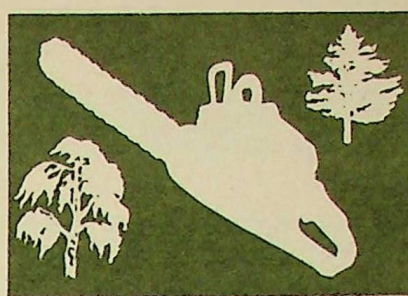


SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 310

WINTER/SPRING 1982

THE JOKER PRINCE



The Prince of jokers meets Commission comedian Jim MacDonald.

PRINCE CHARLES had less than a mile to travel from his Highgrove home when he paid a Royal Visit to Westonbirt Arboretum on 5th March. The Prince was visiting his Commission neighbours to plant two trees to commemorate his Royal Wedding and the Diamond Jubilee of the Commonwealth Forestry Association.

The Prince had guests roaring with laughter as he swapped jokes with superintendent forester Mr Jim MacDonald. As he planted a specimen of Oregon ash to the collection established to celebrate the Royal Wedding, Prince Charles asked 6 ft. 6 in. tall Mr MacDonald, "Do you want me to fill the entire hole in?"

Mr MacDonald grabbed another spade and replied, "If you don't then I've got to do it." Then together they completed the planting.

When Mr MacDonald told the Prince that the hole was being filled with peat and spent hops used in making Guinness, Prince Charles

quipped, "I hope the tree grows straight at the end of it."

The Prince was welcomed to the Arboretum by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Colonel Martin Gibbs, and Commission chairman Sir David Montgomery. He was then introduced to Director General George Holmes, Director of Research David Johnston, and Westonbirt Chief Forester Les Pearce.

After the ash planting, the Prince moved to a clearing in the arboretum to plant a red maple to commemorate the CFA diamond jubilee.

The Royal Visit ended with a tour of the Arboretum and the Prince took tea with the staff and all guests in the Visitor Centre.

On the steps of the Centre, Prince Charles was presented with a wood carving of a fish by nine-years-old Sally Snell, daughter of Westonbirt research worker Sue Snell. The magnificent piece was carved by head forester Colin King from Entomology Branch, Alice Holt.



Prince Charles plants the specimen of red maple. Photographs by Douglas Green.

Government answers Research Report

NO CHIEF SCIENTIST

THE GOVERNMENT has responded to Lord Sherfield's Report on Scientific Aspects of Forestry. Details of the response to the Select Committee's recommendations were revealed by Lord Mansfield, Minister of State, Scottish Office, in a written reply in the House of Lords on 4th February.

The Government broadly accept the findings of the Select Committee in relation to forestry research. They agree with the committee that research to support the forestry industry requires a more coherent approach than the present system which has fundamental research mainly being carried out by the National Environment Research Council, with the Forestry Commission concentrating almost entirely on applied research.

Co-ordination Committee

They also agree that the solution lies in the Commission assuming responsibility for co-ordinating the broad strategy of forestry research in Britain. This will be pursued through the establishment of a Forestry Research Co-ordination Committee to act as a forum to identify research requirements and opportunities and to encourage the co-ordination of research programmes in forestry.

The Committee will be under the Chairmanship of Mr Dallas Mithen, Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing, and will comprise Mr Arnold Grayson, Director of Research and a senior representative from the NERC, the Agricultural Research Council, the Commission's Research Advisory Committee, the Department of the Environment, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Agriculture Department.

The other main points of the Government's response are:

- In the present period of economic stringency, no additional funds can be provided for the Commission's research budget. Against this background the appointment of a Chief Scientist to co-ordinate and commission research cannot at present be justified. The co-ordination role will be fulfilled by the new committee.

Formal

- To provide for the Commission's wider role in forestry research, the Government conclude that we should establish more formal links with the NERC.

- The Government has decided against the recommendation that applied research into the end uses of wood and forest products should become the responsibility of the Commission. This research will continue at the Building Research Establishment's Laboratory at Princes Risborough.

- The Government agrees on the need for a long-term policy for broadleaved woodlands throughout Britain, but points out that the relatively high cost of preserving the traditional structure of certain types of hard wood trees is already recognised

by the higher rate of planting grant they attract.

- The response endorses the Select Committee's views on the importance of advance forest planning and landscaping and notes the Commission's increased attention to harmonising the design of forest planting with the environment. It also notes our collaboration with the NERC Institute of Hydrology into the interaction of forestry and water resources and with the NERC Institute of Terrestrial Ecology on research into changes in soil fertility, and the influence of afforestation on other environmental matters.

Diversified

- Lord Sherfield's committee recommended that forests should be diversified as soon as possible both in age and composition. This is accepted in part. The Government agrees that age diversity may be beneficial from the point of view of windthrow, insect damage and disease, and landscape improvement, but points out there is lack of evidence that crops of mixed species are inherently less liable to disease than pure crops. The Government notes the Commission's recognition that some reduction in its reliance on a relatively

WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

THE farewell party for Mr John Zehetmayr was arranged for Friday, 8th January — when Wales was locked in the severest blizzards of the winter. Director General George Holmes and Mrs Holmes had arrived on Thursday night, staying with Mr and Mrs Zehetmayr at Penarth.

The blizzards continued, the party had to be postponed, and Mr and Mrs Holmes were stranded.

Only by trudging the five miles from Penarth to Cardiff through knee deep snow, towing their luggage on a sledge, were they able to get a train back on Tuesday to Edinburgh.

Mr John Kennedy, Commissioner for Forest and Estate Management, and Mrs Kennedy had also arrived on the Thursday, by car. They also had to stay until Tuesday — leaving their car in Cardiff for a further two weeks.

The party was finally arranged for February 12. See "Around and About" for all the details.

small range of species would be prudent.

- On the subject of integrated land use, the Government considers the best way forward lies in close collaboration between the Commission and organisations already working in this field. They believe the new Forestry Research Co-ordination Committee will be a suitable vehicle for dealing with the co-ordination of research into aspects of integrated land use.

The Select Committee have published the Government's response in order that it will be more widely available. They will invite observations from those who contributed to the enquiry, and after deliberation they may take further oral evidence if necessary.

We're still adding . . .

THE Commission is still acquiring land, particularly in the Scottish conservancies.

From the beginning of the financial year to the end of December, an additional 414 hectares had been bought in Scotland, with 369 in England and 223 in Wales.

And since the beginning of this year, all four Scottish conservancies have acquired additional land. In January, 649 hectares were added in Scotland, a figure which was more than doubled the following month with the acquisition of a further 1329 hectares.

. . . and subtracting

THE COMMISSION has sold the Lochar Moss Plantations, near Dumfries, South Scotland for more than £2 million. The plantations amount to 2700 acres of Solway Forest and comprise four to 19-year-old Lodgepole pine.

The purchaser is Mr John Nixon, a landowner and farmer from King's Lynn in Norfolk, who is chairman of a company with peat interests in both the UK and on the continent. It is planned to develop the substantial deposits of peat which are the main feature of Lochar Moss. Mr Nixon looks forward to an established local enterprise with good prospects for employment.

This sale brings to five the total lots sold to date under the 1981 Forestry Act, a total of 5285 hectares. A further five lots are currently on the market.

REV. J. E. HAMILTON

AS we go to press, we are sorry to hear of the death, in Edinburgh, of Rev. John E. Hamilton at the age of 101. Mr Hamilton was a Forestry Commissioner from 1948-53.

Axeman's Log

PRACTICAL BASIS FOR NEW COURSES

THE SCOTEC courses in Forestry, which have now come into operation, are designed to provide a complete range of forestry education below degree level. The courses were devised to meet industrial objectives which had been agreed beforehand with representatives of both industry and education.

The courses have been constructed so that it is possible for them to be completed by either full-time or part-time study, and considerable effort has gone into ensuring that there is a sound practical basis throughout. Students who complete the course and are awarded the Diploma should have a sound knowledge of forestry in its many aspects and also a good grounding in management, both of finance and of personnel, as well as the broader aspects of managing an enterprise in a rural environment.

Basic skills

All students undertaking the scheme must take the Certificate (Part 1) course which is highly practical and is concerned with the basic skills of the forest worker.

The student who wishes to take the Certificate (Part 2) must have passed Certificate (Part 1) or an equivalent qualification and must also have had at least two years practical experience in the forest industry. The subjects of Certificate (Part 2) are Harvesting and Marketing, Silviculture and Related Studies. This would be the normal finishing point for the forest craftsman.

Certificate (Part 3) is concerned with the work of the supervisor or foreman and includes Labour Management in Forestry and Related Studies as

compulsory subjects, with a choice of specialist subjects from Arboriculture and Plant Production, Forest Operations, Planning and Control, and Sawmilling and Wood-Using Industries.

Sandwich

The student who wishes to go on to complete the Diploma must take all of these subjects and also have a 6-month industrial sandwich period before progressing further.

The subjects of the Diploma stage are:

Business Management (Finance and Planning)
Business Management (Personnel)
Rural Land Management.

Entry to the two-year Full-time Diploma course normally requires 4 'O' grade passes — including one in each of the areas of numeracy, literacy and science, a pass in Certificate (Part 1) and a minimum of 2 years relevant industrial experience in forestry.

The courses are being run at the Forestry Centre of Inverness Technical College, where additional staff, buildings and equipment have been provided to meet the increased number of students and courses. Further details of the courses can be obtained from The Principal, Inverness Technical College, 3 Longman Road, Longman South, Inverness, IV1 1SA.

SHIVER ME TIMBERS!

OVER £2000 worth of spruce from Kernow Forest will play a vital role in the making of the next James Bond movie. The timber is being used by the film company to rebuild a sailing ship owned by the Marques Sailing Society of Wadebridge.

The Sailing Society are no strangers to the silver screen; they own the Barque Marques which starred in the BBC's Voyage of Charles Darwin, the Onedin Line and Poldark.

Kernow has previously supplied material for the masts of the Barque Marques and seems to have become the recognised source of supply for this particular market.

Not to be outdone, the Forest

of Dean has also been supplying timber for nautical purposes. The last surviving West Country trading ketch, the "Irene," is undergoing an extensive refit in Bristol Harbour — in the next berth to the SS "Great Britain." Dean have supplied two Douglas Fir for masts to replace the old mast and mizzen. The two magnificent specimens of 6.65m3 fetched nearly £700, exclusive of VAT; the buyer is doing the peeling at quayside after arranging to have them transported from the forest — no mean feat!

The "Irene" is 85 feet long, plus a bowsprit, and the main mast will be 60 feet tall and 14 inches in diameter, with hardly any taper.



• The photo shows Mr John Zehetmayr helping Lord Gibson-Watt plant the first tree.

