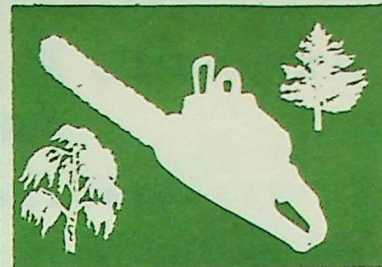


SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 301

SUMMER 1979

World Timber Shortage in 20 years...

DOUBLE OUR FORESTS

— says Professor Bowman

Fiona meets the Princess



Photo by Douglas Green

Fiona (8) presenting the special Tee-shirt to Princess Anne watched by Chairman John Mackie. The Princess is already holding the little Rowan tree in a pot presented by Fiona.

It was a big day for little Fiona McGrath when she met Princess Anne at the Forestry Exhibit at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, near Edinburgh.

Fiona (8), daughter of Mrs Christine McGrath, clerkess at the Glentworth Forest Office, presented the Princess with a tiny Rowan tree and with a Forestry Commission Tee-shirt bearing the slogan "I'm Looking Spruce". Fiona told the Princess that the Tee-shirt was a special small size for her son Peter.

"The Princess said she was very pleased with the tree and the Tee-Shirt," said a smiling Fiona afterwards.



Photo by courtesy Edinburgh Evening News
Smiling with joy, Fiona turns back to her Mum after the presentation.

Princess Anne was on a quick five minute visit to the Forestry Exhibit. But in fact she found so much of interest that she spent almost 20 minutes looking around the many aspects of the stand.

The Princess was accompanied by Chairman John Mackie who was in his shirt sleeves because of the high temperatures that day. Assistant Conservator Richard Chard (South Scotland) who was chairman of the Joint Forestry Exhibit Committee, explained the outdoor exhibit which demonstrated dramatically the advantages of applying fertiliser to young trees.

Britain's forest area should be doubled in size to help the country to get through the world timber shortage predicted for the year 2000.

This is the view of Professor John Bowman, Director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, and chairman of a panel producing a report called "A Forestry Strategy for the UK" which is to be published shortly.

Professor Bowman gave many pointers to the contents of the report when he addressed a Conference on Forestry Policy organised in London by the Royal Society of Arts and the Forestry Committee of Great Britain.

Professor Bowman said: "Comparison of supply and demand indicates that in the year 2000 fixed price demand may exceed estimated supply by at least 8% of total demand, and by 2025 the gap will have widened, supply falling short of demand by 32%.

Yield

"These conclusions assume that the yield from existing forests doubles and the destruction of the natural forest ceases. Insofar as these conditions are not met the shortfall of supplies will be earlier and more acute. An increasing upward pressure on the price of timber must be expected.

"If timber supplies increase only at present projected rates then wood prices could easily double in real terms by 2025."

The professor continued: "It appears that for strategic reasons an increase in the size and productivity of the forestry estate in GB is highly desirable.

"It has to be recognised that in GB the level of new afforestation which can be achieved is highly dependent

on land being released for forestry from other uses and on integration of forestry and farming.

"There are in Great Britain an estimated 2,800,000 ha of land which is unsuitable for arable farming but has potential for afforestation. This land is currently used for either hill livestock farming, as grouse moor or deer range, or is not productive.

"It appears that, assessed on the basis of technical and economic aspects of forestry alone, an upper limit to the annual planting target, including restocking, is 60,000 hectares. If implemented such a target leads approximately to a doubling of the GB forest area, from 2 to 4 million hectares, by 2030.

Integration

"A gradual encroachment over 50 years of forestry onto rough grazings may allow increased investment in, and therefore increased stocking on, the residual area in agriculture. Thereby the farm output can be maintained and the total output of the whole area in integrated forms of forestry and agriculture increased.

"Whilst an expanded forestry industry in the uplands would have advantages for regional developments, and might enhance some land uses, these issues are secondary to

the principal reason for more investment being needed in forestry: the probability of future world timber shortages leading to rapid escalation of prices after 2000."

Compelling

LORD DULVERTON, chairman of the Forestry Committee of Great Britain, told the conference:

"The case for expanding, even doubling Britain's area under productive forestry, if we are to have any regard for the welfare of Britons who follow us, is compelling, and the under-utilised upland areas form the main theatre for possible action, though the derelict and un-managed — in the silvicultural sense — existing woodlands could make a better contribution.

"Governments need to be persuaded of the need to provide or assist in this investment."

MR GEORGE HOLMES, our Director General, told the conference: "The extent and the rate of expansion will depend on the relation with hill farming and the environment and on the availability of suitable land in sufficient quantity. The main requirement is for a clear and positive statement of national strategy in respect of each of the main land uses in upland Britain to facilitate the transfer of land into forestry on a rational basis."

Review of Staff and Costs

The Forestry Commission — in line with all Government departments — has been subjected to restrictions in staffing to meet the additional cost of recent pay awards within this year's cash limits.

There is a three month ban on recruitment of staff to fill the posts of people who leave. The ban is effective until August and may be extended beyond that date.

The harvesting and marketing side of our operations is one of the very few exemptions to this ban on recruiting.

For future years the Commission is also participating in the Whitehall-wide urgent review of staffing and expenditure, the results of which will finally appear in this autumn's public expenditure survey.

Options

The Government has announced that it has asked all departments to say how they would be affected by cut-backs in staff costs of 10 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent.

Ministers will then have to decide between these options what staff cost savings, if any, the departments, including the Forestry Commission, will have to find and how such savings are to be related to the savings they also hope to find in other expenditure.

Mr Murray Hunter, Forestry Commissioner for Administration and Finance, told "Slasher": "We have been in consultation with the staff and trade union sides and shall keep them as fully informed as possible."

IN YOUR

Summer Slasher

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How an attractive holidaymaker fell in love with one of our production workers.

Page 3 TIMBER-R-R

An unusual way of dealing with a troublesome Silver Fir called Eve.

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Our debt to pioneer forest landscape architect, Dame Sylvia Crowe

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News from forests around the country.

Page 7 THE "HUMANITY" OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

What two MPs had to say about a new forest walk for the disabled — and the man behind the scheme, Roy Hughes.

Page 8 LADIES "AHOY" ON HMS CONIFER

The story of what happened when four ladies from York office took to the water... by raft.

PLUS ALL your regular news and features

JUBILEE ISSUE

The Forestry Commission is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this Autumn and we are planning a special edition of "Slasher".

We are looking for stories and photographs showing work in the early days of the Commission. Please send them to: Editor, Slasher, Information Branch, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Axeman's **Log** True Love at Dalavich

QUEEN HONOURS FC STAFF

FIVE Forestry Commission people have received awards in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 1979.

Part-time Commissioner James David Gibson-Watt has been made a Baron and Director General George Holmes received a CB (Companion of the Bath).

BEMs have been awarded to Leading Ganger W. H. Dennis, of Bodmin, Cornwall (S/W Eng) and Mechanic J. Martin, of Barcaldine, (West Scot).

Roy's Farewell

The award of the MBE to North Wales HEO Roy Fisher coincided nicely with his retirement after 42 years public service.

