



SLASHER

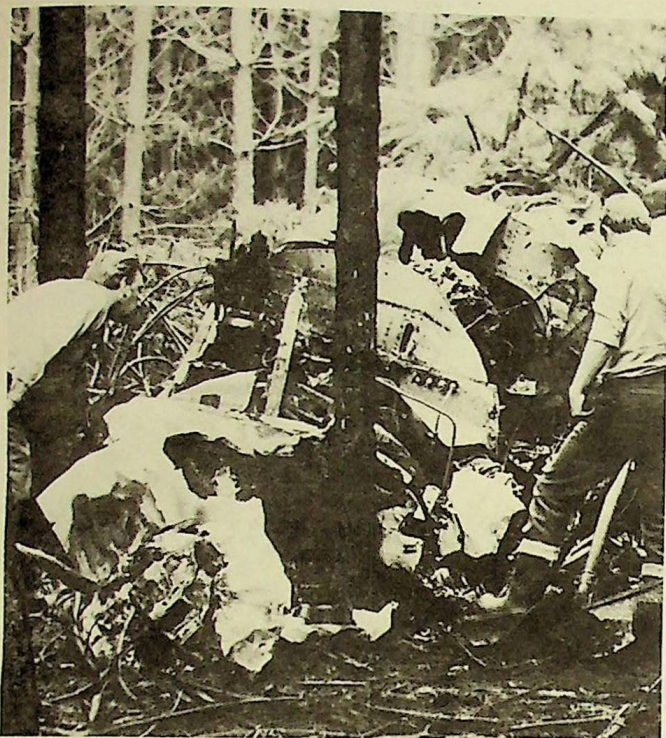
NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 304

SUMMER 1980

BOWWATERS - THE EFFECT ON FORESTRY



SAVED — BY A TIN OF PAINT

Head Forester Peter Clark was marking trees in a section of York Forest near Wheldrake on the last day of July when he ran short of marking paint.

He walked back to the nearby stores for another tin, and was returning to the trees when a tractor driver stopped him to discuss a problem he was having with his machine.

At that moment there was a loud explosion and a ball of thick black smoke billowed up from the group of trees where Peter had been working minutes before! The Forester and the tractor driver rushed to the spot to find a Jet Provost training plane from adjoining Elvington Airfield had crashed into the woods. The trees were ablaze and an RAF Rescue team, followed by the Fire Brigade and Police, were on the scene in minutes and managed to smother the flames in foam.

Luckily, the pilot had ejected seconds before the crash and was picked up by helicopter, unhurt, in a nearby field.

STILL WAITING

The Secretary of State for Scotland gave the following written reply on 4th August to a Parliamentary Question from Mr Alex Pollock MP, asking whether he was in a position to make a statement on the Government's review of forestry policy:

"Substantial progress has been made but we are not yet in a position to announce our final decisions. It is our intention to make a statement as soon as our discussions are complete."

All that remained was the blackened ruin of an RAF Jet Provost Mk 111 plane and 50 badly burned and broken trees. But who knows what might have been the story if Peter Clark had not run out of marking paint

Photograph of plane wreckage by Yorkshire Evening Press.

TOP TWO AT NCC

Sir Ralph Verney Bt., KBE, DL, JP, who has been a Forestry Commissioner since 1968, has been appointed Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council. Among Sir Ralph's recent appointments have been as a member of the Nature Conservancy Council (1966-71) and the BBC Advisory Committee on Agriculture (1970-78). He was also a member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution from 1973-79.

Mr Dick Steele, immediate past-president of the Institute of Foresters of Great Britain has been appointed Director-General of the Nature Conservancy Council. Mr Steele was previously head of the division of scientific services at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. He had earlier been with the Nature Conservancy (as the NCC was then known) from 1963-73, when he created and led the woodland management section. He is a fellow of the Institute of Biology and of the IoF.

THE announcement by the Bowater UK Paper Company Ltd. of its intention to close its Ellesmere Port mill, the country's biggest newsprint mill, is another bitter blow to Britain's forestry industry, coming only three months after the announcement of the Corpach mill closure.

In light of these developments, the 'Slasher' put the following questions to Mr Dallas Mithen, Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing.

Is this announcement not a blow against the expansion of forestry?

No. Although, following as it does the decision by Wiggins Teape Ltd and Consolidated Bathurst not to proceed with a newsprint development at Fort William, it is bitterly disappointing. But it must be kept in perspective: any expansion of the forest area in GB will not result in additional wood supplies for 20-25 years. Most international experts predict a shortage of wood around the turn of the century and this is the important factor in considering the need for the expansion of forests in GB.

What alternatives are there for selling the pulpwood?

There is strong demand for pulpwood in Scandinavia at present and probably for some years ahead. At present we are offering for sale by tender a quantity of 110,000 tonnes per year for a period of at least 3 years for export from Scotland. Already following the closure of the pulpmill at Fort William pulpwood is being supplied from Scotland to Scandinavian mills.

Will the wood presently supplied to Bowater not saturate the market in Scandinavia?

No. Both Sweden and Norway import considerable quantities of pulpwood. The quantity available in Britain is very small by comparison but is attractive because we can offer a good quality product and reliable supply.

Do you think it is right to export pulpwood when it will come back to this country in the form of higher added value goods?

No. But it is important to be able to retain the infrastructure of harvesting resources which allied to the availability of wood in Britain will provide an attractive incentive to industry in future.

How much wood do Bowater use at Ellesmere Port?

About 270,000 tonnes annually. This comes from both Forestry Commission and private forests.

What about the private forests — will they be able to export?

In Scotland, following the Fort William closure, close co-operation with private woodland associations ensured that they were able to take advantage of the opportunity for export. They

TIMBER EXPORTS SAVE SCOTTISH FORESTRY JOBS

THE Forestry Commission has accepted offers from Scandinavian companies for the export of over 100,000 tonnes of pulpwood a year for the next three years from Scottish forests. Shipments will begin in November through ports in East and North East Scotland.

Similar contracts have also been concluded by a number of private suppliers bringing the total annual figure to about 200,000 tonnes.

This achievement will allow production and transport of pulpwood from Scottish forests to continue following the closure of the pulpmill at Fort William, and guarantee continuity of employment in harvesting in the forests and in timber haulage.

"I am delighted at the outcome of our efforts to sustain forestry employment in Scotland," said Chairman Sir David Montgomery. "But I want to repeat that our main objective is still to promote an alternative wood processing industry in the Highlands. This was made clear from the outset to all the prospective buyers in Scandinavia. The contract arrangements and the prospect of increasing wood supplies in the future will enable us to respond to any proposals which come along for new industry in the Highlands."

have in fact commented favourably on the speed and efficiency shown by the Commission in developing an alternative market at very short notice and on the degree of consultation and assistance which was given by the Commission.

How many people will lose their jobs?

Apart from the jobs in the mill itself which we can do little about there are about 500 jobs in forestry and transport. We would aim to minimise the effect on these jobs by developing export opportunities.

Was the high cost of wood an element?

Only to a limited extent. Pulpwood prices to Bowaters are comparable with those applying in Scandinavia. Furthermore, Scandinavia mills are having to import supplies because of their wood shortage at marginal prices well above any price in Britain. In addition all suppliers of wood had made it clear to Bowater that they were prepared to offer concessions to help overcome the present difficulties.

Are wood costs in Britain not higher than in North America?

Yes but wood prices in Scandinavia, which is a major newsprint production area, are not more favourable than in Britain.

Why are wood prices in North America so much lower?

Wood supplies come largely from the exploitation of natural forests which are clear felled and are considered to have cost nothing. Already there is concern in North America that insufficient investment is taking place after exploitation to ensure

future yields from these virgin forests. In addition the exploitation of increasingly distant forests will add to the cost of the wood.

Can Britain ever expect to attract investment in pulping or other wood using industry if energy costs are high by comparison with other countries?

Energy costs are obviously an important issue in pulp and paper making. At the same time there have been a number of new plants established in Britain. In the first place there has been investment in Scotland where



Mr Dallas Mithen

Caberboard Ltd have built a plant to manufacture Medium Density Fibreboard and where Riddoch of Rothiemay Ltd have rebuilt their sawmill line to make it as advanced as any in Europe. Then there is the major expansion by Thames Board Mill Ltd at Workington which will come onstream in the next year. These investments show that it is attractive to invest in wood processing industry in Britain and there are advantages in doing so.

What are these advantages?

Costs of labour, marketing and transport of the finished product are lower. As the present shortage of wood in Scandinavia might suggest the available wood supplies in Britain will become an increasingly attractive incentive to industry.

How can you say that when two major mills have closed?

It is our belief that in the longer term some of the present economic difficulties, the high interest rates and the very strong pound which may be a disincentive to investment will disappear.

PRINCESS PAYS SURPRISE VISIT

A surprise visitor — at ten minutes' notice — to the Forestry Exhibition at the Royal Highland Show was HRH Princess Alexandra, accompanied by her husband, Mr Angus Ogilvy.

