



SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 311

Summer 1982

Commission Men lead Police dragnet MANHUNT

FOR four days a forest was gripped with fear as armed police hunted a killer hiding in the mists. Four days which saw:

- Commission men leading police hunt
- Forest operations halted
- Isolated families brought to safety
- Forest sealed off

The drama for Dalby Forest in North Yorkshire began on Thursday, 24th June when police issued a dramatic warning. A double killer could be hiding in the forest. Head Forester Geoff Haw and his staff should watch out for a stolen brown Rover car.

by Gordon MacNeill

Police believed that Barry Prudom had shot a Harrogate policeman, and also killed a Lincolnshire man before stealing his car.

Mr Haw notified the 30 Commission employees at Dalby. Ranger Dick Rhodes took up position at the Forest Drive, but nothing suspicious happened. At six o'clock Dick went home to tea. Half an hour later, his wife Christine spotted smoke from her kitchen window.

Dick at once phoned Forester Mick Hoban down the road. "There's a fire in the forest — and the black smoke could be a car burning."

Unknown to both of them, a police dog handler had minutes before challenged a man trying to set fire to his car. The man had fired at PC Kenneth Oliver, a .22 bullet passing through his jacket.

Shocked

Mick jumped in his van and headed for Dick's house. On the way he met the shocked policeman and two colleagues who had rushed to assist. They all made for Dick's place where the Ranger broke out his weapons and armed the officers.

At the Forest Drive, the exact spot where Dick had been earlier, the Rover was well ablaze. Another police dog handler arrived, and Mick Hoban used the police radio to direct reinforcements to their precise location.

As Dick Rhodes and the policemen approached the car, debris was thrown everywhere as the petrol tank exploded. The car was clearly empty, and the men pulled back to a safe distance.

Shot

Dick knew that a nearby track led round in a circle. If Prudom was on it, he could creep up behind their backs. To alert him that they were armed, Dick fired a shot over the car.

Within minutes, the first of many police reinforcements had arrived. A mobile command station was set up, and the two Commission men were now to play a vital role in the search for the killer.

Scent

Dick Rhodes had heard a flock of jays disturbed some 150 yards away. He led police to the spot, and a dog immediately picked up a scent. They could even see flattened bracken where Prudom had thrown himself to the ground, presumably when Dick had fired his warning shot.

FOREST SEALED OFF



The Dalby Forest Drive is sealed off in the massive murder hunt.

Photo courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Press.

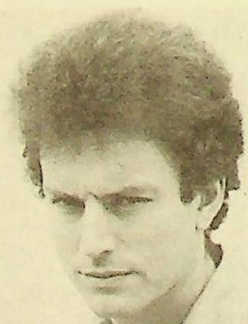


Armed police search the forest.

Photo courtesy of Scarborough Evening News.



Ranger Dick Rhodes.



Forester Mick Hoban.

"Police went in like Starsky and Hutch"

MICK HOBAN and Dick Rhodes were full of admiration for the way the police handled the search operation — particularly the Special Arms Group.

"When we knew an isolated farm was occupied, they quickly and quietly surrounded it and then moved in to check the people were safe. But when we knew derelict property and outhouses were empty — it was like a scene from Starsky and Hutch. They burst through doors, checking every possible hiding place. These boys were real professionals," says Dick Rhodes.

Obvious target

The men also had a lot of time for the police dog handlers. "They knew two of their colleagues had been shot, and he would have no hesitation in firing again. But they were always out there, in front of the rest of us, following their dogs and apparently oblivious to the fact that they were an obvious target."

The mists came down — and the dogs lost the killer's trail. The helicopters which had been brought in were grounded. But the search on the ground continued.

Hour after hour, Mick Hoban and Dick Rhodes led armed police groups to isolated farms and cottages, checking barns and outbuildings and ensuring that the families were safe.

By 1.30 in the Friday morning the weather was so bad the search had to be called off. The Commission men went home, to check on their own families and to grab a couple of hours sleep.

600 Police

And that was all they got. By half past three they were out again, leading further police sweeps of the forest. Each took a flank, assisted by a sergeant with orienteering experience in Dalby Forest. By this time, 600 police had been drafted in to hunt the killer.

At noon, the Commission men were then called to Pickering Police Station to assist in the search conference. Using their intimate knowledge of the forest, they advised the police where best to look for the

NICOLA'S ROYAL DAY



Nine-years-old Nicola Tait presents a bouquet to the Queen during the Royal Visit to the Kielder Visitor Centre. Nicola's father Tommy works at Redesdale Forest. More Royal Day colour pictures on the back page.

Continued on Back Page

Axeman's Log

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

by Forester Austin Gale
Sherwood Forest

THE PAGES of *Slasher* reveal squirrels, deer, badgers, etc. Then we have the beautiful vistas, smiling forest staff and happy visitors enjoying the fine facilities forests have to offer. All in all very much to the point, just what the public expects, and why Foresters joined the Forestry Commission in the first place.

Whilst one would always expect to see this in the *Slasher*, in the interests of accuracy and to enlighten many, I feel something should be mentioned about the minority of forests where the picture can be rather different.

Where vandalism and forest abuse are the norm and tend to interfere, to an increasing extent, with normal forest functions, and where the Forester becomes more and more a policeman.

I refer to the industrial forest. Sherwood, situated in a mining area and in close proximity to a one million population, is such a forest. It will interest readers the diversions caused to normal forest running by regular and specific incidents.

In recent years breaking of barriers and gates (100 locks required yearly to replace damaged ones), the dumping of rubbish and burning of stolen cars, use of forest roads and rides as car and motorcycle race tracks, regular fires, many being suspected arson and amounting to nearly 600 since 1974.

Specific incidents within my knowledge make sometimes spectacular reading, namely:

- Forester intervenes in a rape case.
- Naked man approaches and molests Forester's 12-year-old daughter and friend.
- Three cases of illegal cannabis growing in the forest.

- £3000, previously stolen, found by weeding squad. Police apprehend the culprit after television surveillance.

- Stolen whisky, electrical goods and cigarettes hidden in forest, police search for the same.

- Forest squad apprehend streaker.

- Woman affected by drug overdose helped by workers.

- Women joggers on 2 occasions joined by streakers (male).

- Break-ins at forest offices on 3 occasions.

- Forester's house burgled, numerous out-building break-ins and thefts from timber yard.

- Five suicides, including one murderer. Woman attacked and stabbed, forest worker hearing her cries from his house and went to help.

- Horse and rider pulled out of one of the many pit cracks which occur on the forest and 3 lives lost in car and motorcycle accidents on forest roads.

Having written all that, we do have our forest walks, and a nucleus of the public who deplore forest abuse.

For example, one man on discovering a small smouldering patch, dashed back to his car, drove 2 miles to the Forester's house, picked up Forester and watering can from the garden and drove to the burning patch where watering can doused it.

Perhaps there is hope yet.

TEAMWORK BEATS ROAD DANGER



● Head Forester Jim Pratt and Forester Jim Lyon watch from a safe distance as Hugh Greig lands a 10m log on the road using the Alp winch.

THE PROBLEM facing Head Forester Jim Pratt of Inchnacardoch Forest, North Scotland and his harvesting staff was both a particularly difficult and potentially dangerous one. How to fell and extract 1000 Douglas fir on a steep, exposed site, directly above the busy A82 Loch Ness tourist road without a single tree, log or piece of rock falling onto the passing traffic below.

The work was planned to be completed by Whitsun 1982, before the summer traffic was at its peak. Felling started in autumn 1981, by Forest Craftsmen Clive Pell and Dougie Grant, using a modified bench-felling method, devised by Forester Rick Hayes of Work Study (Inverness) for dealing with large Douglas fir on steep slopes.

Trees were felled across the slope onto bearers and were allowed to roll downhill, coming to rest against stopper trees where they were sned and cross-cut. Since many branches broke off during the rolling, the effect on completion of the felling was of discreet horizontal zones of either timber or brash, the separation of the two making chocking easier and movement across the hill safer.

Precise directional felling was required to allow for the unequal distance covered by each end of the tapered tree when rolling downhill, and stopper trees were left in horizontal rows no more than 15m apart for this purpose. Husqvarna 162 chainsaws, fitted with large Nordfeller Felling cushions, were used for the felling and proved indispensable.

Douglas fir is a notoriously brittle species. Trees sliding tip-first downhill can develop horrifying momentum as the branches offer negligible resistance and are soon broken off.

This characteristic of Douglas fir proved a very real danger to the users of the A82, and as a consequence the traffic on it was controlled during felling.

Fellers and traffic controllers communicated by radio, each issued with a Sorno 500 handset. Small loudspeakers were fitted into the earmuffs of the fellers' safety helmets to allow them to hear their instructions confirmed by the traffic controllers.

As an added safety precaution, 300m of trawl net was erected on standing trees above the forest road to prevent rocks and logs from rolling unpredictably onto the A82.

Felling outputs in the order of 4m³ per hour were achieved, and largely due to the organised felling technique, disruption to traffic was minimal. Throughout the felling operation, only two trees proved to be rogue, sliding within 30m of the A82.

In both cases, the faults were diagnosed; in the first, a stopper tree had been felled by mistake, and in the second, the width of the strip between stopper trees had been allowed to expand to nearly 25m. In both cases, the trees turned too far downhill to be stopped.

The trees were cut into logs from 5m to 10m long, the longer length being the most common. The largest logs weighed 2.5 tonnes, the average 0.75 tonnes. These sizes were within the capability of the extraction equipment, a Jones Trailer Alp winch and a Jones Highland Bear skidder / forwarder fitted with a 4.5m crane and Igland 5000 winches.

Winch operator Hugh Greig was faced with the problem of extracting these large and cumbersome logs and stacking them safely on the narrow forest road.

Considerable skill was also required by the chokerman,

Gordon Steele, in the selection and safe chocking of each log since a mistake up the line could have meant serious consequences to those below.

Hugh Greig's skill in coaxing the logs from their resting places on the hill and landing them securely at his feet reminded one observer of an expert fisherman landing a 30 lb. salmon on a 4 lb. trout line.

Once on the forest road, the logs were skidded from the winch by tractor driver Willie Bell, loaded onto his 10 tonne trailer and forwarded to the lorry uplift point 1 Km away. All but the heaviest 10m logs were skillfully loaded onto the trailer without the need for cross-cutting.

The success of the operation depended on the skill and dedication of the men involved, their readiness to learn new skills or adapt old ones, and their co-operative teamwork.

YE GODS!

IT is curious how the impact of bizarre events can be enhanced when related in the deadpan style of official reports.

A man introducing himself as a stonemason from Canterbury Cathedral was found camping without a permit in Rushpole Wood in the New Forest.

The byelaw contravention report opened with this information and then raised the curtain on a more esoteric scene altogether.

