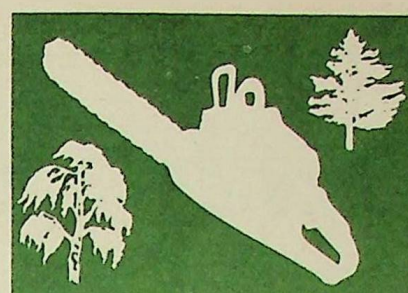




SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 306

WINTER 1981

CAMPSITE OF THE YEAR



A Forestry Commission campsite in the shadow of Snowdon has reached the summit as far as Automobile Association judges are concerned, and is named AA Campsite of the Year.

The Snowdonia Forest Park Camping Ground at Beddgelert has been run for the last 16 years by resident warden Adam Easton and his wife, Beatrice. Assisting to maintain the site's commendably high standards are their children, Robert and Freda.

The AA judges — "Drive and Trail" magazine associate editor Maggie Parsons and AA Chief

Hotels Inspector Geoffrey Lerway — undertook a peak season tour of readers' favourite campsites plus recommendations from the AA's team of campsite inspectors. They selected six regional winners, and were in no doubt that the Welsh site should be the overall winner.

Tireless

"It's my idea of what a campsite should be," said Geoffrey Lerway. And Maggie Parsons commented, "This place doesn't seem to have changed for years — and doesn't need to. Families return year after year."

Adam Easton's attitude to his camping ground is one of the reasons why the judges voted it the best. They said, "He works tirelessly

to preserve the character of the countryside and yet provide visitors with an enjoyable holiday."

The 10-acre campsite at Beddgelert Forest was opened in the late 1930s. The warden's house, the camp common room and the toilet block were designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis — well known for his architectural work including Portmeirion, the "Italian" village near Porthmadog.

Extended

The camp was extended during the 1960s, providing additional toilet facilities, a laundry and a shop. With the construction in 1974 of dispersed caravan pitches and a new

toilet block in the adjoining plantation of young Red Oak trees, the present capacity of 280 units was reached, providing for roughly equal numbers of tents and caravans.

Own design

The later timber framed and clad buildings were designed and constructed by Forestry Commission staff.

The campsite is open throughout the year, although during the winter months facilities are reduced. About 80,000 camper nights are recorded annually and campers stay an average of 3 nights at the site.

The Warden and his family provide restaurant and snack bar facilities in the Common Room and also operate the shop and laundry under licence.

The 1500 acre (600 ha) main block of Beddgelert Forest forms part of the Snowdonia Forest Park, designated by the Forestry Commissioners in 1937.

A forest trail and many miles of waymarked walks have been opened up and are enjoyed by campers and day visitors. There are about 26,000 day visits each year in addition to campers, and there are separate youth camp facilities for organised parties of young people.

For those who wish to learn a little about the forest an on-site interpretation trail has been established near the Glan y Gors picnic place and an illustrated guide map provides an introduction to the forest. For the active visitor there is the popular Wayfaring course, mountain walking, pony trekking and fishing.

Left: Mr Derek Fothergill, AA Regional Director Wales and West, presenting the Campsite of the Year Award to Adam Easton and his wife Beatrice. Also representing the Commission at the ceremony were Mr John Zehetmayr, Senior Officer, Wales and Mr Alan Powell, Chief Forester, Beddgelert and Mrs Powell.



NEW FORESTRY COMMISSIONER

Mr George S. Murray, Assistant Secretary with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, has been appointed Forestry Commissioner (Administration and Finance) in succession to Mr J. Murray Hunter.

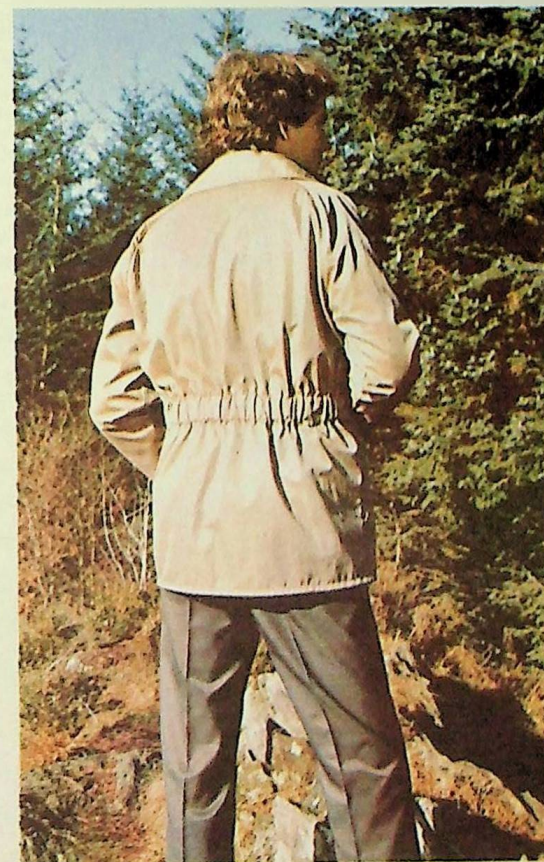
The greater part of Mr Murray's career has been with DAFS, dealing with a variety of aspects of rural development from land tenure to Highland transport and tourism. "Forestry is a major factor in the rural development scene as an important national resource, as a provider of employment and as a contributor to tourism, leisure and recreation," says Mr Murray. "There are a number of aspects of my experience which I think are very relevant to the development of forestry in Britain, and to the administrative consequences."

Mr Murray is quick to stress that he is an administrator, not a forester. "I think the main thing I can bring to my new post is a long experience of central

government and a knowledge of the principal departments of state, with most of which I have had contact over the years."

Though Mr Murray's administrative area has been confined largely to Scotland he is keen to extend his knowledge of rural Britain, and particularly to renew his acquaintance with Wales. "I have had a great affection for Wales ever since the war when I trained as a Royal Navy radio mechanic at Cardiff Technical College."

Mr Murray, whose interests include lapidary and golf, hails from Buckie in the North East of Scotland. He is the seventh son of a fishing family. His father was an owner-skipper as was his eldest brother, and the tradition is maintained today by his nephew.



What is the well-dressed forester wearing this year?

TURN TO PAGE 5



Axeman's Log

The Mutch Report

THE INTERACTION OF FORESTRY AND FARMING

TRADITIONALLY the British farmer has not been his own forester nor actively interested in forestry except as a potential purchaser of land, should he decide to sell it.

That position has shown some change recently and an interest has emerged in various aspects of the interaction between forestry and agriculture in Britain.

A recent report by W. E. S. Mutch and A. R. Hutchison of the University of Edinburgh records the experiences of 13 case studies of such interaction. It is concerned, not with the results of selling whole farms, but with the problems and possibilities involved in integrating farming and forestry. The report is published as No. 2 in the Economics and Management Series of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture.

Some of the cases show the financial results of farmers themselves investing in forestry on their own land while on other farms land was sold to a forestry agency and the money realised by the sale was reinvested in the farm, so that an afforestation sale was the means to more intensive farming.