Now we're exporting Christmas trees!

THE COMMISSION has gone into a new export business — sending Christmas trees overseas! To be precise, only one has been exported so far, but it went all the way to Singapore.

Mrs Julie Patterson, sister-in-law of Perth DO Dick Jackson was in Scotland on holiday and decided to take a Scots Christmas Tree back with her to Singapore. Mr Patterson approached Chief Forester Jimmy Wilson at Ochil and a tree was duly chosen, dipped and sleeved for its 6000 miles journey.

In a New Year card to the forest office, Mrs Patterson writes: "A belated 'thank you' for the super Scottish Christmas tree — it really was lovely and lasted very well in the tropics — did not shed its

needles and looked very fresh.

"I might add that some trees which had been imported from Europe and Japan were shedding needles before Christmas — it just shows how great the Scottish tree is!"

"The airline people in Edinburgh raised a few eyebrows and I received some funny looks in Singapore but the customs were super — no problems at all. Again many thanks for packing the tree so well and may I wish you all a belated New Year but in advance Gong Xi Facai, Happy Chinese New Year."

MORE INCENTIVES NEEDED SAYS RICS

MORE financial incentives and better technical guidance must be given to both farmers and landowners if the Government's current policy to increase afforestation is to succeed, says The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The need is not simply for generous new incentives, such as further relief from capital taxation, but for a more co-ordinated grant-aid system and clearer guidance for farmers on the benefits of tree-planting in rural areas.

Policies to increase the present two million hectares which are under forest will only succeed, says the Institution, if upland farmers in particular can be convinced of these benefits and if landowners can be encouraged to consider wildlife and landscape conservation.

The Institution has recently published a discussion paper on "Forestry and Land Use" which profiles the steps to integration between farming and forestry. It strongly believes that integration is the best solution to the problem, with farmers benefiting from the diversification of income and greater rural employment opportunities.

New plantings would offer practical benefits to farmers: the provision of shelter for livestock, the use of woodland fencing to control grazing, the improvement of farm access through new forest roads and the availability of forest thinnings for fencing.

The Institution suggests that if advantage is taken of these benefits and appropriate levels of grant aid made available, the partial afforestation of farms need not lead to a loss in agricul-

tural production and could lead to an increase.

The first essential step, the Institution suggests, is for the Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to co-ordinate the present systems for dispensing grant aid to landowners and farmers and to introduce grants covering projects such as the construction of forest access roads. An effective way of doing this would be to extend the scope of the Agriculture and Horticulture Schemes to include forestry.

A balance must nevertheless be struck between claims for afforestation and wildlife conservation. There should be a wider dissemination of professional advice to landowners on the principles of conservation and more research on the effects of afforestation on water reserves and on the long-term effect on wildlife of fertilisers used in forestry.

The solution, the Institution suggests, lies in clearer technical guidance to both farmers and landowners and in more integrated agriculture and forestry courses in colleges.

The improvement in the quality of planting in recent years provides evidence that the present system of planning and development control is working reasonably well. The Institution believes that nothing would be gained by the adoption of further statutory controls.

ROYAL OAKS

THE marriage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales was commemorated by the Commission in Wales by the planting of a grove of 40 Oak in the Afan Argoed Country Park in Margam Forest, near Port Talbot.

The Rt Hon Lord Gibson-Watt MC DL, Forestry Commissioner and Chairman of the National Committee for Wales planted the first tree. The others were planted by a party of schoolchildren from Cymer Afan Comprehensive School and guests.

It was fitting that the Royal Wedding tree planting scheme should be in Margam Forest in the heart of Coed Morgannwg — the largest forest in Wales so formed by the merger of 7 forests of the western valleys of Glamorgan to commemorate the Queen's Coronation and where also the Commission's major contribution to Her Majesty's jubilee celebrations in South Wales, the exciting 27 miles long distance walk the Coed Morgannwg Way was established.

Forest Workers Pay

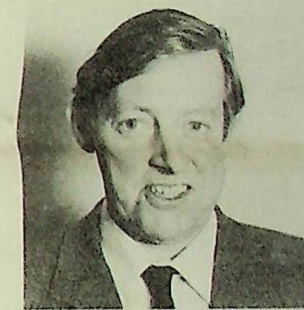
AS this edition of Slasher goes to press, negotiations are continuing with a view to reaching a settlement on pay increases for forest worker grades. An offer

of 4% in line with Government policy for pay increases in the public sector has been rejected by the Trade Unions on behalf of their members.

New Landscape Consultant

MR GORDON PATTERSON, Dip LA, ALI, has been appointed Landscape Consultant to the Forestry Commission in succession to Mr Clifford Tandy.

Mr Patterson (53), a graduate of Reading University, is a senior associate member of the Landscape Institute and has his practice in Aston, Herts.



From 1961 to 1980 he was landscape consultant to the Development Corporation of Stevenage New Town. He has also been consultant to the University of Reading, and his other landscape work has included Radcliffe Power Station in Nottinghamshire and a number of hospital projects. His consultancy, Gordon Patterson and Partners, has recently won three landscape competitions.

Says Mr Patterson, "I am looking forward immensely to this enormous challenge. At Stevenage I had 4000 acres, and although I am now moving up to a 3 million acre canvas, I will continue, when offering advice, to pay attention to the smallest detail of woodland design. I have always been interested in the countryside and I am very keen to promote and implement the Forestry Commission's landscape policy."

LITERARY FAME

IT may not achieve a Foyles introductory luncheon or be a Book Club choice of the month, but Chief Forester Gerry Haggatt at Thetford, also known to many colleagues from his Alice Holt days, has gained literary and scientific success with the publication of his book "Larvae of the British Lepidoptera not figured by Buckler."

This hardbook is the rearrangement and reprinting in one volume, with minor revisions, of the eleven papers written by Gerry since 1955 and published in the Proceedings of the British Entomological and Natural History Society.

The book runs to 150 pages with 35 coloured plates and is a tome of information to the specialist and will be found essential by any serious student of British moths. As the publishers quote, "G. M. Haggatt, FRES, is one of the foremost rearers of British Lepidoptera and one of the very few artists applying himself to the study of larvae."

That Gerry's interest has been a family one of long standing is revealed in the text where he gave gratitude to his mother who won admiration from many colleagues for the skill and patience she deployed in rearing species from egg to maturity over many years.

For the information of the less discerning Slasher reader, Ray Buckler published between 1885 and 1899 definitive work on the larvae of British Lepidoptera.

Gerry has now described and illustrated many of the larval species not known at that period. His extensive and rare collection of lepidoptera was causing some domestic storage problems at home (and ate into his transfer grants!) but this has now been resolved with the British Museum accepting responsibility for their care.

Welfare Officer

BRIAN Atwell is the Commission's new Welfare Officer, taking over from Joe Russell, who has retired. Brian joins Headquarter staff from the West Scotland Conservancy office. His FC career began in 1958 as a CO in London, and he has also worked in Edinburgh and Dumfries.

Joe Russell has been Welfare Officer for the past 5 years, during which time no problem was too small for his ever atten-



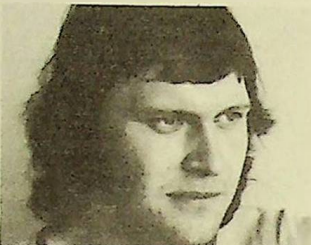
tive and helpful ear. Although formally retired, Joe is continuing to work with the Commission in Forest management division.

DONALD TAKES UP FOREST RESIDENCY

IN conjunction with Northern Arts a photographer has been given a one year "Residency" in Byrness Village, North East, England. Similar to that given to Murray Johnstone in Kielder Village last year, this year's resident will be Donald Jackson from Derbyshire.

The "residency" allows Donald to develop his skills as a photographer and above all means that his help and expertise is readily available, night and day to the whole village.

After spending three years at the Trent Polytechnic and Derby College of Art, Donald has since received two awards, presented three one-man and four group exhibitions and has produced two publications. His outlook on photography is essentially practical: "I want people to look at my work and try to share the pleasure I felt when I pressed the button. Photography can be good, hard work and a lot of fun too!"



Throughout his stay Donald is keen to share his love of photography and will be delighted to help anyone with general or technical questions on all aspects of photography. He wants to mount a series of displays, form a workshop and run evening classes for anyone interested.

Alan's 'Hole in One' Upmanship — Almost!

A New Zealander studying the relationship between wind turbulence and thinning forests at Northern Research Station was half of a unique, across the world, "hole in one" golf double in November.

Alan Papesch was playing at Newbattle when he saw his drive go down the hole at the 177 yards third. Delighted with this success, Alan couldn't wait to tell his golfing buddy Jack Macer in New Zealand. Being a radio ham, he passed on the "hole in one-upmanship" news to

his friend Red in the USA, to relay in turn to New Zealand.

Alan hardly had time to retract his antenna when Red called back to say that, allowing for time differences, on the same day and at the same time as Allan had achieved his golfing dream, Jack had also been scoring a "hole in one" at the 12th at Weedon Golf Course in Christchurch.

To further deflate his ego, Alan learned that his pal was given a £20 prize from the New Zealand club, whereas he had to fork out for a bottle of whisky for the Newbattle members.



COLOURFUL HISTORY OF BORDER PLACE NAMES

THE borderlands between countries often have a colourful history, with periods of peace and trading, and others of violence, marauding or open warfare. This is well exemplified by the history of the Scottish Border, which is too well documented to repeat here.

Amongst the famous families who ruled the Borders on the Scottish side, were the Scotts, Elliots (variously spelt, but never double "ll" and double "tt"), Robsons, Douglasses, Kerrs (one and two "r"s), Rutherfords and Olivers.

Primaeval

On the English side, the dominant families were the Percies, whose battle with the Douglasses is immortalised in the Ballad of the Chevy Chase, Grahams, Johnstons, Forsters, Fenwicks, Stories, Charltons, Halls and Musgraves.

As the primaeval forest of the Borders was cleared in Roman and post Roman times, place names would have come into common use, often denoting the then current declining forest environment or, as time passed, the new cleared and agricultural environment.

By Richard Toleman,
District Officer,
Border District.

Two new forest names have continued to live on, originating in the old royal hunting forests, but now only represented by scattered remnants. These are Jedforest and Ettrick Forest.

The Capon Tree, just south of Jedburgh, is claimed to be the last living specimen of Jedforest.

Forest environment place names are almost entirely derived from Norse, Danish and Old English roots, as there was very little Gallic or Celtic influence. In Liddesdale names with a forest derivation are: Shaws (woodland), Saughtree (Willow tree), Hazelyside Hill.