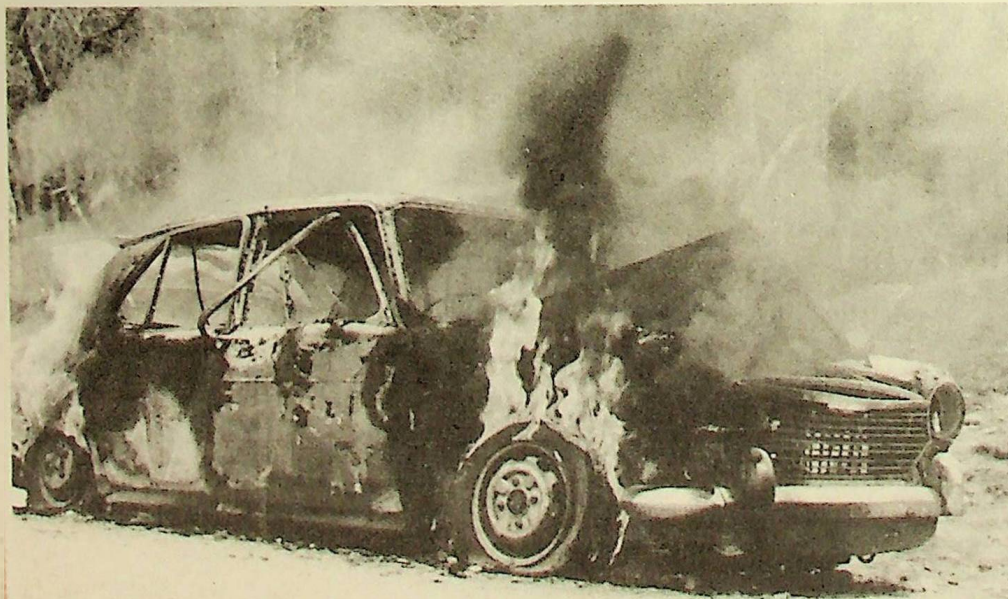
Not content with putting up a tent, the enterprising stone cutter had built a temple, within the tabernacle

of which he performed religious rites associated with the occult.

Our Keeper, rather wisely in the circumstances, returned with a constable, and managed to bring the sorcerer down from the astral plane long enough to convince him that the omens were against him.

He has now departed for Wales, moving about a foot above the ground.

If any of our Welsh colleagues come across a pentacle or even a tiny whiff of brimstone in their retained scrub they know what to expect.



The burning remains of a stolen car set on fire in Sherwood Forest.

£8000 N.R.S. BLAZE

WOODEN BEAMS SAVE ROOF

THE blaze which destroyed most of the General Office at the Northern Research Station could have caused even more damage — if the beams in the roof had not been made of wood.

Metal beams would have buckled with the intense heat and caused the roof to collapse.

The fire was discovered at around 4 am when the smoke detector sounded. The alarm awakened caretaker Mr Charles Stewart, who alerted the Fire Brigade and various sleeping members of staff.

Three Brigades arrived to tackle the blaze which was brought under control quickly. The fire is thought to have started because of an electrical wiring fault.

The General Office was extensively damaged. Seven staff normally work there, and the 80 filing cabinets in the office were buckled in the blaze, with a number of irreplaceable research records destroyed.

The roof remained intact thanks to the wooden beams. Most of the records survived, although they were all in a dirty, smoke damaged condition.

Despite the fact that it was a local holiday, a group of volunteers worked all day to clean the salvageable desks and cabinets and remove them to the library, which was ready to begin near normal working as a general office by the next morning.

It will now take some time to empty all the cabinets for thorough cleaning and repainting, and to sort out and replace the thousands of damaged files.

The cost of the damage to the building and furnishings is estimated at around £8000 and rebuilding work is now well underway.

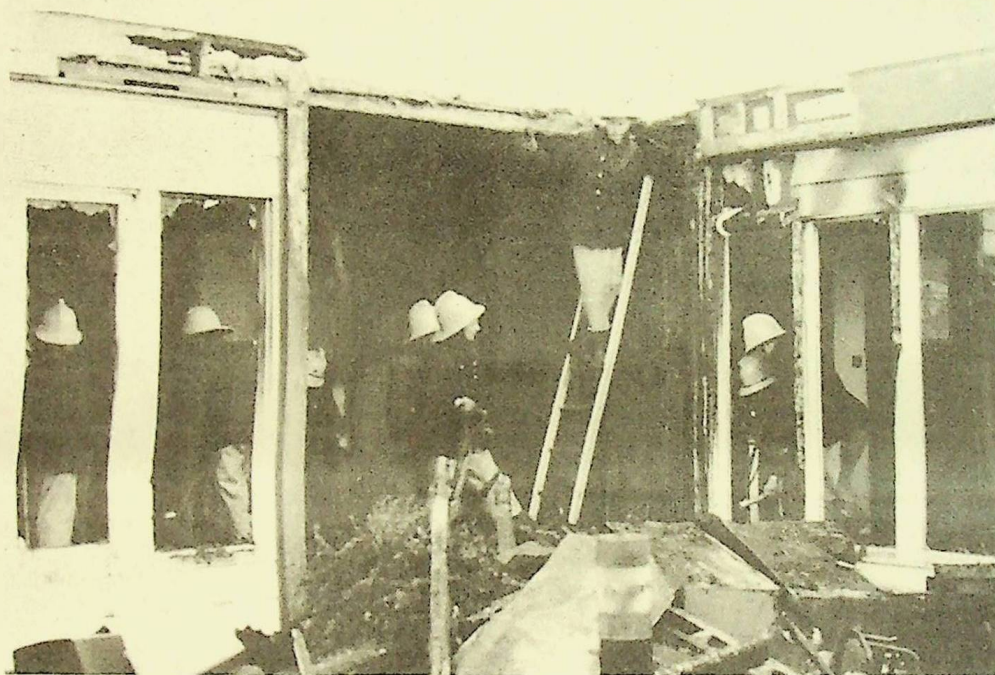
KNOW-ALLS!

A team representing Commission staff at Shin Forest have won a general knowledge competition sponsored by British Petroleum.

Senior ranger Hector MacLennan, head forester Norman Davidson and forester Bruce Thomerson fought through three qualifying contests held in the Lairg area to compete against the local Post Office team in the final.

AS we go to press, news is coming in of the discovery of the Great Spruce Bark Beetle in private woodlands in Shropshire, the first known occurrence of the deadly insect in British woodland.

Full details of the outbreak in a special colour feature in your Autumn Slasher.



Fireman clear up after the early morning blaze.

MINERS' FIND YIELDS A 260 MILLION YEAR SECRET

THE FOSSILISED trunk of a tree, which died 260 million years ago, has been unearthed by miners digging a link road 1000 feet below ground at the Six Bells Colliery, Abertillery in Gwent.

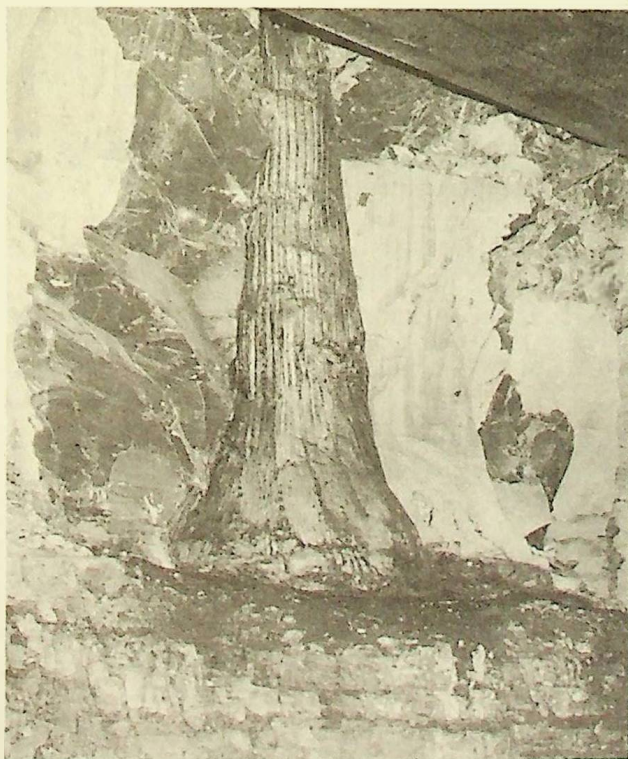
The remains of the now extinct lepidodendron tree was found in an upright position with its roots still intact.

The nine-foot-long section of trunk, complete with bark, has been brought to the surface and is likely to be put on show at either the National Museum of Wales or the museum at Blaenavon Colliery, which has been developed as a tourist attraction.

The find is a rare one, but the National Museum has two fossilised trunks in its possession which were recovered from South Wales pits some 50 years ago. However these are only between four and five feet long.

During the carboniferous period when it flourished, the lepidodendron grew to about 100 feet and had frond-like branches sprouting from its top.

The species has long been



extinct and its closest modern relative is the club moss which grows only a few

inches high and is found on moorland throughout Britain.

TAKING STOCK

This is the first in a regular column by Welfare Officer, Brian Atwell.

I SUPPOSE that I am not alone in my habit of taking stock of my life from time to time; of seeing where I seem to be fitting into the scheme of things, and wondering if I am going in the right direction; of reassessing different areas of my activities and relationships and hopefully making the appropriate adjustments.

In recent years, this seems to be an almost ongoing exercise as people and events move around me in an increasingly complex way.

I suppose it is partly to do with my own children reaching adulthood and approaching the point when

they will leave the nest — my nice comfortable nest — to start the process of setting up one of their own.

In addition my wife's own career and ambitions have moved forward recently, which both enhanced our relationship as well as adding unsurprising complications.

Watershed

On top of that my 40th year passed me by in a flurry of impressions about 2 years ago — quite a watershed for me — and I sometimes feel that 50 is bearing down fast and that my need to achieve (achieve what?) is not being satisfied.

There! I've bared my soul. I think perhaps I feel better for it.

When I am able to stand back half a pace and get away a little from what it feels like to be me, I am able to get a slightly more objective impression, and begin to understand that what I am really talking about is my own ability to accept and to understand and to work with Change as it affects my life.

Impressions

And that, I suppose, ties in with my broad impressions of my first 6 months or so as the Forestry Commission Welfare Officer, because, as often as not, despite the many different problems we all have, those which we find most difficult to cope with seem to be those which involve a form of change with which we seem unable to come to terms.

This seems to apply to almost every area of personal difficulty from those of us who do not wish to transfer, who are unable to accept revised working conditions and perhaps tight piece rates, or the loss of supportive colleagues, to those who cannot accept a new step-parent or who grieve because of the loss of a child or because a pregnancy has had to be terminated.

Success

It is ironic that the very ability which allowed the Organisation to survive — and it seems to me that in the course of my 20-odd years with the Commission its ability to change successfully, to evolve with changing political and economic circumstances, has been quite astonishing — is the very factor which can be at the root of many personal difficulties.

In any relationship, change is part of the deal. If each of us looks at the person we are now and makes a mental comparison with the person we were say 10 years ago — in 1972 — then, assuming we are honest with ourselves, a different person almost certainly will have evolved.

A man in his 40s might well, by now, have concluded that he is not going to be incredibly wealthy / Prime Minister / Megastar (delete as appropriate) and may be in the process of facing this.

Today's culture puts considerable priority on succeeding, and lack of success seems to imply a lack of stature — certainly in terms of material things. From that sort of limited viewpoint, failure is not really acceptable and to live



with this is to involve a considerable change in personal values.

A woman in her 40s may well have similar problems within herself. Menopausal problems — whether chemical or emotionally induced — have become wide reaching. However, equally difficult to cope with are the problems of role which seem these days to be part of the experience of being female.

It seems to me that the problems inherent in the roles of combining Worker and Mum are enough to tax most men, but the addition to this combination of the added roles of housekeeper / cook / mistress and social planner may make stress a constant companion.