The results of collaboration are impressive. On twelve farms the integration involved afforestation of just over a quarter of the land; a total of more than 5000 hectares out of nearly 17,000. Over the same period cattle numbers went up from 412 to 819 (+116%) and weaned lambs went up from 8678 to 11,321 (+30%). The number of lambs sold went up by even more because fewer ewe flock replacements were required. Employment went up from 37 before integration (35½ in farming and 1½ full-time in forestry) to 60 afterwards (32 in farming and 28 in forestry). Few of the afforested areas are yet producing timber but they should

give a sustained annual yield of about 55,000 cubic metres, representing a sustained gross income of something in excess of £500,000 at 1979 values, even as standing timber.

The last case study records the experience of a forest worker's holding, a highly productive small farm run by a full-time employee of the Forestry Commission, showing the possibility of intensive farm management combined with forestry work.

Many of the difficulties and the deterrents to integration of farming and forestry are illustrated as well as the advantages of shelter, plantation grazing, the provision of access roads and forestry fences.

The authors suggest that although a sale of land for afforestation may allow useful interaction between forestry and farming, by providing the financial liquidity for new farm investment, it seldom promotes real integration. Useful integration of farm and forest does not simply happen and is difficult to achieve between separate ownerships. Integration requires a clear definition of objectives and the commitment of resources to attain them. It has to be positively managed.

The project has been very much a record of co-operation. It was financed by the Forestry Commission, carried out by the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the University of Edinburgh and published by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture.

Dr Mutch is a senior lecturer in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, with special responsibilities for resource economics and land use studies. He is a graduate in forestry.

Mr Hutchison is an Edinburgh University graduate in Agricultural Economics. He has written on the economics of malting barley and has interest and experience in intermediate technology in agriculture. He is now farming in Perthshire.

BBC MAN EXAMINES LAND USE POLICY

THE relationship between farming and forestry was also the subject of comment in BBC Scotland's Farming News programme. Reporter Ian Morrison gave his personal view on the use of our hill and upland resources.

"For as long as I can remember, forestry has been bedevilled by politics of the small 'p' variety going back to the earliest days of the tree versus sheep controversy, with periodic sniping from vested interests on both sides of the hill fence.

"In the latest skirmish, Professor John Bowman, of Reading University, claims that a lot of the land carrying sheep would be better turned over to timber, which we're more in need of anyway. This has brought the retort from a Border hill farmer that he, for one, doesn't fancy eating wood chip steaks or fir cone gammon.

"All good knock about stuff but I'm afraid that if we're ever to succeed in getting a balanced land use policy in this country, it would be better to start with some balanced thinking on the subject and it seems to be that the Bowman view has the edge in that respect. If we accept that there's a desperate need to reduce the massive import bills for both food and wood, then surely the logical answer must be to develop an integrated approach to our hill and upland resources in order to achieve the maximum returns.

"As Professor Bowman argues,

just because hill farmers have earned their living from sheep for generations past, that doesn't mean that they can automatically expect to continue with that tradition regardless of changing economic circumstances. After all, we need look no further than Scandinavia or Bavaria to find very successful examples of integrated farming, forestry and tourist activities benefiting remote rural communities, whose standards of life, from what I've seen, is generally higher than in comparable areas of Scotland.

"All that Professor Bowman advocates is the adoption of a similar approach in this country by actively encouraging hill farmers to diversify. Furthermore, he points out that a modest 1% improvement in hill sheep productivity would allow another 2 million hectares of land to be planted with trees without reducing lamb output.

"This doesn't seem to me to be an attack on hill farming. On the contrary, it could prove the salvation of a sector of our agriculture which badly needs new horizons if it's ever to do more than simply survive through the begging bowl."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

asks
Arnold Grayson

Anagrams of people's names have a certain fascination. The New Statesman's competition page has played host to the game from time to time and an issue of the "Staggers" 5 years ago produced a particularly fine crop.

Among the best, I recall "Dr Rump-Toucher" (Rupert Murdoch), "I charm all, old man" (Harold Macmillan) and "I love drag" (Gore Vidal). Of course one can use other names such as those of trees (How about, A super stick — Sitka Spruce, or Shake in log — English Oak?), but while ingenious anagrammatists can no doubt do much better, the fun lies in playing with names of people. If one can make a name from a name, so much the better, for example, Job Thor (J. R. Booth).

The nice thing about making up such anagrams is that you can do it any time, anywhere. The fruits of odd moments in

dull meetings, waits in airport lounges and the like are presented here in the hope that others will enjoy sharing the delights of an apposite, or — for that matter — an inapposite, or just odd, twist of a name.

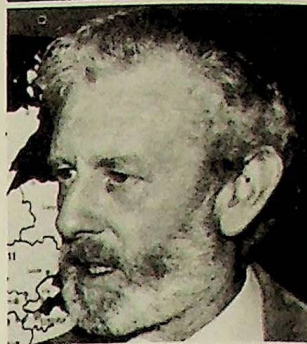
Names with such letters as Js and a lack of vowels, as any Scrabble player will know, do not suit, others work well but the results are troubling if not positively libellous. For example, Raze thyme — Zehetmayr, Worn or bland? — Ronald Brown, O, lordly tar! — Lord Taylor, So I warm loin — Moira Wilson. Then there are great reaches in which anagrams come readily to mind but the answers, though moderately interesting, mystify rather than enlighten. Some

examples of Commission people's names beginning with S illustrate the problem: Dad's alive — David Seal, Stop match — M. Shapcott, Two regrets' rage — George Stewart.

Slightly more pleasing are the following offerings but improvements and jobs on other names are, as they say, solicited. No marks for working on the writer's name and making him so angry.

Peer tackler — Peter Clarke, Berated porn — Peter Daborn, Jock is on hand — John A. Dickson, Flange ride — E. Granfield, Some logger, he — George Holmes, Pinch a kimono — Monica Hopkin, Hurry, true man — Murray Hunter, Jack in home — John Mackie, Sell off area, mind — Earl of Mansfield, Halt slide, man — Dallas Mithen, Try some moving diad — Sir David Montgomery, Any net undies? Andy Neustein, Won like this — Keith Wilson.

CONGRATULATIONS . . .



Forest worker Keith Clifford has regularly been arriving a little late for work at the Northern Research Station and his bosses have been turning a blind eye. Not that Keith has been enjoying long lies or lengthy breakfasts, he has been busy watching early morning television as part of his studies for an Open University degree.

Now his hard work has paid off and at the beginning of 1981 Keith graduated Bachelor of Arts. Although he claims to be "not organised at all," Keith's dedication took him through courses in the Earth's Physical Resources, Genetics, Ecology, Comparative Physiology and the Environment, Social Science, Fundamentals of Human Geography, and Historical Data and the Social Sciences.

A past chairman of the Lothians Branch of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Keith chose these subjects because of his conservation interests and hopes they will have a useful bearing on his research work at Bush. He has been there for 12 years, coming into forestry after a spell in industry as a supervisor.