He started with the Post Office in 1936 and returned there for a further year after

war service. Roy then joined the Forestry Commission in Aberystwyth and worked at Shrewsbury and York before returning to Aberystwyth when the North Wales Conservancy office moved there in 1965.

At a well attended farewell, Conservator Roger Bradley presented Roy with a cheque and Mrs Edwina Fisher received a bouquet of pink carnations from Liz Jones, superintendent of typists.

In a thank-you letter, sent to Slasher, Roy says he intends to buy binoculars with his presentation cheque and cultivate his interest in bird watching.



Roy Fisher enjoys a farewell drink with some of the ladies at North Wales.

"Highland" Farewell



Photo by courtesy Gordon Barr

SEVEN workers from Scottish forests who have clocked up more than 230 years' service between them were special guests at the Royal Highland Show at Ingleston.

Mr John Mackie, Chairman of the Forestry Commission, presented them with Long-Service Certificates at a special ceremony at the Forestry Exhibit.

Receiving the certificates were:

David Campbell, of Drummond Hill Forest, Perthshire, who has been a ganger at

Drummond Hill for most of his 33 years' service.

William Leslie, of Benachie Forest, Aberdeenshire, who has over 40 years of service including war service.

Frank Cowie, of Laigh of Moray Forest, Morayshire, who has 31 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

William Duncan, of Laigh of Moray Forest, Morayshire, who joined the Forestry Commission in 1937 at Alltcaileach Forest.

Edwin Abbott, of Newcastle Forest, South Scotland,

who is retiring after nearly 33 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

John Dick Denovan, of Strathgry Forest, Perthshire, who has almost 33 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

Benedetto Tortolano, of Loch Ard Forest, Perthshire, who has more than 33 years' service with the Forestry Commission. He is a lorry driver.

● The group is pictured above with the Chairman following the presentation.



Photo by courtesy Alan Stutz, Bedford.
James and Karen cutting the cake after their wedding.

Desmond is back

Desmond Dugan, ranger at Fearnoch Forest, West Scotland, has returned home safely after taking part in Operation Drake's historic crossing of the Isthmus of Panama in Central America.

Readers who were enthralled by Desmond's story and photographs in the last edition of "Slasher" will be pleased to know that the crossing was made in 20 days without loss of life.

"However, it was very tough going and there were serious problems of fatigue and heat exhaustion," said Desmond.

Some members of the expedition had to be airlifted out on the 18th day and in his diary for that day Desmond wrote:

"The last hours have undoubtedly been the most dramatic of our young lives. We have been dropped water and the serious casualties have been airlifted.

"The events of the last days will give me and probably most of us a whole new slant on life. We should now appreciate all we have, all that in the past has been at our finger tips."

Desmond was taking part in one of the nine separate phases of Operation Drake — a round-the-world expedition under the leadership of the famous explorer Lt-Col John Blashford-Snell. Each phase has a fresh team of 24 youngsters.

TRUE LOVE blossomed at Dalavich when production worker James Bell met holiday-maker Karen Hunt who was staying in one of the holiday houses in the village. Our West Scotland Correspondent reports

"In the holiday season Inverliever Forest Office receives many completed questionnaires from holiday-makers in Dalavich Village.

"We hear of huge fish that somehow escaped and midges that stayed, but the most common comment is upon the joys of tranquil forest walks and the friendliness of the natives.

"James Bell, one of our production workers, has just proved the latter point, conclusively, by marrying Karen Hunt, an attractive visitor from Bedford.

"On Karen's last pre-marital visit, she had the good fortune to be snowed in, and gave every appearance of enjoying her extended stay.

"When James was at school his teacher said that local children were somewhat deprived, as they saw so little of people from the outside world. James now disagrees with this.

"We are, naturally, glad to have made a holiday visitor happy for life, but sorry that Karen and James have moved to Sherwood. We wish them happiness.

"A vacancy exists for a good-looking saw operator, preferably unattached. An aptitude for Public Relations work would be an advantage."

TREE MEN OF THE MOTORWAYS

The Forestry Commission's newest management unit lays claim to having the longest name, and to being the longest "forest".

The Midland Motorway Landscaping Unit is based at Arley, near Coventry, and will deal solely with Department of Transport agency work of tree planting and maintenance on motorways and trunk roads in Staffordshire, West Midlands and Warwickshire.

The "area" covered is some 380 km (240 miles) in extent — approaching 1,000,000 trees — and includes some of the most heavily used motorways in the country. One renowned feature within the complex is "Spaghetti Junction" where our trees are thriving under the several tiers of concrete road decks.

Road Team

Work on the motorways in the area was previously carried out by Cannock and Arden Forests. Men from these Forests who will now work full time on the motorways are Walter Adams, Dave Wall, Barry Hughes and Andy Ratcliffe, previously at Cannock; Peter Bray, Len Fisher and Ian Hencox, previously at Arden. Head Forester John Webster is in charge of the Unit, assisted during the initial period by Forester John Hill.

Ponds scoop award

The Jubilee Wildlife Conservation Area in Greystoke Forest, North West England, has been awarded a Certificate of Commendation in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors / Times Conservation Awards for 1979.

The centrepiece of the area is a series of ponds — two large fishing ponds and five smaller wildfowl ponds which have attracted mallard, moorhen, teal, shelduck and goosander.

The project was the brainchild of former Conservator Jack Chard who is now Wildlife Consultant to the Forestry Commission.

Well done, Richard

"Slasher" has received a Certificate of Merit from the British Association of Industrial Editors for the article "End of an Era" by Richard Westlake, of North Scotland.

Richard's article — which appeared with photograph on the front page of last Autumn's issue — was about the last horseman employed by the Forestry Commission.

Our "Wildlife Theatres"

The natural history television programme "World About Us" examines coniferous plantations and their contribution to wildlife in their film "Highland Story" to be televised on Sunday, September 23 on BBC2.

Acknowledging objections raised by conservationists, Hugh Falkus, the presenter of the film, pays tribute to the tree planters of the Highlands and has some enlightened things to say about afforestation providing a vital new habitat on the "impoverished uplands". He makes the point that forests "wisely planted" can provide the "finest wildlife theatre."

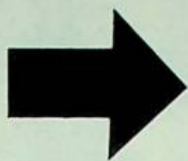
His cameraman has captured some fascinating sequences of Red Deer, a hen harrier, Scottish wild cat, pine martens and ospreys.

The film carries the bold message that "the normal coniferous forest is not an unbroken tract of timber" and ends with the optimistic note that forests of the future can help to "bring new life to a devastated landscape."

The BBC Natural History Unit cooperated with us closely in researching the film but alas filming at Affric and Black Wood of Rannoch had to be abandoned because of bad weather.

TIMBER-R-R.....

Silver Fir topped with explosives!



UNUSUAL methods were used to deal with a troublesome Silver Fir at Garelochhead Forest, West Scotland — the Royal Navy came in and blew the top off with explosives!

The tree was one of two Silver Firs planted in 1720 by the Duke of Argyll at Camsail House, near Rosneath village. The trees grew as almost identical twins and became known as Adam and Eve.