When children leave home and husband and wife are thrown onto their own resources, the ability to accept and deal with change assumes great importance.

Upheaval

Even although Joan wanted to change her life and had thought about it, she was unable to accept the emotional upheaval which her attempts produced.

It had been an unhappy marriage of 2 individuals who were charming in themselves but who seemed somehow to feed off the worst in each other.

William is something of an intellectual, and has a sharp mind with a good vocabulary which he uses with skill. He is attractive and has had a number of affairs one of which was serious.

Joan is intelligent, makes no attempt to match William's cutting edge — although she makes her dissatisfaction clear — and has in her way attempted to be a supportive partner.

In his logical but unfeeling way, William has told her that he feels the marriage should end. Joan, however, felt dependent upon him.

Relationship

Another man appeared on the scene, and for the first time Joan found herself in a new and fascinating relationship. He is a widower and she had known him for some years in his married state. When eventually he offered marriage and accommodation for Joan and her 16-year-old youngest daughter, Joan took the decision to move.

William was a little sad but generally blew a great sigh of relief. Three days later Joan moved back to William who was furious and demanded an explanation.

Joan could not offer one. In fact she said that her expectations had been met during her 3-day sojourn.

It seems that while she had been intellectually ready to change she had not been ready emotionally.



Mike Kew receives his chain from last year's Mayor, Mrs Betty Perkins.

Mike Is Thetford's new Mayor

AT a colourful ceremony in the Guildhall, Thetford, Forester Mike Kew was elected Mayor of the Town for the coming year.

Mike has been deeply involved with the local community since he moved to Bridgham Forest, East Angles, 10 years ago. In this time he has served on the local Town Council for nearly seven years and has been a member of the Breckland District Council for just under three years.

Mike is looking forward to his term of office very much and with the town of Thetford at the centre of over 20,000 hectares of Forest he will have the interest of the forest industry very much at heart.

We wish Mike and his wife Anne, a delightful Mayoress, a most enjoyable and successful year.



GRAHAM RUNS 20 MILES A WEEK — AT LUNCHTIME!

AT the 1982 Scottish Orienteering Championships at Glentworth, Deeside, Dr Graham Pyatt, Head of Sites Studies (North) Branch won his age group (43-49). Two weeks later in the British Championships he emerged first again from 200 entrants at Derwent, Derbyshire.

Graham has been interested in orienteering for 12 years and is a familiar sight in his tracksuit during lunchbreaks when he

covers a minimum of 20 miles per week through woodland and tracks around Bush Estate.

As you would expect he always manages to find his way back to NRS without a map or compass.

Graham has a wide ranging interest in running and competes in races from the Bush Sports 3 mile race, which he has won 5 times, to Marathon events lasting 24 hours.

FIRST CLASS IDEA WINS HARRY £100

AT a ceremony in Headquarters, Harry Schnieder, Forester R&D stationed at Newcastleton was presented with a £100 cheque as a Staff Suggestion Award. The Award totalled £130 in all as there was also an Award by R&D local Committee.

The Suggestion was that instead of buying a postal rate charge for Salter machines at a cost of between £1.35 and £4.95 each and issuing them to all postal scale users in the Commission, one only should be purchased, photocopied and the copies sent to all user Departments. This should achieve quite a large saving each time the postal rates are altered.

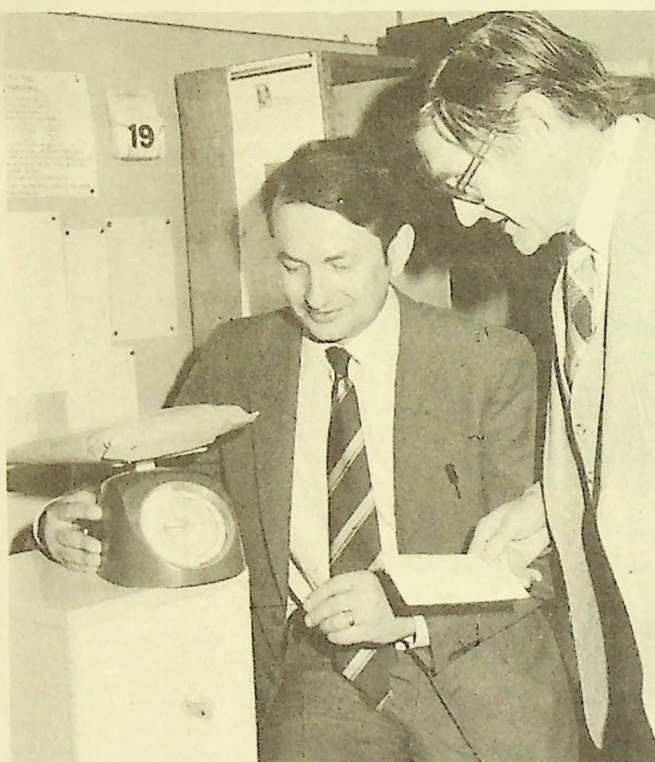
In presenting the Award, Mr Keith Thallon, head of Field Survey R&D, said that in the past Harry had produced some worthwhile suggestions and had won some useful prize money. This one, however, was not only the simplest but had also attracted the best reward to date.

And Julie's in the money, too!

MRS Julie Cook a Clerical Officer in East Angles Conservancy Office at Cambridge, had an unexpected windfall when she learned that she and a colleague had been awarded £200 for a suggestion they put forward in her previous Department, the Central Office of Information, some 3 years ago. This was the second part of the award as the two ladies had already received £25.

The delay in paying up was attributed to the fact that another Department, the Department of Employment, was involved in assessing the value of the suggestion which related to the distribution of Industrial Tribunal Lists.

"This came as a lovely surprise," said Julie, "I had given up all hope of receiving any more, especially as I had left the Department."



Strike a light!

AFTER a recent fire at Blaengwynfi, Cymer Forest, which burnt 6.5 ha of plantation and kept forest staff occupied throughout the night, Head Forester Duncan Lee was informed by a local youngster that he knew who had caused it.

Duncan was informed that "his mother only gave him one match and told him he could have a little fire."

We can't hope to win!

MARATHON MEN

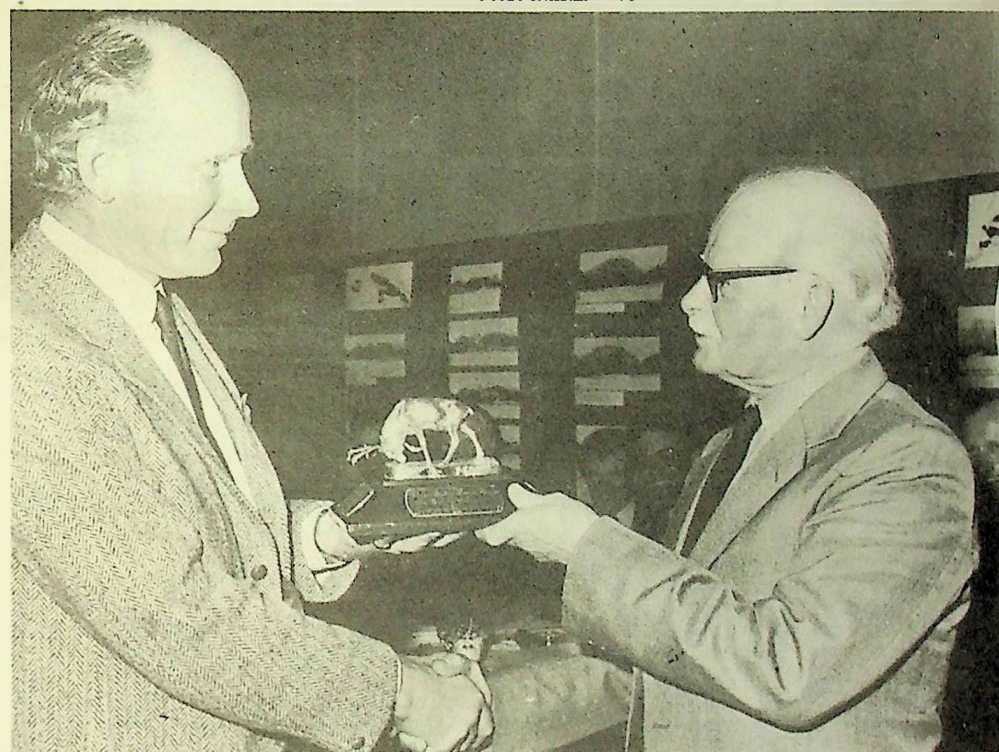
HOWARD DAVIES, Cartographic Draughtsman, ran in the London Marathon, although suffering from a cold.

The weather was very hot, but Howard completed the distance in 4 hours 28 minutes and raised £210 for the Broughton Hospital for Mentally Handicapped Children.

WALLY SIMPSON, at the age of 62, completed the Chester "Fun Run" in the very good time of 1 hour 58 minutes.

Sponsored by the office staff, the Clerical Officer raised almost £38 in aid of Cancer Research.

Many congratulations to both for these fine achievements.



BILL GRANT RECEIVES DEER TROPHY

BILL GRANT, who until he retired recently was Chief Forester at Grizedale, is this year's recipient of the Balfour-Browne Deer Trophy.

The trophy is presented to someone who has done exceptional work in the field of the conservation and management of deer. The magnificent trophy was presented to the Commission in 1965 by Miss E. M. C. Balfour-Browne of Goldieles, Dumfries in memory of her brother, Mr Vincent Balfour-Browne, the famous Scottish Deer artist and stalker.

Silver replica

It is a replica cast in silver of the original bronze red stag modelled by him and entitled "The Challenge."

Bill's award was presented by Commission Chairman, Sir David Montgomery, at a ceremony in the Whinlatter Visitors Centre. Sir David paid tribute to Bill's work in conservation, and his interest in the management of fallow deer as long ago as the late 40s and early 50s at Mortimer Forest. Bill became one of the first foresters trained in deer management by Mr A. H. Fookes,

the Commission's first Deer Warden. He was then at Thornthwaite Forest, but he moved shortly to Greystoke and then in 1964 to Grizedale.

Conservation pioneer

At Grizedale, Bill pioneered the management techniques for the conservation of both red and roe deer in woodlands. He has been highly successful and many of the current and proposed methods now being applied both inside and outside the Commission forests stem directly from Bill's work.

Particularly outstanding is his work with the unique herd of woodland red deer at Grizedale which will be an example for forest managers for many years to come.

Bill has not only been a keen observer of the habits of deer, a keen stalker, and innovator in management techniques, but he has also actively promoted good deer management by being a founder member of the British Deer Society, the Eden Valley and West Cumberland Deer Control Societies, and by being a regular instructor at Commission training courses and a speaker at many outside functions.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

DR JOHN PARKER, formerly a member of the Pathology Branch at Alice Holt Lodge, has been appointed Technical Publications Officer, the post previously held by the late Keith Wilson.

Dr Parker will be responsible for the planning, budgeting, preparation of text and illustrations, and progressing through HMSO and other printers, of all the technical publications in the FC Publications Programmes.

He will also be responsible for the stock control, issues and sales of these publications.

And talking of books . . .

DR JULIAN EVANS, Research Project Leader, Silviculture (S), has published a forestry text book "Plantation Forestry in the Tropics."