. . . ONE MORE TIME

Congratulations to Mr Brian Singleton of Torridge Forest, SW(E) who has won a top prize in the annual National Farm Safety Award competition for agricultural and forestry workers, organised by ROSPA.

Brian was nominated by the NUAAW safety committee, and his work site was visited to see felling, layout of felling site and safety equipment used. He was also questioned on safe working techniques and guides put out by the Forestry Safety Council.

Following this he was put forward for the National Competition in December as one of the two finalists from Devon.

The finals took place at the NFU office in London when Brian was questioned on safety on the farm and in the forest. He was pipped by only one point for first place by a competitor from the agricultural industry.

Brian was congratulated on being the first forestry worker to reach the finals of the competition, and in addition to a cash prize, he also received a safety helmet and certificate.

. . . AND AGAIN

Two Forestry Commission employees received awards in the new Year Honours List. Chief Forester David Anderson of Huntly Forest was awarded the MBE, and Senior Ranger Edwin George of Wyre Forest received the BEM.

The Forestry Commission's solicitor and legal adviser, Mr G. E. Gammie was awarded the CB, and Miss Jean Balfour, Chairman of the Countryside Commission for Scotland received the CBE.

. . . AND FINALLY

Congratulations to Alan Cooper, Field Survey Drawing Office, HQ, on his success in being awarded the SCOTEC Higher Certificate at A award level in Topographic Studies at the Glasgow College of Building and Printing.



Aberdeen darts team issue a challenge

THE lads of the East Scotland conservancy office darts team think they're "double tops" — and are to confident they are throwing open a challenge to all other offices to test their skill against them at darts or even football.

Last year the likely lads had an excellent season, and were just pipped for promotion to the 1st Division of the Aberdeen Friendly League when they lost their last game. They had a great run in the team competition for First and Second Division teams and won through to be only narrowly defeated in the semi-final.

Of 15 games played to date this season, 12 have been won and 1 drawn. With 6 matches left the team is second in the league and seems well placed for promotion to the First Division.

Shown in the picture from left

to right are: — Back Row: John Smith, Gordon Hendry, Alan Cormack and Keith Gliddon. In front: Alan Duncan, John Walker, Jim Milne and Athol McDonald. Regulars Jeffrey Sharp, Davie Aitken and Jim Chalmers were not available when the photograph was taken.

Border Forest Darts

TOM JOHNSTONE, Chief Forester at Wark Forest, reports that the annual Border Forests Darts Competition was held recently in Stonehaugh Social Club.

Eleven teams competed from most of the Commission units in the area. The overall winners were the "Wark Troublemakers," Edwin Stubbs (capt.), Edward Jeffreys, Tommy Hogg, Geoff Bell and Tony Little. The Chirdon team took second place.

Horses make a comeback

HORSES are making a comeback as logging machines in United States forests, according to the magazine "American Forests."

It says that the US government is taking another look at horse-logging, especially the little harm it does to the environment.

"The animals minimise impact on fragile soils and new growth, get superb gas mileage, and give a man or a woman a distinctively personal connection with the forest," the magazine says.

In the Troy district of northwest Montana the US Forest Service is using horses to remove diseased and dying trees from camp grounds, and perhaps more importantly, it has opted to use horses for selective logging of timber in an area forming the watershed for the town of Troy.

According to the article, horses are being used increasingly for small operation logging in the United States, more particularly where the

terrain is exceptionally fragile or where tree roots are close to the surface.

A US district forester must assess, when an area is scheduled to be logged, how much environmental impact the logging will have, as well as examine the area's scenic potential and the opportunities for recreational use, before deciding what type of equipment will be used.

The dangers of hunting

MONTREAL: Deer hunters in Nova Scotia have been warned by the Forestry Commission to be sure their lavatory paper is coloured. The instruction follows an incident when a hunter concealed himself in the undergrowth to answer the call of nature. Another hunter saw a flash of white lavatory paper, mistook it for the tail of a deer and shot him dead.

Sunday Express

FESTIVE FUN

AT ALICE HOLT



IT has become a tradition for the R & D Division's Christmas celebrations at Alice Holt to start off with a mixed hockey match with a collection taken from spectators in aid of the FC Benevolent fund. This year £6 was raised. Those taking part in the hard fought and frequently hilarious game were: — Standing —

Carolyn Derrick, Sue Haywood, Steve Hankin, Sarah Worman, Corinne Howard, Jo Gardiner, Bill McCavish, John Williams, Andy Peace, Kneeling — Brenda Mayle, Mike Wheeler, Kate Fielding, George Gate, Ron Melville. The match was refereed by Nick Fielding.

AT HEADQUARTERS



Over seventy children of HQ staff attended the annual Christmas party held in the Corstorphine Road canteen. Mums and dads were politely refused entry and the children had a great time in the charge of their "Aunties" for the afternoon — Alison Rae, Kay Beattie, Doreen Ward, Susan MacLeod, Moira Burnside, Elaine McCathie, Cathy MacKay and Madge Buchan.

The girls organised games, a disco with a proper DJ, super party eats — and, of course, Santa dropped in to give everyone a present.

Pay award for forest workers

A NEW pay award for forest workers has been agreed between the Trade Union and Official Sides of the Forestry Commission Industrial and Trade Council.

The basic adult rate will be increased to £64.50 per week as from February 2, 1981. The craftsman's rate is increased to £73.35 per week.

Grades paid at or above the craftsman's rate will receive an additional £6.90 per week except foremen whose rate is increased by £9 to £93.50 per week and £95.50 after one year's satisfactory service.

The price per Standard Minute will be increased by 0.35 pence to 3.77 pence. Forest workers will also receive an additional 2 days annual leave with effect from 1st November.

This cartoon is included in a book "Fun for Funds," and was drawn by Mr H. Harries, a teacher at Penglais School, Aberystwyth, from whom copies of the book may be obtained. Proceeds go to the school funds.



'We'd better be quiet, Emily. I think this is a centre for external exams'

HOUSE SALES — TENANTS MAY GET DISCOUNTS

TENANTS of many houses the Commission considers to be surplus to requirements will now be able to buy them under special discount terms. To qualify, tenants must have occupied Forestry Commission or local authority housing for over three years, and the discount increases with the length of time the tenant has lived in publicly provided accommodation.

Qualifying occupation for 3 years gives a discount of 33 per cent of the vacant possession value increasing by 1 per cent each year to a maximum of 50 per cent after 20 years. Periods which count towards discount may be added together whether or not they were spent in the same dwelling or under the same landlord. FC employees' widows who are tenants will also be entitled to a discount and their husbands' years of tenancy will count towards the discount calculation.

For example:

- A tenant with 10 years of occupation will receive $33 + 7 = 40\%$ discount.
- A widow who has been a tenant for 2 years since her husband's death and he in turn had been tenant for 7 years, would count 9 years towards the discount. Her calculation would be 33 per cent for the first 3 years plus 10% for each of the six following years making a total discount of 39 per cent.
- A tenant who had been 5 years in a Commission house and between 1955 and 1965 tenanted a local authority house, has 15 years of qualifying occupation. Discount would be calculated as $33 + 12 = 45\%$ per cent.

