

Axeman's Log

HARRY RAISES £100

FOR CHARITY

We were all disturbed by recent news film from Indo China on the plight of the Cambodians and Vietnamese Boat Peoples. Forester Harry Schneider decided that sympathy was not enough so he organised, in Liddesdale, an exhibition of Arts and Crafts by local people. The exhibition was an outstanding success with 30 people showing 130 items. Over £100 was raised which is to be administered by the Disasters Emergency Committee which consists of The British Red Cross, Oxfam and other similar charities. The cause is a most pressing one and despite success of appeals run by, for example Blue Peter, the needs of the refugees will continue for the next year or two. If anyone wishes to help and fancies "having a go" at what Harry did, the address of the Charity is: D.E.C., 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London.

SPARE OUR BLUSHES

In the House of Lords debate on "Forestry Strategy in Britain" on 26th March 1980, the Earl of Lonsdale, president of the Association of Professional Foresters, displayed a copy of "SLASHER" and said:

The Commission has a devoted staff and there are permanent commissioners — devoted civil servants, most of whom have had to learn about forestry as they have gone along — who have done a tremendous job for the industry as a whole, private and public, and we all rely on them very much for their extensive R and D activities.

As the Forestry Commission's report will tell us, it has 8323 staff. The Commission has a glorious house magazine called "The Slasher" — perhaps a slightly unfortunate name for a house magazine for the Forestry Commission; it might be more appropriate for 10 Downing Street! The staff are just as interested in the future of forestry as are your Lordships. There is a headline in one of the magazines: "Word Timber Shortage in 20 Years: Double Our Forests." That was said by Professor Bowman. There are also other articles. I quote now from page 2 of the Summer Slasher: "How An Attractive Holiday-Maker Fell in Love with One of Our Production Workers."

I trust this magazine is available to your Lordship's House, because it gives a very good idea of the thoughts of the 8323 members of the staff.

Elbank office on the move

The Elbank forest office was closed following the amalgamation of the Elbank and Glentress forests, and when an office was needed for the new enlarged Clydesdale forest unit and it was decided to transfer the Elbank office — all 10 metres by 4.5 metres of it. The operation was directed by Mr Henry Collin, Clerk of Works and the huge "flitting" was escorted by Lothian and Border Police and Strathclyde Police.

The move by low loader took place without mishap and provided some woodland owners along the route with free pruning!



Harry is seen here with David Steel, the local MP, who kindly gave his support to the event.

QUEEN HONOURS FC STAFF

THREE Forestry Commission employees were awarded honours in the 1980 New Year Honours List.

Conservator for North West England Mr John H. James received the OBE, a fitting tribute to his 30 years' service with the Commission. Mr James retires this year. A number of senior staff, including the Director General, have served under him in the past, and a large number of Foresters owe their introduction and subsequent love of forestry to his enthusiastic encouragement when he was the Commission's Chief Education Officer.

Mrs Elsie Brooks, recently retired Forest Craftsman, has been awarded the BEM. Mrs Brooks worked at the Commission's Delamere Forest since she was 15 years old, cycling seven miles to work and seven miles back each day, the equivalent of 5 times round the world, even through the hard winters of 1947, 1962 and 1978. She matched the efforts of her male colleagues in even the toughest of conditions, and felling is probably the only job Mrs Brooks has not tackled in her long period of service in the forest.

Leading Research Worker Mr A. G. R. Legge, who has been involved with forest research in the Morayshire area for over 40 years, also received the BEM. Mr Legge played an important part in early experiments in tree planting on the poor upland heaths of east Scotland, notably at the major pioneer research area at Teindland Forest in Morayshire. He applied the

same skill and enthusiasm to experimental work in forest nursery practice at Newton Nursery near Elgin.

In addition, Mr P. A. Hutt, Head Forester at Tavistock Woodlands Estate received the MBE on the recommendation of the Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, warmly endorsed by the Forestry Commission. Mr Hutt devised the "Bradford Plan" for continuous cover forestry, regarded as one of the most significant contributions to British forestry in recent years. He retired last year but continues as a consultant, especially on research and development, training and special projects.



Mrs Elsie Brooks, BEM

CITY AND GUILDS AWARDS FOR SOUTH SCOTLAND MEN

TWO South (Scotland) staff members have achieved great success attending City and Guilds courses at Inverness Technical College.

Forest Worker Tom Heron from Bennan picked up the class prize for the Stage I courses and Forest Craftsman Ken Whittaker of Penninghame was awarded the Duke of Buccleuch Memorial Trophy as the most outstanding forestry student of the year. With the award he received a free RSFS five-year membership.

Twenty-year-old Tom who joined the FC in 1977 has since attended the Stage II course and hopes eventually to take the NEBSS course for supervisors and become a foreman or forester.

Thirty-four-year-old Ken has been with the FC since 1975 and is one of the few mature students who have been allowed to participate in the City and Guilds Courses. He, too, has received class prizes for the various stages and has recently attended the NEBSS Supervisors Course with a view to further advancement within the FC.

Commenting on the awards, Conservator John Davies thought they were indicative of the constantly improving quality of industrial workers joining the Conservancy. The City and Guilds courses, he said, provide an excellent background for developing the complex skills now required of Forest Workers and the C & G Certificate is an invaluable passport to employment in any sector of the forestry industry.

Ladies plant forest bower

On Friday, 11th April, Lord Plymouth opened the new Forest Office complex at Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow. The Conservator had decided to make it a special occasion by inviting a group of ladies who had given support and encouragement to the Forestry Commission to plant commemorative trees in a ladies' bower, which will form part of the surroundings of the office.

After Lady Plymouth had planted the first tree further ornamental hardwoods were planted by twelve lady guests.

The second phase of the complex will be a Deer Museum and Education Centre but the building of this may well have to wait for better times.

Bellingham workshop will meet all foreseeable needs

A new mechanical workshop specially designed to meet all foreseeable needs in handling modern forest vehicles and harvesting machinery was opened at Bellingham on 22nd April.

After a welcoming speech by Conservator Tony Spencer, Col. R. A. Barnett, Chairman of the Northumberland County Council, pressed a button to raise one of the large workshop doors and declared the premises officially opened.

Sixty guests were guided round by the workshop staff who explained the equipment which can cope with everything from a chain saw to a crusher. The tour ended with a buffet tea, and special praise must go to office clerks Ann Telfer, Glennis Telfer, Kathy Wylie and Pat Brown for providing a five-star spread.

Chess board

Before leaving the workshop, Col. Barnett was presented with an inlaid wooden chess board which had been made in his spare time by workshop manager Norman Johnston.

A second tour in the evening was also held for the benefit of the Bellingham Parish Councillors and the wives and families of the workshop staff.



Mechanic Barrie Flynn sets the ignition timing on an FC van using a Crypton analyser, watched by apprentice Michael Snowdon and mechanics Michael Purvis and Andrew Hind.

The custom-built workshop replaces the previous building at Kielder in the North Tyne Valley which now lies in the basin of the new Kielder Reservoir.

Access

The search for a suitable site for a new mechanical workshop was begun in 1974 and eventually agreement was reached on the location just outside Bellingham which is convenient for the forests it serves, for staff commuting from Bellingham, and for easy access for the supply of spares.

Twenty-two of a staff will maintain the vehicles, machinery and equipment necessary to harvest timber, construct and maintain roads, and manage the Commission's forests in the northern part of the North East of England Conservancy — a total area of some 92,705 hectares (228,981 acres) of forests in the Border Forest Park in Northumberland, as well as Tyne and Wear, Durham and part of Cleveland.