Dominant

As a result of forest clearing, bogs, rough open hillside and grassland would have become more dominant, giving such names as: White Knowe, Whitrope (white hope or white sheltered valley, ie Molinia "white" ground), Whithaugh (white probably from Cotton Grass), Blackedge (probably the black of heather) Riddings (cleared woodland, ie field).

In Eskdale names of a similar derivation are: Rowanburn, Langshawburn (long wood burn), Whin Fell (gorse), Broomieknowe, Breckeney Knowe, Brieryshaw.

Holy stone

In Teviotdale and the Ettrick Valley are found: Hassendean (wooded valley of the holy stone), Rowantree Hill, Birkiebrae (Birch slope), Birkendale Hill, Allarsmill (Alders), Harwood (boundary wood), Ettrickshaws, Birkenside, Wooden Hill, Ashiesteel (ashy place), Thorniecleuch, Rashie-



AT the time of the traditional harvest thanksgiving services, Commission staff in the Dolgellau District of North Wales suggested to the local Rector that it might be appropriate in an area where forestry plays such an important role to hold a Forest Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

The Rector, whose parish encompasses the majority of Coed y Brenin, welcomed the idea and suggested the church in Llanfachreth in the heart of the forest as an ideal venue.

After discussions with the Church Wardens, ganger Cyril Jones and forest craftsmen Jack Parker and Arthur Jones, who plays the organ, a short bilingual thanksgiving service was held, attended by Commission employees, their families and friends. The Lessons were read by Head Forester (Recreation) Reg Wheeler and Estate Clerk of Works Les Darbyshire.

In his address, the Rector referred to the forester's dedication to establishing and harvesting a commodity that was essential in a variety of ways to man's future well-being.

The church was decorated with autumn foliage, fruits, timbers and forest tools and after the service the churchgoers retired to the village hall for a splendid tea provided by the forestry wives and the forest clerkesses.

grain (rushy side stream), Rushy Rig, Hardleeflow (peat bog).

Animals

Throughout the Borders, places are named after forest animals: Brockielaw, Brockhill (Badger), Eskdale (snake valley, probably sinuous nature of river, not presence of the reptile), Raeleuch (Roe deer ravine), Todlaw and Todshaw (Fox hill and Fox wood), Hartwoodmyres, Buckstone Moss, Buccleuch, Doecluch, Hindhope, Wolfcleuch and Wolfehopelee, Piet's Nest (Magpie's nest).

A very informative book, now out of print but under revision, is the Forestry Commission's Forest Part Guide "The Border." This gives many references to Border place names and history.

Concern over timber import figures

THE TIMBER GROWERS England and Wales have expressed grave concern over the latest import figures for timber and timber products.

Secretary Tony Richardson explained: "It was appalling in 1979 and 1980 when we spent £2.7 billion each year on importing timber and timber products and could only supply

some 8% of the market from our own resources, but in spite of the recession we are now importing at a rate of £3.3 billion a year. These figures are basic on the last four months of 1981. During the same period in 1980 the rate was down to £2.5 billion a year, so the real increase is of the order of 33%. This is well over the inflation rate and reflects one of the results of the forced closure of many of our pulp and chipboard mills."

"The private sector of forestry is doing its best to support the Government's policy that we should plant more trees. Applications have been made to plant another 18,000 hectares during the last four months."

"An increasing quantity of home grown timber is coming on to the market as a result of the post war planting which made good the deprivations to our woodlands during the war of 1939-45."

"What is, however, totally scandalous is that in spite of the increasing supply of home grown timber, the timber industry in Britain has been contracting."

"We urge the Government to support British Timber industries — sawmills, pulp mills, chipboard mills, furniture industries, mining timber, pallet makers, and others — by providing energy at a reasonable price and other incentives to encourage enterprise and development."

International Conference

DELEGATES from as far afield as Russia and Canada and from several European countries including Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Ireland will be attending the international conference on forestry training at Dumfries, South Scotland, from May 10 to 14.

Hosted by the Commission, it will be held under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Labour Organisation and the EEC, three bodies which combine to foster worldwide co-operation in forestry.

The lectures will be simultaneously translated in French, English and Russian, and there will be visits to local forests and to the Ae Training Centre.

Volunteers wanted to work overseas

REQUESTS for experienced foresters to work in such exotic places as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sudan and Burundi are flooding into the offices of Voluntary Service Overseas. They range from planning and development of wood industries, afforestation, nurseries and site selection, to research into silviculture of fodder trees.

VSO is looking for volunteers with an interest in development to work overseas for a two-year period at the local salary rate. The organisation pays fares and arranges suitable living accommodation.

One of the most important aspects of the volunteer's posting, apart from his expertise and knowledge of forestry, will be in training a local counterpart to ensure continuation of the work.

Further information may be obtained from the Enquiries Unit, Voluntary Service Overseas, 9 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PW.

The Forestry Commission will be prepared to consider releasing a small number of Foresters on special unpaid leave terms for this purpose.

FOREST FISHING HOLIDAYS

FISH for trout under expert guidance, cook your catch in your forest log cabin, and at night swap stories of the day's angling over a drink in the bar. All these are offered in a new Forest Fishing Holiday package from the Forestry Commission.

Tailored to suit everyone from the complete novice to the expert angler, the holiday offers fishing in well stocked Scottish lochs while living in the comfort of fully equipped forest cabins.

The week-long holidays at Lochaweside in Argyll are a joint venture between the Commission and Inverawe Fisheries. The inclusive price covers seven nights self-catering accommodation in the newly opened Lochaweside Forest Cabins, tuition in fly-casting and fly-fishing, two days fishing for rainbow trout, and two days fishing for wild brown trout.

Record

Inverawe Fisheries own three lochs which are stocked with between 500 and 1000 rainbow trout per week during the season. All fishing is from the bank and last year one angler landed a 12 lb. 10 oz. rainbow — believed to be the largest caught in Scotland in 1981. The best day's catch to the one rod was 25 fish weighing 38½ lbs.

Says Mr Robert Campbell-Preston of Inverawe Fisheries: "We'll be stocking our lochs with over 20,000 trout this season, so I can virtually guarantee that every angler will go home with some fine fish. The wild trout of Loch Awe and the hill lochs may prove more difficult to catch, but the different skill required to hook these fickle, wary fish should make for good sport."

Guests can book their Forest Fishing holiday as a family, singly, or in groups of four. Anyone booking on a single

basis will be expected to share cabin accommodation. Sharing will cost from £85 per person, which includes VAT, accommodation, boat, ghillie and fishing charges. The family cost for a cabin sleeping up to six people, and with one person fishing, will be from £171 for the week.

The holidays are available from mid-May to the end of June.

Tuition

Arriving on Saturday, guests have the weekend free and on Monday begin tuition in fly-casting and fly-fishing at Inverawe Fisheries. From Tuesday to Friday, two days will be spent fishing for rainbow trout at the stocked lochs at Inverawe and two days fishing from boats for wild brown and rainbow trout on Loch Awe.

A ghillie will accompany every ten anglers. If preferred, wild brown trout fishing will also be available from boats on Loch Avich or from the banks of the hill lochs, Loch Nant and the Cam Loch.

Inverawe Fisheries will arrange to clean and freeze catches as required until guests return home. Fishers are advised to bring their own fly rod, reel and line but equipment can be hired for £5 plus a returnable deposit. Inexpensive equipment can also be bought for about £20. Flies, casts and accessories are available from the Fisheries Shop.

Full details and charges for the Forest Fishing Holidays can be obtained from Cabins Section at HQ.

ON THE RUN

BECAUSE of ice and snow, the venue for the Chester "Round the City Walls Race" held annually on Boxing Day had to be changed to the Roodey racecourse.

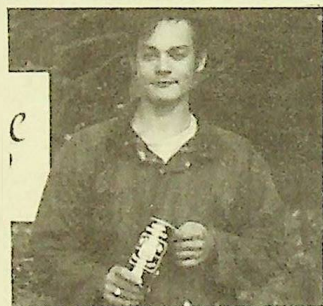
The contestants had to run round the Roodey four times — a total of 5 miles — and the winner of the over-sixties section was Walter (Wally) Simpson — CO in the Conservancy Office.

A keen jogger, Wally is now considering the local "mini-marathon," a run of about 13 miles.

Another member of the staff, Draughtsman Howard Davies, is in serious training. Howard has been accepted for the London Marathon in early May.

We wish both Wally and Howard good luck in their future races.

It's
enough
to drive
a man
to drink



IS OND Student David Kennedy taking to drink? And what is the connection between David, the beer can and the rather mangled pair of feller's boots below? The answer — VOLES!

Ratagan Forest, North Scotland has been hit by a plague of voles. Much of the restocking since 1976 has been severely damaged by the voles.



WE reprint below a letter from Mrs Margaret Kennedy (wife of John Kennedy, Commissioner for Forest and Estate Management) about the new Forest Fare cook book. The invitation is to all serving staff, wives and families to send in your favourite recipes — so please help by putting pen to paper and writing to Mrs Kennedy with your favourite mouth-watering ideas as soon as possible.

c/o Information Branch,
Forestry Commission,
231 Corstorphine Road,
EDINBURGH.
EH12 7AT.

TO ALL HEAD COOKS AND BOTTLE WASHERS

Many of you will remember the very popular Cookery Book which was published to mark the Forestry Commission's Jubilee in 1969. It became a best-seller and had to be reprinted twice.

Although the last copy was sold some years ago, people still ask for it and in view of its popularity it has been decided to produce an entirely new edition. I have agreed to select and edit the recipes for the new book which will be published by Information Branch.

The appeal of earlier editions lay in the nature of the recipes — good wholesome country fare — all firm favourites with Commission families. It is obviously sensible to continue with this successful format and I am writing to ask for contributions from all Commission staff, their husbands or wives, and what about a few from the bachelors among you?

To make the new book as comprehensive as possible I shall be looking for recipes under the usual headings — soups and starters, fish, meat, poultry and game, desserts, snacks and savouries, cakes, scones etc., jams and chutneys and drinks. Nothing is barred but in selecting those to be published I shall give some preference to those recipes which have a countryside or forest "flavour." I shall not include any from the first edition unless they are re-submitted and please feel free to do so.

Please send your contributions to me at the above address as soon as possible. Mark the envelope "Recipes" and make sure that you enclose your name and address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Kennedy

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET KENNEDY (MRS)

DEER SYMPOSIUM

THE British Deer Society and the Forestry Commission together are holding a one-day symposium on 16 June to consider Roe and Red deer in British Forestry.

The venue is the Royal Scot Hotel in Edinburgh and the fee, including lunch and copies of the papers presented, is £15. Anyone wishing to attend in a private capacity may obtain an application form from Forest Management Division, HQ.