Dr Evans has drawn heavily on his experience in many parts of the tropics, including South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. He has worked extensively in the tropics, and especially in Swaziland, where he undertook postgraduate research, and in Papua New Guinea.

"Plantation Forestry in the Tropics" is not a silviculture manual of practice, but it is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to plantation forestry for the student at university or advanced diploma level in a developing country.

It will also provide an overview of plantation forestry for the practitioner, perhaps coming to the tropics for the first time, and for those working in other land-use or applied biological disciplines who seek a broad coverage of the subjects.

"Plantation Forestry in the Tropics," priced £35, is published by the Oxford University Press.

EMPIRE MEDAL FOR GERALD

THE presentation of the British Empire Medal was made to Mr Gerald Springthorpe, Head Ranger at Cannock Forest, by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Col. W. P. D. Featherstone on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen at the County Buildings, Stafford.

Gerald Springthorpe joined the Commission in 1953 and was the first employee to be fully trained in the selective control of deer. His exceptional work in the field of deer management has earned him a national reputation as a leading expert on deer, forest protection and wildlife conservation. Among the guests attending the ceremony were

Mr Springthorpe's wife and daughters, Conservancy staff, former members of Forestry Commission staff, representatives of Staffordshire County Council and the Nature Conservancy Council, also local dignitaries.

Speeches were made by Col. Featherstone and Conservator Alastair Rowan, and a bouquet was presented to Mrs Springthorpe by 6-year-old Erica Dannatt, daughter of Mr Norman Dannatt, Assistant Conservator, NW(E).

At the end of the ceremony, guests were offered refreshments kindly provided by the County Council.



THE 100 foot Douglas fir which will become the Glasgow Botanic Gardens' new flagpole is felled at Bannan Forest, South Scotland, by skilled forest craftsman Hugh McLachlan.

Already over £500 has been raised by the general public to help pay for the haulage to Glasgow and the preparation of the new pole. In the meantime, the tree will remain at Bannan until it has sufficiently dried out.

Photo by Douglas Green

NEW FOREST WALK FOR THE DISABLED

THE Afon Llan Walk for the Handicapped in Penllergaer Woods at Coed Abertawe has been opened. The walk was declared open by a resident of Brondeg House, Swansea, a residential and day care unit for the physically handicapped.

The 300 metre long walk is in a mixed conifer and broadleaved glade along the banks of the Afon Llan. It was designed by the Commission in co-operation with West Glamorgan Social Services Department and was constructed by a YOP team under the supervision of a Commission foreman.

The one metre wide path has been levelled and gravelled for

easy access and there are handrails on either side into which braille signs have been inlaid. The walk has been so located that visitors on foot or in wheelchairs can touch a variety of tree species on their way.

Picnic places and fishing platforms, where visitors can safely fish in the Afon Llan from their wheelchairs, have been built into the walk. There is a large car park at the entrance with other longer walks for the able bodies to enjoy.

Refreshments were provided by Mrs Price, wife of Head Forester Bob Price, who is very kindly donating the refund of her costs to Brondeg House.

BRAVERY AWARDS FOR FORESTRY MEN

FOUR forestry craftsmen from Powerstock Forest, Dorset who saved an elderly man and woman from a blazing car near Wincanton have received the award of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire.

The awards were presented by the Chairman of Somerset's Public Protection Committee, during the annual inspection of the Somerset Fire Brigade.

Ganger Richard Banbury and craftsmen Geoffrey Dimmock Norman House and Graham Rendell were working for the Commission on the Wincanton by-pass last summer when an 1100 car overturned and burst into flames.

While one of them held the fire at bay with the fire extinguisher from his vehicle, with the additional help of a passing motorist the others extricated the driver and his front seat passenger through the shattered windscreen.

Engulfed

"The rescuers had no easy task because Mr Hodson, the driver of the car, was elderly and had been quite badly burned," said Somerset's Chief Fire Officer Nigel Musselwhite.

"His wife had her leg in a full length plaster which made her rescue especially difficult and was further complicated because the car was on its side and engulfed in fire with a lot of black smoke."

Prompt actions

"There is no doubt in my mind that had it not been for the prompt actions of all these men both Mr and Mrs Hodson would have died in the car."

"Although the fire brigade from Wincanton took only three minutes to answer the emergency call the fire conditions when they arrived were so severe that it would have been impossible for any person to have survived."

PHILIP IS BANG ON TARGET

CONGRATULATIONS to Philip Rowell, Surveyor N(W) based at Newtown on his recent successes in target rifle matches.

At a weekend at Bisley, Philip was one of a Civil Service team which beat Sussex into 2nd place by six points.

On Saturday Philip scored 97 out of 100, shooting at 500

and 600 yards. On Sunday he scored 147 out of 150, firing at 300, 500 and 600 yards to share top individual place.

Another success was when Philip won the Lord Derby Trophy 1982 at a contest at the County of Lancaster Rifle Association.

(Below) Philip with his trophies for 1981.



FINLAND, FOREST

FORESTER CHARLES GREENLEES of Ratanag Forest, North Scotland returned to this country last summer after 13 years working in Finland. Charles attended Benmore Forestry School in the Fifties, and was an Assistant Forester in East Scotland for five years.

He then left to take an English Literature degree at Aberdeen University. In 1968 he went to Finland with the British Council, then worked for adult education institutes around Helsinki while at Helsinki University studying Conservation.

Charles married a Finnish forest biologist, and became **Foreign Editor of Finland's main monthly sports magazine.**

In this special feature **For Slasher**, he gives a fascinating insight into the place of forestry in Finland.

We had been driving for over half an hour in the direction of — but not to — the Russian border down an endless two-tone tunnel of light steel-blue snow and dark grey-blue forest. It was night and as dark as it can be when the floor of the world is white, but it was not late. Yet we had passed no villages, no houses, no fields, no people.

Two huge timber lorries with trailers had thundered past, a snowstorm in their wake. The two men in the front seats had passed no more than a couple of comments to each other, the whole journey and those were in English for my benefit. Then a car shot past. Three vehicles in forty minutes!

Commandment

The passenger turned to the driver and said without irony: "The road's busy this evening."

If you want to "get away from it all," no country in Europe offers more opportunity.

The key statement in Finland's Forest Legislation reads: "Thou shalt not desecrate the forest." If that sounds like the eleventh commandment, for Finns, it is.

Decree: "To violate or

outrage the sacred character of" says the dictionary. The Finn does not see the forest as an alien environment that has been put there to spoil the view of the "natural" bare mountains behind him, on the contrary, as their natural environment, part of their heritage and a haven of sanity.

Ninety-eight per cent of the Finns are Lutheran. The church is rich and is able to keep Finland's famous architects in constant employment but come Sunday, the churches are largely empty, the congregation is in the forest, imbibing its "sacred character."

Helsinki has the same population as Edinburgh, but three times its area. On an average weekend a quarter of the population is away in the countryside and in Finland, that means the forest.

In summer it's soaking in the sun and swimming in the warm, shallow lakes, tending their bit of forest and taking saunas. In autumn it's nearly all forest, picking the nut and quantities of berries that cover



A sawdust exercise track through the forest. Every community has one usually about a mile long, pleasantly undulating and illuminated at night. In winter they become cross-country ski tracks.

Necessity

When a couple gets married their first material objective is as likely to be a country cottage as a car. The car could well be to keep up with the Nevalains, but the cottage is "a necessity of life." It must have the lake in front and the forest behind, not within shouting distance of another and as inaccessible as possible.

It was a Swede who was famous for saying "I want to be alone" but in Finland the phrase is indigenous. The twenty or so students at the forester training school in east Finland are already employed by the company that runs the place, one of two it owns. I sat in on the instruction for a week and one of the instructors took it upon himself to give me the occasional synopsis in English.

One day, on a visit to a sawmill, he commented on an unusual sawmilling problem.

"Lead," he said enigmatically. "In the air or on the soil?" "In the logs," I looked puzzled.

"Bullets!" He explained. "Bloody Russian bullets, from bloody Russian guns."

I had already noticed he never used the word Russian without the epithet "bloody." Thirty years since the Finn-Russian war and there were still enough bullets in the trees of this war zone to cause difficulties — but then trees grow slowly in Finland.

"How do you know the bullets are Russian?" "They missed, didn't they?" "No, an unjustified observation, the badly equipped, under-trained Russians lost ten bogged-down tank crew or walking man (or woman) to every one skinning Finn, but one of those was our instructor's father."

Working on a chemical recycling experiment in the south-east corner of the country I was visited from time to time by the research forester who said nothing in English and very little in Finnish except "How's it going?"

On one occasion he remained staring at an ever-present plume of smoke on the horizon. Presently he began to chuckle quietly. I was meant to ask a question, I asked it.

"What's funny?" "Our old smoke!" he replied. I got the point. The smoke was coming from the Russian side of the border from a factory built by his company in a town that belonged to Finland until they lost it, together with a quarter of the country to the Russians in war reparations.

The irony was that whilst the Russians were still using the original system built by the Finns in the thirties, Finland was into its third generation of post-war pulp.

He paring shot put it more succinctly: "They win the war, we win the peace."

Yet these two incidents are not typical. "Western" visitors eagerly enquire of the western Finns how they can keep their nerves living, as they do, check by pool with the Russian monster. The question, though frequently asked, always takes the Finns by surprise — "something they have got used to not thinking about. All senior school pupils learn three languages apart from Finnish,

Russian is very rarely one of them; English always is. Finns seldom take their holidays in the Soviet Union — though they frequently take a cheap alcoholic weekend in Leningrad, just a bus ride away.

Nevertheless, since the demise of the British economy in the early sixties, the Soviet Union has quietly taken over as the major exporter to Finland and, with the typical Finn's insistence on high quality manufactured goods, imports from Russia can only mean raw materials.

Productive

Timber is one such major import. Coals to Newcastle? Certainly, but Newcastle is burning its coal faster than it can mine it. Seventy-five per cent of the country is productive forest — the total land area of Great Britain.

Take away ten per cent for the sixty thousand lakes (yes, 60,000) and there is not much left for folk, farm and fowl — unlike Scandinavian countries proper, Finland is almost entirely flat or undulating.

When the Russian took that

twenty-five per cent of Finnish land after the war, they made sure it included the watersheds. The Finns won that one too.

The Russian forests include much timber at the head of "Finnish" rivers. For utilitarian purposes it is nearer to Finland than it is to the Soviet Union.

Though most of it is now imported by lorry, a lot is still dumped into the rivers to find its leisurely way to mills as much as a thousand kilometres downstream.

Being self-effacing democrats, they determined I saw "Some egg on the face of Finnish forestry" and flew me with a group of filmologists to another far-flung corner of Lapland.

One problem of growing concern was that the logs, as they floated down the rivers and across the lakes, dropped their bark and polluted the waters, diminishing the fish supply.

Our job was to measure the bark on the bundles of logs before they were tipped into the river and compare our statistics with the loss of bark on comparable bundles fished out at the mill.

The second problem was more dramatic, more notorious and so, more embarrassing. It had been decided to dam and flood a remote valley for hydro power. The timber value of the valley was low since it bordered the unproductive forest zone (bits of Finland and constantly diminishing due to fertilization and peatland treatment).

There had been opposition from conservationists and, more urgently, from Lapps objecting to disturbance and loss of reindeer territory.