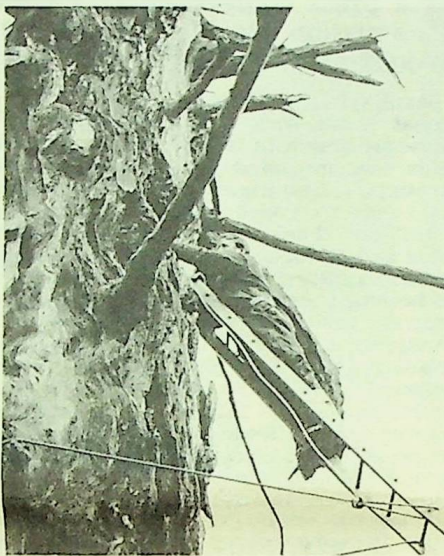
But they eventually died and decayed into a dangerous condition with several large overhanging branches and it was decided these would have to be removed and the trees rendered safe.

"With Adam this was a relatively simple operation using ladder, safety harness and power saw", said Head Forester Gordon Rae. "Eve, however, was a different proposition. She had decayed into a very dangerous state and it was neither safe nor practicable to use normal methods. However, help of an unusual nature was at hand.

"The Royal Navy establishment HMS Neptune, better known as the Clyde Submarine Base kindly volunteered to remove the dangerous section of the tree using explosives and, a team lead by P. O. Chatman, ringed the tree with explosives and blew off the dangerous top half of the tree efficiently and safely, from a distance."



The navy men arrive to blow Eve's top off with explosives.



The tricky task of fixing the explosives in a ring around the top section of the tree.



There she goes! The big bang rings out in the forest and Eve's top crashes to the ground.

Our thanks...

TO the Royal Navy for willingly and efficiently carrying out this public service. Their work is much appreciated by our local staff at Garelochhead.

Our thanks are also due to the Royal Navy for the excellent photographs taken by them during the operation.

Footnote...

APPROXIMATELY twenty feet of clean trunk remains as a reminder of the past and visitors can walk in safety around the two old trees. It is proposed to open a forest walk in the Camsail block of the forest and the perpetuity of the two old trees will be assured by the planting of two Silver Fir youngsters named, of course, Cain and Abel.

FARMING AND FORESTRY IN UPLAND BRITAIN

THE future roles of agriculture and forestry in upland areas of Britain will be discussed during the Forestry Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science Conference in Edinburgh in September.

Forestry is one of the main themes at this year's British Association Conference and two of the major speakers will be Mr George Holmes, Director General of the Forestry Commission, and Mr J. B. Cameron, President of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland.

Mr Holmes will be talking about "Relating Forest to Farming" and will look at the desirable future contribution from forestry with due regard to the need to maintain satisfactory levels of food production and viable rural communities.

Mr Cameron will examine "The Role of Agriculture and Forestry", and look at the complementary nature of the two before outlining proposals to ensure proper long term land use.

Mr J. C. Dunning, an upland farmer and member of the Countryside Commission, will talk about "Toward Integration in the Uplands".

The three speeches will be given on the last day of the conference — Friday, 7 September. The British Association Conference runs from September 3-7 at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. The Forestry sessions will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September 5-7.

The Chairman of the Forestry Section, Mr David Seal, Chief Research Officer at the

Forestry Commission's Northern Research Station will open the forestry discussions on September 5 with a speech called: "Making the Most of Britain's Upland Forests".

Other speakers during the week include Dr Jean Balfour, Chairman of the Countryside Commission for Scotland, who will look at nature conservation in upland forestry; Mr Clifford Tandy, Landscape Consultant to the Forestry Commission, who will discuss the landscape of hill forests; Dr D. C. Malcolm, of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Edinburgh University; Mr Donn Small, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest; and Mr R. C. Steele, Head of the Division of Scientific Services, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Cambridge.

The Institute of Foresters of Great Britain are holding their 1979 Study Tour in Scotland during the same week. The tour will be based at Stirling from September 3-5 and will include visits to Carron Valley Forest; the Caber Board Mill at Cowie; Knowhead Estate near Dunning; Gask Estate, Loch Ard Forest and Strathgry Forest.

Further details of the BA conference from Miss J. H. Dring, British Association, 23 Savile Row, London W1 or Alan D. Whitney, 60 Newbattle Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4RX.

Big hill search — Len's men thanked

FORESTRY Commission staff and members of the Galloway Search and Rescue Group have been thanked for their "rapid response" when an American Buccaneer aircraft crashed into the Cairnsmore hills on a cold winter's night killing two crewmen.

The group set off up the hills in gale force winds and located the wrecked plane. And an area of Kirroghtree Forest nursery was used as an RAF rescue helicopter base during the operation and by the USAF during the subsequent investigation.

District Officer Len Simpson who is chairman of the Galloway Search and Rescue Group, has received this letter from Colonel Paul Robinson, President of the USAF Accident Investigation Board:

"I would like to express my appreciation to you, your staff within the Forestry Commission and the Galloway Hill Search and Rescue Team that aided us in our investigation of the recent aircraft accident near Newton Stewart. Without your help our investigation

would have been much more difficult and lengthy.

"The Galloway Hill Search and Rescue Team was most impressive with their rapid response and dedicated effort throughout the night of March 28, 1979. Their excellent witness statements have also assisted in our investigation.

"The co-operation of the Forestry Commission in allowing us to use a landing site near the crash site saved us much valuable time."

And Colonel Ellis Vander, of USAF Alconbury, wrote to Len saying: "I would like to add my thank-you to that of Colonel Robinson for your co-operation and that of your staff in the recent aircraft accident investigation. Without the assistance of agencies such as yours, our task in Scotland would have been

much more difficult and lengthy."

The Galloway Search and Rescue Group was formed in Newton Stewart in 1975 with a nucleus of Forestry Commission personnel. The group work in co-operation with the police and their formation was because of the build up of tourism in Galloway and the increasing use being made of the hills by organisations, the services and the general public.

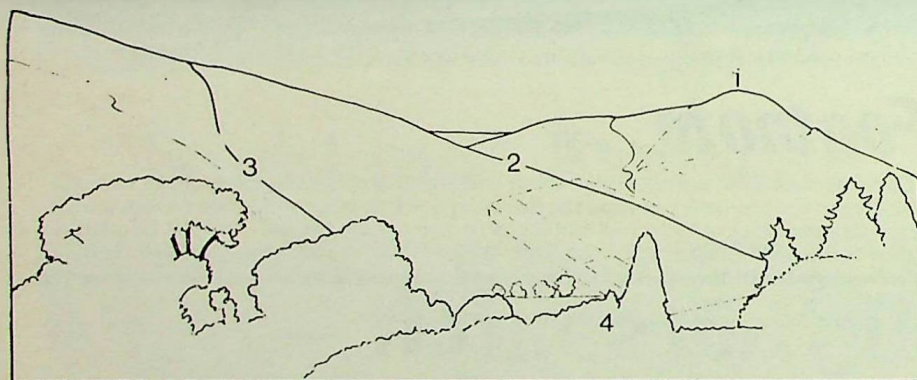
THE next Forestry Commission central auction of vehicles, machinery and equipment will take place on September 12, 1979, at Newmains, Wishaw, Lancashire. Catalogues can be obtained from the auctioneers, The Motor Auctions (Scotland) Ltd, Main Street, Newmains, Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

From silviculture to SYLVIAculture...