The Princess had begun her tour of the show when she asked to see the forestry display, which was well away from her official route. Following a hurried phone call from the organisers, she was welcomed to the Forestry Commission marquee by Commissioner Captain David Bowser and West Scotland's Conservation and Recreation Planning Officer Roger Hurst, who showed her round the exhibit.

The Princess spent fifteen minutes touring the Forestry Commission's display which this year was on the theme 'A

Forester Takes Stock.' Unfortunately, a torrential downpour prevented her from venturing to the outdoor forestry exhibition area.

Princess Alexandra was introduced to Foresters Ian Embry and Peter Green of the Agricultural Show Unit, and at the Information Desk she signed the Visitors Book and chatted to Kay Beattie of Information Branch and her fiancé Gordon Inglis (E & T). Before leaving she asked for two copies of the latest Forest Fire posters to take home for her children.

Over one third of the 120,000 who paid entrance to the Royal Highland Show visited the forestry stand. Ian Embry also set up a new record for a single sale of FC publications — £36 netted from one customer for forestry books.

Axeman's Log

Bronze Otter unveiled

THE latest wild creature to find a home in the Galloway Forest Park promises to become a major attraction with otter enthusiasts. But this otter will oblige wildlife photographers by remaining quite motionless — it is made of bronze.

The life-sized bronze otter which stands on a rock in a pool in the Black Water of Dee looks so life-like it could be mistaken for the real thing.

The sculpture was unveiled by Scots actor, Iain Cuthbertson during a small riverside ceremony to mark its successful completion.

This unusual work of art was created by Edinburgh sculptor, Penny Wheatley and financed jointly by the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Arts Council. Penny Wheatley is best known for another otter sculpture — the Gavin Maxwell Otter Memorial at Port William overlooking Luce Bay.

The Forestry Commission believes the sculpture will enhance the Raiders' Road, the ten mile forest drive which links the forests of Clatteringshaws on the A712 and Bennan on the A762 and follows the winding course of the Black Water of Dee with its attractive rocky pools and waterfalls. The forest drive attracts 8,000-10,000 family parties a year.

The Forestry Commission were anxious that the sculpture be sited in as authentic a pose and setting as possible, and selected four suitable sites from which the sculptor, Penny Wheatley made the final choice.

"It was a joy to create the otter for such a beautiful setting" says Penny Wheatley. "I am delighted that the sculpture is sited in a place where I hope many people can see and enjoy it, and I am particularly pleased that children will be able to wade round the rock to touch it and be photographed beside it".

Iain Cuthbertson performed the unveiling ceremony before a gathering of invited guests including the sculptor and representatives from the Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation.

After the unveiling, Conservator John Davies presented Mr Cuthbertson with an oak sapling grown from an acorn from the remnants of the great forest of Buchan, which spread across Galloway in pre-Medieval times. The oak tree will be planted in Iain Cuthbertson's garden overlooking the shores of the Solway Firth.

In a second surprise ceremony, a hazel walking stick topped with a magnificently carved goat's horn, by coincidence from the farm of Buchan, was presented to John Davies by farmer Captain Leon Cadman-Goodwin, in appreciation of all the Conservator has done in the Galloway forest park for locals and visitors alike.



Actor Iain Cuthbertson and sculptor Penny Wheatley with the new Galloway Park statue.

Record price paid

A RECORD price of over £500 per kilo was recently paid for a special batch of Lodgepole Pine seeds, collected in Canada by an exploratory team from the Forestry Commission.

Farmers have long known the importance of using the right seed on their land to achieve the best possible results. The slow growth of tree crops inhibits our understanding of seed performance, but it is now known that some of the Lodgepole Pine seed sources used in some earlier plantings have not proved suitable.

The UK is unique and very fortunate in having a forest seed service, administered by the Forestry Commission, that is second to none. It helps to

ensure that only the best available forest trees are planted, giving Britain good quality timber at home. In the longer term there is also the potential for increasing exports of seed of proven quality.

Re-united

In the Spring "Slasher" we asked if readers knew the whereabouts of Jack Buchanan and John Elder so that we could pass on some 1948 postcards to them.

Not only have their postcards been returned to them but the two buddies, who had lost touch, have been re-united through The Slasher. Both are retired, with Jack Buchanan living in Nottingham, and John Elder in Fort William.

Anti-nuclear demonstrators stage sit-in

VICTORIA HOUSE, the location of the N (W) Conservancy Office, had a dramatic day in May when it was peacefully occupied by "MADRYN". A group of about 20-25 men and women entered and occupied the Conservator's room, all day, as a gesture of protest against the Forestry Commission, because permission had been granted to the Institute of Geological Sciences to enter Dyfi, Rheidol and Hafren Forests for surface reconnaissance as part of the Government's research programme into the disposal of radioactive waste.

'MADRYN' stands for Mudiad Amddiffyn Dyfi Rhag Ysbwriel Niwcliar which, roughly translated, means the movement for the Protection of Dyfi (the River Dyfi) against Nuclear Wastes.

The Group's spokesman, Mr G. Bowen, explained that 'MADRYN' were committed to non-violent protest and that their occupation of Victoria House was aimed at the Forestry Commission as a public body and not at any individual. More than half of the protestors occupying Victoria House were hill-farmers and others were shopkeepers, housewives and retired people.

The hill-farmers of the area around the River Dyfi were concerned in particular that their water could be polluted if nuclear waste was buried in the area, especially as they relied on spring water for domestic and agricultural purposes.

The group left at 5 pm as promised, after removing their flags from the windows and signs from the walls. The occupation was widely reported on the local Welsh news programmes.

A further demonstration in the form of a sit-in was held by Madryn protesters on Monday, 2nd June. About 100 people entered the office and occupied the Recreation Room, but left quietly after a few minutes.

LORD GIBSON-WATT LISTS FC's ACHIEVEMENTS

IN his recent speech to the Royal Forestry Society, Commissioner Lord Gibson-Watt made a number of references to the achievements of the Forestry Commission in the past 61 years. Lord Gibson-Watt drew attention to the Commission's role . . .

"In research, probably the best in Western Europe. In the encouragement of new timber using industries, the FC alone can give them the guarantees of future supply. In providing a source of trained foresters, many of whom have found their way to the private sector. In derelict land planting, look at the valleys of South Wales, no private individual or company could have taken that job on. In trying out and improving forestry machinery. In providing extensive recreation projects for the public with walks, motor drives in the forest, picnic sites, camping and caravan sites, interpretive centres."

Lord Gibson-Watt concluded, "It is an impressive record that no one should fail to recognise, and I think the British taxpayer has had good value for the money that the FC has cost him."

Winners receive prizes at Tummel Centre

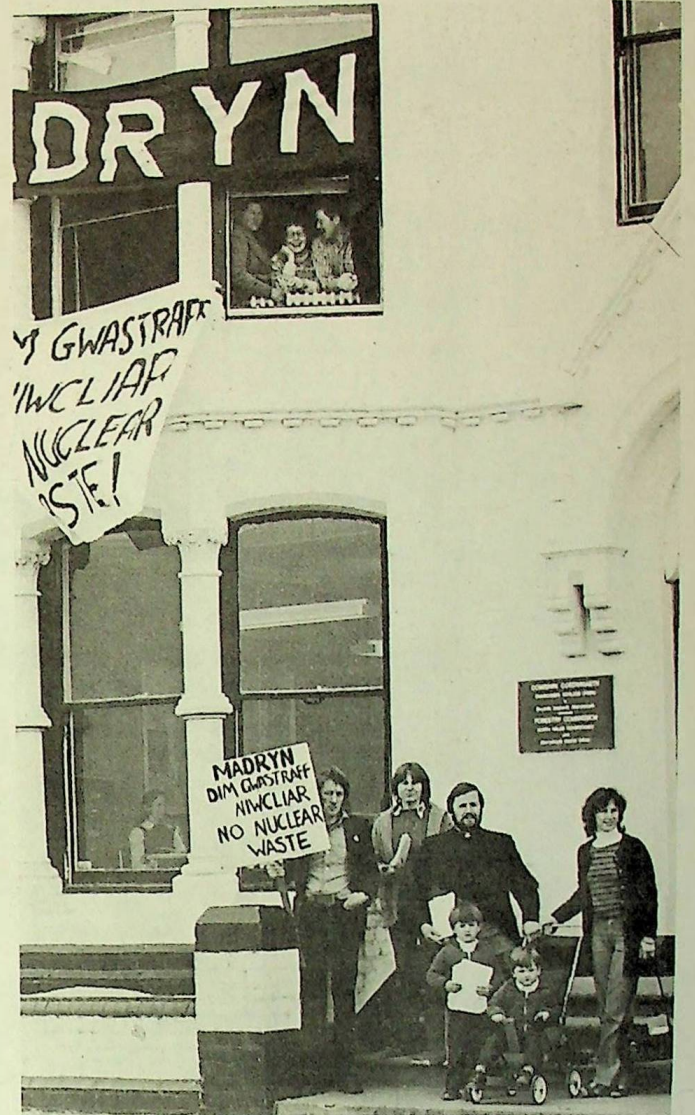
THE children of Primary Three of East Wemyss School, Fife, and Primary Seven of Langlands School, Forfar, had an exciting day's outing to the Forestry Commission's Tummel Visitor Centre to collect their prizes as joint winners of the Tummel Forest Schools Project Competition.