This fleet consists of 30 Land Rovers, 50 light vans, 20 wheeled tractors, 12 lorries, several items of engineering plant and a variety of small

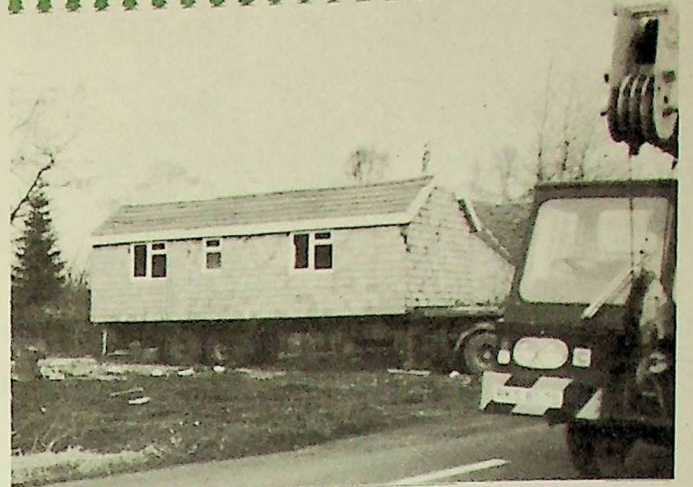
machines and equipment, including 230 chainsaws, making a total of 450 items valued at £500,000.

Construction of the new workshop began in June 1978, and the £330,000 building was completed in March 1980. A large proportion of the cost will be met by compensation from the Northumbrian Water Authority.

Landscaped

The new workshop is situated in the Northumberland National Park on the outskirts of Bellingham and has been carefully designed and landscaped to blend in with its surroundings. It has a floor area of 904 square metres with additional first floor storage space of 60 square metres. The workshop is equipped with the latest devices for efficient servicing and repair work and the spares service is controlled by the latest microfilm record system.

The workshop manager has a staff of 2 foremen, one clerk, 2 storekeepers, 3 mobile mechanics, 9 mechanics, one driver, one apprentice, one handyman and one mechanic's mate.



Two hamlets united by new Kielder Bridge

The inhabitants of a divided village have been brought together thanks to one of the Forestry Commission's most ambitious bridge building projects.

Kielder Village in Northumberland was divided into the two hamlets of Butteryhaugh and Castle Drive by the fast flowing River North Tyne.

County Surveyor Mr Basil Arthur cut a ribbon formally

Pensioners marry

TWO of our pensioners have married. Mr J. P. Lenman, well remembered as Deputy Controller of Finance in London has married another former London employee, Miss Phyllis Drew, who was HEO in the Finance Department. The happy couple live in Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

New editor

THE new editor of "Slasher" is Gordon MacNeill, who has joined Information Branch from Scottish Television, where he was Press and Publicity Officer.

Robert's a jolly good feller!

Robert Muir, one of the H & M team at Penninghame Forest, chopped and hacked his way into third place in a National Tree Felling Contest recently.

Twenty-four-year-old Robert, who lives in Newton Stewart, was one of 55 timber men and women participating in the event on Blair Atholl Estate, Perthshire.

He finished fifth in the contest last year and looked in with a great chance of coming out on top when he was leading scorer in the qualifying stages.

However, eventually he had to settle for third spot behind entrants from Oban and Dailly.

opening the New Tyne Bridge after being introduced by North East England Conservator Mr Tony Spencer to civil engineering staff engaged on the project.

The new project, which is overlooked by Kielder Castle, was designed and built entirely by the Commission's Civil Engineering Staff. With a span of 24 metres, carrying a 5.5 metre road and 1.5 metre footpath, the bridge is fully up to County Council standards and it is expected that ultimately the approaches and structure will be adopted by the Council.

To blend in with its environment, the abutments supporting the prestressed beams have been constructed in local stone masonry. A special balustrading has been designed to set off the bridge and to preserve its balance and proportions with its surroundings.

The project took 18 months to complete at a cost of £50,000 and was carried out under the direction of CCE Tom Murdock, with ACE Eric Lewis and SS of W Alex Symons supervising the local staff.

One direct benefit is that heavy timber traffic is now diverted away from the village, lessening the danger to children and pedestrians and improving the quality of life in the village.

Close liaison was maintained from inception to completion of the bridge with the Planning Authority, the County Surveyor and the Northumbrian Water Authority.

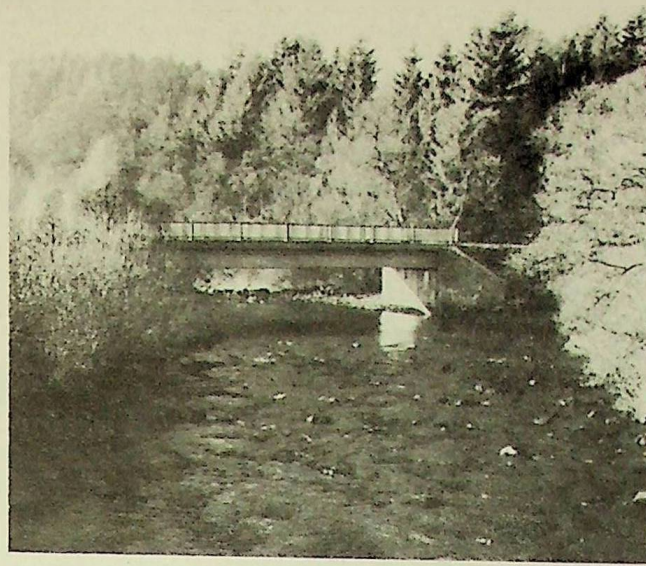
STAFF SIDE CAMPAIGN FOR FORESTRY

The Staff Side of the Forestry Commission Whitley Council is concerned that national economic pressures threaten to reduce the nation's investment in forestry for future generations and is launching a publicity campaign seeking to persuade public and politicians of the dangerous long-term consequences of cutting back on finance and manpower.

The Staff Side has written to all MPs, some members of the House of Lords and British members of the European Parliament.

In addition, copies of a brief for members of staff are being distributed via local Staff Sides to encourage publicity in local organisations, newspapers, radio, etc. Any member of staff may obtain a copy from local Staff Side representatives in Conservancies or the Staff Side Secretary at HQ who says: "Do act on the brief if you can and feed back any comments via Union reps."

(The Forestry Commission Staff Side is a committee of representatives from the 4 main non-industrial Unions: the CSU, CPSA, IPCS and SCPS).



The new Kielder Bridge spanning the River North Tyne.

HORSE ROUTES OPEN—WILLIE RIDES AGAIN

There is an increasing demand all over the country to provide facilities for horse riders, this demand is no less in the Borders of Scotland — traditionally a popular horse riding area.

So on 1st April the Commission in conjunction with the Borders Regional Council opened up 2 horse routes in Craik Forest.

One route is four miles long, the second a little more adventurous nine miles.

Indisposed

Twenty horses turned up for the Grand Opening including Forestry Commission Surveyor Willie Fergie and his trusty steed "Beery Bob." It had been hoped that last year's Grand National winner Rubstic, who is stabled locally, would have been able to attend but an injury obtained in this year's National kept him away.

After brief formalities the riders went off on the long route before returning to a buffet lunch in the picnic area. This is the first horse route to be set up in the Borders and was enjoyed by horses and riders alike. As Willie said, "It's an excellent way to see a Border Forest."

BRISK BIDDING RAISES £250,000

Despite a depressed market and an attendance that was much lower than usual, good prices were obtained at the Forestry Commission sale of vehicles, machinery and equipment which was held at Derby on April 17.

Bidding was brisk for the 703 lots, including 735 chainsaws sold in lots of 3, and the most expensive item in the sale, a Caterpillar D8H Dozer, which started at £2500, finished at £20,500. Gross income exceeded £250,000.

The next sale will be held at Newmains, near Wishaw, Lanarkshire on Wednesday, 17th September 1980.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The annual report of the FC Benevolent Fund shows that loans totalling £706 were distributed during the year. The Fund now stands at £3,025.36, with outstanding loans of £569.75.

The purpose of the Fund is to

relieve deserving and needy persons who are or have been employed by the Forestry Commission. Also eligible are the dependants of deceased employees. The policy of the trustees is to assist immediately and ask questions afterwards. It has been found that this is best done by making loans, although grants are not excluded.