LANDSCAPING OUR FORESTS

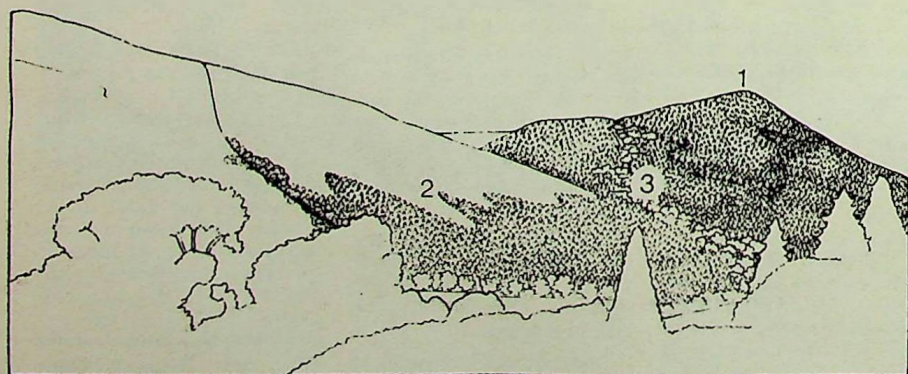


A landscape of very strong form has had an unsympathetic pattern of forestry imposed on it. (Foel Dinas, Dyfi Forst, Snowdonia — an example from the booklet).



ANALYSIS

The landscape features which should be respected in afforestation in the area are the focal points of the peak (1) with its slightly asymmetric form, the sweep of the left-hand hill (2) flanking the focal hill, the gullies (3) which give articulation to the hillside and the fine grouping of the foreground trees (4).



SOLUTION

Planting and future felling coupes should respect the unity of the focal hill (1) and the manner in which it grows out of the surrounding landform.

Planting should be extended with a more sympathetic upper planting line (2) as far as the gully (3), to express the unity of the flanking hill and its lead up to the focal hill.

Indigenous growth should be encouraged in the gullies and the broadleaves strengthened at the lower edge of the plantation to tie the forest into the valley woods.

WITH the present shortage of land in Britain we cannot afford to separate our land-space into ugly production areas on one hand and landscape reserves on the other, said forest landscape pioneer Dame Sylvia Crowe.

"We must combine production with landscape values. Forestry has proved exceptionally adaptable to this policy," she declared at a press conference in London to launch her new Forestry Commission Booklet No 44 "The Landscape of Forests and Woodlands".

Dame Sylvia, an international authority on landscape design in many fields was appointed the Forestry Commission's first Landscape Consultant in 1963 and thanks to her vision and professional expertise landscape design has become accepted as an integral part of forest management.

Booklet No 44 "The Landscape of Forests and Woods" draws on her unique expertise and cites landscape problems and solutions in forests all over the country. Extensively illustrated by line drawings and colour photographs the booklet will serve as an authoritative work, not only to Commission staff, but also to private woodland owners and the general public who wish to gain a fuller understanding of the philosophy of landscape design in forestry.

Asset

"The purpose of the booklet" said Dame Sylvia "is to establish the possibility of producing commercial timber while at the same time conserving, and often enhancing the landscape — visually, ecologically and as an asset to the enjoyment of the countryside."

"With this main theme I have tried to show clearly and simply how it can be achieved in different types of country. To do this the particular attractions of various landscapes are analysed, and ways explored by which their

character can be respected throughout the life of the timber crop, from planting to harvesting.

"Good results can only be obtained if the methods advocated are both silviculturally and commercially sound and if the foresters implementing them are convinced of their good sense.

"The many photographs produced by the Forestry Commission of forests where good landscape principles have been followed, will I hope, bear testimony to the feasibility of the methods advocated, and to the manner in which the Forestry Commission is responding to the needs of good landscape.

Recognition

"I, of course, hope that the influence, both of what has been achieved and what is advocated may have some impact beyond the Forestry Commission, and be of some help to all who are concerned with forests and woodlands."

The latest publication is a complete revision of Dame Sylvia's first work on the subject — "Forestry in the Landscape" which was published as a Forestry Commission Booklet in 1966.

Dame Sylvia, Past President of the Institute of Landscape Architects has won international recognition for her work which has included landscape design of New Towns, power stations, reservoirs, flood reclamation and various public parks and gardens. At 77 she is still involved in private practice acting as

consultant mainly to reservoir and garden projects.

On Dame Sylvia's retirement, the Commission engaged Mr Clifford Tandy as Landscape Consultant. Mr Tandy, also a Past President of the Institute of Landscape Architects' Association has been Chairman of the British Standards Institution Committee on Landscape Work and was a founder member of the Landscape Research Group.

He has done much to further the principles initiated by Dame Sylvia, providing independent professional advice to the Forestry Commission, as well as that given by our two full-time landscape architects Duncan Campbell and Oliver Lucas, who are graduates in both forestry and landscape design.

Forestry Commission Booklet No 44 "The Landscape of Forests and Woods" is on sale at HMSO Bookshops, or from Alice Holt. Price £3.50.

Policy

The publication of Booklet 44 coincides with the production of the Forestry Commission's new series of policy papers.

Paper No 3 is entitled "The Forestry Commission and Landscape Design" and is available from Information Branch, Headquarters.

The Paper was also launched at the London Press Conference which was attended by Commissioner George Stewart and Landscape Architect Duncan Campbell.

Our debt to Dame Sylvia...

IN the Foreword to the booklet Mr John Mackie, Chairman of the Forestry Commission, writes:

"Dame Sylvia Crowe retired as Landscape Consultant to the Forestry Commission in 1976 after 13 years of pioneer work.

"In producing this booklet, which is an extensive revision of the one first published in 1966, she has drawn upon her unique experience of landscaping British forests over many years. Her opinions on landscape design principles which should be applied in

forestry to obtain a satisfactory balance between beauty and function in the landscape, are admirably outlined in this work.

"Her principles have been adopted as the Forestry Commission's policy on landscape design and will be implemented by its staff.

"I hope this booklet will be of interest and practical use outside the Commission; to the general public who may gain a fuller understanding of

the landscape design objective of the Forestry Commission; to woodland owners whose aim of caring for the countryside is similar to our own; and to countries abroad with similar landscape problems.

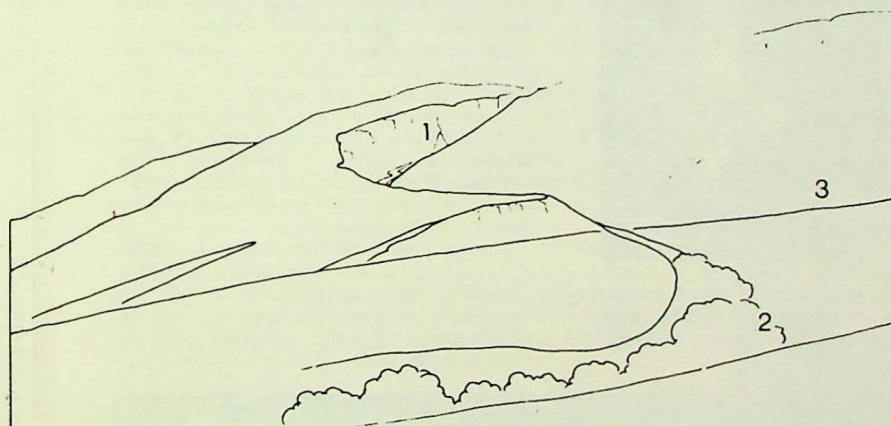
"The Forestry Commission is greatly indebted to Dame Sylvia Crowe for all the work she has done on its behalf. I have the greatest pleasure in commending this booklet and hope that it may have a wide circulation."