POSTBAG

Joan will always be grateful

Dear Editor,
When I was working at the Forestry Commission, Basingstoke, how glad I am that I attended that short meeting taken by the late Mr Charles Ridley, and joined the Post Office and Civil Service Sanatorium Society.

I shall be for ever grateful for the five weeks' treatment I received at Benenden Hospital,

Benenden, Kent. Recently this hospital has been equipped to cover all conditions of surgical and medical care. I do urge all the youngsters to join — details from 63 Catherine Place, London SW13 6HE.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN PASCOE (Miss).

*More Points of View,
Back Page.*

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Mrs Jean Thompson

WHERE HAVE ALL THE ELMS GONE?



WHERE have all the elm trees gone? Well, there are 14 trunks in this stack measuring eight feet high, 13 feet long and seven feet wide. The trees were from Mr William Holt's ten-acre field at Piddington, Oxon., and have been stacked for 3 years. Mr Holt retired from Bernwood in 1977 after fourteen years with the Commission.

Around & About

EAST ENGLAND

John put his heart into new techniques

MR JOHN KEANE, Forest Craftsman at Wymersley Forest retired on 22 January after 24 years' service with the Commission. His former Head Forester, Eric Irons, returned from Amptill Forest to present John, on behalf of his colleagues, with a leather writing case. Eric paid tribute to him both as colleague over the past 10 years, as a competent and fair beat representative and as a personal friend.

Mr Bill Wittering, A&FO, thanked Mr Keane on behalf of the Forestry Commission and the Conservator for all the good work he had done over the past 24 years. In presenting him with a photograph taken 17 years ago during Work Study trials, Bill said that without men like him who were prepared to put their hearts into trying new techniques, forestry operations would be far costlier and far less efficient than they are today.

BRANDON COLLEAGUES GO

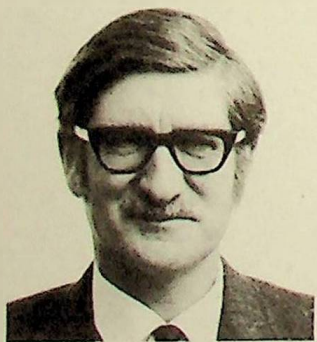
AT a quiet gathering at his home to wish him well in his retirement BILL CROWTHER was presented with a Long Service Certificate by Conservator Mr Rod Hewitt. Representatives of his colleagues at Brandon Depot presented Bill and his wife Una with a Carriage Clock to mark his many years of service at Brandon. Bill had worked as lorry driver and stand-by Crane Driver for 33 years, but unfortunately failing health had finally necessitated early retirement.

Some two weeks later Bill and his wife were able to join Depot staff in saying farewell to TONY PETRYNSKI retiring after 30 years' service in the Thetford area, mostly at Brandon. Tony served with the Polish Army during the war, was demobilised in the Brandon area and decided to settle there and married a local girl. His ready wit will be missed around the Depot. He was presented with a Long Service Certificate by Len Simpson, PFO Thetford and colleagues gave Tony and his wife Edna, who had also recently retired, an electric coffee maker, wishing both of them a long and happy retirement.

ALICE HOLT

Don's definitive work on Pathology

DR DON PHILLIPS, Chief Research Officer (South) has retired. Don joined the Forestry Commission — coming from the Channel Island of Jersey — and was Head of the Pathology Branch at Alice Holt Lodge from 1962 to 1967. In more recent years as Chief Research Officer (South) he spent much time in Brussels, patiently, cogently and successfully arguing the case for reinforcing the laws governing the movement of trees and timber into and within the EEC.



For some years now much of Don's spare time has been devoted to writing a definitive work on British tree pathology and its publication is expected in the not too distant future.

He will be remembered as a quiet, unruffled colleague, an extremely thorough and meticulous worker, always prepared to give his help willingly and cheerfully.

Senior colleagues including the Director General, Mr George Holmes, and the Commissioner for Harvesting and Marketing, Mr Dallas Mithen, attended a dinner in Don's honour at the Grange Hotel, Alton.

At a reception at Alice Holt Lodge, Don was presented with a cheque by Mr David Johnston, Director of Research, with which he intends to purchase original paintings of Jersey.

Farewell to the Flying Scotsman

MANY friends gathered at Alice Holt Lodge to say farewell to Dr Andrew Gordon. Andy, who is going into private forestry with EFG, has been with the Forestry Commission Seed Branch since 1970, latterly as Principal Seed Officer. His work with Forestry Commission and trade nurseries has been extensive. His involvement as Chairman of the Forest Tree Seed Committee within the International Seed Testing Association and his work on seed procurement has enabled him to travel to many parts of the world, and in doing so has enriched the Forestry Commission with many valuable contacts.

A visit to South America by Andy, and the forging of personal contacts there, resulted in the import — by the Forestry Commission — of large quantities of hitherto almost unobtainable *Nothofagus* seed from Chile and Argentina.

Another visit to Poland and Czechoslovakia helped to clarify the confusion concerning the origins of true "Sudetan" European larch.

Andy's research results into seed dormancy, seed pretreatment, nursery irrigation, seed-



TED WON THREE GOLD MEDALS

TED ACOTT has retired after a career spent mainly in the forests of Northamptonshire, his last five years being as a Private Woodland Head Forester, working from Northampton District Office. Ted will be remembered by many Commission staff through his involvement in the development of mechanical weeding techniques, his enthusiasm for organising social events and perhaps most of all for his showmanship which earned One Silver and Three Gold Medals in the four years when he was Head Forester at Hazel-borough Forest for the exhibit at the Royal Show.

Colleagues past and present gathered at The Cobblers Wine Bar in Northampton to give him a lively send off. District Officer Bob Selmes remarked on Ted's unique ability to drop mud all over the District Office carpet no matter how dry the weather and presented him with a boot brush and scraper in case he does any private consultancy work from home.

Ted wore this regalia proudly round his neck for the rest of the evening and it is now strongly rumoured that they are on permanent display (unused) on his hall stand.

Conservator Rod Hewitt thanked Ted for his long service and very great contribution to both Commission and private forestry in the Conservancy, and presented him with two suitably charged crystal decanters, a thornproof jacket, and a genuine hand carved Hazelborough hazel walking stick.



bed grit coverings, and post-sowing seed losses, saved many hundreds of kilos of seed over the years. This applied research and personal contacts in the field successfully bridged a gap between laboratory and nursery.

Forever active, and often nicknamed "The Flying Scotsman," Andy was well known throughout the Forestry Commission from the South of England to the North of Scotland.

Andy was presented with a farewell cheque from his colleagues, by Mr D. R. Johnston, Director R&D. In response to Mr Johnston's best wishes Andy replied that he had spent a very happy time working at Alice Holt and hoped that he would not lose contact with the Forestry Commission in his new post.

THREE GET NEW YEAR HONOURS

THREE forestry personalities were recognised in the New Year Honours.

DR CYRIL HART, senior verderer of the Forest of Dean, was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

IAN WATT, Forest Officer grade one in South Wales conservancy, received the MBE, and

GERALD SPRINGTHORPE, Head Ranger in charge of conservation and wildlife at Cannock Chase, North West England, was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Scottish cap for Jimmy

MR J. G. BYTH, HEO Dumfries, skipped a triples which won the Scottish Civil Service Bowling Association championship. Jimmy and his team go forward to the finals to be held in Nottingham next July representing Scotland.

Around & About

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

HE ESTABLISHED VAST AREAS

THE "Restaurant in the Forest" set in the autumn colours of Grizedale Forest was the venue of a luncheon for some two dozen of Head Forester David Morley's friends who had gathered to wish him well after more than forty years in the Commission which began at the Benmore School in 1936.

In presenting him with a cheque for David and his wife to buy an item of furniture for their new house, Conservator Alistair Rowan remarked that all David's service had been in the one Conservancy. He had been responsible for establishing vast areas of new forest in Grizedale, Hardknott, Thornthwaite and Lindale Forests plus a remarkable few days in Kershope!

In 1974 after the amalgamation of Lindale with Dalton Forest he had transferred to private woodlands work over the whole of Lancashire together with what used to be known as Westmorland. Here his expertise in establishing plantations had been quite invaluable in encouraging a heterogeneous collection of owners to embark on forestry.

David's colleagues will miss a great character from the old school.

INVESTED IN WOODS

HUGH McKAY, Head Forester at Spadeadam since 1972, has retired after 43 years' service in the forests of NW(E). After a short spell in the Army he was posted to the HGTPD at Grizedale where he was employed mainly in the sawmill. In 1954 he took up duty at Kershope and ten years later became Forester in charge of Greystoke.

Hugh, a keen golfer, is retiring to Penrith, about a drive and pitch from Penrith Golf Club, and a presentation cheque from his colleagues will doubtless be invested in woods!

We all wish him a long and happy retirement.

JACK CALLED THE TUNE

ON 29 January, the Conservancy Office staff were joined by former colleagues to mark the retirement of Jack Pritchard after more than 45 years' Government service.

Jack started work with the GPO in 1936, rejoining them after Army service. He transferred to the Ministry of Fuel and Power and eventually joined the Forestry Commission in 1950 at Upton Grange, Chester. His promotion to EO took him to Savile Row, then Shrewsbury, returning to North West England in 1965.

During most of his long service Jack was very active in Union matters and was a keen member of the Social Club, acting as MC at many of the dinner dances.

At a buffet organised by the Social Committee, Conservator Alistair Rowan expressed everyone's good wishes for a long and happy retirement and presented Jack with a decanter of Edinburgh crystal. Mrs Kay Pritchard was given a bouquet of spring flowers.

George showed a comely pair of knees

GEORGE ANTCLIFFE, Tractor Driver at Sherwood, retired at the end of January. Originally destined to be a chef, George helped out at the Clipstone nursery whilst awaiting a suitable course, but decided that the wages in the Commission were better than those offered in the catering trade, so he joined us on a permanent basis in 1938.

Apart from periods in the Army and with HGTD he has been at Clipstone ever since, and during that time has always been willing to "have a go" at driving any piece of equipment.

George has always enjoyed a party and has been known to show a comely pair of knees in the knobbly knees competition. However, it was decided not to press him to uncover his lower limbs at the party held at Sherwood to wish him well in retirement.

As a gift from his colleagues, George chose a piece of glass sculpture and this was presented by C/F Jim Barraclough. Mrs Antcliffe also attended and was given a bouquet of flowers.

BOB DIGS IN

FOREST Craftsman Bob Ainsworth has retired after more than 31 years' service at Grizedale.