Anyone who requires assistance should apply to their local Administration and Finance Officer or equivalent, who will notify the Welfare Officer so that the necessary action may be taken.

Fishing for Trout ...

THE Fishing season got away to a very brisk start at Carrick this year with customers queuing at Senior Ranger Robin Heaney's door early in the morning of Saturday, 15th March. All five boats on Loch Bradan and the boat on Loch Skelloch were soon away with full complements of anglers keen to make the most of what promised to be an idyllic spring day.

The best catch returned from a boat was thirty one trout kept, weighing in at just over sixteen pounds. Happiest man of the day was Mr Paulin of Prestwick who safely netted a ¾ lb. fish that carried a "Sunday Post" tag, thus winning a £5 prize and a bottle of "Pipers."

Home grown trout play an increasing part in the annual restocking programme at Carrick. One year fingerlings are carried by the rangers to the more remote lochs, others are kept for a second growing season in a pond protected, hopefully, from herons and mink. At ½ lb. weight these native fish are released into Loch Bradan after the fishing season, usually in late October.

"Bought in" fish are slipped into the waters at unpublished times during the season thus ensuring that customers get value for money and come back for more.

If you feel tempted to arrange a trip, charges this year are: Lochs Bradan, Skelloch, Breckow, Dhu Loch, Linfern (Pike) and the FC length of the River Stinchar £1.25 per day. Weekly Tickets.....£4.50 Boats minimum daily charge.....£2.50 Boats 2 or more persons...£3.50

Advance bookings of boats is advised. Contact Robin Heaney, Tallaminnock, Straiton, Maybole, Ayrshire. Telephone 065 57 617.

Fishing for Wales...

FOREST craftsman, Peter Wyn Rees Bevan, who has worked for the Commission for five years at Ystwyth Forest, is proud to be selected with eleven other anglers to represent Wales at the International Fly Fishing Contest at Loch Leven, Scotland on August 24, 1980.

Twenty-eight-year-old Peter, married and living at Llanilar, Dyfed, has passed through keen elimination trials to reach this stage.

The top six Welsh anglers, including Peter, along with six members selected on a former occasion, will represent Wales in the 1980 contest, against twelve members each from Scotland, England and Ireland respectively.

For this contest of 48 anglers (plus one reserve for each of the four teams) prizes will be gold, silver and bronze medals, and a wooden spoon, while the cup for the heaviest bag amongst the competitors, which Peter hopes for, is known as the "Brown Bowl."

Ode to Grizedale

The following poem was written by a visitor to Grizedale Forest in the Lake District.

*Amidst all our lakes, is a forest we love,
The solitude there is sublime,
The song of the bird, and the chirp of the dove,
Are sounds you can hear all the time.
The freedom around, without any sound,
Is the music that I've always found,
So travel along, until you can hail,
The lovely great forest, Grizedale.*

*This haven serene, where I'm sure you have been,
Leaves such a nice memory around,
So think where you've been, and all you have seen,
I'm sure it will help you unwind.*

*The trees look so grand, just think how they stand,
So stately, so upright, so grand,
Each season they grow, and now we all know,
Of the trail, that leads to Grizedale.*

*And after your roam, or when you are home,
Or sit by a stream, there to dream,
Of beauty so near, you may shed a tear,
When you think of this forest so dear.
The pleasure it gives, where nature still lives,
Its grandeur so hard to define,
Your thoughts should be lovely when here in this vale,
The treasure, the thought, of Grizedale.*

A. E. RAYNER

EEC Heads meet at HQ

Delegates to the 35th meeting of Heads of EEC Forest Services met at the Edinburgh Headquarters of the Forestry Commission from 14th-17th April. These regular 6-monthly meetings for exchange of information and discussion of common problems take place alternately in Brussels and in an EEC Member State. The Edinburgh meeting was combined with a forest tour in Central Scotland.

In the middle of the front row is Dr Fred Hummel, shortly to retire as Head of the EEC Commission's Forestry and Environment Division.



Peter shoots to the top

PETER Mackay, Ranger I Black Isle Forest N(S) was selected as a member of the Scottish team in the International Clay Pigeon Shoot, held in Ashbourne near Dublin.

Peter began his Forestry Commission service as a trainee ranger in 1973 at the age of 17. He took up serious competition in 1977 at local shoots. The selection system is based on his achievements during the year, averaging out aggregate scores over a number of competitions throughout the country. The team consists of 30 guns and although the layman calls the sport clay pigeon shooting, it is known by the competitors as shooting down the line.

The Scottish team flew out to Dublin from Glasgow for the competition, and were later placed in third position with Peter second in the Scottish score line.

Production Increases - But New Planting is Down

Weather and land shortage hit Planting Targets

FUTURE PROGRAMMES REVISED

The long hard winter delayed planting: 11,842 hectares of new plantations were established and 3,567 hectares restocked after felling, well below the budgeted programmes.

Future programmes have been revised to take account of the falling reserves of plantable land; at the present level of land acquisition, planting programmes will decline by about 1,000 hectares a year over the next few years.

Acquisition of Land Disappointing

In the year to March 1979 the area of land obtained for planting was disappointing. Only a limited amount of suitable land came on to the market and competition was keen. The total area of land acquired was 5,675 hectares of which the bulk, 5,268 hectares, were in Scotland, with 212 hectares in England and 197 hectares in Wales.

The price of land increased by 80% over the previous year. The average cost of plantable land was £795 per hectare compared with the average for 1977-78 of £164 per hectare.

3,100 hectares added

At the end of the year the Forestry Commission's total estate had increased to 1,256,300 hectares, a net increase of 3,100 hectares on the previous year after taking into account land sold or exchanged. Of the total area managed by the Forestry Commission 732,100 hectares lie in Scotland; 303,300 hectares are managed in England, and 160,900 hectares in Wales. These areas include land under plantations and land awaiting planting together with upland areas and agricultural and grazing land which will eventually be sold. More than half of the forest land, 552,100 hectares, is in Scotland, of which 483,000 hectares are under plantations, compared with the total forest land for Great Britain of 952,200 hectares of which 683,200 hectares are planted. In England, out of 285,200 hectares of forest land 243,800 hectares are under plantations, and in Wales out of a total area of forest land of 140,900 hectares, 135,000 hectares are under plantations.

STATE OF THE WOOD MARKET

There were marked changes in 1978-79 in the market for small diameter wood from a position of low demand to one where we were hard pressed to meet requirements. This was due to bad weather disrupting production in the woods and the haulage strike coinciding with increased demand. Deliveries of pulpwood increased by 10% over the previous year whereas deliveries for particle board fell by 11%.

Record increase
The sawing market was active

throughout the year, and there was a record increase of 28% in the volume supplied by the Commission.

Despite the severe winter the total volume harvested was 2% more than the previous year.

The total production from Commission forests amount to 2,01 million cubic metres, of which ENGLAND produced 637,000 cubic metres, SCOTLAND produced 735,000 cubic metres and WALES 438,000 cubic metres.

THE COMMISSION'S FINANCES

UNPAID BILLS!

The computer processing out accounts was shut down in early 1979 by industrial action which delayed the payment of bills amounting to £3.2 million.

GRANT IN AID

The call on public funds was substantially less than expected, amounting to £28.3 million. This is up £4.8 million (18%) over 1977-78.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure of £66.5 million showed an increase of £4.6 million (13%) over the previous year.

RISES

This increase was mainly due to the continuing impact of inflation and pay awards, restoration of cuts in funds for land acquisition and a substantial rise in the level of payments to private wood-

land owners, partly offset by the delayed payments already mentioned. Receipts rose by £9.9 million (2%) to £36.4 million.

INCOME CREEPS UP

This was entirely the result of improvements in miscellaneous income (recreation, rents, etc.); income from timber was marginally lower than in 1977-78, reflecting the generally depressed market for most of the year.