Forest landscape pioneer Dame Sylvia Crowe who has laid the foundation of our landscape policy as it is carried out today. Here she is pictured eyeing the landscape from New Fancy View in the Forest of Dean, one of the many projects which benefited from her advice.

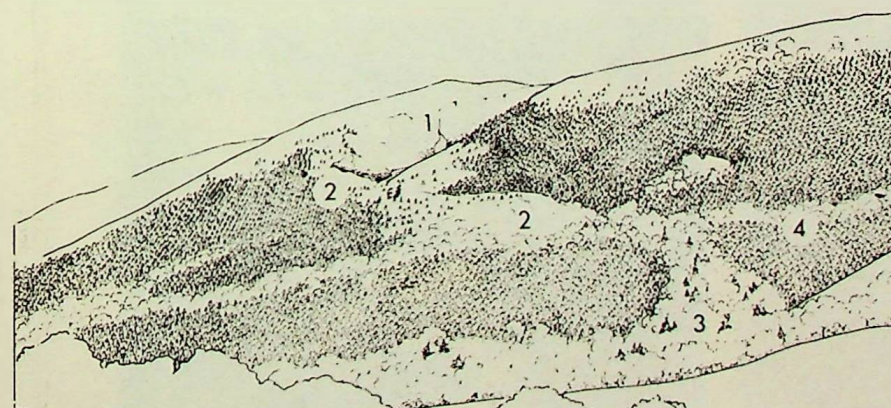


A hillside whose beauty is lessened by the forest road and the present shape of the plantations. (Another example from Wales).



ANALYSIS

The basic form of this landscape is its strong S composition leading the eye to the waterfall (1). The composition is strengthened by the valley broadleaves (2). There is some scarring by the forest road (3).



SOLUTION

The view of the waterfall (1) could be retained by leaving areas unplanted (2). The composition would be accentuated, and the road scar masked (4), by extending the valley broadleaves (3).



Nature News

The Wild Goats of Kielder

By Wilf Howell

IT can be a nerve shattering experience for the unwary to be casually walking over the "hill" enjoying the peace and quiet and suddenly having up to a dozen multi-coloured animals erupt from literally under one's feet.

But this can happen at Kielder where a herd of feral goats roam completely wild over the upland moors and bogs.

Goats have been there since the Middle Ages but they have just suffered a hard winter and there are fears that only 40 per cent have survived, as Head Forester Wilf Howell reports.



Wild goats at Kielder "captured" on film by Barry Auld.

The origin of the feral goats roaming completely wild over the upland moors and bogs above Kielder is obscure.

It is, however, generally accepted that they derived from escapees of domestic herds dated from the Middle Ages onwards although goats were hunted long before this and remains of goats have been found on Pre-historic and Neolithic sites brought no doubt from their place of origin in the Middle East by our remote ancestors.

It is known that within the last 100 years hill farmers ran goats with their domestic stock in the belief that they prevented abortions and destroyed adders!

Two herds

At one time there were several herds of goats within the Kielder complex but the hard winters of '47 and '63 coupled with recent planting reduced them to two main herds, one around Kielder and the other above Redesdale. There are other herds in the Cheviots and Liddesdale and no doubt odd animals are seen elsewhere but these are mainly travellers.

A rough census taken of the Kielder herd in 1977 revealed approximately 120 goats, 80 nannies with kids and 40 billies of varying ages. That of Redesdale was considerably less.

The Kielder goats are long-coated ranging in colour from

dark brown, piebald, to complete off-white. The horns of the mature billies are long, up to 91cm, and triangular in cross section. Two main shapes can be distinguished, one where the horns sweep up and straight back over the head — reputed to be of British strain, the other sweeping upwards and outwards, termed handle-bar type, said to be of Spanish origin. The nannies also carry small horns of up to 30cm in length and elliptical in cross-section.

Nanny

It is interesting to note that despite text book assertions that herds are led by master billies, the Kielder herd was led, from '70 to '77 by a large white nanny, who would always stay aloof from the rest, always on the alert and ready to lead the herd to safety if disturbed. She was difficult to approach and could detect danger at far greater distances than most master billies.

The goats will feed on almost anything, thus their ability to survive on the most barren of moors, grazing and browsing as they move seemingly aimlessly along with their heads to the wind, for although they have poor eyesight and only normal hearing their sense of smell is keen.

The Kielder goats, being little disturbed, can be easily approached up wind providing natural cover is used

sensibly, but once disturbed they move off at a brisk walk and keep going. They use the ditches and hags to confuse their pursuers. Often seeing goats disappear over the brow of a hill, one tries to catch up and on reaching the summit can only see empty moor, when in fact the goats can be within a few hundred metres, hidden from view. Sit and watch for a while—often they will come meandering out once they believe is safe.

Survival

The numbers of the Kielder herd will vary from year to year depending on climatic conditions during the winter months. Kid survival can be as low as 5 per cent, fatalities among adults can reach tragic proportions. It is suspected that survival rate among the Kielder and Redesdale herds have been as low as 40 per cent during the last winter. Thus the question will be not one of control but sufficient survival of numbers to ensure continuity of the herd.

The present policy, is to remove only those goats that are persistent in doing damage despite efforts to encourage them elsewhere.

It is hoped that for years to come one may be able to stand in the valley and "glass" the goats climbing the rocky pinnacles on the sky-line or even get frightened to death when startling an old billy from his bed.

EAST SCOTLAND

Mr Fixit retires



Photo by courtesy Aberdeen Press and Journal
Dave Pittendreich receives a cheque from Conservator Ian Grant at West Tullos Repair Depot.

EAST Scotland's "Mr Fixit", Dave Pittendreich, has retired as workshop superintendent after 33 years' service.

Dave joined the HGPTD in June 1940 and came to the Commission in 1946. He took over the Conservancy's Mechanical Repair Depot at Blackhall Garage, Banchory, which was a large Nissen Hut on the site of a former Canadian Lumber Camp.

From this modest Headquarters, Dave controlled the Conservancy's mechanical fleet which he saw develop through the years of experimentation, improvisation and unsophistication to the modern and comprehensive fleet which exists today. Apart from one short period in the early '50s, Dave ran the outfit largely unaided by senior supervision until a Conservancy Mechanical Engineer was appointed early in the '60s.

Tales of Dave at Blackhall Garage are legion. He tackled his task with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Nothing involving his machinery was too much trouble for Dave as innumerable Foresters and Area Officers would testify.

In latter years, the main repair depot moved to Aberdeen where Dave was able to lead a rather more orderly existence. Nevertheless, he looks back on his days at "the Garage" as the happiest of his career. He was a tremendous servant to the Commission and one would sum up his long and honourable service by saying that he gave of himself and did not count the cost.