So, by way of compensation, it was agreed to stock the new lake with fish for their convenience. But someone somewhere feared for the project and asked for "fair compensation."

The dam was built and the

shallow valley hurriedly flooded — trees in situ. So the drowned trees poisoned the water, killing the recently introduced fish.

We were to sample and analyse the water at varying depths but being April and so still winter there, the lake was under half a metre of ice and from the top end of it you couldn't see the dam at the bottom end.

Breakneck

There were seven of us and a stick of equipment and two long ropes for the rest of us. The ropes were fixed to the sledges and slis were fixed to our feet.

We too, a firm grip of the ropes and he motor sledges took off at breakneck speed. The smooth ice suddenly became a slippery blur: field end, being on the edge ("Nobody to crash into you WHEN you fall!"). I was scuffed left and right of the tracks.

In row, short dead trees flashed by — the tops of tall dead trees rooted in the lake bottom.

After forty nerve-wracking minutes I arrived at our first sampling point. While I collected the specified points, the other four bored in the ice with a gas cork screw and the water sampler lowered down (opened & closed by remote control) to bring up a (frequent) sample. The results were ecologically dismal.

It had been — 20°C when we had got up that morning but by midday it needed dark goggles and sun lotion against the reflection from the whiteness around — yet the shade temperature was still below zero.

Here it could get frost bite and numb in one morning.

Author Charles Greenlees (standing) and a filmologist testing the chemical content of a "petrified" lake with a water sampler — an ice borer is in the foreground.

Then the hair-raising, body-shattering return to base where, in the evening, we were visited by an old Lapp kept to chat and drink vodka with these Finns, (Wichiter Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian or Russian, Lapps are Lapps and speak a common language, Saami).

He came not by ski but by reindeer-drawn sledge and not to amuse the tourists but because he had travelled that way for over sixty years and would still be died.

He and I chatted in our common "Finnish" language, he curious about Britain and I about his way of life. Eventually he asked me how I farced living in Lapland.

"I could stand the cold," I said. "But not these endless days of darkness." He chuckled at my naïveté.

"It's not dark . . . we have candles."

Despite the vodka, I was suddenly sobered. His was a set of values virtually extinct in modern Finland.

Back in Helsinki, a Finnish forester would have found it strange to discuss the University debates on whether or not tree planting was a worthwhile activity in a country where nature re-occurs every bit of land left bare.

It was so strange though to the thousands of Finnish small farmers, all of whom have forest land, by the timber requirement forecast was particularly high in the forest was a glut of corn, they were paid a handsome subsidy to plant their fields with conifers. If timber demands looked like

falling or food was the priority, they were paid a similar subsidy to cut down the forest and cultivate.

Since the policy seemed to change a couple of times a decade, it was good business but it has owed more to domestic politics than to agriculture or silviculture.

On a national scale there is a flourishing quality engineering industry with names like Valmet, Wärtsilä, Lokomo and Fiskars turning up in British forests and Jaakko Pöyry planned timber processing mills turning up in Brazil, Nigeria and Japan.

Impetus

The impetus given to industry when Finland had to pull itself up by its own skin bindings after the war caused the social revolution of the fifties, tipping the population scales from rural to urban for the first time.

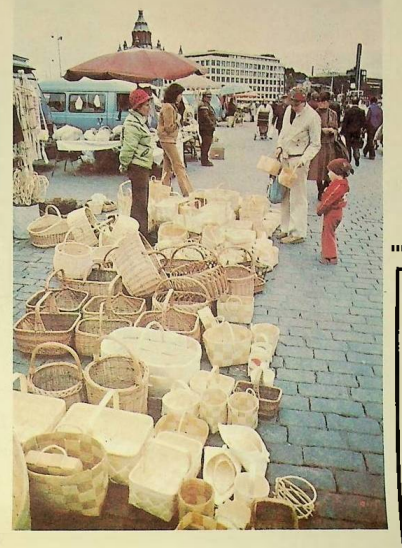
Inevitably they became more sophisticated and materialistic, but, like their elegant birch trees, their roots are too deep in the forest to abandon it and less than a couple of generations and the spirit of the forties and the leadership of the Maunheim, their national saviour, too vivid in their heritage to be forgotten.

So, if the timber stops flowing across the forest, the forest stops. If the timber stops, the forest stops. If the timber stops, the forest stops. If the timber stops, the forest stops. If the timber stops, the forest stops.

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Forest products on display

Baskets, mostly of woven split pine, in Helsinki market. Behind is the Eastern Orthodox Cathedral (2% of Finns are Orthodox) and, spoiling the view, the modern headquarters of Enso-Gutzeit, Europe's biggest forest products company.



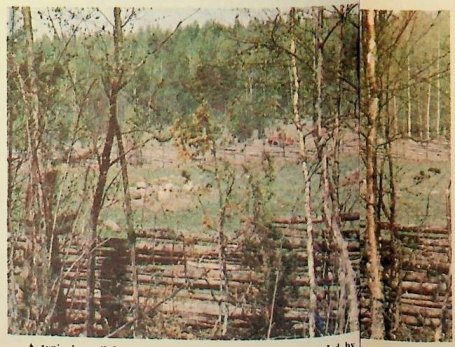
Colour Photographs by Douglas Green

FLYING HIGH

A 50 ft. radio mast is lowered into position on the summit of Ben na Sraime (2975 ft.) to complete the Commission's radio-link between Glenorchy, Inverliver and Baraculdie forests in West Scotland.

Dollar Helicopters first carried a compressor to the mountain to prepare the mast's base and anchor points before returning with the mast, which will be a great boon to radio communications in the area and could prove invaluable in the event of forest fire.

The operation was planned and supervised by EC engineering staff. Pictured below is road foreman Angus Greenan of the West Argyll engineering squad at a dizzy height securing the wire stays at the top of the mast.



A typical small farmer's field in eastern Finland surrounded by forest. Here forestry does well but farming struggles.

A small, lakeside group of valuable birch dwarfing another generation of spruce.

RE-SHAPING ENNERDALE FOREST

Press tour wins media support

Photograph by Isobel Cameron

ENNERDALE FOREST — for fifty years subject of some of the fiercest criticism encountered by the Forestry Commission from ramblers and environmentalists — opened its gates to the Press, including some of its former critics, on June 9th.

The reason for the Press Tour was to publicise the far-seeing Ennerdale Forest Design Plan which had just received final approval from interested bodies such as the Lake District Planning Board, the National Trust and the Countryside Commission.

The Press turn-out on the day was encouraging, with reporters and cameramen from national and local newspapers, BBC television, BBC national and local radio and Border television, all reporting to Ennerdale Forest Office before setting off on a tour of some of the major design features of the plan.

The Commission's Head of Forest Design and Recreation, landscape architect Duncan Campbell, District Officer Mike Scott and his assistant Liz Boone, as well as men on the spot Peter Humphries, Head Forester and Forester Brian Mahony were all on hand to explain details of the scheme and to spell out the Commission's landscape philosophy with regard to Ennerdale.

The forest has come in for special treatment because it lies in one of the most popular dales in the Lake District and is viewed not only from the valley bottom but also from the surrounding peaks such as Steeple, Red Pike, Pillar and



Senior landscape architect Duncan Campbell (centre) and District Officer Mike Scott (right) show the Ennerdale plan to the interested media group.

Haystacks which dominate the ridges on either side. Started, in 1926 many plantations are now reaching maturity and this has presented a major opportunity

to reshape the forest by designing the felling areas so that their pattern of shapes fits into the landscape. The second generation forest will also be

landscaped to add diversity by mixing the species and leaving unplanted existing prominent landscape features such as crags, screes or old trees.

In addition 800 hectares have been redesigned along 13 miles of upper forest margin. The new forest will emerge over the next 30 years until the year 2010.

OAK TREE PLANTED IN TED KEEN'S MEMORY

AN oak tree has been planted at Eggesford in memory of Ted Keen, Private Woodland Officer SW(E), who died last October.

The idea was proposed by Lord Clinton, who knew Ted well, and whose great-grandfather planted the Forestry Commission's first trees at Flashdown, Eggesford, in November 1919.

Eggesford Forest had previously been part of Ted's district and the present attractiveness of the Eggesford valley can partly be attributed to his influence on management and landscaping.

The tree was planted in front of the Eggesford office, in a valley still well stocked with large Douglas fir.

The sun came out as the soil was filled, in turn, by Lord Clinton, Philip Tuckett TGEW SW(E) Chairman, Conservator Leslie Troup, and Bill Keen, Ted's eldest son who recently graduated in Forestry.

Lord Clinton said he felt that a memorial of this sort was entirely appropriate: Ted was held in high esteem for his services to private woodlands.

Mr Troup recounted the occasion when he and Ted had arrived together to join the Forestry Commission at the SE(E) Conservancy office and their combined height was

remarked on as having instantly increased the Conservancy average stature.

Ted's physical stature he said was equalled by his integrity, intelligence, logical approach and his many abilities including qualifications in mathematics and physics.

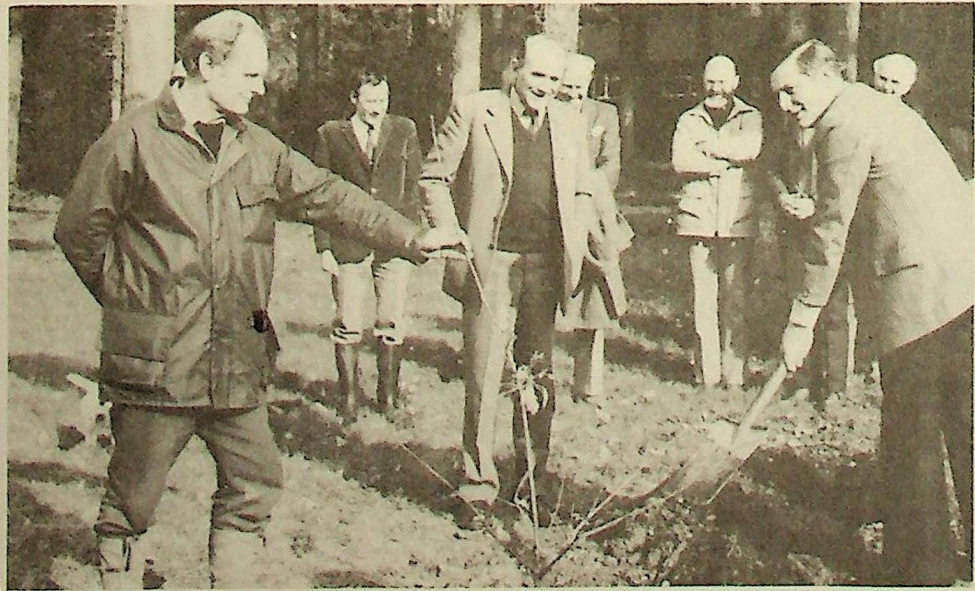
Lord Clinton presented a plaque for the tree which reads:

Ted Keen 1923-1981

Forest Officer

A friend of private forestry.

Below, Mr Tuckett fills in the soil as the tree is held by Forester Dick Grenfell. In the centre foreground is Lord Clinton. The tree was donated by Mr John Gill, a private forestry consultant.



Ben Lomond not for sale

THE Commission is not to sell Ben Lomond. This was decided at the June meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

We had been considering selling an area of about 2000 hectares, which includes Ben Lomond, as part of the disposals programme. Because of the area's importance for public recreation and its very special place in Scotland's national heritage it was recognised from the outset that a sale could only proceed if satisfactory arrangements were made to maintain access.