OAK WILT

Public concern continued to be expressed during the year about the possibility of Oak Wilt being brought into this country on oak imports from North America.

As the competent authority under the Plant Health Act 1967 for the protection of forest trees and timber, we have for many years been taking very seriously a potential threat that this disease poses to our native oaks.

Stringent conditions

We first introduced regulations to control North American oak imports in 1974, and our current Order, which came into operation in July 1977, imposed new and more stringent conditions on importation of the controls to be introduced under the Plant Health Directive.

Possible extensions (during 1978-79 dis-

cussions took place in the EC Plant Health Working Party about the possibility of Oak Wilt being brought into this country to cover square edged sawn oak wood from North America, as well as wood in the round).

There have been several calls recently for a complete ban to be imposed on the import of oak wood from America. We have considered these very carefully but in our judgement the risk is far too small to justify a ban, which in itself would not guarantee that we should be free of risk.

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Recreation

During the year we continued to add to recreational facilities. Our forest cabin scheme at Keldy in the North Yorkshire Moors was extended by an additional 33 cabins bringing the total to 81 on this site. At Deepark in Cornwall 15 additional cabins were built to bring the total on this site to 45. The annual occupancy of these cabins and those at Strathgryne, Perthshire has been 65% with a virtual 100% occupancy during the summer months.

By March 1979 the Commission's recreational facilities totalled 35 camping and caravan sites - 25 in England, 9 in Scotland, one in Wales; 609 picnic places - 361 in England, 125 in Wales, 123 in Scotland, 622 forest walks and trails - 259 in England, 228 in Scotland, 136 in Wales and 29 visitor centres - 12 in England, 11 in Scotland and 6 in Wales.

These views were largely endorsed by the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee, but we concluded that before making final recommendations it would be prudent to wait for the publication of a number of papers on related topics which we knew to be in preparation.

Two published by March 1979 were the White Paper "Farming and the Nation" and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland's policy statement "Agriculture and Forestry". Among those which have since appeared are Lord Northfield's Committee of Inquiry's report into "The Acquisition and Occupancy of Agricultural Land" and the study by the Centre for Agricultural Strategy - "Strategy for the UK Forest Industry".

Private Estates

Increased grant aid and new fiscal measures introduced in 1977 led to a 30% increase in the total area of private estates under the Commission's grant schemes during the year ended March 1979.

The total reached 10,798 hectares in Britain of which almost 8,000 hectares were in Scotland, 2,140 hectares were in England and 680 in Wales.

Highest level

This was the highest planting level achieved by the private sector since the downturn in 1975 and compares with a figure of some 8,300 hectares in 1977/78. The report states "There is every sign that a further increase can be expected in the 1979 planting season".

WOOD PRODUCTION OUTLOOK IN BRITAIN

The review, commissioned by the Forestry Commission from a group of officials drawn mainly from its own staff, of the wood production outlook in Britain up to the middle of the next century was circulated as a consultative document in March 1978.

We were encouraged by the widespread interest it aroused and the constructive comments we received from over 100 individuals and organisations concerned with forestry and the environment.

In general they broadly supported the wood resource arguments and the case for expansion set out in the report, although it was recognised that decisions on the extent and rate of expansion would have to await the outcome of further discussions with agricultural and environmental interests.

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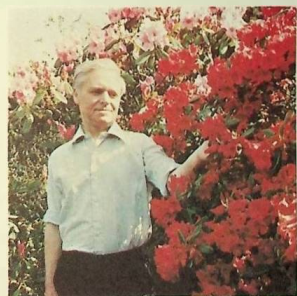
Nature News

PINE MARTENS IN GALLOWAY



Pine martens from the North of Scotland have been re-introduced into the Galloway Forest Park after an absence of nearly 100 years. The animals' distinctive cream patch almost led to their extinction when they were persecuted for their fur in Victorian times. Their numbers are now gradually increasing in the North and West Scottish Highlands. Three females and two males were trapped by Forestry Commission staff in North Scotland and transported to Galloway where their release was filmed by the BBC for a feature in Tony Soper's "Wildtrack" programme. The 250 square miles of the Galloway Forest Park should be ideal habitat and it is hoped their numbers will increase in the varied landscape of forest, mountain and scrub.

8,000 WILL VISIT HIS GARDEN



MR GEORGE STEWART, the retired Commissioner for Forest and Estate Management, is looking forward to welcoming visitors to his new garden this summer - all 8,000 of them!

Mr Stewart took over in May as the National Trust for Scotland's representative at Branklyn, Perth, which has been described as the finest 2-acre garden in Britain.

Branklyn House was built in 1922 and over the years the owners developed the garden, cultivating many rare and difficult plants that grow better there than anywhere else in Britain. The National Trust for Scotland acquired the property in 1968 and now Mr Stewart has taken over the responsibility of caring for this jewel of the horticultural world.

Branklyn is very much a specialist's garden and, with the assistance of a Head

Mr Stewart admires one of the rare species of Rhododendron in his garden.

Gardener and a Trainee, Mr Stewart is learning about the many rare plants in his charge. "I've never worked so hard physically in my life," he says.

The Perth garden is open from May to September and Mr Stewart looks forward to welcoming his many FC friends, who will also be able to see the desk he bought with his forewell presentation cheque. The desk was made in Edinburgh in 1917 and Mr Stewart knows its complete history, even down to the

names of the people who made the handles.

This "antique of the future" is a daily reminder of his forewell dinner, held to commemorate 12 years of Commission service, which was attended by all the Commissioners and colleagues from as far apart as Essex and Inverness. Mr Stewart will have little excuse for not returning their visit - he has been appointed a member of British Rail's Environmental Advisory Panel and as such gets free Rail Travel throughout the country.

Around & About

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EAST SCOTLAND

WILLIE TAKES HIS EASE

SITTING down on his own work is Building Handyman Mr Willie Halket, who has retired from Fochabers Estate Depot. Willie produced most of the picnic furniture which adorns the forests from Kielder to the far North of Scotland.

His work has been a blessing to many a weary traveller, and to keep his hand in during retirement, Willie was presented with a Black & Decker outfit by his supervisor Mr Sandy McIntosh.

FOREST craftsman Mr R. Peterkin has retired after 28 years at Speymouth Forest. At a presentation ceremony in the forest, Mr Peterkin was presented with a suitably inscribed watch.

TWO long serving employees at Laigh of Moray Forest have retired. Mr Frank Cowie, Forest Craftsman, and Mr William Duncan, Ganger, were presented with a pair of binoculars and a wall barometer.



SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

WESTONBIRT TWO ARE UPROOTED

CHIEF Forester Desmond Cousins has retired after 41 years with the Forestry Commission.

His colleagues in Research Division and in SW(E) Conservancy presented him with an automatic tea maker and the Westonbirt Consultative Committee gave him a set of wood-carving tools. Also presented, as a reminder of his experiments, was a cross-section of Sitka spruce wood showing the increased growth and wider annual rings due to fertiliser applications which had been selected from Wilsley Down experiments by Head Forester Ken Baker and made up into a plaque by the workshop at Alice Holt.

At a gathering of colleagues at Westonbirt Visitor Centre the

Best Wishes

Good wishes to Mrs Edna Thomas, District Office typist, who has left with the closing of the Malvern Office. Mrs Thomas came to the FC in 1971.

Magnificent seven

The Dean has lost seven of its longest serving employees — Mr George Meek after more than 42 years, Mr Arthur Tye after 34 years, and Christchurch Camp site warden Mr Bernard Coates, whose FC service runs to over 45 years. Longest-serving of all was Mr Gurnos Roberts who notches up 50 years — all, since the war, spent in the Dean. Mrs Gwen Clerk was a forest clerk for well over 30 years, Mr Hector Jarrett left after 53 years' service, and Mr "Fred" Phelps was with the Commission for 36 years.

