the Campbeltown, another example of how forest design can enhance our landscapes — even those such as Beinn

Ghulean which are regarded as being particularly sensitive."

Second architect

The importance placed by the Forestry Commission on landscaping for forests and other properties has been underlined by the appointment of our second staff landscape architect.

He is Mr Oliver Lucas who has just completed a two year diploma course in landscape design at Manchester University.

Oliver joined the Forestry Commission in 1974 and worked for two years as an assistant district officer in North Wales, firstly at Aberystwyth District and then at Dolgellau.

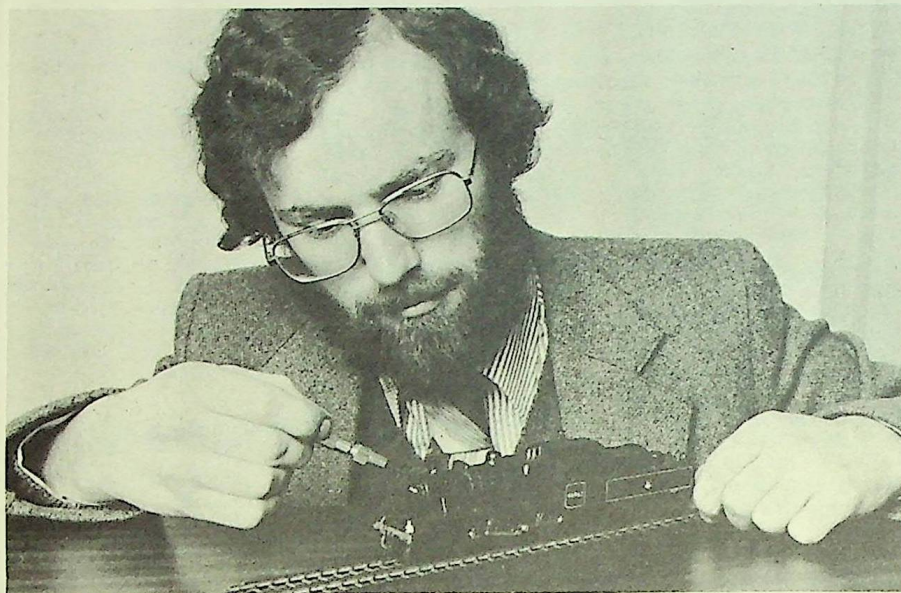
He is married with a 15 month old son and counts his hobbies as real ale, basketball and cricket.



Oliver Lucas

focus

Chugging back to happiness



Alasdair at work on a model locomotive — a replica of one of the engines on the Strathspey line.

WHEN Alasdair Taylor of Audit Branch takes a break from travelling around the country checking on the Forestry Commission's accounts he takes to another form of travel — by steam locomotive.

For Alasdair is a railway enthusiast and an active member of the Strathspey Railway Association who have brought steam engines back to the Highlands of Scotland.

Alasdair in fact joined the association in September 1974 — the day before he joined the Forestry Commission!

Steam trains returned to Speyside last summer following six years hard work by association members who in their spare time have restored to working order the five mile railway from Aviemore to Boat of Garten, in Invernesshire.

Alasdair said: "While working in the North Scotland office in Inverness I was able to make frequent visits to the line, though since transferring to HQ Audit in October 1977 visits have mainly been hectic weekend dashes up from Edinburgh.

"It's mainly open air activity

and many and varied are the tasks I've undertaken, in fair weather and foul: track laying and maintenance, civil and mechanical engineering, but best of all, a glorious weekend as fireman on 46464 last summer!"

Fire hazard

Foresters and forest workers throughout the country will be reminded of the old days of steam trains — and the hazard they posed because of the risk of sparks and cinders starting fires.

The Speyside railway enthusiasts are well aware of this and have taken a number of precautions.

Alasdair explained: "Emergency road access to the line

has been carefully mapped out and fire beaters are provided at every half mile post along the line and are also carried in the guards' vans.

"Warning notices — some supplied by the Commission — are exhibited in the compartments of the trains and plans are also in hand to organise a special fire-fighting train just in case.

"But prevention is better than cure and one of the railway's continuous tasks is the cutting back of vegetation on embankments and cuttings. Hitherto our main tools have been slashers, secateurs and bushman saws but last year a clearing saw was acquired which promises to speed up the task considerably".

Augustus in N(S). He was promoted to Assistant Conservator in 1974 and moved to Inverness Conservancy Office, where he served until his untimely death. During his last year, Arthur spearheaded the fight against the infestation of the pine beauty moth in the north of Scotland. The funeral service was held in Fort Augustus where the church was filled with staff.

MR MAURICE CHRISTON

The death has occurred of Mr Maurice Christon, forest craftsman at Osmotherley Forest. He was aged 49.

Mr Christon was a forest craftsman of the highest order, skilled with machinery and hand tools, and spent the whole of his 22 years forestry service at Osmotherley.

He leaves a wife, son aged 15 and daughter aged eight.

SIR RICHARD COTTERELL

Sir Richard Cotterell who served as a Forestry Commissioner from 1945 to 1964, has died.

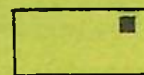
Sir Richard, who was 71, was Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum for Herefordshire from 1945 to 1957. His woodland estate of Garnons, near Hereford, won prizes as a showplace of well-kept woodland.

In 1965 he was appointed a CBE for his work as a Forestry Commissioner. Recently he served as chairman of the Westonbirt Arboretum Advisory Committee.

MR DANNY LEWIS

Danny Lewis who retired as Chief Forester at Brechfa in April 1976 after 45 years with the Commission has died.