It is to meet this obligation, and on the strong advice of its Regional Advisory Committee, that we have decided against putting the area on the market. "Throughout our consideration of this matter we have been acutely conscious of the environmental and recreational importance of the area and would under no circumstances have sold without first ensuring that adequate and lasting provision could be made for public

access," said an Information Branch spokesman.

"It was the very firm opinion of our Regional Advisory Committee that the best way of ensuring this was for the Commission to retain ownership of the area, and this was endorsed at the Board meeting."

NEW FOREST WEEDS?

A routine check of plant stocking in a New Forest Inclosure revealed that some enterprising individual had beaten up a gap with six cannabis plants.

The police have confiscated these interlopers.

A glance down the file list did not immediately suggest an appropriate home for the papers in the case, but they have now been put away on Amenity Planting.

Trees for all seasons

THE 1983 Trees for all Seasons Calendar is now available, priced £1.65 to Commission staff.

Copies are available from HQ Reception, Westonsbirt, Beddington and other FC locations or on application to Publications, Alice Holt.

The quality of the photographs is even better than before, and the 1983 Calendar will make an ideal gift for all who love trees.

UNIQUE DOUBLE FOR NEW PE BOSS



DAVID GRUNDY, our new Head of Planning and Economics, has a unique claim to fame — his university education was at Jesus College, Cambridge and Jesus College, Oxford.

Mr Grundy first received his MA degree in Philosophy at Cambridge and joined the Civil Service as an Administrator. He worked in the Departments responsible for the nationalised industries, had an interesting year as one of Mr Tony Benn's private secretaries when he was Secretary of State and was then promoted Principal in the Department of Trade and Industry. In 1972 he was seconded to Oxford where he took his Masters degree in Economics.

His next appointment was to the Foreign Office, where he was concerned with overseas aid and economic development, followed by two years in the Department of the Environment, principally dealing with the water authorities.

Mr Grundy then moved to the warm waters of the South Pacific where he was in charge of the Economic Planning Office of the New Hebrides, "which gave me a nice taste for cold climates like Edinburgh!" The New Hebrides were a British Dependency, but the administration was shared by the French. There were two police forces, two education services, two health services, two immigration services — and a lot of confusion.

The islands became independent last August, and Mr Grundy returned to Britain. After a brief spell as a lecturer in economics at the Civil Service College, he joined the Commission in April.

Married with one son, Mr Grundy's hobbies are sailing, squash, hill-walking, music and the theatre.

Chris Booth Appeal Fund

WE are happy to report that the response to the appeal fund has been quite magnificent, and the results have far exceeded the expectations of the trustees. Wendy and Robin Booth will benefit by more than £3000, and the money has been received from every part of the country — from both current and former colleagues.

Thanks go to all who made this effort possible, and in particular, those who took the time and trouble to collect on behalf of others.

The children are settled in the home counties at the moment, and are in the care of their grandparents. They have resumed an even tenor to their lives, and once a legal guardian has been formally appointed by the courts, should be able to look ahead with confidence.

We are in touch with the family's solicitor at the moment concerning the disbursement of the appeal funds.

Around & About

EAST ENGLAND

MR EAST ENGLAND WILL BE MISSED



Conservator, Eric Winterflood (Right) presents Jack Threadgill with a camera and accessories.

JACK THREADGILL, who joined the Commission as a Clerical Officer in 1950, has retired under the Job Release Scheme. Jack joined the public service in 1936.

After a very short spell in Savile Row, he came to Cambridge in 1950. Two years later he was promoted to Executive Officer and transferred to Director (Wales) in Aberystwyth. He came back to Cambridge in 1957.

In 1972 he was promoted to HEO and held the post that he will be remembered for in the Conservancy Office. He was responsible for Private Woodlands, Forest Management, Land Agency and Establishments. Above all, he will be remembered for the conscientious and sympathetic way he carried out the duties of Welfare Officer.

Eighteen months ago, Jack reverted to EO and took on the post of EO in charge of Establishments. His long association with the Conservancy made him a particularly good choice for this exacting post. Additionally, he was Slasher Correspondent and served as Chairman of the Social Committee.

At a party on his behalf at Owen Webb House, Cambridge, Conservator, Eric Winterflood said that Jack was East England and there was no doubt that he would be missed. He read messages of good wishes from as far away as Inverness before presenting him with a camera on behalf of over 100 well-wishers.

Bernard's mystery cruise

OVER eighty friends and colleagues organised a surprise "Cruise with Bernard" on the River Thames to mark the retirement of Bernard Beard, Chief Forester at Chiltern Forest.

They joined Bernard and his wife Joan on a delightful evening cruise, where Conservator Mr Rod Hewitt presented a variety of gifts, including wood turning tools, gardening implements and a garden seat.

Bernard's first in charge post was at Amptill where he remained for ten years running the nursery and taking the first

step in production work on that forest.

In 1962 he returned to Thetford for a short spell, until his promotion to Head Forester on Private Woodlands in the Chilterns. After 5 years he was promoted and took charge of Chiltern Forest where he was to remain until his retirement.

Bernard was at his best in the Chilterns where he thoroughly enjoyed working and dealing with the private estates and many members of the public.

FOREST FAREWELLS

Wensum

THE sum total of service of Jack Clarke, Fred Medler and Geoff Williamson, Forest Craftsmen, amounted to over 75 years. At a farewell gathering of colleagues Principal District Officer Len Simpson presented retirement gifts and wished all three a long and happy retirement.

Kings

BOB THOMPSON retired after 35 years with the Commission on Kings Forest. He had been a ganger for 33 years and had taken part in a wide range of forest operations from planting to felling.

At a gathering of colleagues Bob was presented with a Long Service Certificate by Eric Winterflood, Conservator, and an electric hammer drill from his fellow workers.

Swaffham

JOHN SAYER, Forest Craftsman, retired after 34 years'

service. In his early years with the Commission he became noted for his expertise with an axe and bowsaw, and during the whole of his working life he has cycled to work — and was never late!

John is well known locally as a natural history enthusiast and a keen gardener. He was presented with a Long Service Certificate by his Chief Forester John Webster together with gifts of garden shrubs, a sprayer for roses and a cheque to buy seeds and plants.

Aldewood

RON SCARCE has retired after Ganger after 34 years' service. Staff and workmates at Aldewood presented him with a cut-glass tankard and sufficient starters for a first fill.

With the best wishes of his colleagues, Ron intends to devote more time to his bowls.

WEST SCOTLAND

Colourful end for stalwarts

KNAPDALE Forest has lost two stalwarts, Jimmy Livingston and Neil Galbraith, after working there for 32 and 41 years. In glorious weather their colleagues gathered to present them with specially commissioned watercolours by local artist Ann Thomas.

Jimmy's was of "Seafield," the forest holding where he and his father were crofters, while Neil, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of West Coast puffers, was given one of the "Spartan" on Crinan Canal.

Neil, who started work in 1939, was involved in every planting since then, and has seen his trees cut down and extracted in most cases by Jimmy who contributed so much to cablecrane extraction over the past 10 years.

Andy calls it a day

ANDY SIMPSON, Forester at Carradale has retired after 43 years' service in West Scotland. Andy has been 29 years in the Kintyre area, and his colleagues gathered to present him with a Teasmade alarm which will enable him to enjoy an instant cuppa and a long lie.

TAIL-END CHARLIE RETIRES

JIM FIELDS was probably one of the few Head Foresters to fly as a "tail-end Charlie" gunner in Lancasters during the Second World War.

Jim's first appointment was at Brandon Central Depot, followed by a period at Swaffham Forest before he took charge of the Harley beat in the Thetford area, where he spent ten years. He then transferred on promotion to Bardney Forest before taking up his final appointment in Private Woodlands Section at Lincoln.

At a farewell gathering, Jim was presented with a digital watch and gift vouchers, by Mr Rod Hewitt. Barbara, his wife, was presented with a pot plant by W. J. McCavish, the Lincoln Forest Officer.

Gordon goes

GORDON GENEVER, Foreman Mechanic / Inspector in Lincolnshire for 30 years, has retired after a long period of ill health. A small gathering of colleagues heard former CME Graham Cook pay tribute to Gordon's efficiency and popularity stretching back in time to their service together in the same Army Unit.

The Conservator presented Gordon with a farewell gift with good wishes for better health and a long retirement.

Around & About

SOUTH WALES

ARTHUR'S FAREWELL TO RHONDDA

ARTHUR HAZZARD has retired after 22 years with the Commission, almost all spent as Forest Clerk at Rhondda Forest.

A recognised authority on the Rhondda and its turbulent history Arthur was a mine of information on the industrial past whose legacy of derelict tips and workings pose problems for today's foresters and engineers.

A past President of the Rhondda Society, Arthur is a lecturer with the Extra Mural Department of the University of Wales and has regularly led guided walks in the Rhondda Forest Project.

At a gathering in the forest office David Parsons, DFO, presented Arthur with an electric Jig-Saw on behalf of the forest staff and conservancy colleagues. Also in the picture is Bob Powell, Head Forester, Rhondda.



FRANK WON'T STAY AWAY FROM HIS FAVOURITE FOREST

MR FRANK WEBB, District Forest Officer at Carmarthen for over 20 years, has retired after 31 years' service.

Frank joined as a Forest Worker at Coed-y-Brenin before going to the University College of North Wales, Bangor where he gained a BSc in Forestry in 1951. He rejoined the Commission as a District Forest Officer

at Llandrindod Wells and Aberystwyth before going to Carmarthen in 1961.

At a gathering in Brechfa, Conservator Mr Alan Rix paid tribute to the contribution Mr Webb had made to forestry and presented him with a microscope and cheque. Mrs Webb received a bouquet from Miss Ann Phillips, District Office Clerk.

Mr and Mrs Webb, who are both keen botanists, will continue to reside at Pembrey and will certainly be regular visitors to their favourite forest — Pembrey. The microscope will enable them to pursue their study of mosses in greater depth.

Below, Mr and Mrs Webb with their gifts, and Conservator Alan Rix and Miss Ann Phillips.



Ron takes his ease

RON TAYLOR, Forest Craftsman at Caer has retired after nearly 35 years.

At the Grange Hotel, Llandovery, Mr John Everard, Assistant Conservator, presented Ron with his long service certificate, and Mr Angus Maxwell, Chief Forester, Crychan, presented a teak garden seat.

Mr Bryan Davies, District Organiser NAAAW thanked Ron for his sterling union work which spanned over 25 years on various committees.

CHEQUE FOR JOHNNY BACH

JOHN LLEWELLYN JONES, Forest Craftsman, has retired from Caer Forest after 27 years.

A group of friends gathered at the forest office to wish "Johnny Bach" a long and happy retirement and to present him with a cheque.

Around & About

Around & About

Around & About

SOUTH SCOTLAND

DAVE GREW SOME 200 MILLION TREES



MR DAVID MURRAY, Head Forester at Fleet Forest has retired after 39 years with the Commission.

At Fleet Forest Office, Conservator Mr John Davies, presented Dave with a Hi-Fi Stereo Recorder as a retire-

ment gift from his very many friends and colleagues.