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North East: Ken Millsom
East: Neville Pauley
South East: John Ward
South West: Audrey Child

WALES:
South: Gwyn Owen
North: Caroline Jones

SCOTLAND:
North: Richard Westlake
East: Douglas Furneaux
West: Archie Cameron
South: Ben Struthers

RESEARCH:
Alice Holt; Noel Blatchford,
NRS: Fred McLauchlan

presentation was made by the Director General, Mr George Holmes on behalf of the Forestry Commission and by Mr David Johnston on behalf of the Westonbirt Consultative Committee.

Mr Holmes described Mr Cousins career which began in 1938 as a forest worker at Fort Augustus, and after several years with Research in the Forest of Dean, he had assisted Mr Holmes on experimental work with fertilisers, fire retardants and chemical bark peeling, before being appointed Head Forester responsible for silvicultural research in SW England and S. Wales, duties he continued after moving to Westonbirt in 1971.

At Westonbirt he has been responsible for developing the catalogue system and new collections and features have developed under his guidance culminating in the building of the new Visitor Centre.

Ted's fifty years

COLLEAGUES and friends gathered at Westonbirt Arboretum to mark the retirement of Mr Ted Watts, BEM, who had completed 50 years and 7 months' service to the Arboretum.

Mr R. E. Crowther (Principal Silviculturist of the Research and Development Division) presented Ted with a Long Service Certificate which acknowledged his continuous service at Westonbirt from his employment by Lord Morley at the age of 14.

Retirement gifts of a Garden Cold Frame and Greenhouse Heater reflected Ted's love of plants.

A "topping off" ceremony celebrated the 50 years of tree planting which Ted has achieved, when he was invited to plant a Sorbus aria "Lutescens" adjacent to the Visitor Centre, which will carry a commemorative plaque in his honour.

SPATE OF RETIREMENTS

THERE has been a spate of retirements among forest staff.

Mr "JOSH" ELMER and Mr GEORGE SHEEN retired after 28 and 27 years spent at Savernake Forest, which as also lost Senior Ranger DENIS PAYNE.

WAREHAM FOREST suffered the loss of three men — Mr CYRIL HITCHENS and Mr GEORGE NEWMAN, both after 33 years' service, and Mr PERCY WAREHAM who had (appropriately) worked there for 27 years.

Mr WILLIAM HARPER retired after 29 years at Wyre Forest and Mr PETER BARNETT has retired early from Savernake.

Mr WILFRID COURTIER, a ganger on the H and M side has left Dartmoor Forest after nearly 30 years, and Mrs Eileen Ashton has left after six years as Forest Clerk.

Mr HAROLD PALMER retired after 40 years at Quantock Forest.

Mr MELVILLE DAVIS has left Hereford Forest after 30 years, and

another 30-year man is Mr "DICK" WASE from Mendip Forest.

EGGLESFORD FOREST lost three employees — Mr NORMAN KELLY after 32 years, Mr WILLIAM WESTERN (33 years) and Mr GEORGE STARLING (14 years).

TWO BROTHERS who had between them given 41 years to the FC left Neroche Forest. Mr JIM LARCOMBE retired early, and his brother FRANK has left after 22 years.

Mr JOHN PERKINS, the Conservancy Civil Engineer, also retired. An expert on explosives, he did outstanding work on lake construction and landscaping.

The Conservator presented him with a whisky decanter and eight glasses from the office staff and his P&TO colleagues in the field. Mr Perkins also received a wallet, cigar case, cigars and a book on the "Gentle Art of Smoking" from his industrial staff.

He wanted trees as parting gift

AT HIS retirement presentation in Bristol, Assistant Conservator, FM Mr Bernard Hughes received a substantial cheque with which he is going to buy — guess what! — some trees for his new garden. Only they won't be indigenous species, quipped Mr Hughes.

Mr Hughes went to the Bristol office in 1972, but that was not his first spell of service in SW(E) as he was District Officer in Cornwall from 1959 to 1965.

Mr Dallas Mithen, Commissioner for H&M travelled down from Edinburgh for the retirement ceremony, and he presented Mr Hughes with the cheque and a cut glass decanter. Mrs Hughes was presented with

two magnificent specimens of blue hydrangea. Mr and Mrs Hughes will return to Cornwall to start a new life.

Mr Hughes' successor is Mr Martin Orrom, who is returning to his home area from HQ.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

NOT A SINGLE DAY'S ILLNESS

NOT a single day's illness in his working life. That's the proud record of forest worker Eric Fletcher, who has retired after 41 years at Cropton Forest.

He was presented with a Long Service Certificate by the Conservator.

DICK BARKER, ganger at Slayey Forest, retired after 42 years' service all at Slayey. He is one of a dying breed of dry stone wallers.

JOHN TERRY has retired at the age of 65 after 29 years' service. He spent the last two years working for the Kielder Estate gang.

JOHN MILNER, Ganger at Osmotherley forest, has retired after 34 years working in the Bolby section of the Cleveland Woods.

FRED BEGAN ON A LEGAL CAREER

Mr Fred Donald, District Officer in charge of the Perthshire District since 1965 has retired after 29 years' service.

Many friends attended a farewell lunch when Conservator Ian Grant presented him with a combined radio / TV.

Fred originally set out on a legal career but work in a Kirkcudbright lawyer's office brought him in touch with forestry and fired his interest — so much so that after the War he went first to Glentworth Forestry School and then to Aberdeen University.

Stalwarts

TWO stalwarts of the Bennachie Forest squad, Bob Duguid and Willie Leslie, have come to the end

of their distinguished careers. At a ceremony in the Forest Office presided over by Chief Forester Bob Aitken, both received tokens of esteem from their colleagues.

At the Woodchoppers' Ball

Mr James Robertson, Forest Craftsman, Eden Forest, has retired after 32 years' service. At the Woodchoppers' Ball at Keltie he was

presented with a portable bench and a cheque. Later in Strathmiglo Hall, Conservator Mr Ian Grant presented James with his long service certificate.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

LOVE AT THE END OF A CROSS-CUT

SAWI

FORESTRY has certainly made a major impact on Gordon Rowland's life, who has retired as Head Forester at Matlock. He started work with his father who was a Ganger in the Forest of Dean and worked for the Forestry Commission for the next 45 years.

He even met his wife at the other end of a cross-cut saw!

This was during the War years when he was seconded to the Home Timber Department, and his wife was training with the Women's Timber Corps.

Mr George Stewart presented Gordon with a cheque and a book on his new hobby — wine making.

40 years' service

EIGHTY people attended the retirement presentation to Mr W. J. Raven, Principal Land Agent at Chester. Mr J. R. Booth, Director of Estates Management Division handed Bill a radio cassette player, a brief case and wrist watch in recognition of his 40 years' service with the Commission.

TWO LEAVE SHROPSHIRE HILLS

CRICKET and shooting are Shropshire Hills forester Tom Attenborough's sporting hobbies, but now he adds a third with his retirement presentation of golf shoes, bag, balls and a half season membership to the local golf club. Tom had over 30 years' service.

Also retired from Shropshire Hills forest is Mr Len Jones, who was there long enough to extract the early thinnings of the first trees he himself had planted. He was presented with an inscribed cigarette box and barometer.

Set fair

Mr A. R. TAGGART, Clerical Officer NW(E) Chester was presented with a barometer by Mr J. H. James, Conservator, to wish him "fair weather" in his retirement.

WEST SCOTLAND

Buffet marks Norman's farewell

The retirement of Norman Brown, Assistant Conservator (Forest Management) in West Scotland Conservancy, was marked by a buffet and social evening attended by a wide range of Commission staff including the Director General, and others from HQ, District, Forest and Conservancy office.

Norman joined the Commission in 1950 in South Scotland Conservancy, where he remained until his promotion and transfer to Glasgow in 1973.

In presenting, on behalf of many friends throughout the Commission, binoculars and a cheque, Mr David Robertson, Conservator, paid tribute to the meticulous standards which were characteristic of all Norman Brown's work.

