

SLASHER

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FIRST EXPORT CARGO LEAVES INVERNESS

THE Norwegian cargo vessel "Dalsland" lies tied up at Inverness Harbour and the first of the Forestry Commission's export order of pulpwood for Norway is loaded aboard.

The contract with Norwimp — the Norwegian pulp and paper industry's joint import Agency — is for 75,000 tonnes of small roundwood annually for three years. This is the timber which would have been destined for Corpach if the Wiggins Teape pulpmill had remained in operation.

The first consignment of 1600 tonnes was loaded aboard ship on a wet, dismal November morning. During the previous week, following the closure of the Corpach contract at the end of October, haulage lorries had brought timber from all over the Highlands to Inverness. Stockpiled on the quayside was timber from forests as far west as Skye and South Ströme, to Laigh of Moray in East Scotland.

The eight-ton bundles of Scottish pulpwood will be transported across the North Sea to ports near Oslo to be converted into pulp. Ironically, much of the pulp will then be imported back into Britain to be made into paper.

In addition to the 75,000 tonnes of pulp wood leaving Inverness, a further 35,000 tonnes is being exported to Sweden from ports, principally Montrose, on the East Coast of Scotland.



Photograph by Douglas Green

New forestry Commissioner

MRS LINDA WHETSTONE, farmer and economist, has been appointed part-time Forestry Commissioner to succeed Sir Ralph Verney who was a Commissioner for 12 years before taking up his recent appointment as Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council. Mrs Whetstone, 38-year-old mother of four, becomes the first woman Forestry Commissioner.

Mrs Whetstone farms 250 acres at Bassetts Manor, Hartfield, East Sussex, where until recently she ran a dairy herd of some 200 cows, although she has now switched to the production of down-calving Friesian heifers, selling annually some 400 heifers in calf to buyers at home and overseas.

wisely and I do think that forestry has to be a viable proposition," she said.

Born into dairy-farming Mrs Whetstone has spent most of her life in the countryside and she is the author of several papers on agricultural marketing. She is a Council Member of the South of England Agricultural Society, Vice-Chairman of South Eastern Area Advisory Committee on Education and Organiser of the Dormit Dressage Championship at Ardingley.

Bassetts Manor has about 10 acres of woodland — "mainly hazel coppice, I think," said Mrs Whetstone. "I must now seriously consider how to bring it under planned management."



Mrs Whetstone (above) examines a model forest cabin in EMD during her first visit to headquarters following her appointment.

WESTONBIRT WINS CIVIC TRUST AWARD

THE VISITOR Centre at Westonbirt Arboretum — already the recipient of a Royal Institute of Architects' Commendation — has been selected for a 1980 Civic Trust Award.

Only twenty-one schemes have been selected for Awards this year for "creative work which contributes to the quality and appearance of townscape or landscape."

A Commendation has also been achieved by the FC's Keldy Forest Cabins, at Keldy Castle, Cropton, near Pickering.

In their summation of the reception centre for visitors at Westonbirt the judges comment:

It could be considered that the very idea of putting a building in the midst of a sanctuary dedicated to the beauty of the tree is sacrilege in itself, and the realisation of that idea tantamount to heresy. However, the needs of an ever increasing number of visitors had to be catered for with a building. The skill, care and sensitivity with which it has been designed and built glorifies its enchanting and truly unique location. Wood, which is the "reason" for the building is also the major material which, in many forms and colours, has been designed and detailed in such a satisfying and reassuring way. The lych-gate adds mystery to the entrance porch which eventually reveals the main building and its terraces, carefully laid out in a silvan glade. From the complicated

junction of roof truss and column to the picnic tables and litter bins, the design standard is consistently high.

About Keldy, which has 58 timber cabins and converted farm buildings for overnight tourist accommodation, the Civic Trust judges said:

The Forestry Commission has taken very seriously its responsibility to the community in developing this attractive holiday centre. It was certainly no small achievement on the part of the architects to weave nearly 60 cabins into a lovely woodland area without putting a foot wrong. Pleasant informality in layout relates loosely to a diagonal

pattern giving each cabin privacy and an open outlook. Meandering gravel tracks with good lights link them in a pleasing way. Three different cabin designs add interest to the layout, and all are carefully designed, sturdy and simple, and eminently suitable for their purpose.

The old buildings have been pleasantly converted for communal use — office, shop and restaurant fitting well into the overall pattern. It is to be hoped that funds will be made available to replace the old corrugated roofed barn, used for badminton, with something more worthy.



The award-winning Visitor Centre.

ECONOMIST

Although confessing that her knowledge of forestry is limited the new Commissioner is anxious to spend the next few months learning as much as possible by visiting Conservancies and meeting foresters in both public and private sectors as well as people involved in the marketing and processing of wood. "As an economist I am interested to see that we use the resources we have in this country

SLASHER SPECIAL

FORESTRY is so much in the news that we delayed publication of this issue of Slasher in order to cover in detail —

- The Government's Review of Forestry Policy.
- The Forestry Bill
- The House of Lords Select Committee's Report on Forestry Research.
- The 1979/80 Annual Report and Accounts.

All in a SLASHER SPECIAL slip page inside.

Axeman's Log

FIRST PURPOSE PLANTED EDUCATIONAL WOOD OPENED

BRITAIN's first purpose planted educational wood has been formally opened. The Forestry Commission's Birsley Wood, near Alnwick, Northumberland will play an important role in environmental science courses for thousands of schoolchildren.

Conservator (North East England) Tony Spencer and Councillor Mrs Anne Wrangham, Chairman of the Northumberland County Council Education Committee, opened a recently completed log cabin which was designed by local forester Colin Olsson and built by unemployed youngsters under a Youth Opportunities Scheme. The Forestry Commission supplied the timber for the hut.

This joint Forestry Commission / Northumberland County Council project will offer a wide variety of educational opportunities from basic nature walks for young children to timber measurement and ecological studies for older pupils.

Schools will also be able to study problems which the Forestry Commission is endeavouring to overcome at the wood, how to selectively thin trees without leaving them in danger of falling in high winds and how to control honey fungus.

A teaching guide which identifies points of interest along the wood's trails has been produced by local teachers with help from the Forestry Commission.

It was nearly 30 years ago that the Forestry Commission bought Birsley Wood. At that time it was overgrown and almost impenetrable.

The Commission decided to clear the area and replant it recognising that not only would it provide timber but due to its position it could also have an educational value. By 1955 the replanting, directed by the then District Officer, Alistair Rowan (now Conservator, North West England), was complete and today the wood contains about 85,000 evergreen and deciduous trees. Among the 26 species are Oak, Ash, Beech, Larch, Cypress, Douglas Fir and Norway Spruce. There are also up to 50 types of wild flowers.

There is a wealth of wildlife for youngsters to study including badgers, stoats, weasels, foxes, roe deer and, unusually, red squirrels.

While the control of the wood rests with the Forestry Commission, a Committee consisting of local head teachers and education adviser for environmental science, Ben Wilson, with assistance from the Forestry Commission, will devise programmes to exploit the educational potential of Birsley Wood.

Says Mr Ben Wilson, "Since the planting in 1955, the 88 acres of mixed woodland has developed into an outstanding area of interest to schools. In addition to the many tree species, the wood has a rich diversity of animal and plant life, open rides, paths, streams, a thriving pond and relics of the previous wood."



AS a mark of the long and close association of forest and town, Mr Rod Hawitt, Conservator E(E), was pleased to accept an invitation to open Thetford's newest pub, aptly named The Chase. After the tradition-opening ceremony of pulling the first pint, Mr Hawitt planted a commemorative tree in the pub grounds.

GO AHEAD FOR PLANS TO RESTORE NEW FOREST LAWNS

THE Forestry Commission is to embark on a restoration programme on the New Forest lawns aimed at increasing their area by some 300 to 400 acres in the next six or seven years.

The work is being undertaken on the general direction of Mr Jerry Wiggin, MP, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who has twice visited the New Forest this year to study the problem of the deterioration of the lawns and its impact on grazing for the famous ponies.

Initially the work programme will be aimed at stepping-up the maintenance of existing lawns to halt further encroachment of scrub and bracken and deterioration of the drainage systems, as well as overtaking arrears of maintenance on other areas including Ober Water, Dockens Water and Warwick Slade. These three lawns will be cleared of softwood scrub, thorn and bracken, but hardwood trees such as oak and beech will be left to mature as a scenic addition unless they impede the flow of rivers. Work will also be carried out on the drainage of the lawns, and where necessary water flow in streams and rivers will be improved without unnecessarily deepening their beds or creating unsightly canal-like courses.

In the longer term Mr Wiggin has set a restoration target of a total of 300-400 acres over six or seven years during which the areas to be treated would be selected equally between lawns lost prior to 1964 and since.

Since the restoration operation is a contribution by the Forestry Commission to the welfare of the whole area, Mr Wiggin believes it is not unreasonable to expect the Commoners to make greater efforts themselves to preserve the grazing, and to make some contribution towards the maintenance of the lawns, either financial or physical.

Mr Wiggin also complimented the Forestry Commission on their approach and for the way in which advice has been sought from all concerned.

Wha daur meddle wi' them?

TWO FC staff members carried off prizes at this year's Rannoch Highland Games. The Open Heavyweight Champion was tractor driver Robert Simpson, and forest ranger Robert Anderson won the Local Heavyweight Championship.

LE TOUR DE SAVERNAKE

ABOUT two years ago, the Savernake Forest staff thought up the idea of hiring bikes to the local community so that they could leave their cars behind and enjoy the forest on two wheels. However, funds were not available and the scheme was put into cold storage.

Chief Forester Mike Dunn was therefore delighted when he was approached by a Swindon teacher, Mr Andrew Wadsley, with a view to starting up a similar cycle scheme. Mr Wadsley got the idea after a cycling holiday in the Peak District. Having received FC blessing and the agreement of the Lessor, Mr Wadsley purchased 10 bicycles and has been hiring them to people visiting Savernake Forest throughout the school holidays, and at weekends since. The hire is complete with locks, toolkits, pumps, puncture repair outfits and maps of the forest.