Rents Review

THE rents paid by most Commission tenants are due for re-assessment this year and work on this will be undertaken shortly. Any rent increases which result will normally take place after October.

It is intended that as at the last rent revision in 1978, tenants will have the opportunity to appeal against assessments with which they disagree.

THE FORESTRY BILL

AT the time of this "Slasher" going to press, the Forestry Bill was being debated at the Fourth Sitting of the Standing Committee.

Miss Betty Boothroyd is in the Chair and the Committee members are Mr Esmond Bulmer (Kidderminster), Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire), Mr Donald Coleman (Neath), Viscount Cranbourne (Dorset, South), Mr Harry Ewing (Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth), Mr Russell Fairgrieve (Under-Secretary of State for Scotland), Mr John Home Robertson (Berwick and East Lothian), Mr Geraint Howells (Cardigan), Mr Mark Hughes (Durham), Mr Ian Lang (Galloway), Mr Paul Marland (Gloucestershire, West), Mr Carol Mather (Esher), Mr John Parker (Dagenham), Mr Alex Pollock (Moray and Nairn), Dr Roger Thomas (Carmarthen), Mr Jerry Wiggin (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food) and Mr Delwyn Williams (Montgomery).

There was a lively debate in the House during the Second Reading of the Forestry Bill on

26th January. We quote below, from Hansard, some of the MPs' comments.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland: "The first objective of the Bill is to enable the Forestry Commission to dispose more freely of some of the forestry land placed under its management by Ministers. The second purpose is to allow Ministers, with Treasury approval, to direct the payment of specified sums from the forestry fund to the Consolidated Fund. The third is to provide for the appointment of an additional Forestry Commissioner."

"I should like to make it clear that it is no part of our policy to dismember the Forestry Commission and there is certainly no question of placing it at a commercial disadvantage by creaming off all its best and most productive areas."

"Nor are we engaged in pillaging the Commission in order to line the pockets of the private sector. The Commission will be in full control of the disposals programme, the scale and location of which will be at its discretion."

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Craigton): "We are not discussing an inefficient nationalised industry that should be disposed of to an efficient private enterprise. The Secretary of State has said that it is efficient. In terms of manpower, which is a great obsession of the Secretary of State, it has been reducing manpower while increasing plantation and wood production. If there are inefficiencies in the Forestry Commission I wish to see them eliminated, but there has been no allegation of inefficiency, and the point has been made time and time again that it is an efficient enterprise. Therefore, in our opinion, there is no case for interfering with the activities of the Commission as the Bill will do."

"The Bill means that the Commission will be squeezed in every possible direction. It will have to sell off a large part of its present plantable land. It will not get enough money to make up the stock of plantable land because of the cash limits. Therefore, it will not be able to plant at a level at which it is perfectly capable of planting at the moment and at which it wishes to plant. It will also be

forced, by cash limits and the Bill, to sell off many mature or semi-mature forests to the private enterprise. That is the reality of what the Government are doing."

Mr Ian Lang (Galloway): "It is time for a change. A new dynamic is needed. Although trees grow slowly, time is short. Subject to minor qualifications, I welcome the Bill as part of that change and as introducing a new dynamism. We urgently need to achieve the optimum use of all the land in this country, the best possible management of our woodlands, the most effective deployment of our existing resources, the attraction of new resources into forestry and the continuation, against a background of stability and confidence, of a close partnership between the public and private sectors. I hope that this Bill will bring closer the achievement of those aims."

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles): "The Bill makes no reference to the amount of land that can be sold, nor to the limitation. The Government should have learned by now — the Labour Party is equally guilty — that the uncontrolled sale of land can lead to chaos. The best example of this is the farcical set-up at Portavadie, in the south of Scotland. My party is entirely opposed to this type of mismanagement of land — our greatest asset — and the Bill does nothing to allay the fears that Scottish land can be sold off like bars of tablet at a church guild sale of work."

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: "Let me say a word now about the quantity of sales and the figures that the Forestry Commission has devised. We must be clear that to a large extent these have to be guessed because the commission is testing a new and untried market. The commission has to take account of a number of precautions that I shall describe. It is estimating that sales in the forthcoming year will be about £10 million and about £15 million in the following two years. That must be set in the context that every £10 million of sales represents only about 1 1/4 per cent. of the available assets of the commission."

THE FOREST HERITAGE



ABOVE: Mr Wilfred Barker uses oak from Grizedale Forest to make his traditional Swill baskets. Mr Barker is about to give up this ancient craft and in a taped interview with Jack Wilson he tells of his lifetime spent working with wood in Broughton in Furness.

BELOW: Machinery may have taken over from man in the mass production of tools, but when it comes to the final inspection there is nothing to surpass the eye and hand of the skilled craftsman. This spade has been through ten forging stages and is now being tested for shape and balance.



Forestry is one of the most ancient industries and activities in this country. Like agriculture, its practice has undergone more fundamental change this century than in any since records began in the 11th century.

Apart from small collections in various parts of the country, the heritage of forestry has never been recorded on a national scale. There is no central museum of forestry with examples of the tools of the trade, photographs, written or taped material to record the heritage.

The Forestry Commission has decided to take the initiative in developing a permanent, comprehensive collection of forestry folklore by establishing an independent charitable trust to be known as "The British Forest Heritage Trust". It is proposed to appoint a body of Trustees, reflecting a wide range of forestry activities and heritage interests, to develop and administer the Trust and a heritage centre.

Main centre

Initially it is hoped to locate one main centre in southern England because of the richness of the broadleaved forest tradition, both in management and utilisation. This aspect of the heritage is at the greatest risk of being lost. A very good site has been selected in the West Woods of the ancient forest of Saverne in Wiltshire.

At a later date, it is hoped to establish heritage centres in Scotland and Wales, but for the time being the Commission will encourage the folk museums in these countries to include forest heritage in their work.

In June 1979, Head Forester Jack Wilson, who already had a special interest in forest heritage, was appointed Curator (Designer) of the British Forest Heritage. Since then, Jack has been collecting an archive of original data: written, photographic and taped. He has amassed a collection of over 1000 items of equipment, billhooks, with the 18th century toolmarks still clearly visible, lie

Catalogued

In his office at his Kenilworth home, Jack and his wife Joan, have painstakingly catalogued each tool or piece of equipment. An index system records its description, measurements, maker's name and place of origin.

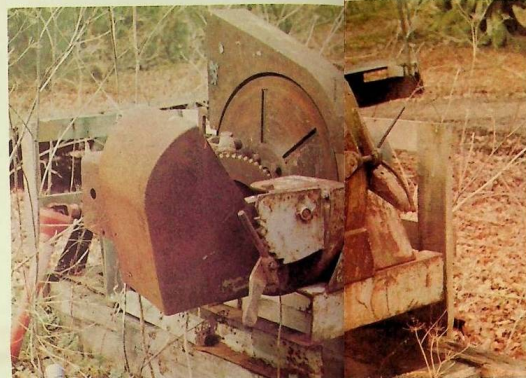
Says Jack: "Up to six tools of each type are collected. One will remain at the Centre, the others being available for loan to anyone wishing to use them for exhibition purposes. Various firms have made spades, forks, mattocks and so on, and we are keen to obtain the same item from different companies to see their subtle variations."