'ECK' WAS NO. 1

THE man who was Number One in Achray has retired. Alexander (Eck) Drummond started work at 16 in Achray in 1932, becoming No. "1" on the payroll.

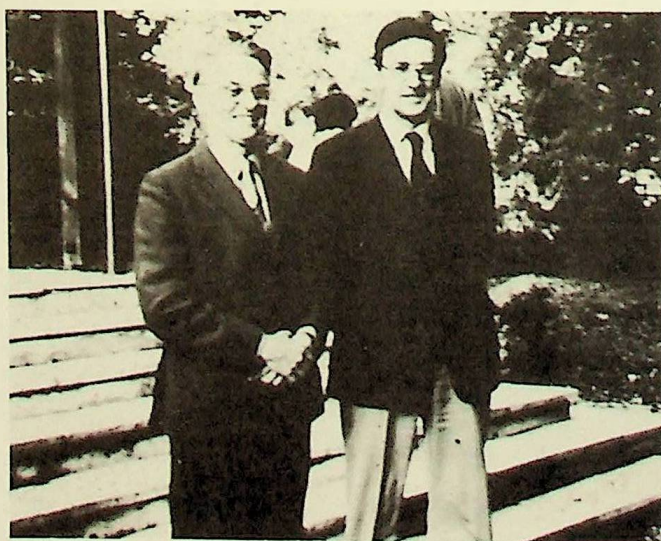
The same number featured prominently in Eck's forestry career — in 47 years' service he had only one day's sick leave!

At a presentation in the Clachan, Aberfoyle, Chief Forester Mr D. Robertson presented him with an inscribed planting bag containing a split-cane fly rod, reel, fly wallet and flies and that other essential item of any fisherman's kit — a hip flask with many refills.

THE FORESTRY WORKSHOP at Kilmichael was crowded with friends and colleagues of Hugh McFadyen and Donald MacLellan to mark their retirement. Both were presented with gifts on behalf of their colleagues by Chief Forester Ian Garrioch. Conservator David Robertson presented Hugh McFadyen with a Long Service Certificate marking 42 years with the Forestry Commission.

PETER MACKELLAR has left the Glenbranter Depot under the Government's early retirement scheme for disabled persons. His departure was marked by the gift of a pair of binoculars and book tokens.

LAWRENCE KENNEDY, Ganger at Whitelee Forest has retired after 14 years' service with the Forestry Commission. At an informal gathering, Lawrence was presented with an electric drill from his colleagues.



Director General George Holmes says farewell to Des Cousins at Westonbirt.

Around & About

NORTH SCOTLAND

End of an era for the Campbell Clan

THE end of last year saw the end of an era for the Campbell family when John, a Leading Ganger at Mull Forest, retired after 32 years with the Forestry Commission.

His father Donald, a native of Skye, came to Mull in 1920 to farm at Aros Mains. When the Forestry Commission bought Aros Estate in 1925, Donald was employed as a forest worker and farmed part of Aros Mains as a forest worker's holding. He continued working with the Forestry Commission until he retired some 27 years later.

He had four sons, who all worked for the Forestry Commission.

DONALD, the eldest son, worked for 46 years, finishing up as a forester in (W) Scotland. He died shortly after retiring.

JOHN worked for two years as a boy, but returned to the

Forestry Commission after the war, and served for 32 years on Mull Forest. He was a leading ganger for the last eight years.

HECTOR worked for 38 years with the Forestry Commission, until he died in 1972, aged 55 years. He was also a leading ganger at the time of his death. He served on several different forests in (N) Scotland, but was most of the time on Mull Forest.

JAMES, the youngest son, also worked for the Forestry Commission, but compared with the rest, only for a short time, about eight years.

Father and sons served the Forestry Commission for well over 150 years, and were all highly respected in the community.

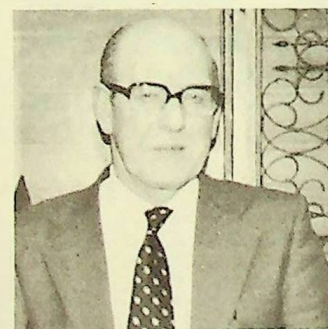
John received a Long Service Certificate, and a presentation was made to him at a dinner / dance in the Isle of Mull Hotel.



John Campbell

AT THE SAME EVENT, a presentation was also made to ganger James Tandy, of Mull Forest, who retired on health grounds only nine months before his official retiring date.

He was born near Liverpool and first came to Mull during the War, when he married the manageress of the local NAAFI, Sybil Henderson. He joined the FC in 1956 and worked on Mull Forest until he retired.



James Tandy

Two leave Skye

SKYE FOREST has recently seen the retirement of two of its "senior citizens." Ganger Donald Nicolson retired in his 64th year after serving the Commission on the island of Raasay since land was acquired there in 1949. Prior to that apart from war service in the RAF — he had been a shepherd and one of his hobbies is making shepherd's crooks. At a ceremony in Portree attended by

many of his colleagues he was presented with a cheque by fellow ganger Neil Nicolson and with his Certificate of Long Service from Forest Officer George Dey.

A further presentation was made at Portree to Jonathan MacLeod, Forest Craftsman, who had been a member of the north Skye squad since 1955.

Mackie planted first tree

Malcolm (Mackie) Munro, the man who planted the first tree at Lairg and saw the area grow to the largest forest in Britain, has retired after 30 years' service.

Ernie Michie, District Forest Officer, presented Mackie with a Long Service Certificate before a

large gathering of staff at Lairg Forest Office. Alex Lockhart, who until last year had been the area Chief Forester, travelled from Fife to present Mackie with a Radio Cassette Recorder and other gifts from his friends and colleagues.

Around & About

SOUTH WALES



Alun's fond farewell

OVER 100 colleagues and friends gathered at the Highbury Country Club, Neath to wish Chief Forester Alun Evans well in his retirement after 48 years' service with the Forestry Commission in Wales. Presentations of a wooden plaque and thumb stick on which had been carved a Red Kite — both the work

of John Evans, Supervisor of the Job Creation Team at Rheola — and a photographic enlarger were made by John Bevan, the longest serving member of the forest staff at Rheola and John Zehetmayr, the Conservator.

Alun is flanked by forest clerks Margaret Guard (left) and Denise Watkins admiring the thumb stick and plaque.

Off on their own business

HILDA and Stewart Jones, EO and HEO in the South Wales Conservancy Office have left the Commission to go into business on their own account in the Forest of Dean.

Six leave

Alice Phillips, Clerical Officer in the Conservancy Office has retired after 19 years' service. Alice was presented with a Teasmade and electric carving knife.

Bryan Curtis and Don Hunt, Forest Craftsmen at Crychan have retired on health grounds after 26 years and 22 years' service.

Tudor Morgan Davies, Ganger at Tywi, retired on health grounds after 25 years' service.

Trevor Studley, Head Forester, has retired after 33 years in the Commission. He arrived at Llandowor in January 1953 and started the forest from scratch. Trevor was presented with a set of garden tools from the Forest Craftsmen and Workers, and he received a Workmate sawbench, an electric drill and a cheque from the Foresters, District Officers and Conservancy Staff.

Tommy Thomas, Forest Craftsman, Coed Preseli, retired after 26 years' service and was presented with a salmon tailer by his colleagues.



SOUTH SCOTLAND

Over one hundred colleagues and friends from both the FC and the private forestry sector gathered at the Auchencastle Hotel, Moffat, to pay tribute to District Officer Mike Long, MBE, MC, who was retiring after 43 years' service.

Presenting Mike with a camera and a cheque, Conservator John Davies described him as the last of the great pre-war foresters whose pioneering spirit had had an enormous impact on modern forestry. The first to realise the important role of aerial photography, Mike also played a key part in the

TRIBUTES TO THE LAST OF THE GREAT PRE-WAR FORESTERS

considerable advances made in ploughing and draining techniques.

As a final memento, Mr Davies presented Mrs Long with a ball and chain devised by Mike

for draining work and suggested she might put it to good use if Mike's many interests start to keep him away from home too often.