Outlining Dave's service, Mr Davies paid tribute to the

quality of plants produced under Dave's supervision at Fleet and Bareagle Nurseries

and calculated that he had been responsible for growing and dispatching somewhere in the region of 200 million transplants.

(Above), the Conservator and Chief Forester A. R. McLaren hand over the gift.

BILL'S 35 YEARS

MR BILL BAGOT, forester at Glentress has retired after 35 years service. At a gathering at the Clovenfords Hotel colleagues gave Bill their best wishes and the Conservator presented him with a pair of binoculars.

ERIC WILL BE SNAP HAPPY

ERIC SOUNESS recently retired from the Forestry Commission after completing nearly 25 years' service at Lammermuir.

At an informal ceremony Eric was presented with a camera from the staff and workmates.

Rogate will never be the same

ROGATE Nursery will hardly be the same now that Gladys Stevens has retired. She was the power house of the office, the one who kept the paperwork immaculate; in short, the ideal forest clerk.

Her potential was recognised early on. She joined the Commission at Buriton Forest (now Queen Elizabeth) in 1946 straight from the Wrens, and she is remembered still by old hands sitting on a log happily eating her lunch clad in parts of her uniform (clothes were rationed).

The local Forester at that time was Jim Davey. When Gladys left in 1951 to get married and start a family, he never forgot her and on his transfer to Rogate with its two nurseries in 1957 he knew he was going to need a

good clerk and he knew where to go to get one.

Gladys returned in triumph and took on both nurseries as well as extra duties from Arundel, responsible for the accurate despatch of 30 million transplants.

Colleagues came from far and wide for Gladys's farewell. Conservator Charles Begley presented a Teasmade and a rose bowl, and a potted plant was given by Mrs Davis, the clerk at Queen Elizabeth.

HE WAS SACKED BY HIS DAD

STAN WARWICK was just 15 when he went to work at Ringwood Nursery in 1934. There he joined the "Warwick empire," headed by his father.

There was no question of favouritism since Ganger Warwick ruled with a rod of iron, indeed when in 1939 someone had to be laid off it was Stan who found himself without a job.

After the war, Stan returned to Ringwood as a forest worker, became a tractor driver, and was selected to be a Civil Engineering Tractor Driver, which grade he has held ever since.

Now he has taken his retirement and at a gathering at the Burley Office, Stan received his long service certificate. Among his gifts were a garden seat, an electric planer and a magnificent silver plate.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

THE REAL ANDY DEVINE STORY

ALTHOUGH for most people the above title could have come from almost any issue of Picturegoer magazine during the 1940s, to a small élite it has always been known that the real Andy Devine is a Head Forester in the New Forest.

Or was, until 15 June when he retired after thirty-two years with the Commission.

Deputy Surveyor Donn Small and Chief Forester Ron Watkinson paid tribute to Andy's professionalism and sense of discipline. Among the many gifts presented were a painting of Hong Kong harbour from Morey Woolaston and a locally made thumb stick from Forester Peter Clapham. Andy's

sister was presented with a bouquet by Beryl Ettinger.

Andy will miss the daily round. As he said, the early training years with the Commission were tough but afterwards it was downhill all the way and each day spent in forestry was a bonus. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

OLD GUARD THINS OUT

WITH the retirement of George Turner, the original "old guard" at Bedgebury Forest has lost another stalwart. George began there in 1955 and has seen some of his early plantings approach their third thinning.

Colleagues met him for lunch at the Netherfield Arms and presented him with a drill and a set of bits. Now he's got both the time and the equipment for all those little jobs around the house.

George will be greatly missed for his industriousness, loyalty, dedication and keen sense of humour.

Is he really retired?

DID he or didn't he? Retire, that is. Well, certainly Senior Ranger Jack Paton formally retired from the Commission's service on 2 July 1982. He had to, he was going to be 65 on 4 July, Independence Day, but in the dictionary retirement is defined as withdrawing from active life, and Jack is not one to do that.

In fact his new independence will not change the habits of a lifetime. He will still rise at half past three of a morning, summer and winter. He will still be working with and for the wildlife he loves.

Perhaps his camera and tape recorder will be more in evidence than his rifle, but his life will still be governed by the round of the seasons and that is how he wants it to be.

Jack Paton joined the Commission at Kershope Forest and

became a Ganger. He was transferred to Abinger Forest in 1957 and in 1970 he found his vocation when he became a Ranger. He moved to Micheldever Forest a year later and it was at the Micheldever Office that his farewells were said.

Conservator Charles Begley, who had known Jack in the old Kershope days, presented him with his long service certificate and a clock from his friends and well wishers.

More time for darts

TED CORK has recently retired after more than 30 years at Lyminge, now part of Challock Forest. Ted was one of the first members of the production gang and his skill at splitting sweet chestnut for fencing was legendary.

Equally legendary is his skill at darts, which has won him many trophies.

Ted will be much missed at his unit, where he was Beat Union

Steward and HASAWA representative. His District Officer, Tom Coulson, at a get-together of friends and colleagues, presented Ted with his long-service certificate and some fishing gear.

As Ted is also a keen golfer it looks as if he will find plenty to do. We wish him well — including a double top, a hole in one and the biggest trout in the stream.

POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

In the Slasher winter / spring issue / there is a report of one Christmas Tree being exported to Singapore. This was reported as a new export.

I would like to inform you that for the past four to five years we have exported Christmas Trees from Tair Onen to

Barbados by Geest Banana boats.

The Geest Banana Company have bought over 100 trees each year to be shipped by their refrigerated boats from Barry to their employees in Barbados.

Yours faithfully,
L. W. HOWARD,
Ganger, Tair Onen.

Tea cups to tankards

THE back room of the Fox at Charlton near Chichester has seen two momentous events in its history: in 1915 the Women's Institute was founded there to the rattle of tea cups, and in 1982 Wilf Smart retired from Arundel Forest.

Tea cups were not much in evidence at the latter event but foaming tankards are said to have been sighted.

Immortality

After RAF service, Wilf baled out into civvy street and, attracted by a recruiting poster promising that "in the woods there is perpetual youth," promptly joined the Forestry Commission in the confident hope of immortality.

Memory

Blessed with a phenomenal memory, Wilf could recall in detail all the forest operations in which he had taken part, so much so that he came to be regarded by his Foresters as a walking compartment record.

Among those gathered to celebrate Wilf's release from 36 years hard labour were his District Officer Rod Stern, who paid generous tribute to his work, and Chief Forester Alan Catchpole who presented him with a pair of binoculars with which to bring into focus a long and happy retirement.

Reg's colourful career

MANY friends and colleagues gathered at Alice Holt Forest to wish Reg Disney a long and happy retirement.

Mr Begley paid tribute to Reg's service of some 34 years and recalled some colourful incidents from his past: buried biscuit tins full of money which Reg had been unable to find after burying them during the war, and Reg's service as chauffeur / handyman to Mr Lloyd George.

Cruise

He then presented to Reg a Pewter Tankard and Crew-saver Life-jacket on behalf of friends and colleagues, with the comment that the life-jacket was most appropriate as Reg was about to embark on a yachting cruise to South Africa.

Reg retorted: "Ah! but I bet there is a hole in it."

SLASHER CORRESPONDENTS

EDITOR: Gordon MacNeill

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

Headquarters:
231 Corstorphine Road,
Edinburgh EH12 7AT

CORRESPONDENTS (Based in Conservancy offices):

ENGLAND:

North West: Connie Morris.
North East: Carol Stephenson
East: Gerald Foulds
South East: John Chapman.
South West: Audrey Child

WALES:

South: Gwyn Owen
North: Caroline Jones

SCOTLAND:

North: Richard Westlake
East: Douglas Furneaux
West: Archie Cameron
South: Chris Smith

RESEARCH:

Alice Holt: Noel Blatchford,
NRS: John McA. Smith.

STAFF SIDE (Based in Headquarters):

Mrs Jean Thompson

SORRY, FOLKS

BECAUSE of the very large numbers of staff who have retired since the last Slasher, we have had to hold over some retirement stories.

These will appear in your Autumn issue.

Around & About

NORTH WEST ENGLAND

BILL TAKES HIS LEAVE



THE TARN HOWS HOTEL was the venue for the gathering of colleagues, friends and associates who met to wish Chief Forester Bill Grant a long and happy retirement. Among those present were Mr and Mrs Jack Chard, Mr John Fletcher and members of the Grizedale Society and The British Deer Society.

With the encouragement of his then far-seeing Conservator Jack Chard and two former District Officers, John Fletcher and Martin Orram, and the present District Officer, John Voysey, Bill Grant set his stamp on Grizedale in terms of good silviculture and good management. To this he added a wide range of activities, some of which, like the Grizedale Visitor Centre and the associated forest walks, were well ahead of their time.

So was the management of the forest herd of red deer, one of several long-established herds in the southern Lake District.

Prime mover

The Commission had acquired a fine set of buildings at Grizedale, one of which houses the renowned Theatre in the Forest. Bill was a prime mover in this venture, and in the establishment of the nearby Ormandy Hotel.

His interest in the arts resulted in a fruitful association with the Northern Arts Centre, which has arranged exhibitions at the forest centre, and which sponsored the remarkable series of open-air sculptures in the forest.

He was also associated with the handicraft society which flourished in the valley for many

years, and took a large part in fostering links with schools throughout the north, many of whom make use of the forest's bothy and classroom facilities which he helped develop.

Undimmed

In concluding his speech, Conservator Alistair Rowan said: "It would be a great understatement to say we will miss Bill Grant, but he will continue to live in the area and maintain his association with the Theatre, so we shall have the benefit and pleasure of his great knowledge and enthusiasm undimmed by the years."

He then presented Bill with a carbon fibre trout fly rod and cheque. A brooch and climbing plant for the garden were presented to Mrs Elsie Grant.

Around & About

WALTER WHEELS OUT

MANY gathered at the "Theatre in the Forest" to mark the retirement of Walter Lamb after 36 years' service.

A keen traveller on 2 wheels, initially a bicycle but more recently a small motorcycle, he has become a familiar local figure in his RED leathers.

After 4 years with Education Branch, Walter returned to general forest work and was involved in all the major planting programmes at Grizedale for the next 22 years. Since then, he has been primarily employed in the Conservation Nursery and in maintaining the picnic areas.

With the help of his wife, he has been the caretaker of Satterthwaite church, parish room and churchyard for many years.

Conservator Alistair Rowan presented Walter with his long service certificate and a gardener's gift token from his colleagues at Grizedale.

Bumper buffet for Fred

ESTABLISHMENTS Section was bursting at the seams when 60 friends gathered to wish Fred Hartley well on his retirement.

Fred joined the Commission in 1953 as a Mechanic I and was promoted to Mechanical Engineer 20 years later.

The Social Club organised yet another excellent buffet after which the Conservator expressed everyone's good wishes and presented Fred with a portable TV and cheque. Mrs Dorothy Hartley also attended and received a bouquet from Vera Atkin.

Around & About

EAST SCOTLAND

BERT PLOUGHED TWICE ROUND THE WORLD

PLOUGH Operator Herbert Legge has retired from East Scotland. Bert came over from Newfoundland early in the war on a Timber Control contract but soon after joined the Royal Navy. He came to the Commission in 1946 and spent practically all his service on ploughing.

At a get-together of colleagues and friends Conservator, Mr Ian Grant presented Bert with his Long Service Certificate, and said he estimated Bert's total furrow length was the equivalent of 2½ times round the world.