Already the bikes have been used by visitors from Holland, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France and Germany as well as local enthusiasts — and the scheme has brought in £51.75 rent to the Commission.

THE VALUE OF PRIVACY

THE following is reprinted from "A Forester's Diary" in Forestry and British Timber.

A colleague was valuing a large, mixed rural estate in the West Country. He came to a block of six cottages, all let to various estate staff and pensioners, and — determined to do the job thoroughly — knocked on the door of No. 1. An old lady answered. My colleague explained his mission. Could he, he asked, come in and look over the cottage?

The old lady asked him in. Yes, she said, all six cottages were exactly the same — two up, two down and a kitchen at the back.

But something was missing, readily spotted by the astute valuer. "Where's the privy?" he asked. The old lady pointed out a long outhouse at the end of the garden. "They're all together," she said. "First door's mine, seeing as I'm No. 1, and so on down the line."

"But there are only five doors," said my colleague. "Aren't there six cottages? Where's No. 6's privy?"

The old lady's tones were dismissive. "Him at number 6? He's a forester, he don't need one," she said.

Hole in one — with a cricket ball

WHEN a combined North Scotland Conservancy and Highlands & Islands Development Board cricket team played the Isle of Eigg XI some very good runs were scored, but none to match those notched up by Sid House and Alan Flynn. Played on the island's machair, Sid hit a ball which went straight down a rabbit hole at 50 yards distance. After Sid and Alan had trotted their runs leisurely up to the six they assisted the Laird of Eigg, Keith Schellenberg, and his team to dig the ball out with a spade! The combined FC/HIDB team won but the score wasn't important.

"Pass me another ham sandvick"

AMONGST papers in North Scotland Conservancy Office a list of surplus forest equipment has been found which lists seven "sandwich clearing tools." — For use in a wet weather shelter perhaps?



● Pictured above are Councillor Wrangham, Conservator Tony Spencer, and Forester Colin Olsson with some of the 100 schoolchildren who attended the opening ceremony.

WHAT PRICE STEEL GATES?

FORESTER David Parnall reports that during this summer a steel gate erected in Margam Forest only a couple of years ago was sawn in half by vandals, one half being completely removed from the Forest. Never in his 30 years with the Commission had he seen this happen.

St Gwynno Forest can, however, match it — some years ago a scrap merchant following a line of colliery pylons came to a locked Forestry Commission gate, so took it off at the hinges with his acetylene burner!

"Mix-up" sinks FC team's chances

A TEAM from South Kintyre Forest proved themselves as adept at steering logs as they are at felling them when they competed in this year's Grand Challenge Raft race across Campbeltown Harbour.

Forester Mike Read was Captain of the Forestry Raft, and his crew were forest craftsmen Jimmy Thomson (bow paddle), forest craftsman Tony Martin (stern paddle), forest worker Peter McCallum (stern paddle / stroke) and junior forest worker John Strang ("pick-up").

Despite winning their heat — and beating the raft which eventually came second in the final — an organisational mix-up prevented the FC team from competing in the final.

Over a thousand spectators watched the thrills and spills of the race, and the sponsor sheets raised a considerable sum for the local Old Folks' Week and the Fire Service benevolent fund.

SAFETY BOOT SAVES FOOT FROM CHAINSAW

WHEN a chainsaw operator slipped on a wet pole, his saw was momentarily out of control and the chain was deflected on to the outside of his right foot. The impact was sufficient to cut through the outer and inner layers of leather and the special sandwich layer of protective nyloncord. He was uninjured!!

It is sometimes alleged that safety equipment is a waste of time or money or both. The photograph below bears ample witness that such equipment can and does prevent serious injury — and serious injury causes pain, hardship and lost production.

If you are involved in a "near-miss," tell your supervisor. The more we know about the causes of accidents the more we can do by way of prevention.



FORESTRY POLICY

THE long-awaited Government statement on their review of Forestry Policy was made to Parliament on 10th December by Mr George Younger, MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Lord Mansfield, Minister of State at the Scottish Office. The statement reads:

With the projected rise in demand for timber into the next century and with the world's forests likely to come under increasing pressure, the Government believe that long-term confidence in both forestry and wood processing industries in this country is fully justified. We look for a steadily increasing proportion of our requirements of timber to come from our own resources.

A continuing expansion of forestry is in the national interest, both to reduce our dependence on imported wood in the long term and to provide continued employment in forestry and associated industries.

Recent difficulties in the pulp and paper sector, which represents only an eighth of the market for wood grown in this country, do not change that conclusion. Forest owners have adjusted to the changed markets. Export opportunities in Europe for small roundwood are being successfully exploited.

Looking further ahead, our industries, with the more advanced processes being developed in this country, are expected to be capable of absorbing the rising production from our existing forests, and of enlarging their present 9% share of the home market.

There should be scope for new planting to continue in the immediate future at broadly the rate of the past 25 years. Whilst preserving an acceptable balance with agriculture, the environment

and other interests. We see a greater place for participation by the private sector in new planting, but the Forestry Commission will also continue to have a programme of new planting, in particular where it will contribute to the rational management of their existing plantations, and also in the more remote and less fertile areas where afforestation will help maintain rural employment.

The main basis of policy for the future must remain the successful and harmonious partnership between the private sector and the Forestry Commission. In accordance however with the Government's support for private enterprise and our policy of reducing public expenditure, a determined effort will be made, by making better use of the capital invested in their existing assets, to reduce that part of the Commission's grant-in-aid which finances the Forestry Enterprise.

We therefore propose to provide opportunities for private investment in these assets, including the sale of a proportion of the Commission's woodlands and land awaiting planting, with lease-back arrangements where it is important to maintain continuity of management to meet wood supply requirements or to preserve environmental interests.

In planning its broad implementation of this policy, the Forestry Commission will take account of the views of the organisations concerned. We will seek an

early opportunity to take the necessary powers for private investment in Commission assets on these lines.

Following a review of the administration of grant-aid and felling licensing, carried out under the auspices of Sir Derek Rayner, we propose to make these less complex and less costly to administer.

A single new scheme will be introduced at the start of the next forest year on 1 October 1981, of which the main features will be planting grants, a simplified plan of operations and a minimum of legal formalities. The Basis III Dedication Scheme and the Small Woods Scheme will accordingly be closed as from 1 July 1981.

Existing Dedication Schemes will continue for present participants, although some procedures will be simplified and individual dedication agreement will not be renewed on a change of ownership. The felling licensing system will be simplified to recognise the change in circumstances since this was introduced. Copies of a consultative paper, on which the various interested parties are being invited to comment, have been placed in the Vote Office.

As my right hon and learned Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has already informed the House, the Government intend to continue the current income tax arrangements for forestry in order to maintain confidence in the private sector.

THE WAY AHEAD

by Director General
George Holmes



I AM glad that the "Slasher" carries the text of the forestry policy statement in full because its various proposals need to be seen in perspective. Its effect on our future role will be important and I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment and try to anticipate some of your questions.

CONFIDENCE

First of all, the Government has recognised the importance of forestry and the wood processing industry in Britain and expressed its commitment to continuing expansion of our forests. It sees scope for continuing at about the average rate of the last 25 years, which means some 30,000 hectares per year for the public and private sectors combined. I believe this to be a far-sighted statement of confidence coming as it does in a recession, and it goes a long way towards the objectives suggested in our consultative booklet "The Wood Production Outlook" published some three years ago.

PLANTING PROGRAMMES

The Government also wishes to see more new planting by the private sector than in the past and this means that the Commission's share will tend to fall. As you know, the Commission's planting programme has been falling slowly, partly because there has been less land on the market, and more recently because we have had less money for acquisitions and new planting. I anticipate that we shall be acquiring land, mainly in consolidating existing forests,

at about 4500 hectares per year, while our new planting, which is planned to be 11,900 hectares in 1980/1 will reduce to some 9000 hectares in 1983/4. This is likely to be our contribution to the continued expansion of the nation's forests, while our colleagues in the private sector will have the opportunity of increasing their contribution. The latest Annual Report confirms that they are interested in doing so and I believe this will continue. The statement also proposes simplification of the administration of felling licensing and private forestry grant schemes. The details of these changes will be the subject of consultation over the next few weeks but the package as a whole seems to offer a sound basis for future confidence by private forestry as well as a reduction of our administrative work loads. The reference in the statement to our successful partnership with the private sector is particularly welcome and this is an important part of our role which will remain unchanged.

DISPOSAL

The main provision of the new Forestry Bill is to widen our powers of disposal. We shall use these powers to sell a proportion

of our land and plantations, in order to reduce our call on public funds for running the Forestry Enterprise and help advance the date when the Enterprise breaks even financially. Already, increased revenues from timber sales have reduced the grant-in-aid from nearly 80% of total expenditure 30 years ago to less than 50% last year.

EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

In its first 60 years, the Commission has built up a great national asset and this change of emphasis presents us with a challenge to manage it in an increasingly commercial way. We shall therefore be encouraging private investment in forestry by offering for sale, or sale and lease back with continuing Commission management, selected parcels of land and plantations, the scale and location of which will be for the Commission to decide. In doing this, we shall have very much in mind the need to maintain overall efficient management of the Enterprise and our other objectives, including long term supplies of wood to industry, employment opportunities, public recreation, nature conservation and amenity. All these factors as well as the interest of private investors, will have to be taken into account once the legislation comes into effect early in 1981.

The Government has made it clear that this is not a dismemberment of the Forestry Enterprise and, handled sensibly, it should be the means by which we can make significant reductions in our call on the Exchequer for the Enterprise while continuing to meet our main management objectives.

THE FORESTRY BILL

The Forestry Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on December 12. The Bill will facilitate the Government's policy of encouraging greater private participation in forestry by enabling Forestry Ministers to dispose more freely of land managed for them by the Forestry Commission and to transfer sums received to the Exchequer. Powers are also being taken to provide for an additional Forestry Commissioner.