A very conscientious member of the Forest Management gang, Bob's whole life has been concerned with forestry and agriculture.

He is a keen gardener and has an allotment; his other great interest is shooting and with this in mind his colleagues gave him a rainproof jacket which was presented by Forester Terry Birch. Another gift was a Forestry Commission tie given by District Officer John Voysey.

REG GETS LIT UP

FAREWELL gifts of a cigarette lighter and cigarettes were presented to Mr Reginald Clarke by his colleagues at Cannock, when he retired in December after 8 years' service.

DEER PROBLEM IS ON THE INCREASE

DEER are arousing a lot of interest as present because they are becoming an increasing problem to foresters.

All species of deer browse young trees stopping or retarding their growth, and in addition red and sika deer strip the bark from older trees causing death or severe deterioration of the timber. Browning damage is most serious during the restocking phase following rotational felling as the article about deer in Craik Forest points out, and an increasing number of plantations are now reaching this stage.

Reproduction

The problem is greatest with roe deer which although not often seen, have a high rate of reproduction compared with other species of deer and can be present in considerable numbers. When subjected to regular disturbance they browse at night and find good daytime cover in adjacent plantations making control by shooting difficult.

Red deer are a particular problem in the Highlands of Scotland where they have lived on the open hills and now seek the shelter of plantations during the winter months.

The total number of deer culled on Commission land during 1980/81 was 18,471 comprising 11,669 roe, 5014 red, 1199 fallow, 504 sika and 85 muntjac.

This was an increase of some 5% over the 1978/79 and 1979/80 culls, but recent research in south-east Scotland has indicated the need for a significantly larger cull if the population is to be kept under control and plantation damage kept down to an acceptable level.

Severely limited

Fortunately, sika spruce, the main species of tree planned for commercial use, appears to be less susceptible to deer damage than most of the others. But unless deer numbers can be controlled, the diversification of tree species recognised as necessary for landscape and other wildlife conservation purposes will be severely limited.

Although our first priority in deer control is to keep damage to plantations down to an acceptable level, deer shooting within plantations is made available through lettings on terms which will ensure selective control to a plan agreed with the Commission; and, as an alternative, day permits are sold to sportsmen who are accompanied by a Commission stalker to ensure that the deer are shot in a proper and humane way.

Of last year's total deer cull, day permit holders shot 1412 and leaseholders 1852; the remaining 15,107 being shot by Commission rangers.

Mr Ballantine Bird, Senior Ranger 1, has been at Craik Forest, South Scotland, since 1948. Bally Bird was introduced to Ranger work in 1958 when he spent two days a week on fox control during the lambing season. Craik at that time was entirely surrounded by hill sheep land. The

emphasis during the past 20 years has shifted from fox control to roe deer management as greater areas of land have been absorbed by private forestry. Bally Bird describes how the roe problem has grown in

PLANTING started at Craik in March 1948, and the first Roe buck was seen in late Spring the following year. In the early 1950's organised deer control did not exist, but pest control, mainly of rabbits, was carried out intermittently by two forest workers. The Forestry Commission staff and numerous drivers were held by shooting tenants, though no record exists of numbers killed.

In the Spring of 1959 a ranger was appointed initially on a part-time basis for fox control, but the game and other pests were included. First attempts at Roe control were by stalking with a 1953 model 303 Lee-Enfield which had been service in two World Wars, and judging by its condition had spent the intervening years on the North-West Frontier.

In the Spring of 1959 seven Roe were shot, and deer drives were unfortunately still permitted by shooting tenants. By the early 1960's deer control had undergone great changes with the introduction of the high velocity rifle, initially 270 Winchester, and to be replaced later by the 222 Remington. Control now was by stalking or from a number of permanent high seats built throughout the forest.

On 11 February 1964 the Forestry Commission declared the following close seasons for Roe deer although there were no legal close seasons at that time. The dates were:

Does — 1 March-31 October.
Bucks — 1 October (later 1 November) — 30 April.

They further banned all deer drives and the use of shoungs for FC deer control and removed all deer from shooting leases to ensure that shooting tenants could not use these inhuman methods.

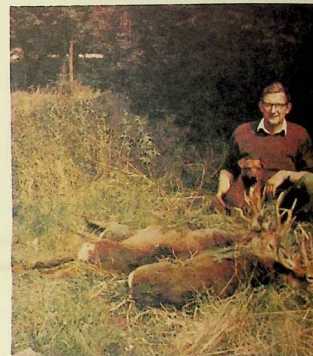
In 1964 there were about 1900 ha of established plantations and planning, which had previously been around 160 ha per annum, was reduced to 25-40 ha per annum. The annual cull was 53 Roe. At this time, Craik was a forest in isolation. There were no other forests or large private estates for considerable distances around.

Optimum

The result was that heads were developing recognizable characteristics, and high body weights of 50 lb. clean were not uncommon. Fed in the young growing forest was now at its optimum for Roe.

Damage until 1964 had been the normal faying and browsing, but in June the first dark-stripping, caused by red Lodgepole pine and later on Sika spruce. This was almost certainly caused by a single animal, and was of no economic significance. In September 1964 a Royal Scottish Forestry Society meeting discussed the "new" methods of Roe control. Interest was such that a further meeting "in a few years time" was proposed.

On 16 February 1965 the Deer (Close Seasons) (Scotland) Order came into being, giving legal status to the following slightly shorter Roe close seasons: Does 1 March — 20 October. Bucks 21 October — 30 April.



Ranger Bally Bird with two trophies in Craik Forest.

These superseded the Forestry Commission's voluntary close seasons. Also in 1966 a series of specimens of reproductive organs from both bucks and does were sent to Cambridge University. From these, an assessment was made of the reproductive capabilities of Craik's Roe deer population.

In 1967/68, control measures suffered severely as a result of the restrictions imposed during the foot and mouth epidemic and for some months no culling took place. Control was resumed in Summer 1968, and in May 1969 a Craik head was included in the "Best Heads" list of that year. By 1970 when 2416 had been planned, the cull target stood at 64 Roe and our first day permit stalker had a successful outing.

In July 1971 the Royal Scottish Forestry Society made a return visit, when over 70 members spent the day discussing Roe control methods. Such was the interest generated that the following year a single Forestry Commission staff spent considerable time answering queries, signing high seats, setting rifles, etc., and a number of estates gave up the thought deer drive for the rifle.

May 1972 saw the arrival of the first two continental day permit stalkers, and the same time stalkers returned in May 1981 for their tenth consecutive visit. The acquisition of three importable high seats to replace the permanent timber seats produced changes in control methods. Stalking had become the main method, and

seats were only used in very difficult situations or to save small vulnerable areas.

By 1975 a number of set glazes had been laid out, mainly on burn sides, sikes or "fired" areas, and there have since proved useful in control. The cull in that year had risen to 65 but changes in weight and condition of the Roe were being observed. Weights of 50 lb. were now uncommon. Where previously most stags were six points, this was no longer so.

The reasons for these reductions were twofold. There was a fall in feed quantity as quality with increasing areas of timber plantation.

Porcos

Furthermore the winter of 75/76, one of the worst on record, resulted in poorer heads seen in Craik the 33 years of its existence.

Hardly a buck in the forest in 1976 had a complete head, many having one or more broken tines, and some with antlers broken off short. The antlers were very brittle, but by the end of the following growing season normality had returned.

On 24 December 1976 a 200 shot in Gamschloch in Fife was found to be carrying a newly dead full-time Roe. This was contrary to the local belief of delayed implantation. It factors together with specimens from the doe, were sent to the Medical Research Council, Reproductive Biology Unit at Edinburgh. Correspondence with various authorities showed

Colour photographs by Eckhard Krebs and V. Vasiloff.



Willie Laurie.

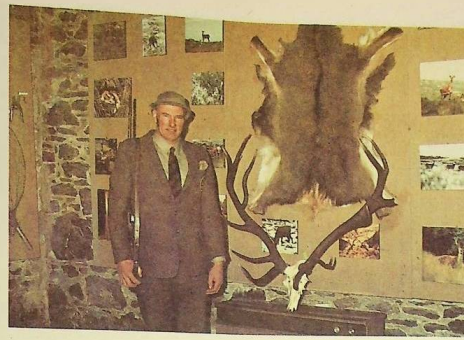
that while this had probably occurred before, it was the first time it had been fully documented. The cull figure for FY 76 was 89, and for FY 77 it was 106.

By 1977, new and hence vulnerable plantations, were being laid out in a large quarry block to the south west of Hawick. A population of Roe was developing, that had not originated in Craik main block. Body weights from this area were lower than the Craik stock, and antler quality, especially among yearlings, was much poorer.

In 1978 a new problem in Roe control arose. Parts of the P48 and P49 plantings which had blown in the gale of January 1974, had been cleared and restocked. Surrounded by pole crops and covered in top and top, these areas were difficult to stalk.

In these conditions the only successful control policy for adequate protection of the restocking seemed to be to cull everything possible in those vulnerable areas, and to extend the close season as is legally permitted in enclosed woodland some way into the critical damage period to the end of March — maximum damage to plants set out by the winter of 1979, occurring between 26 April and 31 May.

The cull figure for FY 80 was 143 when there were 1552 ha of plantations, with about 50 ha restocked, and the cull for FY 81 fell slightly to 131, but the continuing trend is likely to be upwards.



WILLIE SHOTS INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

SENIOR RANGER Willie Laurie of South Scotland has shot himself into the record books. Last year in Glenrobert Forest he came upon a Red Deer stag which was very thin and in poor condition. Willie, who has been with the Commission for thirteen years, decided the beast should be culled.

Afterwards he discovered that the deer, which was about twelve years old, was suffering from "broken mouth," a condition common to sheep which rendered it unable to feed. Willie's initial assessment of its poor condition was confirmed when the carcass weighed in at only 160 lbs. instead of the normal 260 lbs. plus. Despite its body condition, Willie realised the stag had once been a magnificent proud animal and its antlers were as fine as any he had seen.

He decided they would make a handsome addition to the Clatteringshaw Deer Museum, where they lay for some time until Conservation Forester John Livingstone decided they should be assessed by an independent expert before they were mounted for display.

Deer expert Kenneth Whitehead has given the head a points total of 182.09 which, confirmed by an international jury, will be a new record for a Scottish Red Deer! Gold medal standard for deer heads north of the border is 180 points, and the previous best recorded score was 180.73 for a red deer at Braemar, Inverness in 1985.

It's hoped that the head and prong antlers with a descriptive plaque will be mounted and put on show at Clatteringshaw by the time the museum opens its doors at Easter.