The prizes were presented by Miss Elizabeth Carnegie of Lour, Forfar, Chairman of Tayside Regional Education Committee. Miss Carnegie, in her speech to the children, praised their efforts and the high standard of the winning displays. She stressed the importance of taking an interest in trees, and also of passing their enthusiasm to their friends, before handing over the prizes of £25 each plus books and posters about trees to Lorna Gilmour and Margaret Birrell of East Wemyss School, and Fiona Alexander and Colin Brown of Langlands School.

The wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the children, who took a keen interest in Warden George Hendry's guided tour and explanations of the various displays in the Information Centre. Much pocket money was spent on souvenir key-rings, book-marks, and posters before the children returned to their buses for the journey home. The winning

entries will be on display at the Tummel Visitor Centre until the end of September.

(Below) Chief Forester Hamish Park examines the displays with some of the school-children.



Prisoners assist with bird box project

THE success last year of the Penninghame Open Prison Bird Box Project, in conjunction with the Penninghame Forest staff, has encouraged the Officers and inmates of the prison to continue the survey this year.

The project started last year when Head Forester Andrew Liddell asked the prison Governor if volunteers at Penninghame could erect 40 boxes made by the pupils of the Douglas Ewart High School. Despite a late start caused by bad weather, eight boxes were occupied, and during the year the volunteers, led by Prison Officer John Barnes, monitored the progress of the birds from the laying of the eggs until the chicks were fully feathered and flying.

The boxes were mainly occupied by Blue Tits and Great Tits, the Blue Tits laying clutches of eight to nine eggs, and the Great Tits seven. Most of the boxes used by the birds had been erected in Larch Woodland, although one box erected in Sitka Spruce Woodland was occupied by Blue Tits.

One interesting discovery the team made was that when a Blue Tit lays her eggs, she leaves them cold until she has finished laying, thus ensuring that all the eggs hatch together.

This year, occupation of the boxes began six weeks earlier than last year, and the same team of volunteers intend to collect much more comprehensive data, which will be included in a national survey at present being carried out by the RSPB.

IAN IS CHAMPION FUND-RAISER

IAN WATT, D.F.O. at Llandovery, must be the Commission's champion charity fund raiser. In just two years, Ian, Chairman of the Dyfyd Wildlife Appeal, has raised the staggering sum of £67,500 for the West Wales Naturalist Trust.

The appeal started in 1978, and was forwarded by Prince Charles, when two properties in Wales came up for sale. One was the estate belonging to Lord Dynevor, a descendant of the Rhys family, one of the oldest families in Wales. The estate contained 300-year-old woodlands and a twelfth Century castle. The other property was at Rhos Glyn yr Helyg.

Nearly £30,000 was acquired to buy the two properties for the West Wales Naturalist Trust to convert into Nature Reserves, and the appeal target was set at £60,000. To date, through a series of art auctions, raffles, garden parties, contributions from local businesses, and other enterprises, the appeal has raised £67,500.



Carnival Queen Jo

Miss Josephine Hollis, specialist typist with the Commission at Lyndhurst SE(E), was chosen from 14 contestants as this year's Lyndhurst Carnival Queen.

A farmer's daughter from Dibden, Jo loves life in the country and enjoys walking, flower arranging, pottery, driving, music and cooking.

Jo is being kept very busy at weekends opening fetes and attending local functions in preparation for Carnival week.

ALISTAIR ROWAN SUCCEEDS JOHN JAMES

MR ALISTAIR A. ROWAN has been appointed Conservator for North West England to succeed Mr John H. James who retired at the beginning of September.

Mr Rowan graduated with a BSc in Forestry from Edinburgh University in 1948 and started his career with the Forestry Commission's Research Division in Scotland, first as a census surveyor, then in the Research Division in England as a ganger, before his promotion to Assistant District Officer at Hexham, Northumberland in the Commission's North East England Conservancy in 1950. He was transferred to Rothbury in 1951 and was promoted to District Officer in 1958. In 1964 he was transferred to Fort Augustus, North Scotland where he was involved with work study

until 1968 when he was posted to the London Headquarters of Harvesting and Marketing. In September 1968 he was promoted to Assistant Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing. Since 1975 he has filled the post of Assistant Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing for South Scotland in Dumfries.

Born in Edinburgh and educated at Boroughmuir School, Mr Rowan's interests include gardening and sailing. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Great Britain. Mr Rowan has a son who is just completing a course in land economy at Aberdeen University and a daughter still at school. A keen Gaelic speaker, Mr Rowan

is considering learning to speak Welsh during his sojourn in Chester.

MR JAMES, who has been with the Forestry Commission for 31 years, has been a conservator since 1966. He joined the Forestry Commission after war service with the RAF in Canada, India and the Middle East.

A forestry and botany graduate of University College, North Wales, Bangor, he started with the Commission as a forest worker in Pembrey and Rheola in 1949 and was appointed Assistant District Officer at Cardiff in July 1949. He worked in Pencaden, Tintern and Monmouth before being promoted to District Officer at Carmarthen in 1956. In 1957 he was promoted to Divisional Officer and moved to London as Chief Education Officer in 1958. He became Conservator for North Wales and moved to Aberystwyth before transferring to Chester in 1973.

Mr James was born in Bangor and captained Bangor University Rugby Team.

John Gwynn appointed Director (EMD)

MR JOHN GWYNN has been appointed Director (Estate Management Division), in succession to Mr J. R. Booth, who retired on 30th June.

Mr Gwynn (54), was previously Conservator (Estates), a position he had held since 1978. Before that he was Principal Land Agent at Headquarters when he headed the Forest Cabins Project Unit which developed imaginative forest cabin schemes in different parts of the country.

He was born at Malvern in Worcestershire, and graduated MA (Rural Estate Management) at Cambridge in 1951. He joined

the Forestry Commission in 1952 as District (Estates) Officer at Kilmun, Argyll, and served in that capacity in Cairnbaan, Argyll and Aberfoyle, Perthshire, before moving south of the border to a similar position at Hexham in 1965.

He was appointed Principal Land Agent in 1966 and served at London and Basingstoke before moving to Edinburgh when the Headquarters were transferred there in 1975.

Mr Gwynn is married with four children and lives in Cramond, Edinburgh.

RICHARD ILLINGWORTH PROMOTED

MR RICHARD P. ILLINGWORTH has been appointed Conservator (Estates) at Headquarters. He has been Principal Land Agent since 1978. Mr Illingworth (47) comes from South Wales, where he began his career as an articled pupil to a firm of auctioneers and land agents. Following National Service with the Royal Engineers, he joined the Forestry Commission in 1957 as

Land Agent at Benmore, Argyll and at Aberfoyle, Perthshire. In 1969 he was appointed Conservancy Land Agent (North Wales) at Aberystwyth, following a year at Headquarters on recreation duties preparing the New Forest Study.

Mr Illingworth is married with two children and lives in Colinton, Edinburgh.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST IN DUTCH ELM TRIALS

OVER 20 local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales have been invited to co-operate with the Forestry Commission in extending trials of a possible treatment for elm trees infested with Dutch Elm Disease.

The product used in this treatment will be "Ceratotec" known in the USA as "Arbotect 20 S" where it has been used with some success for the past two years. The French authorities also introduced the treatment in 1979.

The Forestry Commission has been conducting limited experiments with this new fungicide, Ceratotec, for the past two years and results have so far been encouraging. Disease symptoms have been arrested in the majority of trees that have been treated and it is now felt necessary to widen the scope of the trials. By extending the treatment to a larger number of trees over a wide geographical area, Forestry Commission scientists hope to be able to make a realistic assessment of Ceratotec's potential for disease control. The treatment is expensive and is, therefore, likely to be used in high value elms in part of an overall sanitation programme.

Trees with early stages of infection, usually with wilting confined to a single branch, are injected with a low concentration of Ceratotec at a rate of 20 litres per 30 cm of circumference. The injection usually takes from 4 to 8 hours for a single tree. The cost of the fungicide for

treating a tree of 1.25 metres circumference is about £10, labour costs are extra.

The active ingredient in Ceratotec is thiabendazole hypophosphite which is active against *Ceratocystis ulmi*, the fungus which causes Dutch Elm Disease. In addition to the curative value of the treatment, the work so far carried out has shown that some fungicide activity remains in the twigs up to 10 months after injection thus giving continuing protection against new disease in the summer after treatment.