Clause 1 will remove the restrictions on the powers of disposal in section 39(2) of the Forestry Act 1967 that prevent the sale of land which is to remain in forestry. It will replace section 39(2) of the Forestry Act 1967, section 59 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 and sections 23(3) and 24(3) of the Countryside Act 1968 and will provide Ministers with power to dispose of any land acquired for forestry, recreation or amenity purposes and placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners.

Clause 2 will extend the arrangements for the Forestry Commission's financial transactions through the Forestry Fund. The Forestry Commission's Grant in Aid voted by Parliament is transferred to the Forestry Fund as required to meet the Commission's expenses. The Commission's revenues (e.g., from the sale of timber) are also credited to the Fund but there are no powers to enable such sums to be withdrawn and paid to the Exchequer. Clause 2 will enable Forestry Ministers, with the approval of the Treasury, to direct the transfer of specified sums from the Forestry Fund to the Consolidated Fund.

Clause 3 will increase the maximum number of Forestry Commissioners other than the Chairman from 9 to 10. This will enable a wider range of knowledge and experience to be available to the Commission.

EXTRACTS FROM HANSARD

THE announcement of the Government's forestry plans sparked considerable discussion in the Commons.

We reprint here from Hansard some of the views expressed by MPs and Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr George Younger's replies:

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Craigton): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that we are totally opposed to giving off part of the Forestry Commission to private enterprise? It is not a matter of handing it over to private enterprise, because private enterprise operates in forestry only by means of planting grants — that is public money — and various income tax concessions. Does the right hon. Gentleman accept that without those public subsidies we would not have a private forestry industry? The commission is doing the main job that requires to be done and is doing it with considerable economies. We shall oppose the legislation that the Government introduce to give off any part of the commission's enterprise.

Mr Younger: I am grateful for the agreement of the right hon. Member for Glasgow Craigton (Mr Millan) to the general objective of expanding forestry at the same level as in previous years. I am afraid that the rest of his remarks seem to owe more to Socialist ideology than to any

wish to help the forestry industry. If the right hon. Gentleman had the interests of the industry, or the forestry-using industries, in mind, surely he would be glad at the prospect of a great deal more private capital coming into the industries at a time of great difficulty. He is completely hiding his head in the sand if he thinks that the expansion of forestry planting, which has been a feature of the past few years, can continue successfully in any other way in the years to come.

Mr Geraint Howells (Cardigan): Does the Secretary of State hold the view that after 50 years the Forestry Commission has failed in its deliberations? If so, what plans or incentives does he have in mind for the private sector in the purchase of land? Is the Secretary of State aware that many employees in hamlets throughout Britain are very dependent on the commission? What does he have to safeguard their interests? How many acres of land in Scotland, England and Wales will be sold during the first years?

Mr Younger: I cannot give an estimate of how many acres will be sold. It will depend very much on demand. The commission will have control over what is put up for sale. It will clearly be pieces of land that make sense in the context of its general estate. I by no means believe

that the commission has failed. It has been immensely successful over the past years. It has been particularly successful because it has always worked in partnership with private forestry. That is why I believe that the change in the balance between the private sector and the commission is very much to be welcomed. It will enable the planting programme to continue at the same rate as over the past few years. Almost all the land will remain within forestry. We expect very few, if any, redundancies in the commission, but if there are any they should be taken up by the private sector, which will be operating the forests in its place.

Dr David Clark (South Shields): Does the Minister appreciate that forests not only produce trees and timber but act as amenity areas for many millions of people throughout the country? Can he confirm that much of the land that will be transferred from the Forestry Commission to private investment will be in England, where the commission has not such a good network to manage as in Scotland? The commission has an excellent record in terms of access for the general public. It operates a policy of open access, so will the Minister assure us that that land sold to private industry will afford complete and free access to the general public?

Mr Younger: I agree that the Forestry Commission feels strongly about public access and its environmental role. It will very much bear that in mind in deciding, first, which pieces of land are suitable for sale. Secondly, when the land is sold and grants are sought for planting it will be able to impose conditions, if it wishes, with regard to access and other environmental factors.

Mr Ian Lang (Galloway): Is my right hon. Friend aware that my constituency has one of the highest proportions of land given over to forestry in the United Kingdom? What will be the maximum and minimum acreages to be sold? I welcome my right hon. Friend's statement. Will he indicate what encouragement he can give to increasing forestry-related employment in South-West Scotland?

Mr Younger: I know that the forestry in my hon. Friend's constituency is extensive. The commission attaches great importance to these large plantations. I should think it most unlikely that it would wish to sell them off. On employment, the commission hopes that the new people who take over the land for the private sector will wish to make it marketable for industries that depend upon timber, and that is the best way of increasing employment in forestry and other forestry-related industries.

LORDS REPORT ON FORESTRY RESEARCH

The House of Lords Select Committee appointed to conduct an enquiry into the scientific aspects of forestry in Great Britain have published their Second Report.

In the Report, the Committee pay tribute to the co-operation received from the Forestry Commission. Director General George Holmes gave oral evidence twice and Director of Research and Development, David Johnston, three times. The members of the Committee also visited the research station at Alice Holt Lodge.

The Committee have studied the scientific factors which need to be considered by foresters, other land interests, wood users and Government during the coming era of intensified and expanding forestry. The scientific development of forestry is still in its infancy compared with that of agriculture and, faced with an annual import bill for wood and wood products of £2750m, the United Kingdom has much to do in

exploiting its forest resources.

The Committee reviewed the applied research being carried out by the Forestry Commission and also the fundamental research done elsewhere, which is largely funded by the Natural Environment Research Council. They identify some of the areas where new effort is needed, such as tree breeding, tree physiology, control of pests and diseases, windblow, use of broad-leaved woodlands, integration of forestry with other land uses, and research into wood.

UNDER ESTIMATED

The Committee have been impressed by the Forestry Commission's applied research but find that the value of fundamental research has been underestimated and 'viewed as a whole the research to support the forest industry lacks the coherent approach that is a feature of research in agriculture and medicine.' Research into wood use and its relationship with forest production is in danger of becoming neglected. More timber research, particularly

as a guide to choice of species and forest management, is urgently needed and consideration should be given to the Commission assuming responsibility for applied research into the end uses of wood and forest products.

To provide a new impetus for research at all levels, the Committee recommend that the Forestry Commission should have on its establishment a Chief Scientist who would be responsible for planning not only the domestic research of the Commission but also for stimulating and commissioning both fundamental and applied research in the Research Councils and elsewhere.

The Advisory Board for the Research Councils should identify one Research Council to take a lead in fundamental research supporting forestry in terms of crop production, end use, environmental effect and land use. The Universities could be employed more for research, especially by the Forestry Commission.

The level of funding for research is not generous. The Forestry Commission and other customers should

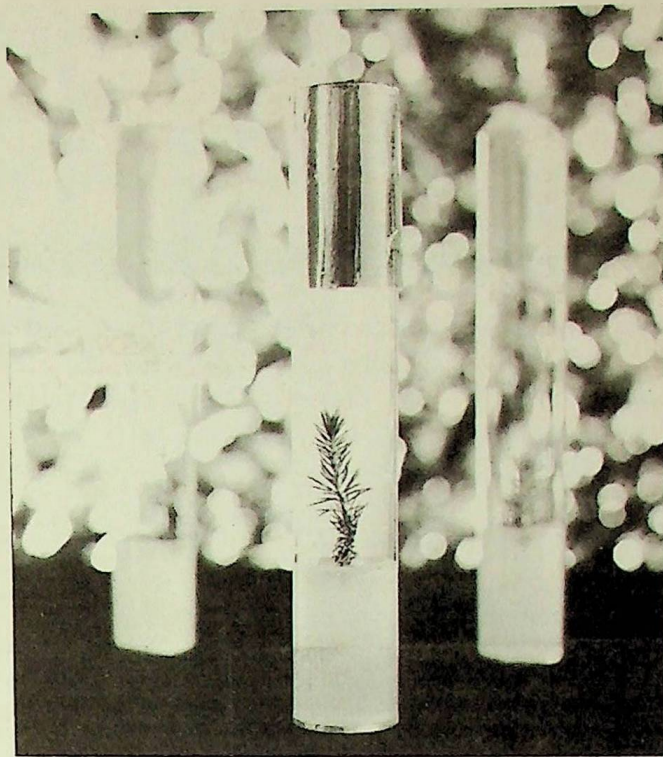
discuss funding needs with the Research Councils and Ministers in the light of the Government's statement on forestry policy.

Increased wood production demands and expansion of forest area, more intensive management and better protection of existing forests. Each of these may lead to greater competition with other land uses and values of the landscape — agriculture, water gathering, fisheries, nature conservation, deer, amenity, recreation.

ACCOMMODATE

The Select Committee recommend that British foresters, while aiming to increase the output of timber and wood products, should accommodate these other interests. The Forestry Commission's management objectives and financial targets should recognise this.

Diversity of age and species within forests, different planting and harvesting techniques and, in some areas, less intensive management can contribute to integrated land use and at the same time benefit the long term health of British forests. Diversity in



Test tube trees — one of the new developments in research.

particular is also needed for reasons of commercial prudence — there is too much reliance on a few species — and to increase the public acceptability of afforestation.

To resolve conflicts between different land uses, clear guidelines should be given at the strategic level. These will help to weigh the balance of advantage when changes of land use are proposed. As an essential aid to these guidelines, land classification for each land use should be carried out as a matter of priority.

Special attention is drawn to the ancient semi-natural woodlands of Great Britain, to their conservation value and the fact that 30% —

50% have been lost since 1947, losses in 30 years roughly equalling in extent all the losses of the previous four centuries.

The Committee consider that the acreage of broad-leaved woodlands should not be allowed to decline further. Selected woodlands should be managed as nature reserves; most of the rest should be managed productively in a way that is compatible with maintaining them for wildlife and amenity.