Disposals

"It is unfortunate that many people are under the impression that only chisel and antique tools are required. We do want these, but also need what is being used today, for these are the antiques of tomorrow. Please do not throw away any tools, equipment or machinery interested in them. Send me lots of write-offs and disposals so that I can see if there is anything of interest."

As well as collecting tools, Jack also collects tape recordings (22 tapes to date), photographs, old FC instructions, office equipment and written records. Again Jack pleads, "Please let me know of any pre-computer age forestry records and histories before you dispose of them."

He has taken over 100 slides, all carefully catalogued, to capture the wonder of wood and the skill of those who work with it. He has visited forests,



An early Cundy Debarker at Les Fields in Oxfordshire. Jack Wilson contacted the son of the firm's founder, who has offered to restore to "showroom" condition any other early debarkers Jack finds. Mr Cundy was so enthusiastic about the Forest Heritage that he himself traced the first dead debarker to Chesham where it was still in use by the Severn Trent River Authority, who are now donating it to the Centre.

factories and foundries for his visual library, finding examples of early machinery and capturing on film many dying arts among wood craftsmen.

The tapes have been recorded by timber merchants, tool makers, wood craftsmen, foresters from private estates and retired FC staff. "Many more are needed, especially from those of you who have had to formulate forest policy and implement it. We would like many more tapes from anyone who can sing, play a musical instrument or write poetry about your daily tasks. What about some Gaelic, Welsh or local dialect examples?"

Hobbies

"The Heritage is also interested to have examples of your hobbies — for instance if you photograph wild life, paint,

FORGING AHEAD

ONE of the most interesting finds Jack Wilson uncovered on his travels for the Forest Heritage was this delicate billhook in Malsbary Forest, North Wales.

This is the size of Lloyd's Foundry, Dolchren, which former Lloyd sat up beside the River Vennay at the end of 1830 to smelt iron ore using charcoal. The ore was imported from Sweden to Dolgellau, and carried over the mountains on pack ponies to the forge. The smelted iron ore was then taken to Walsby and shipped to the Black Country to be turned into farm and forestry tools.

This legend during the very early days of the Industrial Revolution — before Walsby. Former Lloyd's two sons both inherited his business expertise, one founder Lloyd's Bank and the other Stewart and Lloyd's, the steelmakers. The large is still in the forest, today, now only used as a wet weather shelter.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you can help provide suitable material for the Forest Heritage or if you would like further information, please contact Jack Wilson at 15 Moorlands Avenue, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Tel. 0826-511061.



ABOVE: Jack Wilson demonstrates the ancient woodcraft of making (cut and clothes pegs using a stock knife.

BELOW: Another traditional forestry practice rarely seen today — the forester is squaring a gate post by hand. The log is marked with a last string dipped in chalk.

Colour photos by Jack Wilson



New uniforms for Foresters and Rangers



Photograph by Douglas Green

RANGER Desmond Dugan of Fearnoch and Richard Barker, a Newington student doing his sandwich year at Inverliver, model the new Ranger and Forester uniforms which FC personnel will be wearing this year. Chief Purchasing Officer Jack Wand chaired two small working parties to select the style and material of the new uniforms. On the Rangers' Committee were Nick Myhill (North West England), Desmond Dugan (West Scotland) and Roger Bell (Industrial Establishments). The FC representatives on the Foresters' Committee were Sandy Powell (South Wales) and Peter Harrison (North Wales), with Ron Elliott from Easthills.

The Rangers' uniform is a Hobson tweed jacket with the choice of plus-two or trousers in matching tweed, or trousers in will. A jacket and pair of trousers will be issued this year and next, thereafter an annual issue of one pair of trousers and a jacket every two years. The outfit is completed by a tweed hat and walking boots. The uniforms, which are free to Rangers, are currently being issued.

The Foresters' uniform is a silver-grey anorak-style jacket in shower-proof gabardine. The jacket is lined in brown check cotton. The dark green trousers have water-resistant nylon outside and cotton inside. The trousers legs are left unfinished to benefit staff with a different leg length than standard, and a £2 allowance will be paid to foresters for finishing. Foresters can also buy, at cost, a thermal waistcoat from the same manufacturer.

The new uniform will be stocked at the Commission's Blaradam store in a range of retail outlets, and their phased introduction will be in April. The Commission pays two thirds of the cost of the new uniform, leaving the Forester to pay a price of £13.80 inclusive of VAT for the jacket and trousers.



● This is the new uniform badge to be worn by Foresters and Rangers produced by Design and Recreation Branch. The insignia is derived from the standard symbol depicting "wooded areas" which is recommended by the Tourist Boards and Countryside Commission in their list of "Symbols for Tourist Guides, Maps and Countryside Recreation". The pre-embroidered disc-type badge is sewn onto garments and gives an impression of both authority and dignity as well as immediately identifying the wearer as an FC staff member.

Around & About

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SOUTH EAST ENGLAND



New Forest 'land girl' Glad retires

THE retirement of Glad Jeffreys was marked by a gathering of friends and colleagues at the "Swan Inn" at Lyndhurst.

Glad was one of the many Land Army girls working in the New Forest during the war. Transferred to the Womans Timber Corps she worked for the Ministry of Supply until moving to the

Commission at the end of the war.

She spent the rest of her service as a skilled crafts-woman working in the forest.

There were four other ex-Land Army girls present at Glad's presentation together with three wartime timber fellers, their total service adding to more than 300 years. The Deputy Surveyor,

Donn Small presented Glad with her Long Service Certificate.

Flowers were presented by Beryl Ettinger dressed in her original Land Army uniform. Presents from fellow workers included a radio, bushman saw and gift tokens were presented by Chief Forester Ron Watkinson.

Photographed above are Glad Jeffreys together with the other ex-Land Army girls, with Donn Small and Ron Watkinson looking on.

BOB RETURNS TO HIS HOME TOWN

BOB HYSLOP joined the Commission from Glentress in 1948 and spent 17 years in Aberdeenshire, at Clashindarroch, Blackhall and Kirkhill. Then, for family reasons, he sought a move south and was to spend the second half of his service in Sussex.

From the hill forests of East Scotland to the clays, sandstones and chalk downs of South East England, with its varied woodland, predominantly broadleaved, must have been quite a challenge, but Bob, as private woodland Head Forester, first in central Sussex and later covering all East Sussex and part of West as well, soon adapted himself to his new life.

Guidance

His careful advice and helpful guidance will be missed by both the Estate Managers and his colleagues in the Uckfield District. The staff gathered at the end of January to wish him well on his retirement, with the support of Tom Coulson from Kent. Tom's flow of oratory was supposed to have had its fount in the Burns night dinner the week before at Bexhill, where Bob had himself presided — and Tom recalled the Immortal Memory.

Bob Hyslop and his wife have now returned to his home town of Forres where they will be close to their daughter, now married and settled in Aberdeen.