A JAPANESE tri-cycle originally designed as a fun bike for the American market could be a great boon to FC Rangers in the arduous job of dragging deer carcasses from the hills. The Honda 185S Tri-cycle is being tested in West Scotland as a means of retrieving carcasses with ease.

The tri-cycle's "work" capability came to light in Alaska where it was so successful that the Eskimos have been using it to replace their dog teams.

In the last year or two a number of tri-cycles have been sold in this country to shepherds, which led the

Commission to buy the Honda for the trials in West Scotland Conservancy.

Several rangers have tried out the machine in a number of locations, and this photo shows Senior Ranger Donnie Cameron putting the Honda through its paces, dragging a stag from the hill at Inverliver Forest.

Forest Fire Posters



AS the forest fire danger period approaches once again, it seems timely to remind everyone in the field of the fire prevention posters which are available.

The latest in the three fire prevention posters produced by Information Branch shows "The Gully Man," a theme which has been carried over to the first-ever television film on forest fire prevention. The 60-second film shows the outcome of a moment's carelessness and the removal of the man responsible for starting the fire. It is hoped it will be screened between programmes on all BBC and ITV television stations, except Wales.

A sound cassette version has also been recorded for broadcasting on national and local radio stations. Free TV and radio broadcasts are free, and the campaign should help considerably in the annual battle to make the public fully aware of the risk of forest fires.

Two types of fire warning posters have been produced by Forest Design Branch. Type "A" is for use during high risk periods only. Type "B" can also be put to general use.

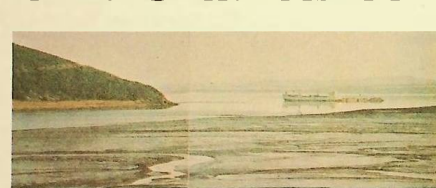
These posters can be hung on gates and fences, pasted at key points around their perimeters, which are used during high risk periods to carry sign boards with the new posters.

The Type "A" posters have been designed specifically for maximum impact during high risk periods, and should be removed when the danger period is over. The fire prevention posters should be ordered direct from Information Branch at Headquarters. The fire warning posters are obtained from the Forestry Commission Paper Store, Killy, Fife.



A type "A" poster in use on a forest gate.

Largest ever cargo leaves Inverness



THE LARGEST ever cargo to be shipped out of Inverness, 555 million tonnes of timber for export to Sweden, is loaded aboard the MV Ragna Gorthen, at anchor in the Murchy Firth.

The ship lies just off the Forestry Commission's Ormonde Hill plantation (approximately 162 of the Black Isle Forest), recently sold under the terms of the new Forestry Act.

The load of pulp wood was floated out of Inverness harbour on dumb barges and anchored off Ormonde Hill to await the arrival of the tugboat Gorthen. This new ship took just 48 hours to

Story and photograph by Richard Westlake.

load the timber on board and depart again, using its specifically designed equipment.

The ship is also designed as an ice-breaker for at this time of the year its destination, the port of Helsingborg in Sweden, is surrounded by 5 feet thick ice.

The export agents at Inverness, Messrs J. R. Ris & Sons Ltd., who have somewhat transformed the bulk of Inverness harbour into an enormous "logging station," report that 75% of the record

cargo was Forestry Commission timber. The system of floating the logs out has been perfected over the last year, since the closure of the Port William pulp mill, and enables bigger ships to operate than can be accommodated in the harbour.

Ormonde Hill has its own claim to fame too — in 1297 the Scottish Standard was raised there during the Scottish War of Independence. At the permission of the Forestry Commission, a cairn was built there by the Scottish National Party to commemorate the occasion in 1979.

Around & About

SOUTH WALES

250 PAID TRIBUTE TO 'MR WALES'



Director General George Holmes and Mr Dallas Mithen, Commission H & M, look on as Mr Zehetmayr unpacks the camera presented by the DG on behalf of colleagues and friends.

MR JOHN ZEHETMAYR, Conservator South Wales and Senior Officer Wales for the past 15 years, retired at the end of December after 34 years' service with the Commission.

In 1942 John Zehetmayr graduated at Oxford with a BA (Hon.) Degree in Botany and after War Service as a Radar Officer in the Royal Navy from 1942-46 returned to Oxford where he obtained his BA (Forestry) degree in 1947.

He joined the Commission in January 1948 and served as Assistant Silviculturist North Scotland until 1956. During this period as Research Officer he summarised 30 years' experimental work on planting on peats and heaths, and extended trial plantations to the North of Scotland, Orkney and Shetlands. He published two Bulletins and other papers on planting on peat and upland heaths.

Work study

In 1956 he became the Commission's first Chief Work Study Officer and was responsible for starting the Work Study Section and developing disciplines, like the method of calculating piece-work earnings which has stood the test of time until today.

He was Conservator West Scotland from 1964 until coming to South Wales in September 1966 as Conservator and Senior Officer for Wales.

During his period as Senior Officer, Wales, he saw the area of FC woodlands in Wales increase by 20% from 117,000 hectares to 140,000 hectares, whilst timber production increased more than threefold to almost 600,000 cubic metres in the current year.

The party was held on Friday, 12 February, at the Orangery in the Margam Country Park and for the 250 people who attended — FC staff, ex staff, timber merchants and friends — this was an event which they will long remember.

Everyone assembled at 11 am and after a short walk in the nearby broadleaved plantations in Margam Forest, where the management of broadleaves was discussed, returned to the castle grounds where Mr Zehetmayr

was invited by the West Glam CC to plant a tulip tree.

After two showings by Mr Zehetmayr of his film "What To Do In South Wales Forests" the party sat down to a buffet lunch.

Then came the presentations: Director General, Mr George Holmes, in presenting Mr Zehetmayr with a camera on behalf of colleagues and friends, reviewed his long and successful career and paid tribute to his contribution to forestry, particularly in research, in introducing work study to the Commission, in land reclamation and for his work for conservation, especially his efforts in getting the various organisations involved in the countryside in Wales to understand each other's point of view and work together.

Roger Nock, Forest Craftsman at the Brechfa Sign Unit presented a plaque in the form of a miniature forest sign recording Mr Zehetmayr's service with the Commission, and a picnic table.

Bric-bracs

John Jones, Head Forester at Caeo, paid his tribute in Welsh verse which was translated by Gwyn Owen, HEO, who also presented Mr Zehetmayr with a carved walking stick.

Mrs Zehetmayr received a bouquet from Angela Howells, Executive Officer, and a bird table from Emyr Lloyd, retired Chief Forester. A linen tablecloth was signed by all present at the function.

In responding Mr Zehetmayr recalled many of the "characters" he had met in the Commission and related some of his amusing experiences over the years. He also presented Mr Alan Rix, his successor as Conservator South Wales, with a safety helmet to protect him from the bric-bracs that will be thrown at him from all directions, a slasher to help him cut the budgets and staff and a fire beater which the Conservator for South Wales must never be without!

NORTH WALES

Reg beat the 'What's My Line' panel

THERE was a large gathering of colleagues and friends at Dolgellau to mark the retirement of Head Forester Reg Wheeler.

Reg began his Commission career in his native New Forest in 1946. As a young Forester he was responsible for forest establishment at Rothbury, Northumberland, before commencing the work on Research for which he is perhaps most widely known, particularly the development of tree sampling methods and tree climbing equipment. The latter gave him the distinction of beating the panel on "What's My Line" in 1961.

There was an embarrassing sequel to this at the Black Bush Forestry Exhibition in 1964 when he was explaining the merits of tree climbing equipment to the Duke of Edinburgh. The demonstrator mis-read his "cue" to fall a mere six feet, to show the effectiveness of the harness, and crashed twenty feet through the branches from the top of the tree to swing just three feet above the Duke's head. The Duke afterwards observed that it was not so much that the harness was overlong but that the tree was too short!

Undaunted by this experience Reg went on to train Conservancy seed collection teams throughout Britain.

Reg was on the staff of the Gwydyr Training School for some time before transferring in 1968 to his last post in North Wales Conservancy and beginning his work on recreation. This brought a new field for his

inventiveness, particularly in the development of the Maesgwm Visitor Centre at Coed y Brenin, which received a Prince of Wales Award, and other interpretive schemes in North Wales Conservancy.

Reg was also a British Red Cross First Aid Instructor and working with his wife Betty, gave instruction to Conservancy employees in North Wales in addition to organising courses for local communities and mountain rescue teams in the Dolgellau area.

Conservator for North Wales, Mr Roger Bradley presented Reg with a cheque on behalf of colleagues and Miss Phyllis Pugh (retired Dolgellau District Office Clerk) presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Wheeler.

Head Forester Gwilym Pierce, on behalf of the forest staff at Coed y Brenin, presented Reg with a beautifully carved wooden shield especially designed to mark the occasion. The shield had been carved by Estate Handyman Bob Griffiths, combining the Prince of Wales motif with a conifer, picnic site symbol and footprint to represent the various aspects of recreation at Coed y Brenin to which Reg had contributed so much.

Mrs Neris Jones, Forest Office Clerk presented a silver candelabra to Mrs Wheeler on behalf of the Coed y Brenin staff.



Reg holds his specially carved shield.

DICK WILL TOAST HAPPY MEMORIES

DICK STUMBLES, District Officer at Llandrindod Wells, has retired after 30 years' service with the Commission. The occasion was marked by a buffet supper at the Trewythen Arms Hotel, Llanidloes attended by more than 60 friends and colleagues from the Commission and from private forestry and the timber trade.

Mr Bradley, Conservator, presented Dick with a substantial cheque and Mrs Sheila Smith, the District Office Clerk, presented Mrs Megan Stumbles with a beautiful rose vase and a bouquet of flowers. In thanks, Dick made a most witty and entertaining speech.

Dick joined the Commission in January 1951 in the South

Wales Conservancy and moved to Llandrindod in 1961. He will be maintaining his interest in forestry in a positive way in the future, continuing to serve as Secretary of the Wales and The Marches Branch of the Institute of Foresters, which has benefited from much hard work on his part in the past, and he also intends to do consultancy work.

Dick will spend his presentation cheque on a leather brief case, a workmate bench and some wine glasses, so he shall "be reminded of all my friends in the course of each of my principal activities!"

We all wish Dick and Megan a long and happy retirement.

Around & About



HEAD Forester Fred Hytch has retired after 12 years in charge of Clwyd Forest. A large number of friends and colleagues gathered to wish him well, and to spend the morning walking around Fred's favourite patch at Moel Famau. Everyone then gathered at the Clwyd Gate Hotel for a buffet lunch.

Above: Conservator Roger Bradley presents a cheque to Mr Hytch, watched by (left to right): Mr Ifor Peters (Foreman), Mr Euros Jones (DFO) and Mr J. D. Williams (Forester).