For this, genecological research and applied tree breeding programmes to replace the genetically impoverished trees left in most woods are required, as well as development of uses for the wood produced.

60th ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

THE 60th Annual Report and Accounts of the Forestry Commission is published this month. As we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee during 1979, the Report contains a special review of the changes, developments and achievements of the years since 1919 when the first national forest policy for Britain was outlined. The review concentrates on the last 30 years, when the Commission pioneered many of the developments in forestry practice, and at the same time steadily reduced its payroll and its dependence on Grant-in-Aid.

Some of the main points contained in the Report are:

The Wood Market

The total volume of wood harvested from Commission forests in the year was 2,326,000 cubic metres — an increase of 16 per cent on the previous year and 5 per cent above the planned programme. (Of this English forests produced 950,000 cubic metres, 896,000 cubic metres came from Scotland and the remaining 480,000 cubic metres from Wales). Despite the strong demand, prices for small diameter wood did not alter significantly and were insufficient to keep pace with rising costs, which were particularly evident in timber transport. By contrast, prices for softwood logs increased strongly throughout the year. Receipts totalled £34.94 million gross.

Forestry and Farming

To assess the benefits of integration schemes, the Commission awarded a contract to the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Edinburgh University to investigate the interaction of forestry and agriculture on farms by means of a number of case studies in Scotland and northern England. The results are shortly to be published by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture. The Commission has also recently published a selection of the papers given at the 1979 British Association meeting on the general theme of Forestry and Farming.

Wildlife

Bird populations of conifer forests are the subject of frequent inaccurate statements, and a study has therefore been started into the birds associated with newly planted and restocked areas.

Land Acquisition

The acquisitions budget for 1980-81 has had to be reduced from £3 million to £1 million, and expenditure plans for the following three years will only provide funds to cover the purchase of some 4500 hectares on average each year.

The total area of plantable land acquired during 1979-80 was 7565 hectares, of which 7246 hectares were in Scotland, 180 hectares in Wales and 139 hectares in England. The average cost was £357 per hectare, an increase of 21 per cent over the previous year.



The Chairman and Director General answer Press questions on the Annual Report.

Planting

The early mild spring of 1980 enabled most of the Commission's planting programme to be completed before the end of March, in contrast to the previous year when planting was still going on into May 1979. The combination of these factors led to a restocking of 5659 hectares and new planting of 15,839 hectares during the year against a planned programme of 5100 hectares and 13,500 hectares. The underlying trend, however, is of a continuing reduction of new planting.

Public Expenditure Survey

The Government's two White Papers setting out expenditure plans for 1980-81 to 1983-84 reduced planned levels of expenditure for forestry by £5 million per annum for 1980-81 and 1981-82 and by £6 million per annum for each of the following years. The main effect for the Commission will be to restrict purchases of land for planting to

some 4500 hectares a year; to reduce new planting to 11,900 hectares in 1980-81, falling to 8700 hectares in 1983-84; and to halt investment in new recreational facilities.

Private Forestry

11,167 hectares of planting was grant-aided under the Commission's schemes, of which 8302 hectares was new planting. A record number of applications to the Basis III Scheme was approved, involving 30,500 hectares (39 per cent more than last year).

The Forestry Commission's Finances

The shutdown through industrial action in early 1979 of the computer which processes our accounts caused some distortions in the 1979-80 figures. In particular, it artificially increased the call on Exchequer funds to £43.3 million, compared with £29.3 in the

previous year. Had there been no interruption in the payment of bills the year on year increase in Exchequer funding would have been £4.6 million.

Payments of £93.4 million were up by £27.8 million, due largely to inflation pay awards, a further increase in funds for land acquisition, the increase in VAT, bigger harvesting and road programmes and a rise in total grant payments to private woodland owners. Receipts rose by £12.8 million (35 per cent) to £49.6 million, made up of an additional £9.9 million from sales of timber, an increase of £1.1 million from disposal of surplus assets and a £1.8 million improvement in other income.

Tree Seed

Although strenuous local efforts produced some reasonable seed collections, they were not enough to top-up depleted stocks which are critically low in several key species. The Commission sent a four-man team to Canada to collect from selected sources, Lodgepole pine seed, which will be used to establish seed stands. The difficulty of obtaining seed of required provenances of our main conifers from their countries of origin is leading to greater emphasis being placed on the development of seed orchards in this country. Additional clonal seed orchards of Sitka spruce and seedling Lodgepole pine orchards have been established, and the first stage of a new hybrid larch orchard has been planted. Nevertheless, further seed collecting expeditions may have

to be considered. Some 20 per cent of the seed collected during the Canadian visit was sold to the private sector.

Forest Fire

One single fire accounted for 154 of the 432 hectares of plantations lost during the year. This occurred in Glentworth Forest in Dumfries and Galloway and was caused by two hill walkers who lit a picnic stove.

Recreation

Efforts have continued to make recreation facilities in the forest more accessible to disabled people. New facilities for the disabled were completed in Dalby, Bedgebury and Tintern Forests.

British Forest Heritage

The Commission has initiated the British Forest Heritage to make a start on recording the history of forestry and establishing a collection of the tools of the trade. It is hoped that an independent charity, to be known as the British Forest Heritage Trust, can be formed to establish a main collection open to the public.

Dutch Elm Disease

A report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration rejected a complaint alleging that Dutch Elm Disease had been allowed to spread into Scotland by the Commission's maladministration, or that some other course of action on its part would necessarily have produced different results.

FORMER DIPLOMAT TO HEAD PRIVATE FORESTRY ORGANISATION

A FORMER diplomat has taken over as Director of Timber Growers Great Britain Ltd. — the representative body for private forestry in England, Wales and Scotland.

He is Mr Arthur Ronald Williams who was in the Diplomatic Service from 1964 to 1979. He succeeds Lord Norton, OBE, who had retired after 33 years' service to British forestry.

In 1947 Lord Norton — who inherited his title in 1961 — joined the Country Landowners' Association with responsibility for forestry. He was Secretary of the United Kingdom Forestry Committee and in that capacity was deeply involved in the discussions which culminated in the 1951 Forestry Act, the Dedication Scheme and other matters of great importance to private woodland owners.

In 1954 the UKFC submitted a lengthy memorandum to the Departmental Committee on Marketing of Woodland Produce — the Watson Committee.

As a direct result of the subsequent Watson Report the Timber Growers' Organisation and the Forestry Committee of Great Britain were set up and Lord Norton became Secretary of both bodies — in 1960.

Since then he has been the acknowledged authority on private forestry. His extensive knowledge of the industry and his brilliantly phrased briefs are well known in Whitehall and in the Forestry Commission.

He handed over his duties as Secretary of the TGO in February 1980 when he was appointed Director of the FCGB — now to be known as Timber Growers Great Britain.

Mr Williams, who takes over as Director of TGGB was born in 1942, and was educated at Rossall School and Selwyn College, Cambridge. While in the Diplomatic Service he was posted to Indonesia, Singapore, Hungary and Kenya where he was the British Focal Point for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Since leaving the Diplomatic Service he has been Managing Director of Appengold Ltd., which operates an international brokerage organisation for European companies seeking business in developing countries, and promotes new technologies with particular emphasis on agriculture, the recovery of natural resources and associated techniques.

Auction raises £200,000

CHIEF Purchasing Officer Jack Wood reports that, despite the depressed state of the market, all lots were sold at the FC's auction of vehicles, machinery and equipment held at Newmains on September 17. Gross receipts, excluding VAT, were in excess of £200,000.

The sale attracted the usual large attendance with buyers coming from all parts of the United Kingdom.

The next sale will be held at Derby on March 5, 1981. The FC has agreed with the auctioneers that this will be a joint sale with the private sector.

Investiture of Miss Daisy Miller, BEM

ABOUT 70 of her friends and colleagues were present at Bromeswell Village Hall, near Woodbridge, Suffolk to see the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Joshua Rowley, Bart., present Miss Daisy Miller with the BEM which had been awarded in the Birthday Honours List.

Daisy is a forest craftsman at Aldwood Forest where she has worked for the past 30 years. Her association with that part of Suffolk spans three generations. Her grandfather was gamekeeper to Lord Rendlesham when the FC acquired 2500 acres of that estate in 1920. He subsequently worked for the Commission as did her father.

She carries out the full range of forestry operations including planting, felling, seed collection, sawbench work, weeding and pruning. Her skill with a chainsaw is well known.

Sir Joshua referred also to her extra-mural activities including her gardening prowess in which she has won a number of prizes at local horticultural shows.



Mr Roderic Hewitt, Conservator, thanked the Lord Lieutenant and said what an honour it was to have the Queen's representative present. Sir Joshua, who is a woodland owner himself, was accompanied by Lady Rowley and by Captain R. J. Sheepshanks, his Deputy, and Mrs Sheepshanks. Captain and Mrs Sheepshanks are good neighbours of the Commission at Rendlesham.

Also present were Councillor Mrs Hyde, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal District Council, Air Commodore Hyde, Mrs Hewitt, Mr W. O. Wittering, A&FO, Mr H. Searle, DO Suffolk, Mr A. L. James, C/F Aldwood and many friends, colleagues and relations.



Prizes flock to Bertie's ewes

FOREST worker Bertie Cuthbertson of Craigenbay Holding, Clatteringshaws Forest, has had a very successful year winning prizes with his Blackface Sheep.

At five local shows he has won: — 4 First Prizes; 3 Seconds; 2 Thirds; 2 Fourths; 1 Championship; 3 Reserve Championships, and 8 Special Prizes.

Bertie must not take all the credit for these excellent results. In his absence Mrs Cuthbertson tends to the flock and can often be seen armed with a crook cycling between the scattered fields.

The Cuthbertson family have been running the 82.5 hectares holding since October 1977, and are looking forward to next season when they hope to do even better at the agricultural shows.