ALICE HOLT

GIRL WITH THE GOLDEN VOICE RINGS OFF

ON Friday, 6th February, present and past members of the staff at Alice Holt Lodge assembled to mark the retirement of Jim and Eileen Empson.

They came to the Lodge in 1949, soon after the Research Station opened, and have lived and worked there ever since.

As two of the longest-serving members of the staff they have made a major contribution to the professional and social life of the Station.

Jim, who retires from the Pathology Branch, has been prominent as an excellent all-round sportsman and a leading figure in the Sports and Social Club.

Eileen has been the telephonist for most of the time and will be remembered

throughout the Commission for her golden voice, her kind and helpful efficiency and her ability to recognise a caller before they gave their name. In 1979, Eileen was awarded the BEM.

Mr D. R. Johnson (Director R&D) presented them with a mounted porcelain sculpture depicting a bullock-drawn waggon entitled "Westward Bound" (one of a limited edition), a gift of their choice subscribed to by friends and colleagues from all over the country.

As caretaker, Jim has been responsible for the security and maintenance of Alice Holt Lodge, which has increased in size and staff complement many times over during their period of service, and he will continue in this capacity.



SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

Harold was 'mainstay' for 12 years

MR HAROLD FORD has retired from Brendon Forest after 33 years' service. Harold began his FC career in the nursery at Brendon.

For some years after the war he was driving tractors and then had a spell with Roads branch as a dozer driver.

For the past twelve years he

has been the mainstay of the FM squad and his expertise and quiet unassuming manner will be much missed.

He was presented with a pair of binoculars from his colleagues.

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

CLOCKING OUT

MORE than 40 colleagues attended the gathering to bid farewell on his retirement to Mr A. L. Stowell, Clerical Officer in Forest Management Section of the Chester

Conservancy Office for many years. A presentation of a modern Carriage Clock from colleagues was made by Mr A. A. Rowan, Conservator. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Stowell.

120 YEARS' SERVICE

FOUR forest craftsmen with a total of 120 years' service have retired from North West England forests. They are: — Mr B. E. Brownrigg — Greystoke — 31 years, Mr E. W. Price — Mortimer — 34 years, Mr C. Pottinger — Sherwood — 28 years, Mr W. Arthur — Sherwood — 27 years.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

TWO LEAVE MOFFAT

TWO members of staff at Moffat Forest have recently retired. Ganger Jock Graham (Senior) leaves after 44 years' service all spent at Greskine Forest, now part of Moffat.

His colleagues presented him with a fine carriage clock and some attractive glassware, and Conservator John Davies presented Jock's long service certificate.

It is typical of Jock that he

refused any pomp and ceremony and just wished to leave quietly. A sincere, hardworking and dedicated man, he will be missed by all. He takes with him a great knowledge of the Forest, although luckily he is leaving two sons at work in the harvesting squad.

Alec Mundell worked in Greskine for 24 years, after many years of farm work.

Alec's last day at work should

have been Christmas Eve and his colleagues had bought him a most lifelike original water-colour of a peregrine falcon. Unfortunately, that was the day Alec started a short stay in hospital, but he was soon out and about again and the Conservator paid him a visit to say a formal goodbye. He will be missed, and always remembered as always kind, courteous and cheerful.



NORTH WALES

ILL HEALTH FORCES LEN TO LEAVE

MR LEN EVANS, Superintendent of Works at Newtown N(W) recently retired due to ill health, after a long service with the Commission.

He joined the Forestry Commission in 1940 as a Forest Worker at Dyfi Forest, also in N(W). He was absent for about 5 years serving in the RAMC including a period in the East and he reached the rank of Sergeant. He later transferred to the Roads Branch as a compressor operator/shot firer, and was promoted to Roads Foreman in the early sixties and to Superintendent of Works in 1974.

We all wish Len a long and happy retirement and hope he has the opportunity to enjoy his hobbies of shooting, fishing and gardening.



Len Evans and his wife with their presentation gifts.

TEAROOM PRESENTATION FOR MEURIG



HEAD Forester D. M. Jones has retired from Rheidol Forest having started work with the Commission as a casual worker in 1939 at nearby Myherin Forest. Tribute to his long service was paid by the Forest Staff and District Foresters at a farewell meeting held at the small tearooms in the heart of the Forest. Meurig was presented with a Workmate Bench and cheque from his colleagues throughout the Conservancy.

Photograph shows Mr John Henderson (District Officer) and Meurig Jones.

SWITCHED ON FOR HIS RETIREMENT

FOREST Craftsman Mr T. Evans has retired after 43 years' service at Gwydyr Forest. This includes 5 years in the Royal Signals Regiment during the war, seeing service in North Africa, Italy and Palestine.

The greater part of his employment was spent on Harvesting work. Mr Evans is a tenant of Glyn Lledr smallholding which is his main hobby. He was presented with a lamp and cash by his friends and colleagues at Gwydyr, who all wish him a long and happy retirement.

EAST SCOTLAND

Chief Forester retires at Huntly



CHIEF forester at Huntly, Mr David Anderson, who has worked with the Forestry Commission for 34 years, and his wife Jessie, hold the gifts he

received at his retirement presentation in the Gordon Arms Hotel, Huntly. Behind are conservator Mr Ian Grant, Aberdeen, and his wife, who made the presentation.

MICHAEL'S CASUAL START LED TO 34 YEARS

WE are sorry to report the retirement on medical grounds of Mr Michael Fearon, Forest Craftsman at Tulliallan Nursery, Ochil Forest.

Michael began work as a lad in 1937 in Tulliallan Nursery on a casual basis but, in those "good old days," was paid off when not required. After service in the Army, he was re-employed on a permanent basis in 1947 and had 34 years continuous service since then.

The three Fearon brothers, Michael, John retired and Fred deceased had between them 94 years service in Tulliallan Nursery.

Unfortunately, Mr Grant, Conservator, was unable to present his long service certificate personally as Michael was indisposed on the day the Conservator visited for that purpose. It was, however, presented later by Mr Jim McRorie, Head Forester, Tulliallan Nursery.

'Wee Drams' for Rannoch stalwarts

TWO stalwarts of Rannoch Forest have now retired.

Mr Willie Shorthouse, Senior Ranger 1, has retired after 22 years service with the FC. The Chief Forester has remarked that it would be interesting to know how many Red Deer Willie shot in his time as a Ranger.

Mr Dave Mitchell, Camp Warden of Kilvreech Camp Site, has retired after 16 years service. His popularity has been proved by the amount of correspondence he has had from total strangers who have visited the site.

At a Forest Meeting, both received gifts from their colleagues, the occasion being celebrated with a "wee dram."

Willie and Dave are to remain in Kinloch Rannoch and we wish them well.

LARGE TURNOUT AT NEWTON FOR JOCKY'S FAREWELL

A LARGE number of friends gathered at Newton Forest Office to bid farewell to J. D. "Jocky" Clark, Superintendent of Works for the Civil Engineer Branch, on his retirement.

Jocky first worked at Newton in 1933 in the Nursery and other than war service spent all of his working life in Commission service based at Newton Office.