Ceratotec will be manufactured and marketed in Britain by MSD AGVET a division of Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd. The local authorities being invited to carry out field trials have all had experience with injection programmes and the Forestry Commission will advise on the selection of suitable trees for treatment, give guidance on injection methods and monitor the results.

The cities which have been approached are: Brighton, Hove, Portsmouth, Cambridge, Lincoln, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Nottingham, Sheffield, Kingston-upon-Hull, Gateshead and Rotherham. The County or Metropolitan Councils are Merseyside, West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Humberside, plus the District Councils of Adur (West Sussex), Thanet (Kent) and Shepway (Kent).

The Slasher

See the late deceased, the dying.

For column inches vying With Conservators and Craftsmen Civil Engineers and Clerks, Statements in The Lords and Commons And accounts of goodly works.

They're in constant competition With the endless repetition Of retirement presentations — Black and Deckers and bouquets, Nests of tables, clocks and cromachs — At the parting of the ways.

Royal visits are reported As are lbs of seed imported, The latest infestation, Pictures of the long ago, Notes from numerous correspondents

On the where and when and how, Hard luck stories, MBEs And romances mid the trees; Forest Rangers and their deeds, HQ's pleasures, pastimes, sports: Health and Safety in the forest

And Benevolent Fund Reports. There's Old Whatsisname (from Wales) Kielder goats and forest trails, Commemorative plantings And the Woodman's Annual Ball; Pulp Mill hopes and Pulp Mill closures

— The "Slasher" tells it all. MUIR BURNS

MUSEUM SEEKS HELP WITH FOREST EXHIBITS

A PLEA to all forestry staff to assist in the creation of a new Gallery displaying the Natural History of Scotland comes from Mr Fred Woodward, Depute Keeper of Natural History at Glasgow's Museum and Art Gallery.

Over the next five years, the museum will be building up the collection of British flora and fauna, and Mr Woodward asks foresters to contact him if they come across carcasses suitable for taxidermy. "We not only need red and grey squirrels, pine martens, birds of prey, and other 'exotic' species," says Mr Woodward, "We are also short of the more common wildlife examples — sparrows, blackbirds, mice, hedgehogs and so on."

Suitable carcasses should be frozen, wrapped in newspaper, not polythene, and if the finder contacts Mr Woodward he will arrange the best method of getting them to the Museum.

Also required are squirrels' dreys, rooks and magpies' nests, examples of British tree fungi, sections of old trees to show growth rings, and all types of cones and needles for a

reference section on conifers. The Forestry Commission is also assisting with a section on Dutch Elm Disease.

Mr Woodward has offered any "excess" stuffed exhibits to the Information Branch for F.C. exhibitions. His address is the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery, Glasgow (Tel. 041-334 1134).

Machinery demonstration at Coleford

One hundred of the world's leading firms will be exhibiting their products at the National Forest and Timber Machinery Demonstration to be held at Coleford, by permission of the Forestry Commission, on the 24th and 25th September.

In addition to the vast range of forestry machinery on display, the exhibition will also include stands on nursery stock, products for the protection and nutrition of forest and amenity trees, fencing, sprayers, and safety equipment.

Forestry jargon—Thetford style

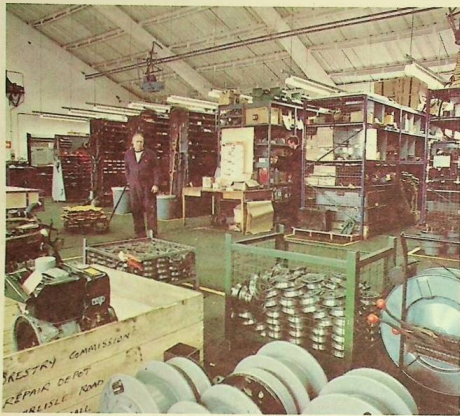
Ronnie Hannant, a harvesting tractor driver on the Bridgham Beat of Thetford Chase has compiled a list of local definitions of Forestry Jargon. Perhaps other "Slasher" readers can add to it.

Loggers Tape — A length of elastic marked in metres.
Long Butts — Logs.
Logs — Long Butts.
Tarrifying — A method of making .96 .69.
Vegetation Bashing — Blind Flying.
Herring Bone Fashion — Chaos.
Radio Diplomacy — Manipulation of phraseology.
Thetford Tongs — Nothing to do with Chinese in Thetford.
Bad Reception (Radio) — When 5 miles from where one should be.
Let It Develop (Workshop term) — Wait till it bursts.
Breaking Bar — Instrument to induce Hernia.
Cross Track — Assault Course.
F. Route — Raised earthworks with sides sloping 1 in 2.
Uncert. Sick Leave — Annual leave.
Rehandling — Differences of opinion.
Standard Rate Travelling — Maths whereby 6 and 6 are 17.
Public Transport Travelling — Travelling from A to B, widest detour.
Peeling — Stripping event.
Peeling Iron — Offensive weapon.
Extraction — Rally cross.
Fomes — A froth around the mouth in bad working conditions.
Hot Logging — Amnesty between tractor driver and fellers.
Work Study — Means of timing work with watches that lose half-an-hour in every two hours.

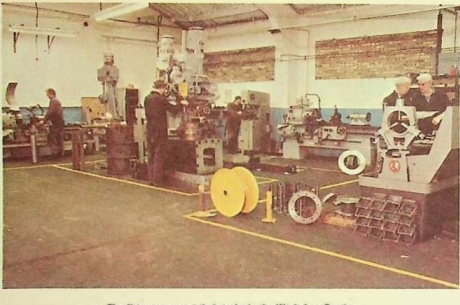


Certificates commending the new Visitor Centre at Westonbirt were given by the Royal Institute of British Architects and presented by the Chairman of the Gloucestershire Branch, Mr G. A. J. Mathers, to Mr D. R. Johnston, Director (Research), Forestry Commission, Mr Andris Berzins and Mr M. Scarfe, architects, and Mr R. A. Paimer the builder.

CHAPELHALL WORKSHOPS GIVEN NEW LOOK



Some of the 4000 items held in the Stores. Storeman Duncan Hamilton is at one of the bins, and Storeman William Patterson is pulling the trolley.



The fitters carry out their tasks in the Workshop Section.



Fitter Brendan Grant uses his welding torch on a Rock Drilling Rig.

"ENGINEERING in the Forestry Commission has certainly arrived in a new era. I was most impressed with the Workshops, the equipment and the skill of the staff in handling such a variety of mechanical problems."

That was Chairman Sir David Montgomery's comment after he paid a visit to the FC's Central Engineering Workshops at Chapelhall which have been redesigned and extended to increase and improve the essential services they provide to all Conservancies.

The Workshops are ideally placed just off the Edinburgh to Glasgow M8 Motorway, providing easy access from all parts of the country. Chapelhall's essential purpose is to service all "user" divisions with complete overhauls and major repairs to the Commission's large fleet of Earth Movers and heavy Harvesting Machinery. Chapelhall's other vital role is to provide a parts supply service covering the vast range of spares needed to keep the machinery operating in the field.

FIRST CLASS SERVICE

Bill Anderson, Plant and Transport Manager at Headquarters, is responsible for the administration of Chapelhall. The senior man "on site" is Assistant Plant and Transport Manager, Jim Christie, and under him is Works Manager, Jimmy Thomson, who has played a key role in the re-organisation of the Workshops. This has involved turning the workshops end for end, building a new office complex, and moving the complete stores' stock of 4,000 items from one end of the complex to the other. One of Jimmy's main aims, assisted by the Stores personnel, is to provide a first-class parts availability service, not only from Chapelhall stock, but by using their wide knowledge they can obtain spares direct from manufacturers and route them by the quickest way direct to the faulty machine.

The "new" Chapelhall Workshop premises compare favourably with the most efficient anywhere. They have the advantage of buying components in fairly large quantities at attractive prices, and knowing where to get these difficult items, its equipment can cope with almost everything except chromium plating (and case hardening).

The general office is under the administration of Office Manager, Andrew McKenzie. Betty Matthews and May Kelly operate the manual stock control system in the Stores Office, keeping lists of parts ranging from £10,000 worth of parts ranging

from nuts and bolts worth pence to winches costing £1,500 or more. The stores have an annual turnover of 72 per cent, and the girls' jobs should become easier in the future when it is planned to replace the Kardex system with a more sophisticated, computerised Video Display Unit system.

VARIETY

The Workshop section of the building includes a machine shop, welding and fabrication shop, a general workshop area where machines are overhauled and repaired, and a number of testing facilities.

In the machine and fabricating shops, fitters build a wide variety of specialist equipment for forest work. The harsh glare of welders' torches light up corners as drums, jack stands, adjusters, support brackets, saddles, carriages and many other items are created from raw steel. One thousand steel plates are profile cut, formed and painted to make pulleys for skyline winches each year.

The Chapelhall Skyline has been developed over many years and over 200 have been built, of which approximately 100 are still in service. Modification of such a large fleet to meet the latest H & M requirements constitutes a significant work load in the fabrication shop, along with rock drilling rigs for Civil Engineering operations.