Bert received a set of Power Woodworking Tools and Mrs Legge was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

JIM SIGNS OFF

SINCE Jim Pirie joined the Commission in 1971, as a forest worker at Teindland, which became part of Speymouth Forest, he has produced signs by the tens of thousands.

Four years ago, the sign unit was moved from Forest to Estates, and with this move Jim was able to show and bring forward his skills. He produced

many different types and styles of signs for most local authorities in Scotland, the National Trust and Countryside Commission for Scotland. Jim has signs standing as far apart as Ipswich and John o' Groats. He never quite made it to Lands End.

We hope Jim has a long and happy retirement.

GREENHOUSE GIFT FOR CECIL

FORESTER Cecil Tracy has also retired from Speymouth Forest, after 35 years' FC service.

Following his Forester School training at Glentress and Faskally in 1953 he served at Drumtochty until he was transferred to Craigvinean Forest in 1959. During his 16 years there he saw many changes and amalgamations and served under a number of Foresters in Charge, not least of whom were the well remembered John Corbett and "Lofty" Fraser.

Cecil transferred to Speymouth in 1975. At a social evening in Fochabers he was presented with a greenhouse from the forest, mechanical and estate staff at Speymouth and his colleagues in the Conservancy.

Mr and Mrs Tracy will continue to live in Fochabers and his

long association with the Commission will be continued by his son who is a Forester in North Scotland.

Generous Jim

FOREST craftsman Jim Taylor has served the Commission for 34 years — all of his time on what was once Whitehaugh Forest now amalgamated into Bennachie Forest.

At a pleasant little ceremony in the Bennachie Forest Office, presided over by Assistant Conservator David Paterson, Jim was presented with his Long Service Certificate. Chief Forester Bob Aitken presented a Carriage Clock on behalf of Local Staff.

Jim's reply may have been rather stinted but not so his generosity when it came to dispensing a drop or two of the "hard stuff."

SHERWOOD HARDWOODS ARE JOE'S LEGACY

MR JOSEPH GERMAN has retired on medical grounds after almost 32 years' service, all spent at Sherwood.

Joe was one of the old style of workmen, with the best qualities of that description. Very few employees of the Commission will have had a closer knowledge, and feeling, for the area on which they work and its wildlife.

The hardwood areas in the northern part of the forest will bear testimony, for many years to come, of the long hours which he spent among them.

A true individual, Joe did not want the fuss of a formal gathering of his colleagues. However, such an occasion could not be allowed to pass unnoticed and so Chief Forester, Jim Barraclough visited Joe at home to present the long service certificate and 2 natural history books, the gift of his friends and colleagues.

"Mr Mac" bows out

HEAD Forester J. R. MacMillan, "Mr Mac" to his friends, has retired after 43 years' service.

"Mr Mac" took charge of Swynnerton Forest in Staffordshire in 1954 and there he remained, with many plantations which he established eventually becoming part of his busy harvesting programme.

Conservator Alistair Rowan and some of his colleagues called on "Mr Mac" at home to drink to his health, to wish him and his wife the very best for the future and to hand over a gift from his many friends.

Tom was an expert on old country crafts

WITH the retirement of Tom Roberts, Mortimer Forest lost one of the dwindling number of men adept at hedge laying and other old country crafts.

Starting working life as a gardener, Tom joined the Commission in 1946 after a period with HGTD. At the time Mortimer was largely unroaded and Tom was employed on horse drawn extraction. For many years now he has been a member of the FM team and one of his duties was to drive the worker bus. He always provided a reliable service and the very heavy snow of last winter defeated him on only 2 days.

A kindly man, Tom has few interests outside his family and smallholding. At a gathering of his colleagues the Conservator presented him with an inscribed carriage clock and the long service certificate.



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, FRED!

FRED LEGGE has retired after 44 years' service, all but 4 of them with Research Branch, based at Newton.

Fred had immense knowledge and experience on Research matters, his valued service was recognised in 1980 with the award of the British Empire Medal.

On his last day at work, Fred was presented with his Long

Service Certificate by David Seal, Chief Research Officer, North, in the company of his colleagues.

In the evening there was a large gathering of friends and colleagues at the Red Lion, Fochabers, to wish Fred, with his wife Aileen, a long and happy retirement. Fred was presented with a pair of binoculars, a cheque, a collection of dahlias,

and a portrait of himself by Research Head Forester Charles Blackwood, depicting the great changes that had taken place in work techniques during his long service.

(Above) Fred holds his portrait which shows horse ploughing in the early 30's at Teindland, and a recent cultivation experiment there with a rotary tractor plough.

QUEEN MEETS KIELDER STAFF

COMMISSION staff and their wives and families from Kielder and the other Border Forests had a grandstand view of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh when they visited Kielder Castle after the official opening of Kielder Water on May 28. It was a memorable occasion for those who were officially presented to Her Majesty and also many others who were lucky enough to have an informal chat with the Royal visitors during a "walkabout" from the Castle to the Royal car.

When the Royal car drew up at the entrance to the Castle the

Queen was received by the Lord Lieutenant the Duke of Northumberland who presented the Chairman Sir David Montgomery and Lady Montgomery. The Chairman then presented Lord Ferrers, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Mr Tony Spencer, Conservator and Mrs Spencer, Mr Graham Semple, Principal Forest Officer and Mrs Semple, Mr Brian Hibberd, District Officer and Mrs Hibberd, and Mr Hugh Stickland, Chief Forester, Kielder Forest and Mrs Stickland.

Head Forester Mr Clive Large and Forest Craftsman Mr Bob Slee were both presented before

Mr Slee handed Her Majesty a spade with which to plant an oak tree to commemorate the visit.

Senior Ranger Brian Long, led Her Majesty through the Visitor Centre where Leading Ganger Mr David Armstrong and his wife Ann, Head Clerk were presented as well as Ganger Mr Billy Steele, Forest Craftsman, Mr Walter Dickson, Roads Foreman, Mr John Wilkinson, Senior Ranger, Mr Ben Graham and Foreman Joiner Mr George Moon.

All agreed that Her Majesty quickly put them at their ease and appeared to have greatly enjoyed her visit.

Photographs by Isobel Cameron



Her Majesty plants an oak with Head Forester Cliff Large and Forest Craftsman Bob Slee looking on.

Manhunt

From Page 1

fugitive and where his most likely escape routes might be.

And then back to the forest for another afternoon and night of searching.

Meanwhile at the Dalby Forest Office, Geoff Haw and Forester Peter Green had called in the men from their forest operations. Maintenance jobs were found for some around the yard, while others worked in the pitwood depot. No-one worked alone.

In the office, clerks Trish Cooper and David Marshall were answering red hot phones as the nation's press tried to find the story.

Refuge

Low Dalby village had swelled as families from the forest took refuge with friends. Elderly and single people doubled up. Everyone's radio was tuned to a police waveband.

The Forest Drive was closed and every vehicle scrutinised. All day, the people of Dalby held their breath for news — but the fugitive had gone to ground.

Another night passed, and the search continued at dawn. The forest was virtually sealed off, and by this time the Commission men were certain Prudom had slipped the net. They knew the forest so well, they felt they could tell if he was still there.

Their instinct was soon to be dramatically and tragically confirmed. On Monday, Police Sergeant David Winter was shot dead fifteen miles away as he approached a man leaving Old Malton post office.

The killer went to ground again. The police believed he was probably hiding in the town, but warned that he could be heading back for Dalby or possibly to Cropton Forest.

Normal

The forest drives were reopened and operations began again as normal. Or as normal as you could expect with everyone looking over his shoulder.

The tension was to last for a further six days.

Then, with the town of Malton under siege, triple killer Barry Prudom died as a hail of bullets shattered the peace of a Sunday morning.

"When we heard they had finally got him, the feeling of relief had to be experienced to be believed," says Dick Rhodes.

"We would all have preferred not to have lived through it. But what was most gratifying about the whole affair was the way everyone pulled together. Whether they were Commission staff or the farmers that we have a hell of a job with at times!"



Commission families enjoy a chat with the Queen as she walked to the Royal car.



Ganger Billy Steele is presented to the Queen with a larger than life picture of himself in the background.

Around & About

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

THREE LEAVE WITHIN A MONTH

THREE men have left Wareham Forest within a month of each other.

First to go were Mr Frank Newton and Mr Bill Wareham, after 36 and 27 years' service.

Next to leave was Mr Ivor Billett, who spent his last week in the very same area he had begun his Commission career, only this time he was clearing rides among trees he helped to plant.

MORE TIME FOR HIS CHICKENS

MR ARTHUR HOLLAND left Eggesford Forest after nearly 25 years. He worked mainly with Forest Management but also drove the crew bus. He will now have more time to devote to his chickens and sheep.

RAY MOWED THE CAMP LAWNS

BULLDOZER operator Ray Howells has also left the Dean. He was another long-serving man, who had started 6 months before the war. The neatness of the camp sites grass was a tribute to his workmanship.

HENRY WAS A GREAT HELP

ANOTHER long-serving man to retire was Mr Henry Pengilly, with over 35 years in Devon. In addition to his day-time work,

Mr Pengilly has also been invaluable at weekends and evenings during the visitor season when he has helped many members of the public.

BILL'S GREAT KNOWLEDGE WILL BE MISSED

GANGER Bill Jones retired from Wyre Forest earlier this year. Most of his 28 years with the Commission were spent at Kinver Nursery in NW(E). When the Nursery was closed in 1979, the plantations were added to Wyre and Mr Jones came with them. His great knowledge of the area will be sadly missed.

FAREWELL LUNCH FOR BERT

MR Bert Shepherd has retired after 35 years service at Savernake. All the Savernake staff, District Officer, Chief Forester and the Conservator gathered at Burbage Legion for a ploughman's lunch and farewell pint.

The Conservator presented Bert with an engraved tankard and his cheque from all at Savernake, plus his long service certificate.



Bert receives his certificate.

Obituary

MR J. D. CLARK

RECENTLY retired Superintendent of Works, Mr J. D. Clark, who was stationed for a long part of his service at Newton Nursery Office, Elgin, died suddenly. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

MR ALBERT CONNELL

WE regret to record the passing of Mr Albert Connell at Mendip Forest. Mr Connell had been with the Commission since 1949.

MR JAMES DAVIDSON

WE regret to note the death of Jimmy Davidson, who was ganger at Banchory Forest until he retired in 1975.

JAMES DEWAR

WE regret to record the death of Mr James Dewar, who had spent virtually all his working life with Commission at Strathyre Forest.

MR WILLIAM KENT

IT was with regret we report the death of Ganger Billy Kent who died in service aged 61. The funeral was held at Brandon and attended by many of his colleagues. Billy was a widower and lived with his daughter to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

MR LEONARD MOSS

IT was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Leonard Moss, at the age of 66. Len was employed at Grizedale Forest from 1959 until his retirement in 1979. Our sympathy goes to his widow.

MR FRANK SKINNER

A sad loss to the Commission was the death of Mr Frank Skinner, PW Head Forester at Taunton. Frank was a dependable and imperturbable man who will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife and son.

MR JOHN WILLIAMS

IT is with regret that we report the death of Mr John Williams at the age of 65. He was a Forest Craftsman at Hazelborough until he retired through ill health in 1978. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family.