Annual Report of the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund — 1979/1980

THE purpose of the Fund is to relieve deserving and needy persons who are or who have been employed by the Forestry Commission or (in the case of death of persons who are or who have been so employed) those who were dependent upon them. 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.

The Fund at 31 March 1980 comprised £3,474.80 available for distribution and £495.00 for outstanding loans. Loans totalling £360.00 were made during the year. The trustees record their appreciation of all those who have contributed to the Fund either by deductions from pay,

direct donations or by Fund raising projects.

Applications for assistance should be directed to the local Administration and Finance Officer or equivalent, who will notify the Welfare Officer so that the necessary action may be taken.

BENEFIT FUND REMINDER

WHEN the Forestry Commission (Scotland) Benefit Fund was wound up in March 1978, the assets of the Fund were transferred to the Director General of the Forestry Commission as sole Trustee. The conditions attached to the transfer of funds were that until 31 December 1982 the interest from the assets transferred could be used to provide assistance to any ex-members of the Benefit Fund who were still in the Commission's employment in Scotland and who found themselves facing unforeseen hardships. From 1 January 1983 the benefit of the Fund would be available to provide assistance to any of the Commission's serving employees in Scotland.

I would like to remind all ex-members of the Benefit Fund that there is currently available a Fund from which financial help can be given where unforeseen hardship and financial stress arises because of such misfortunes as prolonged sickness, hospitalisation, a fire involving personal and household effects, damage from flooding, etc.

Any request for help should be sent to me at 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, and such will be given sympathetic consideration and treated in the strictest confidence.

JOE RUSSELL,
Welfare Officer.

JUMBLE SALE FOR CHARITY

FOR the second year running the N(W) Office Social Club, the Foreco Club, held an autumn Jumble Sale. Jumble and cakes were supplied by the office staff and these produced takings of £88.14. The cake stall alone made £16.00.

One half of the net profit has been donated to the local Bronglais Hospital towards the maintenance of apparatus. The other half will be put to good use by the Club.

PRIZEWINNER

FOREST tractor driver David Luke of Allcailleach Forest has won the Duke of Buccleuch Memorial Trophy for the best Stage 2 student on the City and Guilds forestry course at Inverness Technical College.

As well as a very fine silver axe presented by the RSFS, Mr Luke also received five years' free membership of the Society. This year's prizes were presented by Lord Kirkhill, Chairman of the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.



CHIEF Forester Brian Greig, Pathology, Alice Holt, met Mr Roy Powell when he was in Liverpool carrying out some fungicide injection experiments with "Ceratotecl." Mr Powell was interested in the experiments and presented Brian with the poem below.

The Dying Elm

*From my front room I can see him,
Standing out starkly
Against the park's summer backdrop.*

*He has been fading for a few years now,
But until this summer
Has always managed
Some kind of show.*

*Now naked,
Except for a few flakes of green
Already falling,
He cried out in embarrassed anger
At being left to wither.*

*Longs selfishly for winter,
When his gaunt nudity
Will bring no comment from passing strangers.*

*He knows that next Spring
His diseased roots and trunk will pump no sap;
Hopes for the keen pain of the buzzing saw,
And a dignified cremation.*

ROY POWELL.

Patience rewarded — with £100

PATIENCE was rewarded recently at Coed y Brenin N(W) when a harvesting team received a cheque for £100 from the Staff Suggestion Scheme.

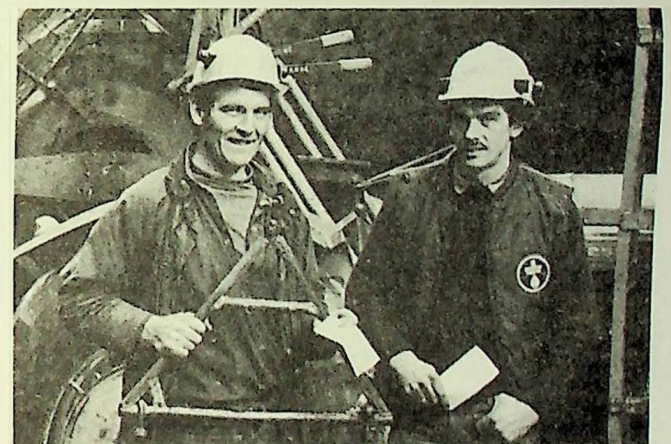
The Award was for a Triangular Bracket which takes out the haul-in and skyline simultaneously when setting up a skyline rig.

The idea originated back in March 1976 and was awarded the then maximum of £20 by the North Wales Committee. This suggestion was then forwarded to the Central Committee at

Headquarters for further consideration, and as the result of an appeal by the local North Wales Chairman, the Central Committee made the £100 award in October 1980.

The innovators of the bracket were Messrs G. W. Humphreys, B. I. Pugh, J. I. Jones, E. Edwards and E. W. Davies.

Our photograph shows Messrs B. I. Pugh and G. W. Humphreys receiving the cheque on behalf of the team.



MR STAN CATOR is the new Chairman of the Slasher Consultative Committee. A Ganger at Thetford and a local magistrate and JP, Mr Cator succeeds Conservator Charles Begley who was chairman for the past four years.

Our picture shows (seated) Alex Cowan (Industrial Establs.), Mr Cator and Jimmy Wilson (Blairadam). Behind (left to right) Mrs Jean Thompson (Staff Side), Fred McLauchlan (NRS), Editor Gordon MacNeill, Richard Westlake (North Scotland), Douglas Furneaux (East Scotland), Conservator David Robertson (West Scotland) and Noel Blatchford (Alice Holt).

LIFE BEFORE LIFE ON EARTH

A BETTER understanding of life before life evolved on earth is hoped for following international recognition of the importance of the rock formations research in Mortimer Forest, near Ludlow.

Rock formations in the forest contain fossils of primeval creatures which lived on the sea bed 400 million years ago, and the Ludlow rocks have now been acclaimed by international geologists as the finest examples from their period anywhere in the world.

The Ludlow area first made geological history in 1835 after the Scots geologist, Roderick Murchison, first described the rock strata and fossils of some 400 million years ago as "Silurian," after a tribe which once inhabited the region. There are four major divisions of Silurian rocks, and it is the third division which is found at Ludlow.

Last year the International Subcommission on Silurian Stratigraphy visited the forest to assess the geological significance of the rock exposures. They were so impressed that they have now declared that the name Ludlow will be adopted internationally to describe this third major

division of the Silurian system, and that the site be selected as the world's number one study centre for rocks of this type. This distinction follows a conservation exercise by the Forestry Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council to restore and excavate some of the more significant rock sections in the Forest. As a tribute to the site's new international status, the Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, Sir Ralph Verney, unveiled a commemorative panel on 6th November. The panel includes, encapsulated in resin, the fossil of a trilobite, an extinct animal which lived in the Silurian Sea

and is typical of the many forms of marine life found in the Silurian rocks in Mortimer. Sir Ralph Verney explained to an invited audience that as an ex-Forestry Commissioner — he attended his last Commission meeting in October — he was pleased to be associated with such a fine example of co-operation between the Nature Conservancy Council and the Forestry Commission. He saw his new role as Chairman of the NCC as continuing this co-operation and hoped there would be many more examples of conservation of important geological sites and called for increased co-operation in the area of nature conservation.

The early fossil finds revealed an abundance of strange primeval animals which had inhabited the sub-tropical Silurian Sea. Later fossils showed the first fishes and then land plants as the sea began to recede.

The highest strata of the series were superbly exposed in the Whitchell Gorge of the River Teme, but the lower two-thirds had always been less well-exposed in disused quarries, in



A reconstruction of life on the Silurian sea-bottom in the Ludlow area 400 million years ago. Seen here are brachiopods, trilobites, corals, sea-lilies, starfish, sea-snails, bi-valves, autolids and sea-scorpions.

some stream sections and in road cuttings. The Forestry Commission started its planing of Mortimer Forest in 1923, but it was not until the early seventies that the trees reached the harvesting stage, and as part of the normal development of the forest the Commission built a network of new roads.

It was the numerous new and continuous cuttings through the

poorly exposed part of the Ludlow succession that revealed the potential of the forest as a geological study area. Not only were new strata exposed but as the various beds of rock are tilted the road cuttings have revealed a thickness of 1500 feet of Silurian rocks which span a period of about 10 million years.

In 1976, a conservation project devised and financed by the Nature Conservancy Council

was carried out by the Forestry Commission. The Forestry Commission which is very conscious of the need for conservation was enthusiastic in agreeing to carry out the necessary work to conserve the new road cuttings, to clear the overgrown quarries and to excavate new cuttings where there was a geological need.

Dr Jim Lawson of Glasgow University Department of

Geology, a leading authority on the Silurian System, acted as consultant geologist to the scheme. In all, 13 roadside exposures are cleared exposing rocks representing each of the four major stages of the Ludlow series and providing an ideal and accessible set of exposures for study by school and university groups.

In 1977, the Forestry Commission opened the Mortimer Forest Geological Trail laid out in consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council who published a guide to the trail.

Many Silurian fossils first discovered in the Ludlow area have since been found in many parts of the world and the possibility is always there for a hitherto-unknown species to be unearthed.

Both the Forestry Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council encourage individual fossil collecting and permission to collect must be obtained from Mortimer Forest Office.



This long-coated fallow deer is one of a unique herd found in Mortimer Forest which is the subject of a study by Reading University. There are also a number of rare and unusual plants and special attention is given to forest operations where these occur. Birds are plentiful and 100 nesting boxes have been erected to provide nesting sites for tits, nuthatches and pied flycatchers. The forest is also the home of birds of prey including buzzards, kestrels, sparrowhawks and goshawks, as well as the night raptors tawny owl, little owl and long eared owl.



Young geologists fossil hunting under supervision.

Orthoceras Nautilus is like an octopus but with nearly 100 tentacles and a chambered shell.

A trilobite Calymene, an extinct marine animal related to the modern King Crab.