DEVELOPMENT

The mobile Rock Drilling Rigs are based on low ground pressure ploughing tractors which can traverse soft terrain. A compressor is fitted to the rear, and a drilling rig to the front. After further modifications and additions the workshop produces a compact unit, ideal for civil engineering requirements. A great deal of the development work of these rigs has been the responsibility of George Stewart, the foreman in charge of mechanical fabrication parts in the workshops, whose experience with the Commission spans over 20 years.

At the test of the workshop, the Commission has acquired a further 2½ acres producing more parking space and an area to test drive machines after servicing and overhaul.

The Central Workshops have taken an impressive step into the Eighties and intend to be able to cope with all foreseeable engineering requirements. Their record is impressive. Like the Windmill, they never turn people away. The workshop will always try to find a final solution to any engineering or spares problem anywhere in the Commission.

Also under constant development are standard, "off the crawler" tractors which are "stretched" or otherwise modified into low ground pressure and other versions to meet the requirements of particular forestry ploughing operations.

Says Jimmy Thomson, "in addition to meeting the requirements for these machines, we are continually looking at ways of producing them more economically and ensuring that what we do produce can be economically maintained. The more we do, the better we get."

FLEXIBILITY

At the other end of the workshops is the overhaul and repair area where, on average, 24 machines are overhauled each year. Flexibility is the keynote in this area, with the fitters working on a wide range of equipment produced by many manufacturers. Eighteen working days can be made available for the machinery which includes large and small crawlers, excavators, vibrating rollers and graders. Some are in for routine overhaul, others for accident repairs, even one that has been set on fire by vandals. Each is restored to "showroom" condition before being returned to the Conservancy with a new lease of life.

In addition, 50 new machines have been through the workshops already this year for completion to the FC's specifications.

At the test of the workshop, the Commission has acquired a further 2½ acres producing more parking space and an area to test drive machines after servicing and overhaul.

The Central Workshops have taken an impressive step into the Eighties and intend to be able to cope with all foreseeable engineering requirements. Their record is impressive. Like the Windmill, they never turn people away. The workshop will always try to find a final solution to any engineering or spares problem anywhere in the Commission.



A wide range of heavy machinery is lined up for overhaul and repair.



Works Manager Jimmy Thomson began his FC career as a fitter at Blair Atholl in 1952. He transferred to Chapelhall when the workshops opened in 1962, and in 1968 he was promoted to foreman. Jimmy became Works Manager in 1975. A keen golfer, he lives near Motherwell, three miles from Chapelhall.

50 ITEMS FOR HIRE IN CENTRAL POOL FLEET

In addition to all its workshop responsibilities, Chapelhall also operates the Forestry Commission's Central Pool Fleet. This pool of around 50 items includes Dozers, Excavators, Tractors, Ploughs, Skidders and Harvesters. It operates as a Plant Hire company within the Commission to provide hire machines for those under overhaul and to make specialist machines available for hire to Conservancies.

Photographs by Douglas Green

FIELD TRIALS FOR PROTOTYPE SKIDDER

THIS is the latest pride of Chapelhall - a prototype skidder - based on a Broy T100 tractor - which is so new it has not yet been christened. Design Engineer at HQ, Ewan McLeay and Chief Draughtsman, David McQuillan have developed it with the aim of replacing the venerable Felston Skidder. The Broy machine is frame mounted, allowing the whole tractor to hinge in the middle and the winches are radio controlled for increased efficiency. The Ford 6 cylinder engine produces 150 horsepower and the unit, which has torque converter transmission, is equipped with a top-rolling hitch and a double drum winding winch.

The unit has been under development since April and is now ready to go out for trials in the field.



Nature News

SOUND MANAGEMENT ENSURES GOOD CONSERVATION

by Paul Hill-Tout



The Duke of Burgundy Frillaria.

Over the years conservationists, and indeed many foresters, have stressed the need for intimate selective management to ensure the conservation of valued species, at the expense of normal forest management. In East England this attitude is being challenged and we are confident that conservation and forest management are not incompatible and can be combined with little compromise. We also believe that it is the forest as a whole which makes the largest contribution to the environment.

This change of emphasis is well illustrated in two adjacent woods, totalling some 1000 acres in the Northampton District. These woods are remnants of a once extensive forest which covered a large low-lying clay basin. This forest would have been inhabited by the majority of the woodland species of butterfly and the remaining woods are still rich in butterflies, moths and other woodland insects.

Traditionally these woods had been managed as coppice with standards, but following the decline in markets and extensive fellings in both World Wars, all but 60 acres, replanted between the wars, had reverted to scrub when acquired by the Forestry Commission in 1950.

The coppice system had produced a patchwork of conditions varying from open glades in full cover and when the Nature Conservancy first recognised the importance of this wood in 1951 it was considered essential to perpetuate these conditions. A Forest Nature Reserve Agreement over a large part of the southern wood led to the cutting of small glades and

the attempted reintroduction of coppice working by the Nature Conservancy. We on our part undertook the irregular cutting of ride edges to produce a scalloped effect and the removal of all conifers to a depth of one line from oak mixtures along roads and ridesides.

This latter work was considered desirable to provide food-rich corridors for the movement of the butterflies throughout the wood. All these operations were difficult to sustain and costly in money and manpower, as their small scale and scattered nature precluded mechanisation.

They were also largely ineffective in that by 1979 the Reserve area was found to contain 20 breeding species of butterfly whereas the wood to the north where normal forest management had taken place contained 191. These included 10 species rare in the United Kingdom, all 5 Hairstreaks, the Duke of Burgundy, Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver Waved and High Brown Frillaries. Other studies revealed 45 species of butterfly, 251 species of moth and 69 species of bees, wasps and ants. This diversity of species makes these two woods an entomological site of national importance.

We therefore decided that as we can claim considerable expertise in woodland and mechanically managed on an agreed rotation to ensure the even distribution of required habitats through the woods.

We feel confident that these woods with minimal financial and labour input and young plantations (less than 15 years old) are rich in plants providing food for butterflies in their larval and adult forms. The rides while increasing the habitats found on the woodland edge and in colonisation glades, also serve as routes for dispersal and

Unlike the cut glades these habitats are efficiently and economically maintained by normal mechanical weeding, cleaning and ride maintenance.

Since these two woods are of roughly even age, the process of patch dynamics (i.e. the changing local character of woodland through time - prevalent in an uneven-aged plantation unit) largely responsible for maintaining a diverse butterfly population, becomes increasingly inactive at the plantations mature. Recognising this problem and in consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council we are proposing to clear for pulp and replant some of the remaining scrub areas which currently provide a few butterfly habitats and are of low economic value.

Moreover in the first thinning operations of the late 1980's we are envisaging widening several rides to reduce shading, together with the creation of a number of "ride intersection reserves" consisting of shrub areas.

The wider rides will facilitate easier management and later harvesting and marketing operations together with more effective deer culling. In the reserves conifers will be removed for an agreed distance from each intersection. In pure crops this will provide sites which can be easily found and mechanically managed on an agreed rotation to ensure the even distribution of required habitats through the woods.

We feel confident that these woods with minimal financial and labour input and young plantations (less than 15 years old) are rich in plants providing food for butterflies in their larval and adult forms. The rides while increasing the habitats found on the woodland edge and in colonisation glades, also serve as routes for dispersal and

Around & About

NORTH WALES

EXPLOSIVE START TO BOB'S CAREER

SADLY, it marked the end of an era when Head Forester Bob Griffiths retired in June. He had been at Newborough for 34 years and was responsible for establishing Newborough Forest, in Anglesey, against all the odds. Newborough Warren was acquired by the Forestry Commission in 1939 and was immediately handed over to the

army so that when Bob arrived in 1946 he received 1700 acres of moving sand dunes littered with high explosives and not a tree in sight.

In the 1978 New Year's Honours List Bob was awarded an MBE.

At the presentation the Conservator, Mr Roger Bradley, reviewed his career and during lunch Bob gave a hilarious "blow by blow" account of the recent drugs haul at Llanddwyn Beach.

Mr and Mrs Griffiths will continue to reside in Newborough and we hope Bob will get great pleasure from his binoculars purchased with the cheque he received at his presentation.



Bob Griffiths shakes hands with Conservator Roger Bradley.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

DOUBLE EVENT AT WHITEMEAD PARK

JOHN RECEIVES CRYSTAL

MR JOHN INGLIS, Conservancy Mechanical Engineer, has retired after 32 years' service. Mr Inglis received a presentation from the Mechanical engineering staff, plus a decanter and crystal glasses from the Bristol Office staff at a farewell supper attended by many of his colleagues.

FAREWELL DRINK FOR BILL

COLLEAGUES of Mr Bill Bibby gathered in their "local" for a pint to say farewell and present him with a cheque for his retirement.

After a spell in Rhodesia, (as it was then) Mr Bibby worked in Pershore, Cranborne Chase, and Hereford, where he spent eight years before moving back to Cranborne in 1972, where he remained until his retirement.