ONE MAN AND HIS DOG . . .

After 33 years' service, mainly as a lorry driver at the Dalbeattie end of Solway Forest, Jim Irving has retired and was presented with a carriage clock, sherry and chocolates for his wife, by his colleagues. Jim and his dog Bob, who always sat in the lorry cab, were well known throughout the area. He intends to make good use of his extra time breeding racing pigeons, a hobby he has pursued with much success for many years.

MAC RETURNS HOME

More than 60 people gathered in Newcastle to mark the departure of Chief Forester Edward "Mac" McLeod. Master of Ceremonies Ken Fryer introduced the Conservator, John Davies, who thanked Mac for his service, and Fraser Scott, Newcastle, presented him with an ornamental clock on

behalf of the squad and foresters. District Officer Richard Toleman gave him a Garden Voucher with money collected from around the District and also from East Anglia where Mac used to live and where he is returning for his retirement.

65 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

After 39 years with the Commission, Head Forester Dougie McNaught of Craik Forest has retired. Dougie started as a worker in 1940 and had long stays at Solway and Arcleloch before spending his last 14 years at Craik.

Dougie received two presents — a calculator from the squad presented by Ganger Billy Wilson and a Garden Voucher from the rest of his friends and colleagues throughout Scotland, presented by Dan Macpherson,

Chief Forester at Wauchope Forest.

Two weeks later the same District saw the departure of Peter Fligg of Wauchope who retired after 26 years. Peter was a student at Faskally before moving on to Carrick, Solway, Castle O'er and finally Wauchope. A keen "home-brewer," he was presented with an engraved Pewter Tankard at the Forest Office.

Mr Peter MacKenzie, Forester at Clydesdale Forest, retired recently from the Commission. Mr John Davies, Conservator, presented Peter and Mrs MacKenzie with a nest of tables.

The staff of Moffat Forest held a lively party to give Forest Craftsman Tom Tochrane a good launching into retirement. Tom's forestry life has spanned thirty years and close colleague Jack Graham, who worked alongside him all that time, presented him with a Digital Radio Alarm.

Around & About

Walter cycled 12 miles to work

WALTER WHISKERD, Senior Forest Worker at Cao has retired after 42 years' service with the Commission. At one time he was cycling 12 miles morning and evening to work at Crychan. Later he worked at Cilgwyn and planted the first trees in Tywi Forest.

Ian Watt, District Officer, presented Walter with a cheque from well-wishers from far and wide and a framed Long Service Certificate. John Jones, Head Forester at Cao, presented Mrs Whiskerd with a bouquet.

EAST ENGLAND

HUSBAND AND WIFE RETIRE

A husband and wife have both retired after over 61 years joint service with the FC. "Dot" Marsh, District Office Clerk at Thetford, was presented with a teasmade and cut glass bowl. Her husband, Joe, a Ganger at Stanton Downham, received his Long Service Certificate after 31 years.

Transistor

Mr Maurice Wilkinson, a Ganger at Wensum, has had to retire prematurely through ill health. His colleagues presented him with a transistor radio.

Glasses

A Long Service Certificate and a set of wine glasses were presented to Forest Craftsman Sid Mayes, who retired from Kings after 44 years' service.

Teasmade

Lorry Driver George Catton has retired from Kings after 36 years' service. District Officer Ken Buswell presented him with a Long Service Certificate, and he also received a teasmade and a radio.

focus

Wind of change blows Finlay £250

EIGHTEEN staff suggestions were considered at the last meeting of the Central Staff Suggestion Committee, and a total of £430 was awarded to those whose ideas will be put into practice.

The largest award, of £250, was presented to tractor driver Mr Finlay MacLean of Achnashellach Forest for his suggestion to combat that bane of the Scottish summer — midges. Midge interference during the season can lead to significant lost time on tasks such as winch operating where the operator cannot control his winch and at the same time use his hands to dispel midges. Proprietary brands of anti-midge cream have proved ineffective.

Mr MacLean's suggestion was to install a blower fan in the operator's cab, sufficiently strong to dispel midges and to allow the operator to be in full control of his winch.

Initial tests have proved successful and monitoring of installed equipment will be carried out in the North of Scotland Conservancy during the summer. Mr MacLean's suggestion should make forest working safer and contribute considerably to reducing production time and costs.

Other successful suggestions which achieved cash awards included a review of the Rent



Finlay MacLean shows his fan to Conservator, North Scotland, Bob Cathie at the presentation of his cheque.

Receipts system; the inclusion of Seniority Dates on Promotion Board notices; Crop Assessment by Aerial Photography; the introduction of Vehicle Break-down Warning Triangles; a new Purchasing Bulletin Index; conformity of practice on the deduction of Trade Union contributions, Insurance premiums, etc., from Wages; and increased publicity for staff suggestions in "Slasher."

Says Mr J. S. Russell, secretary of the HQ Staff Suggestion Scheme, "The wide range of these suggestions shows the scope that exists for money-making success. All suggestions are welcomed and given our serious consideration. The suggestion may appear elementary to you the originator, but it could have advantageous affect on the Commission's enterprise."

Best article of the year

FOREST Officer Findlay MacRae of Dingwall, North Scotland, who last year won the award of the Society of American Travel Writers for his

Where are they now?

WHERE are you, Jack Buchanan and John Elder? The inside walls of the old Bothy at Forest Gate, Invergarry have recently been stripped — turning up some postcards received by these gentlemen in 1948. Chief Forester Fred McAllan will be pleased to redirect them if anyone knows where the two men are now.

work on the conservation of the ancient Caledonian Pines, has done it again. He wrote an article about his work and submitted it to "State Service," the journal of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants. The article was judged to be the best published by the journal in 1979, and Findlay was presented with the Herbert Memorial School trophy by Mr John Sim, the Institution's Chairman, at Forestry Commission Headquarters in April.

The Forestry Commission Branch of IPCS is the only Branch to have earned the distinction of having the names of 2 of its members engraved on

the trophy. It was won in 1974 by Arthur Sutton of Forest Management Division, Headquarters for his article on his work as a Course Director at the Civil Service College, where he spent 5 years on secondment.

Snooker champ

FORESTER John Griffiths, St Gwynno, has won another valuable prize at snooker. In the Pontins Open Snooker Championship held at Prestatyn he reached the last 16, out of a total entry of 540, winning a Continental holiday for two.

OBITUARY

MR JAMES ALLAN

One of the Commission's earliest Foresters has died. Retired Head Forester Mr James Allan spent a long number of years at Kemnay Forest, Aberdeenshire and Edensmuir Forest, Fife. Jimmy also distinguished himself in civic life. After many years service as a County Councillor in Aberdeenshire, he became Provost of Ladybank when he went to Fife. Our sympathy goes to his widow.

MRS HETTY AMBURY-EVANS

Greatly missed at the Coleford Office is Forest Clerk, Mrs Hetty Ambury-Evans. Hetty returned to work for about a year after undergoing major surgery and showed great courage and cheerfulness in spite of being far from well. Many attended her funeral at Christchurch and donated to the choir fund with which she was associated for many years.

MR WALTER BORTHWICK

Sadly we report the death of Mr Walter Borthwick, Forest Craftsman, Rannoch Forest after a long illness. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Phyllis and her family.

MR SAMUEL BURGHAM

With regret we report the death of Samuel Burgham who was a Forest Craftsman at the Forest of Dean until his retirement on health grounds in 1969.

MR FRED DUNCALF

A Hambledon Forest Craftsman who helped to establish many of the fine woods around Rievaulx and Helmsley which frame the famous Kilburn White Horse has died. Fred Duncalf died aged 47 after a long illness. Our sympathy goes to his wife Mary.

MR DAN EVANS

Mr Dan Evans died early this year, only three months after retiring from his post as Forest Clerk at Dyfi Forest. Dan joined the Forestry Commission in 1947 and 15 years later he became Forest Clerk. In 1968 he was joined by his wife Myfanwy to

form a husband and wife team as Forest Clerks. Dan retired last October through ill-health, and Myfanwy left the Commission's service at the same time to look after her husband.