A special moment (below) for Lisa Butterworth as Sir Ralph Verney presents her with a signed photograph of the fossil she discovered on a school outing earlier this year. The photograph was kindly supplied by Mr John Norton, Curator of Ludlow Museum who has done much to introduce school children to the fossil heritage of the area. Looking on are Lisa's classmates from Richard's Castle Primary School who attended the opening ceremony.

The success of the ceremony was largely due to the efforts of Chief Forester John Waite and his staff. Among the guests invited to attend were local dignitaries including the Mayor of Ludlow, the Chairman of South Shropshire District Council, Lord Plymouth one of the lessors, and two regional officers of the Nature Conservancy Council. Leading geologists were there in force — Dr George Black, Head of the Geology and Physiography Section of the Nature Conservancy Council, Dr Jim Lawson of the Geology Department, Glasgow University who was consultant to the conservation project, and Dr Dennis White of the Institute of Geological Sciences.

The Commission's representation was headed by Mr John Kennedy, Commissioner for Forest and Estate Management who introduced Sir Ralph and spoke of the wider implications of conservation not only at Mortimer but throughout the Commission.

The event was a credit to the forest and a special mention is due to roads foreman Cyril Bramley, forest craftsman Harold Potts, Ranger staff Gerald Springthorpe, John Speed and Martin Noble and super-scouts Wendy Magrill, Jan Hedal, Liz Anderson and Sally Andrews who prepared an excellent buffet lunch.

Nature News

Colour
Photography
by Douglas Green

Forest sites attract rare Nightjars

BY RODERICK LESLIE



Adult male Nightjar trapped at Ingleby, North Yorkshire in June.

THE sharp bark of a Roe buck, the loots, caterwauling and screeching of Owls, or the reeling song of a Grasshopper Warbler — sounds of the forest at dusk. But probably the most remarkable sound of all is the mechanical, sewing machine-like song of a male Nightjar marking his territory.

An almost reptilian bird, the Nightjar visits Britain to breed between May and September, coming out at dusk to hawk for moths. Noisy, are well hidden, but are sometimes found during breeding.

Heathland — of the type found in the New Forest, for example — is the Nightjar's traditional habitat. However, Nightjars are generally considered to be declining in Britain, partly because of the gradual loss of Heath.

RESTOCKING

There are few areas of this sort on the North Yorks Moors, and few Nightjars were known to nest till this year.

However, in a survey of the area this summer about 30 breeding pairs were found. By far the most important habitat proved to be forest areas, in particular restocking sites.

The 23,000 hectares of forest in the Pickering district constitute 17% of the North Yorks Moors, and restocking is about 150 ha per annum. Most Nightjars live on restock areas between 3 years old and thicket stage. A few live on new plantings, including one pair on a small patch of checked Sitka.

Surprisingly, in several places the Nightjars appear to prefer a forest site to a more typical area of open heath, and although several large areas did hold a pair, the best was a research plot at Wykeham forest, where no less than four pairs were found.

SURVEY

Several PC members of Staff took part in the survey. Senior Ranger Oliver Powell found a pair at Bolby, whilst Senior Ranger Arthur Frankland, also of Cleveland forest, found a pair at Ingleby, the male of which was later caught and ringed. Senior Ranger Dick Lea watched several Nightjar hunting during August.

It is extremely interesting that this bird, thought to be declining, is able to take advantage of the open land provided by the clearfelling. In 1981 there is to be a national Nightjar survey, organised by the British Trust for Ornithology. This survey can't be complete without coverage of forest areas — hopefully it will show exactly how important restocking is to the Nightjar in Britain.

Your help would be appreciated: either by going out and looking for Nightjars, or alternatively, by helping any other observers enquiring about surveying in the forest.

If you would like further information about the 1981 survey, write to me at 42 Eastgate, Pickering, N. Yorks.

(Photos by Eric Wilson)

Around & About

NORTH SCOTLAND

They both opted for the "good life"

AT a recent informal gathering at Ratagan Forest, local staff presented John and Nora Mackay with a garden seat, a fishing rod and a selection of flies and reels.

The occasion was the retirement of Nora who had been the forest clerkess for eight years. John, who had been a forest ganger, retired a few months earlier after serving with the Forestry Commission for nearly fifteen years.

John and Nora moved to Ratagan in 1965 after John gave up his job as an engineer in the south to become a forest worker, employed in the open air amongst the forests on the coast of Wester Ross. They are now moving to Nairn where Nora looks forward to relaxing on her seat while John tries his luck with the local trout.

DONALD KEEPS AN EYE ON THINGS

MR DONALD STEWART, Senior Ranger at Glengarry has retired after 34 years' service. He was also a qualified blacksmith, and travelled to many forests shoeing horses until the arrival of cable cranes for extraction.

At a ceremony in the Forest Office Donald was presented with a pair of binoculars from all his colleagues to keep an eye on things.

Time on his hands

DONALD FRASER, Forest Worker at Ratagan Forest retired recently after twelve years' service. As a skilled man and a very able operator of a cable crane he will be missed by his colleagues who at a small gathering presented him with a wrist watch.



ARCHIE PATERSON, Forest Foreman at Dornoch Forest was presented with a cheeseboard, tray and silver tea service to celebrate his marriage to Miss Penny Sutherland. The presentation, on behalf of the Dornoch Squad, was made by Forest Craftsman Duncan Sutherland.

WEST SCOTLAND

Is this a record?

TWO long-serving employees at Glencoe have retired. Ganger Ewan Cameron had 34 years' service and skilled forest worker Alastair MacInnes spent 33 years with the Forestry Commission.

At a ceremony in Glencoe Forest Office, Mr David Robertson, Conservator West (Scotland), presented long service certificates and Forester Mike Steward presented gifts on behalf of colleagues and friends. Mrs Cameron and Mrs MacInnes received flowers and refreshments were served by Clerkess, Mrs Mary Forsyth, and some of the wives of serving and former employees.

This completes an unusual period of 3½ years. Since 1st June 1977, eight people have retired from the Forest with a total of 265 years' service, which is an average of 33 years. It would be interesting to know whether any other forest can claim a similar record.

Gangers leave Black Isle

JIMMY CHISHOLM and Alistair Fraser, both long serving gangers, have recently retired in the Black Isle.

Alistair started with the Commission in 1947 and Jimmy in 1949. Both saw active service during the war, Jimmy as a young regular sailor on HMS Ajax at the Battle of the River Plate, and Alistair with the Royal Artillery.

Both were presented with Long Service Certificates and gifts from their colleagues. Jimmy received a table lamp, and Alistair was presented with a teasmade / radio set.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

ANDREW SAYS THANKS

MR ANDREW THOMSON, Head Forester at Lammern Forest retired recently. His departure was marked by the presentation of money with which he intends to buy garden equipment. Andy would like to express his thanks to all his colleagues who contributed towards his presentation.

EAST ENGLAND

Ted was the East's first mobile mechanic

TED MARSDEN — Mechanic inspector, has retired after 33 years' service — all based at Santon Downham. Ted joined as a Fitter in 1947 after war service, and the following year he became the first Mobile Mechanic in East England Conservancy with the machinery of the whole Conservancy his responsibility. Ultimately he became responsible for vehicles and

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND



HEAD FORESTER JOHN WOOD RETIRES

HEAD Forester John Wood has retired after 31 years with the Commission, having spent over 20 years in the New Forest before moving on to Private Woodland duties in Kent in 1970.

A dinner was held in John Wood's honour at the Beauport Park Hotel near Hastings, attended by the Conservator, his Assistants, Conservancy staff and their wives as well as several guests and associates from John's work with private woodlands. His colleagues presented John with a cheque towards the purchase of a wood turning lathe, an essential addition for his wood-carving hobby.

Photographed at John's farewell dinner are (left to right), Conservator Charles Begley, Assistant Conservator Nicholas Banister, Tom Coulson (DO Kent), Derek House (C/F Bedgebury), and John Wood.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

100 pay tribute to John James' contribution to forestry

AT A dinner at the Abbots Well Hotel, Chester, some 100 colleagues and friends from all over Britain gathered to say farewell to Mr John James OBE on his retirement from the Forestry Commission after some 30 years of service, the last seven as Conservator of Forests for North West England.

Tribute was paid to Mr James by Mr George Holmes, Director General, who spoke of his outstanding contribution to forestry in many fields and of the warmth of his personality which had endeared him to all those who had had the privilege of being associated with him.

Mr Holmes wished Mr James a long and happy retirement and presented him with a camera and a garden hammock as retirement gifts. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs James.

In his reply Mr James spoke of his happy years with the Forestry Commission and said that his regret on retirement was that he would miss the friendship that had surrounded him during his career.

Further mementoes of his forestry career were then presented to him by colleagues and on display were gifts from field staff and two fine pictures showing forestry scenes from the Regional Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission.

JACKY STAYS IN HIS VALLEY

FOREST Craftsman John Batey Murray (known to everyone as Jacky), has retired after 45 years' service in the Border Forests.

The Conservator presented Jacky with a Long Service Certificate and Head Forester Alf Weir presented a cheque with good wishes from his many colleagues.

Jacky has carried out a wide range of duties during his career and has actually felled trees which he helped to plant often extracting the timber with the help of his own horse.

He will continue to live in retirement in the North Tyne Valley devoting more time to his favourite hobbies, farming, gardening and league football.

Tankard for Cyril

CYRIL SWANN — Forest Craftsman, has retired after 26 years' service with the Commission, the first 12 years at Ditton Forest and the last 14 at Walden. On a beautiful early autumn afternoon his colleagues gathered in Cyril's "local" for a pint, a bite, and to say farewell. Cyril received an inscribed tankard as a retirement present from District Officer, Mr Harry Searle, and his wife received a bouquet of flowers.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Bells, Begonias and Bubbly

MR "PETE" VERNEY has retired from Exeter Forest after 42½ years of service with the Commission. At Pete's request the occasion was kept as informal as possible with the presentation of a print of Constable's "Haywain" and the balance of a collection made in the forest. In making the presentation Chief Forester Brain made reference to Pete's great sense of integrity both in his daily work and in his service to his fellows acting as both Shop Steward and latterly Health and Safety Representative. Pete received his Long Service Award from the Conservator.