In 1977 Dave received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. At a pleasant ceremony at West Tullos Repair Depot, the Conservator, Mr Ian Grant, presented Dave with a cheque, and a pot plant was presented to Peg Pittendreich by the Conservancy telephonist Miss G. Franks.

Steve leaves Binoculars for Jim

STEVE Meaney retired after serving as a forest worker at Dunkeld since 1953.

Steve's prowess as a joiner was indeed unique and very much sought after.

He was presented with a set of power tools.

GANGER Jim Lackie was presented with a pair of binoculars when he retired from Dunkeld Forest.

He came to Craigvinean Forest in 1958 having worked mainly in agriculture in this part of Perthshire.

He was a meticulous record keeper and kept a diary of daily events and was often consulted by staff about occurrences in the forest prior to their coming to the district. His interests are gardening and music.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

HENRY'S 42 YEARS

LEADING Ganger Henry Dennis has retired after 42 years at Kernow Forest.

Henry was presented with a Work Master by Chief Forester Jeff Thomas on behalf of his colleagues at Kernow.

Although suffering a serious disability from action in Normandy in 1944, Henry was soon back at work in Bodmin Forest as it then was, where he helped train a large number of trainees entering the Commission from the Forces, stationed at Doublebois Hostel. Many of these trainees are now Head and Chief Foresters including Henry's present Chief.

Henry was Union Representative for many years and also serves on the S/W Region Advisory Board.

Cutty's farewell

BERNARD "Cutty" Cutcliffe, south West England's well known first aider, and former Slasher correspondent retired after 33 years' service.

Bernard joined the Forestry Commission as a Clerical Officer in July 1946. The Conservancy Office was at that time in Exeter, but moved to Bristol soon afterwards. "Cutty", as he was known to his colleagues, was promoted to EO in August 1948 and served in most sections of the Conservancy Office during his subsequent career.

He is best remembered for his activities in the sphere of first aid. A long-standing member and officer of the St John Ambulance Brigade, he was made an Officer of The Order of St John in 1978.

When the Health & Safety at Work legislation came into being, Cutty visited many of

the forests in the conservancy giving First-Aid lectures, and has also given talks to the office staff. In fact, many people in other departments on the Flowers Hill site would come to him if anyone was ill or had an accident.

At first Cutty elected to stay on after his 60th birthday, and did so for a few months, but a vacancy then occurred in the HQ office of St John's in Bristol, and he was offered the job — an offer he could not resist.

At a presentation in Conservancy office, the Conservator gave him a cheque and card signed by both field and office staff.

South West trio

GORDON YOUNG joined the Commission as a Clerical Officer on transfer from the then Ministry of Pensions in June, 1949. He was glad to get back to his native Bath and remained in SW(E) for the remainder of his career.

Gordon has now retired and was presented with a cheque and signed card from his colleagues.

MAURICE WINTER, skilled forest worker at Mendip Forest, has retired after 33 years.

He was particularly good at repairing and re-building dry stone walls which border some of the plantations on Mendip. Whilst working on Mendip in the small forest nursery Maurice met his future wife who also worked in the nursery and knew as much about "lining-out" as Maurice.

VIC WOOD has retired after a lifetime in agriculture and forestry. He has spent the last 19 years with the Commission at Hereford Forest where he earned the reputation of being a highly-skilled craftsman.

His workmates presented him with a set of socket spanners. Vic and his wife will continue to like at Woolhope, their home for nearly forty years.

SHOW UNITS

TOM BOWS OUT



Chief Forester Tom Wilkinson with the wooden plaque depicting his faithful show unit. He is pictured with Stan Bridges who worked with him on the unit over 20 years ago.

TOM Wilkinson — "Mr Show Unit" to his many friends throughout the Commission during his nomadic 28 years of "showing the flag" — left the Commission in April.

The occasion was a surprise gathering of old chums and colleagues at a hotel in Farnham. There were presentations, many of a humorous nature, of old relics or associations with the Show Unit, but highlighted by a magnificent plaque, carved by Brian Leemans, of the faithful lorry and caravan in relief and a cheque on behalf of well-wishers throughout the Commission.

Tom has been in the forefront of the Public Relations battle and his personal example and conscientious approach has been second to none throughout. We wish him well in what, characteristically, is bound to be an "active" retirement.

SOUTH WALES

Two Head Foresters leave Llandovery



Edgar Yerbury (left) receives his cheque from Conservator John Zehetmayr with District Officer Ian Watt looking on.

WITHIN a month Llandovery District has lost 2 long serving Head Foresters, events marked by local gatherings and presentations.

Firstly, a gathering at the Grange, Llandovery, paid farewell to W. J. Stevens, Steve to all his friends, who has been in charge of Cao since 1972. Most of his service was in Wales having served at Margam, Crychan and Brechfa before taking charge of Coed Gwili in 1967. As the original training forester for Wales he went to every forest in the principality initiating workers into the mystery of cross-cut saw and other tool maintenance.

A month later it was the turn of Edgar Yerbury who has been in charge of Irfon Forest since re-organisation in 1967.

For 14 years he was in charge of Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, progressing from foreman to forester in charge. Torn between family connections in South Wales and the Island it is to the latter that he is retiring with Mrs Yerbury who comes from Hampshire.

The Conservator, John Zehetmayr, presented cheques to each and Steve's was used for power tools while Edgar's will be spent on a new greenhouse. Obviously retirement leads to a full life, and while the Welsh speaker gardens in Hampshire the Englishman labours in Dyfed!



"Steve" Stevens receives his cheque from the Conservator.

HALF CENTURY BY GEORDIE

GEORDIE Stephenson has retired after no less than 50 years' service in the Forestry Commission.

A Durham man, he joined as a Forest Worker in Dalby Forest, North Yorkshire in 1929 and served there for 10 years being transferred to the Home Grown Timber Producers' Association at the outbreak of war where he served until 1946 in various parts of Yorkshire, returning to work at Dalby to serve under the well-known Head Forester Lenny Snowden.

In 1962 he made the grade, as it were, by being accepted by the Civil Engineering Unit at Dalby and after completing a CITB course at Peterborough became the operator of an Aveling Barford maintenance grader and eventually became the operator of the bigger MG grader and must have regraded most, if not all, of the forest roads in North and South Yorkshire over the last 20 years.

We shall miss the sight of that comfortable figure always with his dog sitting beside him on the high seat of the grader with a ready smile and we wish him well on his retirement.

He was presented at Dalby village hall with a long service certificate by Mr J. A. Spencer, Conservator, and with a shooting stick and an inscribed tankard from all his colleagues by Mr T. A. Murdock, Conservancy Civil Engineer.

Double retirement at Cropton Forest

THERE was a double retirement presentation at Cropton Forest when Charlie Allan and Herbert Holliday retired.

Farewell...

JOE HODGSON retired after 31 years' service in Cropton and Wykeham Forest. He was mainly involved in forest protection at Wykeham since leaving Cropton in 1957.