Haydn gave a good account

MR HAYDN LLOYD, HEO at North Wales office has retired. Haydn joined the Commission in 1951 as a Clerical Officer. Previously he had been a Technical Officer with the GPO and he saw war service with the RAF 1941-46.

He started in the Commission in the N(W) Conservancy at the Shrewsbury office until he was promoted to EO and posted to NW(England) Conservancy. He spent almost 10 years at Chester before being promoted to East England, and in 1971 he came full circle when he transferred back to N(Wales) Conservancy, now at Aberystwyth.

For most of his time as an HEO Haydn has specialised on

accounts work and he was in at the start of both the current financial control system and the computerisation of the Commission's accounts.

With such a pedigree it is not surprising that the North Wales Conservancy has enjoyed the reputation of being one of the best in the Forestry Commission accounting world!

Haydn's last day of service was marked by a buffet reception in the staff recreation room. This was attended by previously retired friends Mrs Barbara Maher, Mr Ken Mayhew, Mr Geoff Bowers, Mr Roy Fisher and Mr Arthur Lipscombe, Haydn's wife Barbara, plus friends from the field and office, who all enjoyed a buffet lunch, drinks and speeches. The Conservator presented Haydn with a gift cheque and Miss Petra Lewis, Accounts Section, presented Barbara with a bouquet of flowers.

WEST SCOTLAND



Ceilidh for Hugh

MR HUGH McFARLANE retired from Barcaldine in October after 40 years' service with the Commission broken only by War Service with the Scots Guards. During most of that time he was employed as a driver and latterly drove a vehicle transporter throughout the country as well as West Scotland Conservancy.

At a well-attended celebration at Barcaldine Hall, retired Head Forester Ian MacNicol made a presentation on behalf of colleagues and friends. This was followed by a most enjoyable ceilidh.

Around & About

SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND

LONG LIST LEAVE

A LONG list of people have retired from South West Conservancy since the last issue.

First to go was MR FRANK PEARNS of Kernow. Frank joined the Commission in 1964 at Davidstow Nursery and as well as doing vast areas of fence and drain maintenance he has also done much of the planting along the A39 at Camelford.

Clerks

Two forest clerks retired in November. MISS MARJORIE RAISEY left Savernake after 30 years, 28 of them as clerk. Marjorie retired as she worked — quietly and without fuss. In addition to her long service certificate, her colleagues presented her with a silver rose bowl, a bouquet of red and pink roses, a box of chocolates and a £10 gift token to be spent on classical records.

MRS MARY BELLAMY retired from Quantock Forest, after 15 years as forest clerk. Mrs Bellamy was beat shop steward for the TGWU and in addition to her work for the Commission, serves on the Over Stowey Parish Council and as Governor of a local school.

Early work

On the same day that Mrs Bellamy retired, MR JOHN ARSCOTT left Torridge Forest. He joined the Commission in 1947 at what was then Lydford Forest and was involved in much of the early work there. He, too, has been active in the local community life and has organised many charitable fund-raising events and children's outings.

Right card

The Bristol Conservancy Office said farewell in December to MR LES STOCK from the Private Woodlands section. Les joined the Commission in 1968 and spent most of the following 14 years in Private Woodlands. At a presentation in the office, Conservator Mr Troup presented Les with a Black and Decker Workmate and a card (appropriately showing a view of Savernake Forest) signed by everyone and wished him a long and happy retirement.

£3000 take

The camp site in Savernake has lost a good friend with the retirement of warden FRANK SMITH. Frank joined the Commission in 1953 at West Woods, which was then a separate unit. He will be greatly missed in the forest and in the camp site. From collecting a few pounds for the odd caravan parked in any forest glade, he ended up taking in £3000 on a busy Bank Holiday weekend. Frank made many friends among the regular campers and they appreciated his cheery welcome each day.

HEADQUARTERS

They all wished Eric favourable winds

A LARGE number of friends and colleagues gathered to say farewell to MR ERIC GRANFIELD, who was retiring after over nine years as Chief Engineer. Mr Granfield joined the Commission in London in 1959 as Directorate Engineer (England), becoming Assistant Chief Civil Engineer in 1966.

Director General George Holmes paid tribute to Mr Granfield's great contribution to engineering in the Commission, and presented him with a cheque. Mr Granfield also received, from the lads in the department, a neatly wrapped and rather special calendar, which he was forced to open in front of the assembled crowd.

A very keen sailor, Mr Granfield will now have more time to explore the Fife coast and we all wish him favourable winds.

See Postbag, Back Page.

Around & About

SOUTH SCOTLAND

BOB SHOT UP THE RANKS

BOB STEWART, A&FO South Scotland, retired on 20 November after almost 46 years in the Civil Service. Starting, like so many, in the Post Office as a boy messenger in 1936, he joined the Commission 20 years later in 1956. His career was fairly steady until 1971 when he left his post as an EO in Dumfries only to return some 5 years later as A&FO, after a meteoric rise through the ranks.



Bob (right) is seen being presented by Conservator John Davies with a mock long service certificate at a gathering of his many friends and colleagues.

His skill saved a man's life

FOREST Craftsman Bob Marshall has retired after 33 years' service in Solway Forest. Bob joined the Commission shortly after the war where he had seen service with the Black Watch and Indian Airborne regiments in the Far East.

Bob's craftsmanship was well tested some years ago when he attended to a seriously injured tractor driver for over four hours and his skill undoubtedly helped save the man's life.

Along with his brother George, who joined the Commission on the same day, Bob was responsible for many of the "knacky" jobs in the forest and many drystone dykes are testament to their skills.

After a presentation from his workmates, Conservator John Davies presented Bob with his long service certificate.

Bob had 34 years' service

BOB RITCHIE has retired after 34 years' service in South Scotland. Bob joined the Commission in 1947 as a tractor operator and in 1950 became a mobile mechanic.

He was presented with his Long Service Certificate and a cheque at an informal presentation.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

FEW BORDER AREAS THAT ALEC DID NOT INFLUENCE

ALEC SYMONS has retired after 25 years' service in the Commission. A true Geordie Alec has spent all his life in the North East except for service during the last war. Even then the ties were not broken, as this was with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

After working for building and civil engineering firms in the ancient Kingdom of Northumbria Alec joined the Commission at Kielder and has remained in the North Tyne Valley ever since.

Alec has seen many changes in the valley from horse to forwarder extraction, from two man drift mines to the vast Kielder Water Project and while these changes have been taking place Alec has also been making a unique contribution to the life of the valley. There are few areas in the Border Forest that have not been influenced by Alec's presence in some way.

His abiding love though is rugby and through his efforts Border Park Rugby Club enjoys an enviable reputation for rugby and hospitality shortly to be enhanced by a new ground and club house, to both of which Alec has contributed much time and effort.

His many friends and colleagues presented him at an informal gathering with a camera, untold advice on how to use it, a picnic hamper and a pictorial record of some of his achievements. We all wish Alec and his wife a very long and happy retirement in robust health as they continue to live in the village of Kielder.

Around & About

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

HE NEVER MOVED FAR FROM HOME

FORTY-FOUR years ago young Horace Hale began work at Westbury Forest near West Meon, where he was born, and last October he retired as a Leading Ganger on the staff at Queen Elizabeth Forest, never having moved far from home.

Horace takes with him into retirement the good wishes of all who know him, and at a convivial get-together in the forest office, Conservator Charles Begley presented him with a gardening token, the ideal gift for such a keen gardener. Mrs Hale also received a present, and there was food and drink for all.

Known as a first class practical man, Horace at one time more or less ran his own show at Hen Wood, under the distant but pervasive command of Forester Laney, who was in the habit of leaving notes in cleft sticks all round the forest saying, "Laney was here at 1.45 pm" and other stimuli to effort.

Horace himself had his eccentricities. It is told how one of his men was once required to lie in the snow every few yards so that Horace could check the width of an access track they were cutting.

It is clear that now he has retired the Forest has lost both a stalwart servant and a real character.

Eddie was in the protection business

IT was in February 1958 that Eddie Burrows was taken on at St Leonard's Forest as a Grade III Forest Worker. Two months later he was a Grade II and in October of the same year he made Grade I.

By the following year he was a Warrener and he spent the rest of his service on protection work, mainly deer control, until his retirement in the grade of Senior Ranger I last November.

To mark the occasion a large group of friends and colleagues met at Eddie's local to wish him well in his retirement, and Conservation Head Forester Fred Courtier presented Eddie's farewell gifts.

EDWIN'S TRANSPORT WAS IMMACULATE

EDWIN MILLS has recently retired from Bedgebury, having worked at Brightling for the past 27 years.

He was one of the original stalwarts who helped to form the Brightling Forest and in recent years became the local Ranger. Always neat and proficient, his

care and use of vehicles was the perfect example of mechanical immaculacy.

In his retirement, Edwin plans to spend more time fishing off the South Coast. The staff at Bedgebury presented him with a gold wrist watch so he won't be caught by the tide.

NORTH SCOTLAND

John took the Road to the Isles

A GATHERING of friends and colleagues at a dinner in the Coolin Hills Hotel, Portree, paid tribute to Forester John Campbell on his retirement from the Forestry Commission.

Apart from a four year spell in the navy during the war, John's career spanned the 47 years from 1934 to 1981. He took up work as a forest worker in Glen Brittle on Skye and following promotion to foreman moved to the Isle of Raasay in 1957, where he remained until 1968.

In this year John, who speaks Gaelic as his first language, went to Lewis as forester to start the afforestation scheme on the

island. For the next 13 years, until his retirement, John guided the programme of planting to its virtual completion, also doing useful work on the advisory side to the island's crofting community.

During the dinner many of his colleagues spoke of John's industriousness, loyalty and dedication. A cheque was presented to him by Conservator, Mr Bob Cathie.



focus



CATTLECADE BRINGS HISTORY ALIVE

TO ALL but the elderly, cattle droving will be rather ancient history, but it came very much alive again to me the other day when thirty "Highlanders" were driven from Skye through Glengarry Forest to Crieff.

Although Cattle Droving has been dormant for about two generations, hill walkers will be familiar with many of the red drove roads in the Highlands of Scotland. The English tourist might be pardoned for thinking that some of our single track class A roads fall into this category!

On this occasion, the cattle were ferried across the short but treacherous tidal race between Kylerhea and Glenelg, ten at a time, in a tourist ferry boat — a far cry from the old days when they were roped together nose to tail and forced to swim across this narrow strait without any previous experience!

Public opinion fanned the conservationists and the "cruelty people" have put paid to that!

Drovers

The cattle this year were in the charge of three drovers accompanied by three dogs, with a veterinary surgeon in attendance.