Although Pete was a quiet man he will be greatly missed at the forest, but everyone was heartened to see him in good health and he will be able to give more time to his hobbies of bellringing, gardening and wine-making.

IN FOCUS DOWN UNDER

A LARGE number of staff and colleagues gathered at Kernow Forest office for the retirement of Ernie Hosken after 40 years' service. Conservator Mr Troup presented Ernie with his Long Service Certificate, and Ernie also received a camera from his Kernow colleagues. This will be well used when Ernie launches his retirement with a three-month holiday in New Zealand.

KEVIN "LANDS" GILL

CONGRATULATIONS to South West (E) Land Agent Kevin Firth on his marriage to Miss Gill Hockey, who was EO in Private Woodlands Section for several years before her transfer to the Department of Energy last year. Following their honeymoon in Greece, Gill and Kevin have set up home in Bath.

ALICE HOLT / SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

IS NORMAN TO BECOME A MODERN MONUMENT?

AFTER a long service of 32 years in the Commission, Norman Stutter (A & FO Alice Holt), has retired. The occasion was marked by an informal presentation at Alice Holt Lodge. Contributions towards his retirement gift were received from many colleagues, friends and well wishers throughout the Commission and Norman was presented with a sizeable cheque by the Director. Norman intended purchasing a new set of cutlery as his "plastic demob set is now wearing a bit thin."

Norman's chequered career started in 1934 as a boy messenger in the GPO. During the war years he rose to the giddy heights of Major. After his discharge in 1947, he had a short spell at the Ministry of Labour before joining the London Office of the Commission in 1948 as a Clerical Officer. He was promoted to Executive Officer in 1949 and apart from a spell as HEO in South Wales Conservancy and his latter service as A & FO at Alice Holt, he was based at the various Headquarter Offices where his sterling contribution to the work at E&T Branch, together with his outgoing personality, brought him in contact with very many

colleagues and friends throughout the Commission. He intends spending his retirement flitting between his country and his flat in Greece, where he will no doubt become a modern monument for attracting tourists. All friends and colleagues at the Lodge wish him and his wife Sophie a long and happy retirement.

GEORGE "FOOTS THE BILL"

FOLLOWING his retirement after almost 30 years as a fitter in the SE Conservancy, George Newton-Edwards extended invitations to 269 friends and colleagues to attend a social evening at Cranbrook.

In addition to his generous gesture in "footing the bill" for the first class evening, George organised a raffle which raised £250 for the Stoke Mandeville Hospital, where his son Ivan is a patient.

Bramhill Workshop Manager Harry Tapley (on the right) presented George with a wrist watch, and there were chocolates and flowers for his wife, and a record token for Ivan.



HEADQUARTERS



DOUBLE PRESENTATION AT HQ

THERE was a double celebration at Edinburgh when over 60 colleagues and friends gathered to bid farewell to Murray Hunter, Commissioner for Administration and Finance, and Malcolm Shapcott, Deputy Establishment Officer.

Sir David Montgomery chaired the evening and tributes were paid by Director General George Holmes and Commissioner Dallas Mithen. Both guests received cheques from their colleagues. Murray Hunter is going to buy hill walking clothing and equipment, and Malcolm Shapcott will be able to check weather conditions for him on his new barometer.

PA Moira Wilson presented Mr Hunter with a bouquet for his wife, who was indisposed at home, and Mrs Shapcott received a bouquet from her husband's PA Irene Gillon.

Murray Hunter joined the FC as Secretary to the Commissioners in 1973 after a distinguished career in the Diplomatic Service, serving in Canberra, Bogota,

Baghdad, Prague, Buenos Aires and in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as Head of the Consular Department in 1966 and of the Latin America Department 1971-73. He was appointed a Forestry Commissioner in 1975.

Malcolm Shapcott began his Commission career in 1937 as a CO in Finance in the London Office. After spells in Bristol and Woking — steadily working his way up the promotion ladder — he returned to London as SEO in Estab in 1950. He became a Senior Principal in 1971 and in 1973, while stationed at Basingstoke, he was appointed Assistant Secretary, moving to Edinburgh in 1975.

Both men have their days of leisure ahead well planned. On dry days Murray Hunter will be out on the hills and Malcolm Shapcott will be on the golf course. And when it rains, they'll both listen to music — with Mr Shapcott particularly looking forward to hearing his tapes and records on his new stereo system.

NORTH WALES

Geoff will be sorely missed

STAFF from the North Wales Conservancy, including out-station officers and visitors from as far afield as the Bristol and Cardiff Conservancy offices, gathered to mark the retirement of Mr Geoff Bowers, A & FO.

At the luncheon buffet, Conservator Mr Roger Bradley had great pleasure in formally presenting Geoff with a gift of a nest of tables and a cheque before a huge audience.

Miss Jane Howells, a CO in the Estates Section, presented a bouquet to Mona Bowers.

Geoff Bowers has devoted 42 years' service to the FC, commencing in the London office back in 1938. Over the years, gaining promotion from CO to A & FO, Geoff served in various locations — the Bristol office (twice), with R & D Division at Alice Holt Lodge, and with the North Wales Conservancy, once when the office was based at Shrewsbury and again after a break at Aberystwyth since 1972. Staff in this Conservancy will sorely miss the benefit of Geoff's experience.



GWILYM JONES has retired after 34 years' service. He began in October 1946 and one of his earliest jobs was catching moles and mice. He then worked as a chauffeur to the District Officer, Mr Butters, and progressed from Forest Worker Grade III to a Ganger in 1955.

From 1960 he was employed as a Trapper / Ranger. Among his districts he was responsible for the Picnic Sites and Forest Trails at Dyfi and many compliments have been received from the public on their high standard.

He will also be missed by the farming community as he was the "linkman" with many Fox Destruction Societies.

Mr Haydn Nicholls, Chief Forester at Dyfi, presented his Long Service Certificate and Gwilym enjoyed a pint with his colleagues.

JOINT CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

Two more members of the Coed y Brenin workforce have retired. George Rawson, aged 65, started his career with the Forestry Commission in 1949. Born in Northampton, he moved to the Dolgellau area during his army service and for a time had responsibility for the Maesgwm Camp which has since become the Forest Office and Visitor Centre complex. In his early days with the FC he travelled to work by train and then on foot to the worksite; that branch of the GWR network has now closed.

Gwilym Foulkes started work at Coed y Brenin in 1935, he was "hired and fired" for a short time before being offered permanent employment in 1936. He has been a Ranger for many years with responsibility for the forest walks and trails as well as control of wild life on the forest.

Both men are quiet, conscientious characters who dislike publicity. However, they agreed to come together to receive their Long Service Certificates from the Chief Forester. On behalf of all their colleagues John Parker also presented George with a silver wine tray and Arthur Wyn Jones presented Gwilym with a cheque.

30 COUNTRIES ATTEND TRINIDAD CONFERENCE

THE Forestry Commission was represented by a delegation of five at the 1980 Commonwealth Forestry Conference, Director General George Holmes, who is Chairman of the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry, Mr Arnold Grayson, Conservator, Planning and Economics, Mr Roger Bradley, Conservator North Wales, Mr John Everard, Assistant Conservator Harvesting and Marketing, South East England and Mr Alan Wilson, Secretariat, Secretary to the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry.

The Conference theme was "The Contribution of Forestry to Social and Economic Development" and nearly 80 invited papers were discussed by delegates from more than 30 Commonwealth countries.

Among the invited papers prepared for the technical committees were 16 by UK authors including three from the FC — one on international plant health co-operation in Europe by Mr Don Phillips, Chief Research Officer; the formulation of research programmes, by Dr David Johnston, Director of Research, and developments in road planning in plantations by Mr Dallas Mithen, Forestry Commissioner.

Other UK authors include Mr R. H. Kemp, Forestry Adviser, Overseas Development Administration, Professor M. E. D. Poore, Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Professor L. Roche and Mr R. J. Cooper, University College of North Wales, Dr J. Burley, University of Oxford, Mr E. G. Richards, Forestry Adviser Trinidad and Tobago and Mr W. Finlayson, Director Commonwealth Forestry Bureau.

The theme paper was

delivered by Dr Kenneth F. S. King, Director of the International Council for Research in Agro-Forestry, Nairobi, and the Chairman of the Conference was Dr Bal Ramdial, the Conservator of Forests, Forestry Division, Trinidad and Tobago. The business of the Conference was divided into five technical committees and five plenary sessions. The technical committees covered the major areas of Forest Policy, Forest Management, Services to Management, Harvesting and Market Planning, and Utilisation of Forest Products.

The important factors and recommendations noted at the Conference included the following:

- The Proceedings and Recommendations of the Conference emphasised the increased contribution to social and economic welfare that forestry is capable of making in all countries and especially for the rural poor in developing countries.

- The critical importance of increased fuel wood production and of co-operative efforts to use agro-forestry techniques

were recognised as essential tasks for forestry in developing countries.

- In addition, the environmental benefits of forests, especially for conservation of soil and of wildlife were stressed, as were the effects on existing forests of the rising pressure of demand for land and timber. Action is needed to meet these demands and to maintain and increase benefits.

- There was thought to be considerable scope for using the forest more effectively by reducing waste, expanding the utilisation and marketing of lesser-used species, and by developing road accesses jointly with other users.

- Also, it was thought that a more commercial management philosophy in harvesting and marketing roundwood is needed in some regions to improve financial results and the attention given to reforestation.

- Among other important factors noted were the need for improved training of supervisors and forest workers in appropriate technologies and for an increased R&D programme, particularly on fast-growing species and on potential pests and diseases of man-made forests.

- The important services provided by the Commonwealth Forestry Institute were recognised and ways of increasing support for this work should be explored.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

Some readers of Mr Howard's valuable advice on disposal of constrictive bandages in the Summer 1980 Slasher may wish to know the current instruction on arresting severe external bleeding.