IKE WHITE retired after 21 years with the Commission. His first appointment was to Pry Rigg workshop, then to Ampleforth Forest, as a mobile mechanic. He remained there until 1969 when the workshop was closed down, and transferred to the Conservancy Office and took charge of Transport. Inspections and Training. Doug Petty, Conservancy Mechanical Engineer, presented Ike with gifts of binoculars and a framed photograph of forest and technical staff taken about 1960.

LEW WEATHERLEY, Forest Craftsman at Falstone Forest, retired on his 65th birthday, after 38 years service. Arrangements have been made with a local artist to paint a scene of the Whickhope Valley and this will be presented to Lew and his wife.

Colleagues gathered at Spiers Forest Office where Head Forester Bryan Stockdale presented Charlie Allan with a wrist watch and Herbert Holliday with a clock. Charlie Allan, senior ranger, has retired after 25 years' service. Charlie, an excellent shot, has become very knowledgeable on rabbit and fox control and has a shrewd instinct on their whereabouts.

Herbert Holliday, ganger, has retired after 27 years' service. Most of this period has been spent on the Newton Dale section where Herbert has seen the Forest change from a remote and isolated situation to one where there is a forest drive, walks and picnic sites and many visitors from the North York Moors Railway.

Herbert, not known as one for "blowing his own trumpet", will continue to play his euphonium in the famous Stape Silver Band.

TEOFIL TOMAS, Forest Craftsman at Kidland Forest, has retired after 26 years' service.

WEST SCOTLAND

DOCHY LEAVES BARCALDINE

DUNCAN (Dochy) Fergusson has retired from Barcaldine Forest where he first started more than 40 years ago.

He left at the outbreak of war for service with the 8th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, with whom he was serving when taken as a prisoner of war in 1940.

He rejoined the Commission in 1951 and has worked at Barcaldine Forest since that date. For many years he worked as a Horseman, helping to drag timber from early thinnings and taking fencing

material to the hill. When horses were replaced by tractors Dochy was promoted to Ganger.

Colleagues and friends gathered at the forest office to present Dochy with a fishing rod, reel and tackle.

He is an accomplished piper and occasionally plays in the Oban Pipe Band when he is not teaching the art to young local enthusiasts.

Commission praised for its "Humanity"

THE Forestry Commission has been praised for its "humanity" in providing special facilities for disabled people visiting forests.

The praise came from Mr Alf Morris, MP, former Minister for the Disabled, at the official opening of Placket Walk in Abbot's Wood, Wilmington Forest, East Sussex.

The quarter of a mile walk has been specially designed for elderly or handicapped people.

Declaring the walk open Mr Morris said: "I think everyone here is very impressed with this walk for disabled people. It shows great thought on behalf of the Forestry Commission and I think that the Commission is to be praised for its humanity."

The former Minister singled out for special mention South East England Conservancy Recreation Officer Roy Hughes whose "brainchild" the walk is.

And joining the former Labour minister in his comments was local Conservative MP Mr Tim Rathbone who congratulated the Commission for what they had done.

Popular

Abbot's Wood was chosen because it is one of the Commission's most popular forest recreation areas in South East England — about 150,000 visitors a year — and because of the demand in East Sussex for woodland facilities accessible to the elderly and handicapped.

The walk introduces the visitor to a wide range of



Photo by Douglas Green

It smiles all round as Mr Alf Morris, former Minister for the Disabled, wheels Mr Roy Henstock, from Hailsham, along the new walk for the disabled. Also pictured are (from left) Mr Michael Jennings, chairman of Wealden District Council; Mr Peter Gladwin, chairman of East Sussex County Council; Mr John Mackie, chairman of the Forestry Commission; and Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes.

trees as it meanders through grassy glades. At frequent intervals there are information boards describing the trees, some of the 240 species of plants which abound, butterflies and wildlife. The boards use a large typeface to assist the partially-sighted, and have rails along their front edge to give support to the less mobile.

At roughly 50-yard intervals there are seats carefully designed to suit the elderly and infirm. Some of the seats are set around picnic tables

constructed with the wheelchair visitor in mind.

The path is laid flush with surrounding grass, and is surfaced to make for easy progress on foot or in wheelchairs. Special toilet facilities required by many disabled people have been built alongside new car-parking space at the start of the walk.

Local Forester Chris Robinson supervised arrangements for the building of the new walk.

The East Sussex clubs for

the blind have already shown a keen interest in the Abbot's Wood project, and with the Commission's willing co-operation have planted along the new walk a number of forest trees which have either a distinctive texture or fragrance.

Throughout the planning the Commission has been in close consultation with agencies for the disabled, particularly the East Sussex Association for the Disabled and for the Blind.

Deer of the World



THIRTY of the 42 possible species of deer in the world were exhibited by Cannock Head Ranger Gerald Springthorpe at the Caravan and Camping Exhibition at Earls Court in London.

More than half of those exhibited are already on the rare or endangered list.

Some heads exhibited caused immediate interest such as Megacerous giganteus or the Giant Irish Deer — extinct for more than 10,000 years their remains can still be found in the Irish peat bogs. The head of these without the lower jaw weighed as much as 90lb, and they had an antler span of up to 10 feet.

"We also exhibited the Schomburks's deer, a native of Thailand believed to have become extinct since the beginning of this century," said Mr Springthorpe. "Their antlers are almost certainly the most beautiful of all the species, moderately large and extremely complex in formation."

"The more obvious species, the Red, Roe, Fallow and Sika, were discussed extensively particularly by our European visitors."

The exhibition (left)

FORT WILLIAM PULP MILL HOPES

TALKS are continuing with four companies interested in developing a newsprint operation at Wiggins Teape's Fort William pulp mill, said Group Chairman Mr Patrick Best, when he met The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades in London.

The meeting was called following the Union's study of independent consultants' report on the future of Fort William which was made available to them by Wiggins Teape. The consultants have recommended that the best way of using Scottish wood resources in order to maintain employment at the pulp mill would be to set up a newsprint operation at Fort William.

In April this year Wiggins Teape stated that the pulp mill would have to close in a year's time unless its long-term viability could be secured through a newsprint or similar mechanical pulping operation.

Mr Best stressed Wiggins Teape's commitment to securing a long-term future for the mill. If, as it seemed likely, the talks

come to fruition, a detailed technical study would be carried out by the interested parties.

He emphasised there would be no enforced redundancies until the Spring of 1980, at which time if any were necessary, consideration would be given to implementing voluntary redundancy beforehand.

Both Mr Best and the General Secretary of SOGAT, Bill Keys, expressed the hope that the result of these studies will ensure the continuation of the Wiggins Teape enterprise at Fort William with security of employment to all employees.

Wiggins Teape would extend the activities of the Mill Consultative Committee made up of representatives of Management and Unions to work together in formulating short- and long-term objectives to be achieved at Fort William.