Conservancy Civil Engineer Roger Hay presented Mr Clark with a cheque on behalf of his colleagues.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

John will stay in his beauty spot

MR JOHN BARTRAM, forest worker at Cropton for 32 years, retired on Christmas Eve.

At a gathering of his colleagues John received gifts of a radio and cigarette lighter and Mr J. A. Spencer, Conservator, thanked him for his loyal

service and presented him with a Long Service Certificate.

John will continue to live in his isolated cottage overlooking beautiful Rosedale in the North York Moors and all his colleagues wish him a long and happy retirement.



SOUTH WALES

FOUR FAREWELLS

George May, Lorry and Tractor Driver at Coed Preseli has retired after 23 years' service. At a party held in the Stanley Arms, Landshipping, he was presented with an electric hedge-cutter.

R. T. Hughes, Forest Craftsman, Tywi retired after 19 years' service and R. Price, Forest Craftsman, Talybont retired after 24 years' service.

D. L. Roberts, Forest Craftsman at Tywi has retired on medical grounds after 19 years' service.

SAVILE ROW

Geoff was last to leave London

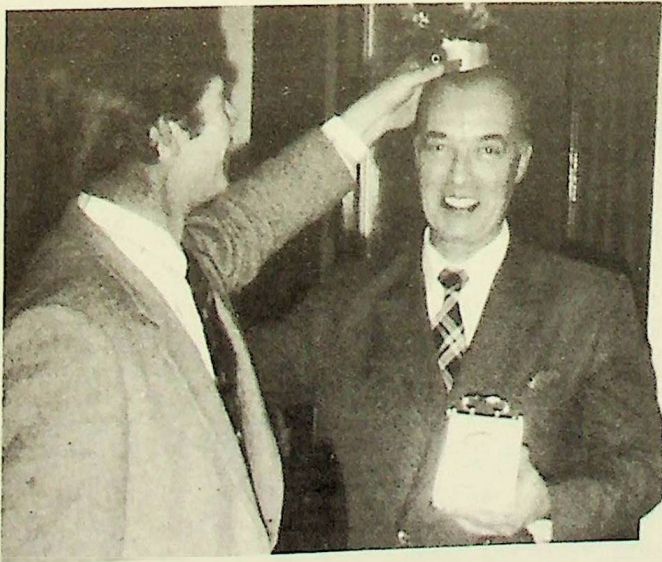
THE LAST member of the London office staff, Geoff Seal of Information Branch, left the Commission on 5 January on transfer to HMSO.

The occasion of the Alice Holt Christmas dinner and allied celebrations afforded the opportunity for Jack Applegate, A & FO, to present Geoff with a farewell gift of a carriage clock contributed to by colleagues in Information Branch and throughout the Commission.

Geoff was a tower of strength over very many years in Savile Row. Before the move of HQ to Edinburgh he was active in representing his colleagues and meeting their every need through the Social Club shop he ran so enthusiastically.

In the heart of the West End you could buy flower pots and fertiliser and a host of other necessities.

Geoff thoroughly enjoyed himself in the company of so



many friends, including members of the Show Unit who took him off after the Alice Holt "cabaret" and disco for an evening he will long remember. "Slasher" readers may like to know the whereabouts of two

other London stalwarts.

Miss Betty Landimore now works as an HEO in the Lord Chamberlain's office and CO Mrs Hildegard Sanderson has transferred to the Department of Education and Science.

focus

WILF STEAMS AHEAD WITH HIS HOBBY...

BULLDOZER driver, Wilf Smith grew up next to a contractors yard where mighty traction engines were used daily.

And it has given him a life-long love of steam power.

Wilf became so interested that he began building his own beautiful scale models 30 years ago.

He said "I'm not an engineer but I've always had a flair for mechanical things.

"So I decided to have a go at making my own traction engine.

"I work using measurements from drawings and the real thing.

"The first one I built was finished in 1953 and took about two years to complete in my spare time.

"It is called The Pride of Portsmouth although the nickname is Old Faithful."

Handmade

Wilf, who works for the Commission all over the South of England, is very proud of the fact that they are handmade.

He said: "The second engine I made was the Queen of the Road, known as Her Majesty.

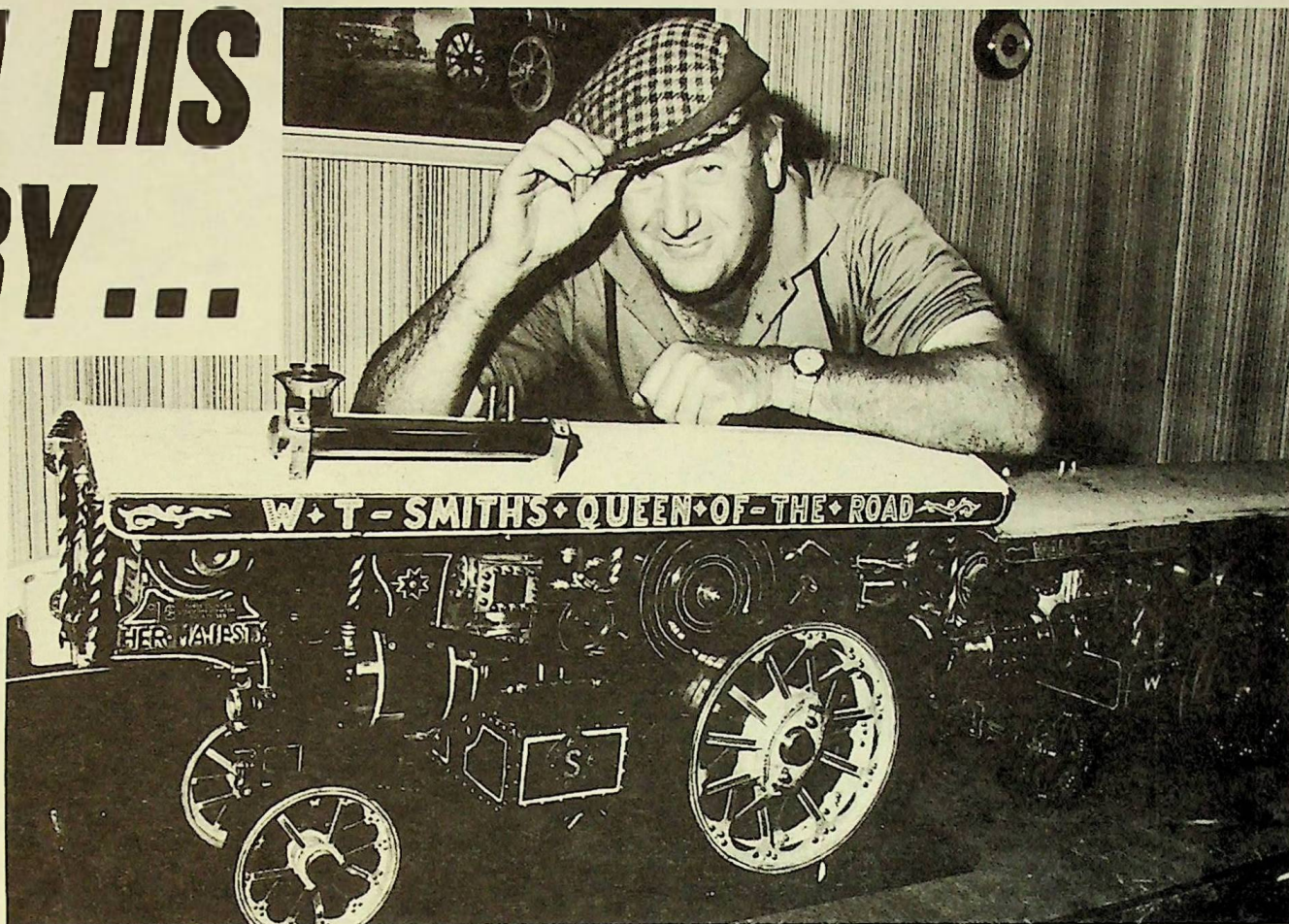
"I built that on the kitchen table with hand tools and no lathe.