1. Apply immediate firm pressure to the bleeding area. Your bare hand will do!
2. Raise the injured area above the heart. It is more difficult to pump blood uphill!
3. Lay the patient down. This eases blood pressure which reduces the volume reaching the severed area. Head or face injuries respond better if the patient is placed in a sitting position, ie head above heart.
4. Reassure your patient and if possible get them to apply firm pressure with their own hand on an improvised pad if immediately available.

- Even if these positive steps were taken, it was recognised that a substantial increase in the level of reforestation during the next decade is necessary in order to contribute to future world wood needs including fuelwood. This will only be possible if increased funding is available, especially for developing countries.

- All discussions reflected the concern felt over the current high rate of depletion of forests, especially in tropical regions, and the Conference accepted that the forestry profession has a major role to play in ensuring a continuous flow of goods and services from the land.

This gives you time to search the First Aid tin for a proper dressing.

5. Apply dressing firmly without restricting blood supply to surrounding area. Keep area raised.
6. Arrange transport to hospital or clinic.
7. Subsequently, get further up to date at the next available First Aid Course!

R. T. WHEELER,

Recreation Head Forester.

(Mr Wheeler is one of two qualified BRCS instructors on N(W) Staff).

Dear Sir,

A recent newspaper report which revealed that the car registration ST 1 had changed hands for £15,000 prompted me to speculate on how much a certain radical Conservator might be willing to pay for the number plate NPK 1T. Or perhaps a certain forestry investment minded individual at HQ might have a secret craving for the registration NDR 1T. Then again there must be a couple of earnest, banner waving conservationists somewhere who would feel that their cause was being furthered if their mopeds bore the plates BAN 24ST and BAN 24D.

Yours faithfully,
E. BALDWIN,
C/F Silv(N).

THE following letter was received by the Aberdeen conservancy office: —

Dear Sir,

When we visited the Aberdeen area in 1978 we were deeply impressed by the work done by the Commission on behalf of the public — and this impression was greatly strengthened by our visit again this summer.

Thank you, very much, indeed, for the clearly labelled tracks, the car parking facilities, the picnic areas and the toilets — these maintained in such excellent condition.

The forest areas are very beautiful and we are grateful to be allowed to walk in them. All your work is very much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
John and Irene Walker
(and Sam, the dog).

Dear Sir,

I have been meaning to write to you for some time about one of my hobbies, namely collecting postage stamps, postmarks, etc., that show forestry subjects.

My reason for writing is to find out, through Slasher, if anyone else in the Commission also collects such items. If there are others, it could be to our mutual advantage to be known to each other so that we could, for example, exchange duplicates.

May I, with your assistance, invite other such collectors, if they are interested, to write to me at the Cambridge Conservancy office. I have been collecting these stamps ever since I joined the Commission 30 years ago. I have met so few other collectors both in the UK and in other countries I have visited that I can only conclude that we must be very select group! (or maybe there is another reason!)

Yours sincerely,
BILL WITTERING.

focus

FC TO THE RESCUE OF SKYE

by Richard Westlake

THROUGH the years many sea living animals have found themselves in distress around the shores of the Isle of Skye, but never before a young California sea lion! After hearing of the problem, John Pargeter, forester for the south of Skye was keen to ensure that the Forestry Commission came quickly to the rescue.

The sea lion was "Gemini," one of the stars of the BBC television programme, "Animal Magic," and owned by Terry Nutkins, the programme's co-presenter. Terry had recently moved to the island, taking up residence in a picturesque cottage which stands at the side of a large area of Forestry Commission ground, overlooking the Sound of Sleat.

Unfortunately, the dry spring and summer on Skye this year had caused a stream at the side of the house to dry up to a

trickle, which Gemini relied upon to play in. Denied the ability to splash around, she had lost her appetite for food and was feeling rather ill.

John looked around to see if he had a large fire water tank that could be spared from the forest for a little while, and having found one, gained the help of Willie Sutherland, forest ranger, who delivered it to Gemini's home on the back of his van.

Gemini was delighted, as was Terry who later commented that

TV STAR

the thoughtfulness of the local forest staff had taken him quite by surprise.

He continued, "I was quite worried about Gemini. She had lost a bit of weight and I was nervous that she would be too ill to appear on the television programme. That would have disappointed not only myself but also the four million viewers who regularly follow the programme."

Now Terry has the time to order a new tank for Gemini, to replace the fickle stream, which in view of its necessary size will have to be specially made.

A HOT LOCATION!

Terry is not new to that part of Skye, for he lived there as a boy with the author, Gavin Maxwell, when he wrote the book, "Ring of Bright Water." Terry saw the house for sale when he returned to the area last year as a member of the BBC team making a film on the life of Gavin Maxwell.

An interesting point is that from the house one can see across the valley to a ruined, stone cottage, owned by the Forestry Commission, which was used in the making of the film.

In 1969 Gavin Maxwell's cottage burned down and the Forestry Commission's ruin was used to reconstruct that fire. Re-roofed in light plywood with fish boxes gathered from the beach and tied together to recreate chimneys, it was set on fire by the BBC.

Needless to say, a very special permission had had to be written by the North Scotland conservancy office to meet all possible eventualities!



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER

OVER a hundred colour transparencies were received in the "Slasher" photo competition from all over the Commission. Many were of a very high quality and the judges had a difficult task selecting a winning forest scenic view.

Congratulations, therefore, to Chief Forester Don MacCaskill of Strathyre, Perthshire, for his winning home forest scene of larches in Autumn.

The photographers whose slides have been chosen for the photographic library will be notified in the near future.

This is one of the first jobs facing our new staff photographer/photo librarian in Headquarters, Miss Isobel Cameron.

HOSPITAL

Isobel (right) joined at the beginning of December after crossing the country from Glasgow where she worked in the Photographic Department of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill.



East England Golf Society

MEMBERS of the FC Golf Society, East England Section, and their guests attended this year's Autumn Stableford meeting at Flempton Golf Club, Suffolk. FC members were competing for the "Matabele Cup" and the guests for the "Autumn Cup." The weather held fine and some good scores were achieved. Head Forester Jim Field, the 1979 winner, put up a good fight only to lose to Arthur Searle who took the "Matabele Cup" with an admirable score of 36 points.

After a mid-day snack, play continued in the afternoon with five teams competing for a sweepstake of £6. This time Jim Field with his guest partner R. K. Wilson triumphed and snatched the first prize with Forester Geoff Southgate and M. Watts coming second.



Terry Nutkins and Gemini.

OBITUARY

KENNY BEATON

The recent death in a road accident of Kenny Beaton, former Private Woodlands Head Forester in West Scotland Conservancy, came as a blow to his former colleagues in Stirling. He retired in 1977 after 30 years' service with the Commission. The funeral at Taynuilt, Argyll, was attended by many friends and colleagues and our sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

E. GWYNFRYN DAVIES

IT is with regret that we report the death, at the age of 75, of Mr E. Gwynfryn Davies, CBE, DL, JP, who had been a Forestry Commissioner from 1959 to 1973 and, for the last 10 of those years, Chairman of the National Committee of Wales. He leaves a widow and two sons, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

The Forestry Commission was represented at the funeral by Mr John Zehetmayr, Senior Officer (Wales) and Mr Gwyn Owen, Secretary of the National Committee for Wales.

DENIS DERHAM

We regret to report the sudden death of Mr Denis Derham of the H. & M. Section, South West (E) Conservancy. Denis had been with the Commission since 1968 and a

large number of friends and colleagues attended the service at Bristol Crematorium. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs Derham.

DAVID DEWAR

WE ARE sorry to record the death of pensioner Mr David Dewar, former Industrial Worker at Craigvinean Forest, retired for some 15 years.

W. JOHNSTONE

WE are sorry to record the death of Mr W. Johnstone, ex-Forester Alltcaillach and Glen Doll Forests.

F. W. KIRBY

WITH regret we report the death of Mr F. W. Kirby, a former Ganger at Bridgham Forest, East England. He retired on 1st September 1979 after continuous service with the Commission at Thetford Chase since September 1936, with the exception of war service with the Royal Engineers.

William, who had been a Ganger for 32 years, was recognised as an expert on the selection of telegraph poles, and it is estimated that he selected 10,000 during the last 10 years of his service.

GWILYM T. LEWIS

IT is with regret that we report the death of Mr Gwilym Thomas Lewis after a short illness.

Mr Lewis was employed as a Ranger 1 in Newborough Forest and he had had a long career with the Forestry Commission spanning 42 years. He served in Gwydyr and Clocaenog Forests in North Wales before working in Arfon Forest (now Newborough) which he joined in 1968.

The funeral was attended by representatives of Newborough Forest and the Conservator sent a message of sympathy to his widow.

TREVOR SELLEY

IT is with much regret that we report the death of Mr Trevor Selley, Senior Clerk / Storeman at Exeter Repair Depot.

Trevor died suddenly while playing his favourite game of cricket. He will be sadly missed in the South West Conservancy.

WILLIAM G. SENIOR

IT is with regret that we announce the death of William George Senior, Retired Ganger at Kesteven E/E.

George was one of the real old timers; he joined in 1932, retired in 1967, and passed away on 13 September 1980, aged 78 years.

Numerous students passed through his hands, many of whom are now head foresters. They will be saddened by the loss of their old friend and tutor.



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Headquarters):
Mrs Jean Thompson

100 NOT OUT!

THE Rev. John E. Hamilton MC, who was a Forestry Commissioner from 1948-53, celebrated his 100th birthday on December 2nd at his Edinburgh home.

Chairman Sir David Montgomery sent Mr Hamilton a Congratulations Telegram on behalf of all Commission staff, and accompanied by Director General George Holmes visited him with gifts of books on forestry.

Although he is now confined to the house, Mr Hamilton retains a genuine interest in forestry matters generally, and he talked at length with his guests about the current situation in the industry.