I was so interested in the operation that I accompanied the cattle from Greenfield to Clunes, to take photographs for record purposes.

Glenelg for centuries was an important point in the movement of cattle from the Western Isles to the Scottish Mainland but like many of our small towns has declined markedly in importance, partly due to the establishment of railheads at Kyle of Lochalsh and Mallaig and, I suppose, partly due to poor road access, particularly in winter.

According to records it boasted a population of 2000 at one time compared with less than 200 now. This decimation of population is of course typical of many Scottish Glens and symptomatic of the economic gangrene which has set in due to the "clearances," poverty of agricultural land and more recently the introduction of mechanisation on a large scale.

The sight of so many ruined cottages in the country districts is indeed tragic.

The cattle were then driven from Glenelg to Greenfield in

Glengarry Forest not far from my home. This is of particular interest to me because Greenfield was at one time a staging post where the cattle were shod in preparation for their arduous journey south — almost like a fairy story, but this was because they obviously commanded higher prices if they were in prime condition on arrival at market.

I imagine this was not all that went on at Greenfield and only recently it has, of course, been the scene of police activity culminating in proceedings in the Old Bailey, London, in connection with drug smuggling.

Desolate

The cattlecade then made its way southwards through Glengarry Forest to Clunes by way of Fedden (The Gaelic word for the "whistle of wind through a crevice"). Fedden is aptly named, as it is a most desolate spot, being the highest shieling in the Glengarry area and was occupied at one time by a keeper. The prominent mountain on the west which stands sentinel over Fedden is the 2500 feet Meall an Tagraidh (the "divided" or "disputed" mountain). Cameron of Lochiel and Glengarry each claimed ownership.

The Commandos did much of their training in this area during

Story and photograph by Richard Wood, Glengarry Forest.

the Second World War and many will be familiar with the imposing monument erected in memory of their fallen comrades, which stands in a prominent position on the main highway between Inverness and Fort William, a mile north of Spean-BrIDGE.

Bonhomie

Shortly before reaching Clunes, the only possible route for the drovers was along metalled roads which were quite unsuitable for the cattle's hooves and accordingly the animals were transferred to floats and conveyed across the busy A82 highway, to Coire-Choille.

I ceased to accompany the drovers at Clunes as they had by then passed out of Glengarry Forest.

Throughout the drive, one was conscious of a marvellous feeling of bonhomie among all those concerned, and it was noticeable that the welfare of the animals was a paramount consideration throughout.

An example of this was the leaving behind of an animal as company for one which had proved unfit to complete the journey.

It was for me an unforgettable experience.

Chris Booth Appeal

ON 6 January the death occurred, in the most tragic circumstances, of Chris Booth, HEO in ADP Section, Headquarters. Just three weeks before Chris's wife Marlyn had died very suddenly. Chris took the children south to grandparents for Christmas, and immediately on their return he too collapsed and died. He was aged 36 and leaves two children, Wendy, aged 10, and Robin, 8.

In response to a very considerable ground swell of feeling from staff in Headquarters and Conservancies, it has been decided to set up an appeal fund for the children, and in view of the particularly tragic and unusual circumstances it has been thought appropriate to make the appeal Commission-wide.

His work made him known to many areas and levels within the Commission and his thoughtful and helpful approach made him a valued and respected colleague.

The organisers and trustees of the fund are Welfare Officer Brian Atwell, Jean Thompson, Trade Union Side Secretary and Dick Price, Audit Branch.

Contributions may be made through Conservancy Welfare Liaison Officers or to Brian Atwell at Headquarters. Cheques should be made payable to the Chris Booth Appeal Fund. The trustees will forward all monies received to the trust fund which has been set up by the family solicitors.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

Having retired after 9½ years as Chief Engineer without ever submitting a letter for your columns, I should like now to take this opportunity of doing so.

May I first of all thank all those who have contributed to my retirement presentation, and whom I have not had the opportunity of thanking personally, for their generosity and kindness. I intend to use the presentation cheque for the purchase of a powerful telescope, which will enable me from my cottage high above the Tay — when not myself on the river or otherwise actively occupied — to watch the water fowl and all that goes on on the river from Dundee almost to Perth. It will be an added pleasure when doing so to think of the colleagues who provided the means.

This brings me to the second reason for writing to you, namely to say a few words about those I have been associated with in the Commission.

I have greatly enjoyed working with very many people in other disciplines, but it is of course, with colleagues in engineering that I have been most closely involved, and it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with them at all levels. The upper levels of management, necessarily, are involved with engineers almost exclusively at Headquarters and Conservancy, and I am sure that they appreciate to the full the dedication and skill of Engineers

and Supervisors in the field, and of the mechanics, plant operators and other engineering workers who enable us to achieve such excellent results at costs which cannot be matched. I was impressed at a very early stage of my service with the Commission that the whole basis of our method of working with minimal supervision from the level above, rested on the calibre of our field personnel, and over more than 22 years my respect for their integrity and ability has grown.

With this tribute to engineering staff and workers may I send greetings to all my (ex) colleagues, and my best wishes for the future of the Commission, with the hope that when the present difficult times are over it will again progress and grow as it has for so many years in the past.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC GRANFIELD.

Dear Sir,

As long as "Slasher" is willing and able to publish letters like Richard Westlake's I don't see that he has grounds for comparing our paper with Pravda. Somebody had to start the ball rolling over disposals, and it seems reasonable that the Slasher staff (who work in duty hours) would put the official line forward.

What is important is that a dialogue is allowed to develop. If the 1981 Act is implemented in the way Richard Westlake fears then one might indeed ask,

somewhat late in the day, if we have been "conned." The other aspect of course is the cost to central government of granting-aiding the land sold compared with the cost of developing it were it not sold; an effort on my part to elucidate this via the latest accounts has failed and perhaps a more enlightened correspondent might care to share his or her thoughts on the subject via these columns?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER LARSEN,
Perth.

Dear Sir,

It was gratifying to read in the Autumn 1981 "Slasher" that the Commission will provide a Douglas Fir from its South Scotland Conservancy to replace the ageing flagpole in Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. However, one point in the article requires correction.

David Douglas did not in fact discover the Douglas Fir. Discovery is credited to Archibald Menzies (Surgeon on Captain Vancouver's survey ship) in 1793, hence the change in Latin name from the former *Pseudotsuga douglasii* to the present *Pseudotsuga menziesii*. British forestry owes much to David Douglas's work however for among the species he introduced are Sitka spruce, Noble fir and Lodgepole pine.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES F. OGILVIE,
Assistant District Forest
Officer,
Peebles.

Obituary

MR MAGNUS BAIN

OFFICE staff at Inverness Conservancy were distressed to hear of the sudden death of Magnus Bain at the age of 60 while at home on sick leave.

Born in 1921, Magnus joined the Forestry Commission in 1959 as messenger, later becoming paper keeper in 1971. In 1974 he was promoted to clerical officer and worked in the Supply and Engineering Section. Our sympathy goes to his family.

MR JOHN BOOTH

WE were saddened to learn of the death of John Booth, former Leading Ganger at Mortimer Forest, at the age of 79.

He leaves a widow and daughter, to whom we offer sincere condolences.

MR TOM BRANDON

IT was with deep regret that we learned of the death, at the age of 72, of Tom Brandon. He commenced employment with the Commission as a boy, but then joined the RAF as a regular and became a Radio Operator.

Tom rejoined the Commission at Cannock Forest in 1956 and retired in 1974. Our sympathy goes to his widow and son.

MR FRANK CAMERON

WE were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Chief Forester Frank Cameron on 12 November.

Frank joined the Commission in 1948 and spent over 27 years in North Scotland and four in South Scotland. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues throughout the Commission.

He leaves a wife and three young children to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

MR E. HOWELLS

WE are sorry to learn of the death of retired forest worker Mr E. Howells, at the age of 72. Mr Howells started work at Vinehall in 1951 and retired in 1974. He leaves a widow and three married children, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

MR MILES JENKIN

IT is with deepest regret we report the sudden death of Miles Jenkin, Forester at Bramfield Forest, East England, while at work in Harlow Woods on 22 October. He was aged 49 and had been with the Commission for 27 years, much of that time with R. & D.

Mr Jenkin left a widow and a son to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

MR ROBERT HUGH JONES

IT is with deep regret we report the death of Mr Bob Jones, Recreation Ranger at Coedy-Brenin. Bob had worked for the Commission for over 40 years. Those who listened to his talks at the Visitor Centre were fascinated by his detailed knowledge and love of wild life in the forest. Though denied even a basic elementary education at school through sickness as a boy, he taught himself to read not only books but also the wider tapestry of nature in river, forest and mountain. Our sympathies go to his widow, son and two daughters.

MR TED KEEN

WE are sorry to record the death of Mr Ted Keen, Private Woodlands District Officer at Okehampton. Mr Keen was 58, and had been with the Commission for 34 years, the last four in the Bristol Conservancy office. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

MR BILL KITCHER

WE are sorry to record the death of Forest Craftsman Bill Kitcher, suddenly on his way home from the work to which he had devoted himself for over 32 years. Born in the New Forest 56 years ago, Bill never wanted to work elsewhere.

With his elder brother Charles, the pair were a legend for their skills at most Forest tasks.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Charles Kitcher and to Bill's two other brothers and seven sisters.

MR JIM McGARRIE

JIM McGARRIE had served for the past 15 years at Solway Forest as both chainsaw operator and tractor driver. Although ill for some months, Jim had concealed the seriousness of his illness and his death came as a great shock to all who knew him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

MR GEORGE MILLER

IT was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Forest Craftsman George Miller. George was killed in a road accident while on his way to work. We extend our condolences to his wife and family.

MR FRANK OLIVER

IT is with regret that we note the passing of Mr F. A. W. Oliver, former Conservator in Aberdeen, at the age of 81. He joined the Commission in 1926 and retired from the East Scotland Conservancy in August 1964. Our sympathies go to his son and daughter.

MR HAMISH SEATON

HAMISH SEATON, Chief Forester in charge of Banchory Forest died suddenly on Thursday, 15 October.

After training at Benmore FTS, Hamish joined the Forestry Commission in 1947 and started work as a forester at Glenlivet. All of his working life was spent in the North East.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife and four sons.

MR HERBERT SNARE

HERBERT SNARE, Tractor Driver, King's Forest, Thetford, died suddenly last October at the age of only 41. He had served at Thetford for his entire service since 1966, and received a Staff Suggestion Scheme award in 1973 for his part in the development of the machine which is still used for most of the planting in Thetford Chase. Our sympathy goes to his widow and their three children.