"All the turning was done using a hand brace. I suppose she took about three years to build."

The model has been a popular exhibit at local fetes and at steam rallies.

These showman's engines were originally used to drive fairground equipment and the dynamo was capable of producing 300 amps.

Wilf and his wife Joyce, of



Holt Pound are both keen members of the Three Counties Steam Preservation Society, which meets every month.

At present Wilf is working on another model.

He said: "It used to belong to a friend who had to give up due to ill-health.

"I bought the engine and am in the process of completing it.

"I must admit that he did most of the donkey work and even installed an engine to drive it which is coal fired.

"I've still a fair way to go but the one thing you must have with a hobby like this is patience!"

Wilf is hoping to hold what he calls "A Holt Pound, Puff In" some time this year.

He said: "A few friends will bring down their own model traction engines, some of which can carry people, and we will drive them around the garden."

NEW MEN AT THE TOP

THE new president of Timber Growers England and Wales for 1981 is Mr Roger Parker-Jervis, succeeding Mr Michael Harley who held the office for the past three years.

As Agent and Trustee of the Hampden Settlement in Buckinghamshire Mr Parker-Jervis is responsible for 1700 acres of traditional Beechwood and has been Chairman of the TGO Regional Committee since 1971.

The new vice-president of TGEW is Mr Charles Woosnam who as an owner and agent manages 4000 acres of woodland in South Wales.

MR ADRIAN PHILLIPS, 41, is to become Director of the Countryside Commission with effect from June 1.

Appointed with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Environment, he succeeds Mr Reg Hookway who retired recently.

Mr Phillips is currently working in Switzerland as a Director of the Programme Division of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Since 1978 he has been working on a wide range of international conservation issues including preparation of the World Conservation Strategy.

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East: Douglas Furneaux
West: Archie Cameron
South: Ben Struthers

RESEARCH:

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NRS: Fred McLauchlan

STAFF SIDE (Based in Headquarters):

Mrs Jean Thompson

OBITUARY

Mr Archie Bowes

Mr Archie Bowes, formerly Foreman at Kershope for some years and an employee as a Forest Worker from 1931 died on 22 January 1981, aged 81.

Mr Michael Brown

WE are sorry to hear of the death of Michael Brown, former Ecologist at Alice Holt, who retired in 1972. He came to the Commission in 1948, from Oxford, where he had been an Assistant Entomologist and worked both on the relations between a single tree species and its environment and on general ecological problems, having a strong interest in soils and climate.

He was probably the best stylist to work at Alice Holt, his most trivial letter being a joy to read, and his more substantial works remind one that accurate scientific English can be beautiful as well.

He was both eccentric and absent-minded. He preferred to camp out in the forest rather than stay in an hotel, and even in hotels he preferred to brew up in his room rather than eat hotel meals. In his early years at Alice Holt the sight of him reading The Times as he cycled to work was a famous local spectacle.

Mr Will Davies

IT is with regret that we report the death of Mr Will Davies, former Ganger at Pembrey. Will had retired on medical grounds in 1973 after 38 years with the Commission. He started work at Brechfa in 1935 and 10 years later transferred to Pembrey.

A large gathering of former colleagues and friends attended the funeral at Pembrey Church.

Will leaves a widow and two daughters to whom our sympathy is extended.

Mr Gwynfryn John Jones

IT is with regret that we report the death at the age of 48, of Gwynfryn John Jones, Forest Craftsman at Rhondda Forest.

Gwyn, an ex-miner at the Glen Rhondda Colliery, Blaenycwm, joined the Commission at Rhondda in 1964. He was one of the longest serving members of the forest staff, had been involved in the planting of most of the forest's 3500 hectares of young plantations and had lately as shepherd been engaged in protecting these plantations.

The funeral at Treorchy Cemetery was attended by a large gathering of friends and colleagues from a wide area. Gwyn leaves a widow and three daughters to whom our sympathy is extended.

Mr David B. Pittendrigh

WE are sorry to report the death in retirement of Mr David Pittendrigh, former Workshop Superintendent, East Scotland.

Dave had not been enjoying the best of health. He is survived by his wife Peg, and daughter Kay who is in Zimbabwe.

Mr Bill Young

AFTER a long period of slowly deteriorating health, Bill Young, Chief Forester in charge for nearly 20 years of the Pathology Advisory Service at Alice Holt Lodge, has died.

Bill joined Pathology Branch in 1955, and his flair for solving puzzles led him to wrestle with several of the more intractable problems of European tree pathology.

He made major contributions to our understanding of Bacterial canker of poplar, top dying of Norway spruce, larch canker and dieback and other important diseases.

His expertise and personality will long be missed; his colleagues extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Audrey, and his children, John and Thelma.

THE following poem was received from Mr John Dye, CEA, East Scotland.

I'm drawing trees on a map one day,
When the CCE says with dismay;
"No need to use those fingers nimble!
The Commission has a standard symbol."

To find such symbols was the task,
Letraset? HQ? I ask;
"Conservancy Office" came the reply,
"If they don't have — elsewhere they'll try."

In just one week the sheet arrived,
"An overgrown thicket" I surmised;
"How can I stake my reputation,
On such a mass of vegetation?"

Those trees raised such a laugh and smile,
They're hidden now deep in some file;
Space on my plan they won't be winning,
'Cause even I know they need thinning!

Which prompted this reply from Oliver Lucas, on behalf of Design and Recreation Branch.

We're very sorry Mr Dye,
Your plan so nearly went awry;
It really made us want to groan.
To hear you did not like our 'tone.'

Use of these trees (which so offended),
On maps and plans is not intended;
They really are much more effective,
In elevation or perspective.

On large scale plans avoid the cramps,
By adding trees with rubber stamps;
At smaller scale a better bet,
Would be our old friend Letraset.

Pattern LT one-three-nine,
Will show your broadleaved trees just fine;
For conifers we shouldn't shun,
Sheet number LT nine-four-one.

If we can help please write or phone,
We'd love to hear another poem;
And though the last two lines don't rhyme,
You can't win every single time.