The Forestry Commission and other Government departments are keeping in close touch with the situation.

focus

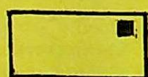
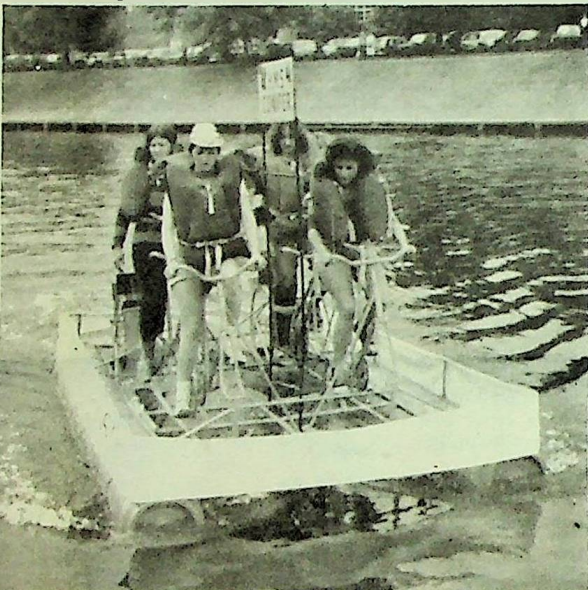
LADIES "AHOY" ON HMS CONIFER

THE morning of June 9 heralded the start of that annual piece of summer madness in York, the RNLI Raft Race on the River Ouse. The Forestry Commission have been regular participants in this event since it started in the early 1970s but this year was going to see something special — the launching of HMS Conifer Mark II. Fashioned with loving care by the men at the Dalby Workshop the new craft was to be a pedal-powered contraption suitable for four people.

Breaking with tradition we opted this year for an all-lady crew of Liz Benton, Katy Blakesley, Alison Press and Sue Rawson who somewhat nervously — and with life-jackets on — clambered aboard. They needn't have worried, the men had done their work well.

The race itself went better than we could have hoped. The ladies' crews obtained a five-minute start on the men and mixed crews. This proved to be too much for most of the opposition and the girls pedalled down the course in fine style to finish fifth overall. We were the second all-lady crew to finish. We won the prize for the first craft home in the category described as 'more elaborate human-powered mechanical contrivances'. This is emphatically our best performance in the race and in addition we hope to raise about £40 for the RNLI.

Below: The girls on HMS Conifer Mark II.



postbag

Magnolia in Memory

Slasher

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Dear Editor,

The suggestion "Trees in Memory" made by a lady in Hull is a nice one and suitable for those who spent their working days in forests.

I did just this in memory of my husband but on a more personal basis. I gave a white Magnolia tree to be planted in the garden of the little church where we were married and worshipped.

I can assure the lady that, in the absence of a Memorial Fund, many homes for the elderly or the handicapped would gladly welcome such a gift.

Doreen Holland

Whitehall
Lanelay Lane
Talbot Green
Mid-Glamorgan

Trees for all Seasons



This is the colourful front cover to the first-ever Forestry Commission calendar — "Trees for all Seasons 1980".

Each month shows a tree view or feature to be seen at that time at our Westonbirt Arboretum. The calendar measures 12 x 9½ inches. There has already been considerable interest in the calendar and Slasher readers can make sure of a copy for themselves by returning the coupon and £1.50 plus 15p postage to: Publications Officer, Forestry Commission, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey.

Please send me Trees for all Seasons calendar / s

I enclose £

Name

Address

A Question of Signs

Dear Editor,

In this particular area of Scotland there is quite a lot of tourist activity and parking of caravanettes or pitching tents in plantations just off minor public roads. Forestry personnel are expected to inform public they they cannot camp or park in such Forestry land.

The oddest part about this affair is that there are no Forestry Commission signs informing the public that they cannot park or pitch tents.

From my point of view the Forestry Commission would have far better public relations and security of their timber crops if signs were erected in forest areas to inform the public that camping is not allowed.

So could someone be good enough to explain this puzzling set-up to me and the public at the same time.

'Brasher'

Glen Etive
Argyll

It's a question of balance; we could plaster the countryside with signs. But we prefer limiting it to telling the public what forest they're in, and inviting them to enjoy whatever facilities we have provided nearby.

We don't like "No" signs very much and avoid them except for "No vehicles" — R. T. F. Larsen, Conservation and Recreation Branch.

OBITUARY

MR FRANCIS BALDWIN

Frank Baldwin, former HEO with the previous Director, England, died recently at his home in Lowestoft at the age of 76.

He entered the Civil Service in 1917 as a clerk with HM Customs and Excise and transferred to the Forestry Commission in 1927. He served with the Commission until his retirement in 1963. He leaves a widow and daughter.

MR GERRY CAMERON

The death has occurred of Gerry Cameron, retired foreman at Inshriach Forest, North Scotland.

Gerry began working with the Commission in 1919 — the same year that the Commission was formed. Gerry worked at Laggan, Clunes and Stromeferry before moving to Inshriach in 1939.

After a distinguished career spanning 48 years Gerry retired in 1967 and settled in Inverness.

MR SANDY CAMPBELL

Many people were saddened to hear of the death at the age of 85 of Sandy Campbell, of Inverliver.

Sandy started as a keeper with the Commission in 1930 and served with great distinction until 1959. He pursued a very active retirement supervising the issue of permits for FC fishings, acting as warden of Inverliver Lodge, and teaching many youngsters fly fishing, shooting and en-

joying the outdoors.

His sister Ruby, with whom he lived, and the many people who know him, will miss him greatly.

MR H. F. CLARKE

Retired Head Forester Harry Clarke has died in Evesham.

Harry worked in the Cotswold area from 1963 until he retired in 1975. This job included a lot of motorway planting work on the M5 between Birmingham and Bristol.

Harry had a full and happy retirement when he was able to exercise his talent for music, painting and writing. Having been brought up in Newmarket he enjoyed a day at Cheltenham races. He leaves his wife and two daughters.

MR GLYNN PHILLIPS

With regret we report the death of Glynn Phillips who was a Forest Craftsman at Coed Deufor until his retirement on health grounds at the end of 1977.

MR CHARLES RUSSELL

Former Dean Head Forester Charlie Russell has died.

He was born in 1910 in The Argentine and after national service in the Argentinian Army he worked in Australia and Africa. He came to Britain just before the war and joined the Royal Artillery. He joined the Forestry Commission in 1948 and worked in the High-meadow and Edgehill Beats until his retirement.

He was well respected by all who worked with him.

Motorway Tragedy

A TRAGIC accident took place when a vehicle carrying five members of the motorway planting gang from Micheldever Forest was involved in a collision with a car.

The driver of the car was killed instantly and our craftsman, Peter Gates, who was a passenger in our lorry, died in hospital some days later without regaining consciousness. He leaves a widow and two children.

Craftsman Reg Jones, who was recovering from his injuries, had to return to hospital many weeks later and we are sad to report he has also died.

Of the three other people in our vehicle, only craftsman Charlie Elliott has been able to return to work so far. Ganger Eric Wilmot and craftsman Fred Messenger are still recovering.

At the Inquest, the Coroner said that all the evidence was that the car driver pulled out of his own lane in front of the lorry. There was no evidence criticising our driver or the Commission, he added.

Important Notice to Slasher Readers

NEW distribution arrangements for "Slasher" will be brought into effect from the next issue.

All pensioners wishing to continue receiving "Slasher" MUST fill in the coupon and return it to:

Slasher Distribution, Information Branch, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Members of staff will continue to receive their "Slasher" in the normal way.

I wish to continue receiving the "Slasher".

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