With Pershore now being part of Hereford Forest, Mr Bibby actually spent his 23 years' service in the Conservancy between the same two forests, although, of course, Cranborne is now part of Savernake.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

40 YEARS' UNBROKEN SERVICE

FOREST Craftsman Mr R. Newman, for a good number of years a regular award winning driver for safety in South East England, has retired.

He started work at Bedgebury in 1940 and until his retirement was the longest serving employee, with nearly 40 years' unbroken service.

As a memento his colleagues presented him with some record tokens to enable him to set his "long playing record" to music.

SLASHER CORRESPONDENTS

EDITOR: Gordon MacNeill
EDITORIAL ADDRESS
Headquarters:
231 Corstorphine Road,
Edinburgh EH12 7AT

CORRESPONDENTS (Based
in Conservancy offices):

ENGLAND:
North West: Bill Wardrop
North East: Carol Stephenson
East: Jack Threadgill
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
STAFF SIDE (Based in
Headquarters):
Mrs Jean Thompson

PHOTO COMPETITION

READERS are invited to submit colour transparencies of forest scenic views. The best will be included in the Forestry Commission's photographic library.

Cash prizes will be awarded for the best transparencies received. The Chairman of the judging panel will be Senior Photographer Douglas M. B. Green. Please send entries to Photographic Competition, Information Branch, Headquarters, to arrive by 31st October.

Around & About

EAST SCOTLAND

BILL RETIRES AFTER 32 YEARS' SERVICE

AREA Civil Engineer, Mr Bill Clarkson, has retired from the Commission after 32 years' service.

His service was concentrated in two Conservancies, South (S) and East (S) and ended with 13 years based at Huntly.

Bill's unbounded enthusiasm continued right up to his last working day and we shall miss his cheerful and ebullient presence.

Mr Ian Grant, Conservator, presented Bill with a cheque on behalf of his many friends within the Commission at a function at the Amatola Hotel, Aberdeen.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

CLIFF BLOTT

"This is Your Life"

IT was a significant day in the history of the Conservancy when the man whose name had become synonymous with NE (England), retired. HEO Cliff Blott started work as a CO in 1937 when the office was based at Chopwell Wood and on his retirement had amassed a total of 42½ years' service all in the same Conservancy which must be a unique achievement in the non-industrial grades.

Cliff set very high standards for himself throughout his career and those who came under his wing over the years testify to the invaluable training and guidance they received from him.

His devotion to duty is also very clear from a quite remarkable sickness record of no certificated sick absences at all and a miserly 12 days of the uncertificated type. When Cliff was told this he expressed surprise that the figure was as high as 12!

Cliff always enjoyed his work and was still hard at it on his last day of service but he did manage to stop in time to be guest of honour at a dinner at the Granby Lodge Hotel in York attended by colleagues from all over the Commission who at one time or another had worked with him. Tapping this source, Conservancy Office staff had put together a "This is Your Life" book incorporating anecdotes and reminiscences from Cliff's colleagues past and present.

He was also presented with an illustrated guide to the Western Isles and a camera as he intends

'TIMELY' FAREWELL FOR DICK

MR DICK SANDERSON has retired after over 24 years' service with the Forestry Commission at Banchory Forest, firstly as a Senior Ranger and latterly as a Forest Craftsman. His popularity was shown when his colleagues met at the Forest Centre to present him with a watch and a wallet of notes.

WILF WAS NEVER SICK

WILF DODSWORTH has retired after holding the post of Forest Clerk (Higher Grade) at Dalby for the past 33 years. In all that time he has never had a day off sick. Wilf will remain in Pickering, where he has lived all his life, and devote his time to gardening, walking and ballroom dancing.

At his request a birch tree was planted in Dalby Village without ceremony — with Wilf doing the planting.

Although he was adamant that there should be no fuss on his final day, Wilf's friends gathered to present him with a portable work bench, a stainless steel fork and a cheque on behalf of all his friends and colleagues. Mrs Dodsworth received a bouquet of flowers.

Around & About

EAST ENGLAND

FIVE FAREWELLS

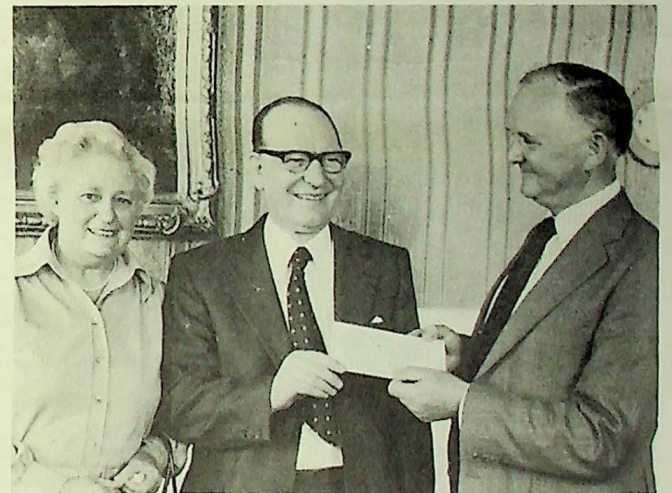
JACK SIZER, Clerical Officer, retired after eighteen years' service in East England Conservancy and at HQ. His many friends and colleagues contributed to his choice of a rather special electric drill which his wife suggested would help keep him out of his chair for a bit!

DON FITZJOHN, Forest Craftsman, has retired after a working life at the Apethorpe section of Rockingham Forest. Don joined the Commission in 1936 when, as a boy, his wage was 14/6 per week — with no paid holidays. Presentation of the Commission's long service certificate was made to him by Mr E. G. Winterflood, in the unavoidable absence of the Conservator, together with an electric kettle and a cheque from his workmates which he used to purchase gardening equipment.

GORDON JOHNSON, Forest Craftsman, retired in May after 24 years with the Commission at Lavenham Forest, Suffolk. Gordon received retirement gifts of an inscribed tankard and the means to fill same from his workmates. The presentation was made by District Officer Harry Searle in Lineage Wood, Lavenham, where Gordon first started work.

NORTH SCOTLAND

TOM MADE A GREAT IMPACT



TOM MACBEATH, A & FO at Inverness Conservancy Office, retired in June after 34 years' service with the Forestry Commission. Tom started work in 1946 as a clerical officer in the Director for Scotland's Office in Edinburgh, moving to Inverness in 1954 as HEO. After a short period of time back in Edinburgh he returned to Inverness where he was appointed A & FO in 1967.

At a luncheon given in his honour, Chief Forester Fred McAllan spoke of the great impact Tom had made during his time as A & FO at Inverness and in particular his natural aptitude in the use of the negative term of phrase.

A cheque was presented to Tom who said it would be used to buy a greenhouse for his garden.



BEM presentation

LEADING Research Worker at Newton Research Nursery, Mr Fred Legge receives his British Empire Medal from Captain Ian Tennant, Lord Lieutenant of Moray, as Her Majesty's representative.

Fred was accompanied by his wife Aileen and daughter-in-law Molly, and numerous friends and colleagues from Research and Conservancy.

After the presentation Fred showed Captain Tennant around the Research Nursery, and he expressed a keen interest in Fred's work. Finally, the whole party repaired to the lounge of the Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin, for refreshments.

HEADQUARTERS

DICK BOOTH BOWS OUT

Mr J. R. "Dick" Booth, Director, EMD, retired at the end of June after nearly 17 years with the Forestry Commission.

At a presentation dinner in the Zoological Society of Scotland Club, Director General George Holmes presented Dick with a cheque from his colleagues, which he intends to put towards the cost of an antique writing table for his drawing room. His wife, Amy, received a bouquet.

Dick's farewell evening was attended by friends and colleagues from all over the country, including land agents from nine out of the eleven Conservancies.

His FC career began in 1963 when he joined as Conservator from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, where he was a Divisional Land Commissioner. Mr Booth began his career with a private estate



Dick Booth and his successor, John Gwynn.

company at Middlesbrough for three years, then transferred to the Agricultural Land Service at Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne, and Alnwick.

His immediate plans are to spend his retirement gardening,

travelling — beginning with a trip to Sri Lanka — and concentrating on his duties as Chairman of the Humble, East and West Saltoun, and Bolton Community Council in East Lothian.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

JIMMY COLLECTED ACORNS TO PLANT FLEET FOREST

JIMMY GRIEVE retired from the Forestry Commission on 31 July after 44 years' service.

He joined the work force at Fleet Forest at the age of 16, and recalls very clearly the collecting of acorns, the establishment of the Fleet oakwoods and early cultivation and ploughing.

After war service in the TPD and in the KOSB's (reaching the rank of sergeant), Jimmy returned to Fleet as a tractor driver. He was made a ganger in 1948 and later became a foreman and was finally promoted Forester in 1965.