Danny joined the Commission as a forest worker at



postbag

TREES IN MEMORY?

Dear Editor,

THIS is a suggestion which I thought you might think possible and appropriate for National Tree Year. I am one of the many widows of Forestry Commission employees and wondered if it would be an idea for those who would like to donate money for a tree to be planted in memory of their husband.

My idea was not to have them in individual places but perhaps with the Forestry Commission's help to be planted and advice given to maintain them either in the grounds of Old People's Homes or for handicapped or mentally ill children or adults.

I realise it would involve extra work but I feel it would be a worthwhile job. The trees could be either in the Conservancy where the husband served or in another of the widow's choice and maybe they could state a tree choice.

I feel certain that many would like this idea and hope that it would be possible.

Thank you for your good work with the Slasher and may I send you my good wishes for Christmas and for 1979.

Mrs L. Yates,
The Cottage,
Main Street,
Sigglesthorne,
Hull,
E. Yorks. HU11 5QA

Editor's Note — We think this is a very good idea and are looking into it to see if such a scheme could be operated.

Needle sharp

Dear Editor,

THOUGH it is 13 years since I left the Forestry Commission, my interest is still needle-sharp and I regularly comb "The Slasher" for news.

Since I left I have worked in External Relations Division of MAFF, which took me round Europe and even as far as India. Wherever I have been, "The Slasher" has caught up with me.

I am going across to the Civil Service Commission to be a Resident Chairman of the Civil Service Selection Board. I very much hope that "The Slasher" will continue to find me there.

J. H. Holroyd,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
Whitehall,
London.

A Moose

A' Loose

Dear Editor,

One day in February, while there was about ten inches of snow on the ground we were sitting around a fire when someone shouted "Look there is a mouse."

That was when the fun began — three or four men trying to catch it. But the mouse disappeared and when we eventually found him he was up someone's back, between his shirt and his jumper. The mouse was released, unharmed.

H. Duncalf,
Hambleton Forest,
North Yorkshire.

YUM-YUM! MORE RECIPES PLEASE

Dear Editor,

TO mark the Forestry Commission's Golden Jubilee nine years ago, there was an enthusiastic response from wives of our staff to a call for "your favourite country-fare recipe".

Mrs Stewart, the wife of our Commissioner for Forest Management, edited and prepared the first edition of over 600 recipes subsequently donating the copyright to the Forestry Commission. In fairly quick succession two reprints have been published and with stocks running low (no wonder at £1 a copy) a new edition is being considered.

We would like to include some recipes which arrived too late for the first edition, and if contributors found their recipe had been incorrectly described please write to me.

Would husbands pass this "Slasher" to the lady-of-the-house with my invitation to them and all readers to send me their favourite yum-yum-can-I-have-some-more-that's-lovely-Mum-local-country-flavour-recipe — soup, sweet, sauce, drink or whatever makes a memorable meal.

Keith Wilson,
Publications Officer,
Forest Research Station,
Alice Holt Lodge,
Wrecclesham,
Farnham,
Surrey GU10 4LH.

Brechfa in 1931 and did a short spell at Tair Onen Nursery before going to Caeo where he stayed for 20 years establishing this magnificent forest. He then went to Tywi and in 1967 returned to his native Brechfa, where he had started work as a boy, to take charge as Chief Forester.

The Conservator described Danny as a great forester of the old school who did much to make his country both productive and beautiful.

He leaves a son, two sisters and a brother to whom our sympathy is extended.

MR ALBERT W. MINTER

Mr Albert W. Minter, former Senior Executive Officer in Industrial Establishment Branch, has died at the age of 75.

He entered the civil service

as a clerk with the Charity Commission and transferred to the Forestry Commission in 1924 where he served before the war as private secretary to the then chairman, Sir Roy L. Robinson.

During the war he was with the Home Grown Timber Production Department and afterwards returned to the Commission.

He leaves a widow and daughter.

MR GEORGE MUNRO

George Munro, a former forester at Glenurquhart Forest who gave the Forestry Commission 35 years service before retiring in 1960, died recently at Dornoch in Sutherlandshire. George was brought up in Dornoch and returned there shortly after his retirement.

OBITUARY

MR ARTHUR CHRISTIE

FORESTRY Commission staff were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Arthur "Chris" Christie, the Assistant Conservator for Forest Management, N(S) who died at his home in October.

Arthur joined the Forestry Commission in 1950 as a district officer, serving in NW(E). He left in 1956 to work for the Australian State Forestry Department and returned to the Forestry Commission in 1960, serving at Barnstaple, SW(E); and Princess Risborough, E(E). He left again in 1965, to work in Zambia.

Arthur returned to Britain in 1970 to take up the post of district officer at Fort

Slasher in South Africa

Dear Editor,

What a most pleasant surprise to me to receive the Slasher here in S. Africa.

It keeps me in touch with events in the UK. So far I have looked in vain for news or contributions from anyone from the Foresters Course at the Forest of Dean 1952-54. If they read this letter I would be pleased to hear from them.

In 1960 I transferred from Forestry Commission, S. Wales to Forestry Commission, N. Rhodesia and when this country became independent to the Forestry Department, S. Africa. Now I am working as a Chief Technician for the SA Bureau of Standards in timber and mainly have to check on the quality of structural timber and creosoted poles to see that they comply with the relevant specifications.

Keep up the good work in the composition of the Slasher. It is a pleasure to read.

A. L. Jones,
6 Springdale Road,
Kloof 3600
Natal,
S. Africa.

Slasher

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