MR WILLIAM HARRIS

Mr William Harris, a retired Forest Craftsman at Amphill Forest, passed away in January.

MISS FANNY HIGGS

A long association with the Office of Woods and the Forestry Commission came to an end with the death of Miss Fanny Higgs in Parkend Forest of Dean. Miss Higgs succeeded her mother as keeper of the Pound in Parkend, in which foresters impounded the notorious trespassing Forest of Dean sheep. For many years she was employed as cleaner at Whitmead Park.

MR JOE HIRD

Mr Joe Hird, a former Forester in the North-East (E) Conservancy has died aged 79. Joe retired in 1965 after completing over 30 years' service at the Stang in North Yorkshire. He was unmarried.

MR DAVID GWILYM JONES

Mr David Gwilym Jones died in December after 13 years with the Commission. The former Forest Craftsman at Caeo is survived by two sisters.

MR BRYAN LATHAM

Mr Bryan Latham CBE, MM, MA who was a Forestry Commissioner between 1957 and 1963 has died aged 84. In addition to his massive contribution to the expansion of his flourishing family timber business, he held the highest offices in the timber trade's principal bodies.

MR ANDREW MACLEAN

All who knew him were saddened by the death of Andy MacLean in the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. Before joining the West Scotland Research Branch at Kilmun, Andy was a ganger and highly skilled winch operator in Benmore Forest where he had worked since 1952.

MR ALEX MARSHALL

The sudden death of Mr Alex Marshall, Forester at the Deer Museum at Clatteringshaws, came as a great shock to his many friends in South West Scotland. Alex joined the Commission in 1949, became a forester in 1960 and landed up as Wild Life Forester for most of the Commission's huge holding in Galloway. He had a big hand in the development of the Talnotry Goat Museum in 1971 and took enormous interest and pride in the growth of the Deer Museum. With Alex died a great fund of knowledge of the nesting sites of many rare birds. Merlin, peregrine, eagle, hen harrier — he knew many of their secret places. Over 200 people attended his funeral and his coffin was borne from Kells Church by six Forest Rangers. Deep sympathy is extended to Mrs Marshall and her children.

MR W. G. MILNE

The death has occurred of former Head Forester at Culbin Forest, Mr Willie Milne. Mr Milne served at Durris, Bin and Blackhall Forests before moving to Culbin in 1947. For the next fifteen years he saw through the enormous task of stabilising and planting the shifting sands of Culbin, a project which attracted worldwide interest. Willie Milne leaves a widow and grown up family.

MR THOMAS MORGAN

Mr Thomas Morgan, Skilled Forest Worker at Caeo Forest for 24 years until his retirement in 1971, has died.

MR JOHN NEILSON

Mr John Neilson, Forest Craftsman on the Dalbeattie section of Solway Forest has died aged 58. He served with the Commission for over 31 years and was responsible for the measurement and documentation of the timber leaving Dalbeattie for the sawmills. He leaves a widow, son and daughter to whom we extend our sympathy.

MR KEN PRICE

Mr Ken Price, Foreman Mechanic in charge of the Rheola Repair Depot, died last year after a short illness. Ken had 24 years' service with the Commission and our sympathy is extended to his widow and children.

MR JOHN SOMMERS

Mr John Sommers, Plant Operator SE England, died at his home shortly before his intended retirement. John spent 31 years in the country in the Commission's service but always retained his Cockney sense of humour.

MR HARRY TYREMAN

Forest Craftsman Harry Tyreman who spent all his service at Hambleton (Ampleforth) died after a short spell in hospital aged 54. Harry was unmarried and our sympathy goes to his mother Mrs Botterill.

MR GWILYM DAN WILLIAMS

At the age of 41, Mr Gwilym Dan Williams, Forest Craftsman at Brechfa, has died after 21 years' service with the Commission. He is survived by his father to whom our sympathy is extended.

Around & About

Around & About

Around & About

NORTH WALES

Barbara will be sorely missed

WAY back in 1939, ten weeks after the outbreak of war, a young lady who had just left school joined the FC as a new-entrant Clerical Officer. She was appointed to the office of the Assistant Commissioner for England and Wales, then located in Bristol.

Over 40 years later, Barbara Maher has retired after spending the majority of her service on Estate Management and Private Woodlands administration. After the war, she served first in the Director's Office (England) in London for 10 years, in the SW(E) Conservancy Office, Bristol as an EO for 16 years (when she married and gave birth to her son) and in the N(W) Conservancy Office, Aberystwyth for the last 7 years.

Green fingers

MR A. B. HARRISON should be able to add to his crop of silver cups won for his gardening prowess now that he has more time on his hands. The Higher Grade Clerk has retired after 33 years' service at Gwydyr and at a pleasant gathering at Gwydyr Uchaf, Conservator Mr R. T. Bradley spoke about his valued service and Chief Forester W. Taylor presented a cheque contributed by Gwydyr staff.

Her vast experience will be sorely missed and on saying "farewell" the N(W) Social Club presented her with a pot plant, the Conservator warmly thanked her for her long service and A & FO Geoff Bowers presented her with a gift from her colleagues.

A LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATE was presented to D. Roberts on his retirement. "Dai Bach," as he is known locally, began work on the Forest beat in 1944 and he became a 'dozer operator in 1951 when work on road construction at Gwydyr began to expand.

THERE HAVE BEEN eight retirements from Beddgelert Forest — Gangers J. Ellis and R. P. Roberts, Ranger H. R. Humphreys and Forest Craftsmen G. O. Griffiths, R. Jones, R. M. Roberts and D. J. Williams. Their total service to the FC was over 210 years.



Tractor driver Harry Davies receives his Long Service certificate from District Officer John Henderson. Harry has retired from Ystwyth Forest after 32 years' service with the Commission.

Gangers go

TWO Forest Workers at Hafren have retired.

Meirion Pugh completed 32 years' service. He was appointed Leading Ganger in July 1977, and as a personnel driver he was awarded several Safe Driving Awards.

Mal Bennett is leaving under the Job Release Scheme after almost 32 years' service. Like Meirion he has been involved in planting and thinning areas in Hafren. He was appointed Ganger in 1962.

Craftsmen leave

TWO Forest Craftsmen at Ceiriog Forest, Aneurin Davies and John Davies have retired after 27 and 25 years' service.

Presentations were made by Gangers Ralph Williams and John Williams to Aneurin and John, ALSO retired is forest craftsman Meirion Evans, whose 28 years' service included working at Llangollen Forest, Maelor Nursery and on the Wrexham to Chester Bypasses. A presentation was made to Meirion from all the Ceiriog and District Office staff.

Gone fishing

MR FRANK ROBERTS, a Grader Operator at Llanrwst, has retired after 32 years with the Forestry Commission. At an informal gathering at Gwydyr Uchaf Mr Tony Summers, Conservancy Civil Engineer, presented Mr Roberts with a long service certificate and Mr Fred Egerton, Area Civil Engineer, presented Frank with a fishing rod and accessories on behalf of his friends and colleagues.

THE Staff and Forest Workers of Ceri Forest gathered to say farewell to Mr Ron George (S.F.W.). Mr George has retired on health grounds at the early age of 54. He had been employed at Ceri Forest for 32 years and will be missed by all his friends there.

Mr R. E. Stumbles, D.F.O. of Llandrindod District presented Ron with a Long Service Certificate and Peter Price, a fellow worker, made a more personal presentation of silver tankard and a leather wallet.

MR LLEWELLYN PIERCE, a forest craftsman with 33 years' service at Gwydyr Forest has retired prematurely on health grounds.

Assistant Conservator David Hughes presented Mr Pierce with a long-service certificate, and Forest Craftsman R. I. Ellis presented a cheque on behalf of the staff at Gwydyr.