Staff and friends gathered in the Murray Arms Hotel in Gatehouse to say farewell. Chief Forester Alec McLaren introduced the Conservator, John Davies, who spoke of Jimmy's remarkable service and great work at Fleet, adding that it was unique in his experience for a forester to serve all his working life at one forest. Many old colleagues travelled a long way to attend — H/F Sid Lloyd, late

of Laurieston and Dalmacallan, came up specially from retirement in Scarborough, and H/F Fred Webster came from Inverinan.

Jimmy was presented with a portable alarm clock and radio from FC colleagues and his wife was given a bouquet of flowers by the Fleet Clerkess, Miss Linda Veitch. Mrs Murray Usher, who had known the Grieves since childhood, gave them a set of table mats.

They will continue to live in Gatehouse where they have so many friends.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

A large gathering of friends and colleagues gathered at the White Hart, Uttoxeter, on June 17 to wish Head Forester Ernie Jones and his wife a happy retirement.

Conservator, Mr J. H. James made the presentation of a gift of money from colleagues in the Conservancy and Mr J. Arundel handed over a gift from the Bagot Forest Staff. Bouquets of flowers were given to Mrs Jones.

The occasion was perhaps unique in that Ernie's father was also present, both having served the Commission for some 40 years. There was some doubt as to who was looking the fitter!



MORE than 60 colleagues attended the retirement presentation to Mr J. F. Morgan, Conservancy Civil Engineer at a buffet lunch in the Queen Hotel, Chester. A presentation of a portable television set from colleagues was made by Mr J. H. James, OBE, the Conservator. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Morgan.

307 YEARS' SERVICE

Between them, nine members of staff from North West England who retired recently notched up 307 years of service in the Commission. They were, R. L. Jones from the Shropshire Hills; H. Sleath from Launde; L. E. Cornes from Mortimer; J. McFarlane and J. P. Newton, Sherwood; W. C. Chapman, Greystoke, all Forest Craftsmen; Mrs P. E. Morgan, Higher Grade Forest Clerk from Sherwood; R. Thwaites, Leading Ganger; and W. Turner, Forest Clerk, both from Thornthwaite. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

Allan notched up 32 years

A presentation was made at Carrick Forest Office, Barr, to Mr Allan Mcleary who has retired after 32 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

Mr Mcleary started with the Commission at the Forest of Ae, Dumfries, where he served four years before moving to Kilgrammie, Dailly, attached to Tairlaw Forest, until the amalgamation of the forests to form Carrick.

Mr David Hawkes, Chief Forester, gave a resume of Allan's years with the Commission and spoke highly of the excellent service he had given. On behalf of his colleagues, he presented Allan with a summer seat and his wife Betty received a bouquet of flowers.

Subsequently, at a private ceremony, the District Officer, Mr S. U. Robertson, handed over a Long Service Certificate.

INTO THE GARDEN

FOREST Craftsman Davy MacRobert has retired after 38 years' Commission service. He started in the nursery at Fleet, had 7 years Army Service, and spent the remainder of his time at Kirtlington.

Davy was presented with a cheque from colleagues and staff, and Conservator John Davies presented him with a Long Service Certificate.

A keen gardener, living in Newton Stewart, it is quite likely 62-year-old Davy will spend a lot of time cutting hedges and lawns for elderly folk in the district.

ROYAL SEND-OFF

Forest Craftsman, S. C. Simcox retired after 25 years' service with the Commission. Sid received a right royal send-off at the Crown and Sceptre, Minsterley, from over 30 colleagues and friends.

SOUTH WALES

EVAN WAS RENOWNED FOR HIS SKILL WITH WOOD

TWO LEAVE MARGAM

GANGER FRED HILL, has retired after 27 years at Margam.

An ex-gardener from Hampshire, Fred married a local girl and joined the FC at Margam in 1953.

His boundless enthusiasm for Forest Management, his ability to recall long forgotten data and his forward thinking will be missed in the future. His knowledge of the Coed Morgannwy area made him invaluable in the fire tower.

At a farewell party in Pont-rhydyfen his colleagues presented Fred with a carriage clock.

FOREST CRAFTSMAN, DAI COOPER has retired after 20 years with the FC, almost entirely at Margam. He was a long serving beat steward for the NUAAW.

At a farewell party at Pont-rhydyfen he was presented with a shooting stick to continue his walks in the forest.

AN ERA has ended at Margam Forest with the retirement, after 42 years, of its longest serving worker, Evan Jones. Evan was No. 4 on the list of original workers when Michaelston Forest, as it was then known, was formed in 1938.

He was called up for Army service in 1943, and returned in 1948... the first and only time he left the Afan Valley.

Evan, a craftsman in the true sense of the word, was renowned for his excellent tables, chairs and other recreation furniture, many of which have done much to enhance the Afan Argoed Country Park. The log cabin which dominated the 1969 Jubilee Show site at Margam was constructed by him and remains in use today by the South Glamorgan Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

A self-taught woodworker, his

standards of construction with the minimum of tools were of the highest order and he has the honour that the picnic table constructed at the Brechfa Sign and Recreation Furniture Unit, some 500 of which have been made for forests throughout Wales and England, was designed by him and bears his name.

Evan was one of the few workers to have been involved in the original plantings, cared for the crop through to maturity and replanted a new crop.

A portable radio was presented to Evan by his fellow workers to while away his evenings by the fireside in the glow of oil lamps with his brother. Neither of them is married and they have no truck with newfangled ideas like electricity in their traditional old Welsh farmhouse.

SUCCESS OF WELSH OPEN DAYS

OPEN Days held in two Welsh forests were a great success, drawing large crowds to see the Forestry Commission staff at work.

The first was held at the end of May in part of Penllyn Forest near Bala, Gwynedd in the SE corner of the Snowdonia National Park.

Timed to coincide with School half-term, the event attracted 390 people of all ages and gave them an insight into the scale and scope of forestry in the uplands of North Wales.

The visitors were welcomed by Head forester Chris Griffiths at the Forest Centre, where a pictorial display of forestry in North Wales had been prepared by Head Forester Reg Wheeler.

Mrs Hughes, the Forest Clerk, and Bob Jones did a good trade in selling literature, and Dai Evans was in action at the forge branding a wooden plaque souvenir. Mechanic Bob Valler answered questions on forest machinery.

A timetable of minibus tours by Glyn Rowlands, Bob Jones, Lenny Pullen, Eric Jones and volunteers from local outdoor



Bob "Cefn Prys" Roberts explains various points about a Parkgate plough.

centres who use the Forest, took place throughout the day and took visitors for an 8 mile trip into the hills with 3 separate stops for discussion.

The object throughout was to portray the Forest "in action" on the work site and not in a demonstration situation. All those involved thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to discuss and demonstrate their work, in what to many "laymen" looks a remote and hard environment — but one which can be seen to be making a contribution to the Nation's wealth.

Despite mixed weather with heavy rain throughout most of Sunday, the Open Days held at St Gwynno were a great success, attracting almost 2,000 visitors.

Fifteen hundred school children in 50 parties from all

over South Wales came to see the wonders of the forest at work. They were taken on guided tours to see timber felling, extraction, loading, conversion, peeling, splitting and stake-making by forest craftsmen in the woods.

Another attraction was the wildlife quiz compiled by Ranger Allan Bath, and the Mid Glamorgan CC "Explore Mid Glamorgan" display caravan received many visitors.

Four hundred members of the public drove along the 4½ mile forest drive which had been specially opened for the weekend.

The St Gwynno Open Days were a fine team effort by the local staff and others who helped from other forests and from the Conservancy office.



Jeff Morgan cross-cuts sawlogs watched by a group led by Davis Parsons, DFO Gwent.

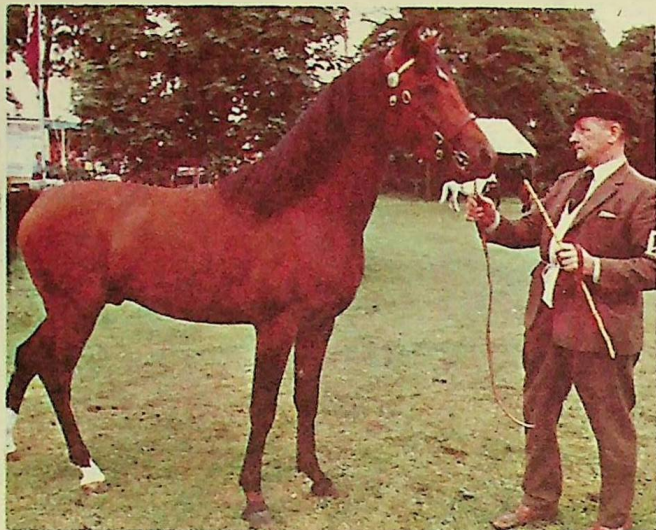
focus

Ally's dream comes true

AS a youngster, Ally Knoll dreamed that one day he would have his own pony. That boyhood dream has now come true, far beyond his wildest ambitions. For the Blairadam Forest storeman today owns a stable of some of the finest horses in the country — pure Arabs, monarchs of the equestrian world.

Ally is pictured here with two-year-old Cumbria Nareth, a fifteen hands high stallion valued at over £3000, who launched his show career earlier this year by winning First Prize against strong competition from all over Britain at the Fife Horse Show.

Ally started breeding Arabs seriously in 1964, and since then he has built up his string of horses to the present seven prize specimens in the paddocks at his Keltie home.



THE TRAIN NOW ARRIVING IN RONNIE'S GARDEN...

INSTEAD of roses and rockeries, William Ronald Lewis, Forest Worker from Ynysbwl has a model railway running round his garden. Mr Lewis set up his layout over a year ago to see if it would withstand the British climate, and, having proved that it could he has decided to extend it to give him an astonishing 300 yards of track.

The whole thing runs on a 12 volt battery system designed by Mr Lewis, who also makes all his

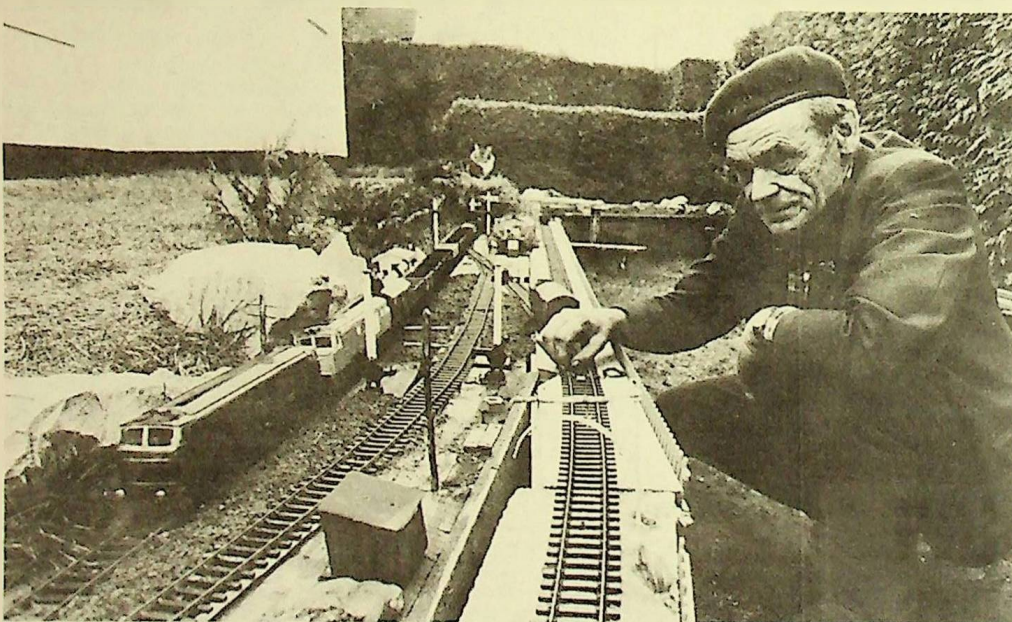
own trains, signal boxes and accessories. Mr Lewis has been making models since he left the Army in 1947, and has always been fascinated with railways and trains. One of his favourite models is the Iron Duke from the Great Western Railway. It took six months to complete and is entirely made from cardboard, although to look at it one would think it had been cast from metal.

A former member of Pontypridd Modelling Club, Mr

Lewis's work has attracted many admiring glances from fellow enthusiasts. His ambition is to make a replica of the "Big Boy," a massive American train with two 400 ton engines. He reckons it will take him five years to complete the model.

The only time he gets any derailments, says Mr Lewis, is when one of his cats tries to get into the act and stand on the track, or when the occasional worm crawls on to the rails!

(Photo: Pontypridd Observer)



OBITUARY

TED BEVERLEY

Sadly we report the death of Mr Ted Beverley, who was a Forester in Lincolnshire until his retirement 15 years ago. Our sympathy goes to his family.

DAVID CAMPBELL

It is with regret that we report the death of Mr David Campbell, who was a ganger at Drummond Hill Forest from 1946 until his retirement last July. David received his long service certificate at last year's Highland Show, and was involved in many of the activities in the Loch Tay area, where he will be sadly missed.

FRED EVERITT

The sudden death has

occurred of Forester Mr Fred Everitt of Puddletown, Dorset. Mr Everitt joined the Forestry Commission in 1921 after War service in France. He moved to Puddletown in 1952, and he remained there until his retirement in 1959. A keen gardener, Fred was able to spend many hours working in his one acre garden until shortly before his death. Our sympathies are extended to his wife, two daughters, and three sons, one of whom, Eric, is Head Forester at Neroche, Somerset.

DOUGLAS MACKAY

The death has occurred of Mr Douglas (Mac) Mackay, who was District Officer at Norfolk until his retirement in 1972. Our sympathy goes to his family.

COLONEL G. EDWARD H. PHILBRICK

Many retired and older members of the Forestry Commission were saddened to hear of the death of former Conservancy Civil Engineer, Col. Ted. Philbrick. Ted was 78 years of age, and had retired from the Commission in 1964.

WALTER WISKEARD

It is with regret that we report the death of Walter Wiskeard, formerly Forest Craftsman at Tywi, who retired in October last year after 42 years' service. Our sympathy is extended to his widow and children.



Many readers are enjoying the Commission's 1980 calendar though, sadly, a good number were disappointed that their late order couldn't be met.

The 1981 edition with even better colour pictures will soon be on sale at the 1979 price — £1.50 each (post free).

To be sure of getting your copy(ies), hand the "Slasher" coupon in to your Forest or Section Office, or Office Services at Conservancies or HQ, for posting in bulk to the Publications Section by the end of November 1980. Calendars will be sent for distribution from ordering locations.

Those "Slasher" readers not able to order in this way are invited to send their order direct to the Publications Section. Cheque or postal orders payable to the Forestry Commission.

TREES FOR ALL SEASONS — 1981

£1.50 each (post free)

I would like (no.) calendar(s) for which £..... is forwarded in payment.

★ I will collect at the (location) Office

★ Please sent to me (name)

at

★ Delete appropriately.

Publications Section, Forest Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

I joined the Forestry Commission in 1978 as a Forest Worker, and being a qualified first aider, I was given the job of checking first aid kits on the forest and ensuring that they are properly replenished.

In many of the kits I discovered rubber constrictive bandages which were intended to stop excessive bleeding in the event of a serious injury. In untrained hands these bandages could cause a great deal of harm to an accident victim — even to the extent of losing a limb!

It was for this reason that the St John and St Andrew Ambulance Associations and the British Red Cross Society withdrew them from their first aid books as long ago as 1972. My advice to any forests that still have them in first aid kits is to remove and destroy them.

One further point which might be of interest. It has been found that many people can suffer a skin reaction from zinc oxide plasters, I prefer not to use them and would suggest that their use be discontinued.

R. K. HOWARD.
Hereford Forest.

Dear Sir,

We are three collectors of British stamps seeking to add to our collections and we are willing to spend time to aid charity.

We are inviting readers to help us with our project. If you have any unwanted stamps, please send them to "ARK," Information Branch, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

All stamps received will be catalogued and a sale held at Headquarters, from which proceeds will be given to the FC Benevolent Fund, and any remaining stamps will be forwarded to the Cancer Research Fund Office.

ALISON RAE
ROSALIND BULL
KAY BEATTIE
Information Branch.

It's the same the whole world over ...

IN the summer issue of "Treez," the forestry newsletter from Australia, there is a story on "The Trouble with Pines" stating that Australia's 650,000 hectares of radiata pine plantations are both a major source of wood and a target for increased public criticism. This is according to Mr John Wright of the Victorian Forest Commission, who told a forestry conference that for a while the pines and the environmental movement grew with no apparent conflict, but by the late 1960s the development of softwood plantations was increasingly being seen by sections of the community as environmentally undesirable.

Criticism fell into three broad categories — a claimed lack of adequate commercial justification for pine planting programmes, claimed adverse environmental effects, and claimed adverse social effects.

Mr Wright concluded that foresters still do not fully appreciate the need to more closely involve the public in their work. "We have not learnt how to inform the man in the street that our intentions and policies are reasonable and honest, and our practices sound."



CHINESE FORESTERS ON TOUR

A delegation of forestry experts from the People's Republic of China spent three weeks in May touring British forestry interests. The tour, planned by the Forestry Commission under the auspices of the Great Britain-China Centre, included visits to the Commission headquarters in Edinburgh and to Alice Holt Lodge, the Northern Research Station at Roslin, the forests of Eskdalemuir, Ae. Bennan, Thornthwaite, Grizedale, and Westonbirt Arboretum.

The eight-strong delegation was led by the Chinese Deputy Minister of Forestry, Tang Ziqi. Their visit followed a similar tour of the People's Republic last autumn by British foresters and timber users.

(Above) Geneticist Dr Alan Fletcher explains British tree-breeding programmes at NRS to the Chinese delegation.