

SLASHER

NEWSPAPER OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



No. 312

Autumn/Winter 1982

Development Opportunities For Scottish Timber

NEW STUDY GROUP

A MAJOR review of the international forest products industry has identified significant new development opportunities for Scottish timber.

The review was jointly undertaken over the past year by Arthur D. Little Ltd., international business and management consultants and a steering group representing the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Development Agency, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Timber Growers (Scotland) Ltd., and the Scottish Economic Planning Department.

Objectives

It has, say the steering group, already achieved its principal objectives — to formulate a long term development strategy designed to expand the Scottish Forest products industry over the next 15 years, and to identify specific investment projects capable of being financed and implemented in Scotland.

The strategy is based on detailed proposals to expand traditional and new forest products to utilise the substantial resources of high quality softwood that will become available as post-war forest plantations mature.

A comprehensive appraisal of Scotland's competitive position in Europe confirms that investment opportunities in Scotland will become increasingly attractive to companies in the forest products industry seeking large and uncommitted timber supplies in locations well placed to exploit UK and European markets.

Opportunities

The specific opportunities identified for investment include wood-based panels and pulp and paper, and discussions are already under way with companies in these product areas. A selective promotional programme to other companies in the product areas is proposed for early 1983.

Programmes to encourage the continued growth of the harvesting and saw-milling sectors of the forest products industry in Scotland have also

been prepared, including proposals for a major campaign to promote the use of Scottish sawn wood in the UK construction and housing markets in place of imports.

An action plan has been prepared for 1982 to 1985 to integrate the activities of the organisations responsible for the development of the industry.

MADNESS IN THE MISTS?



Photograph by Isabel Cameron.

Why did 500, apparently sane people rise at dawn to tramp 14 miles in mist and pouring rain with up to 30 lb. packs on their backs through Achray Forest? All is revealed on Page 12.



Captain Derick Forbes.



Mr James Forbes.

THE NAME'S THE SAME FOR NEW COMMISSIONERS

TWO new part-time Forestry Commissioners have been appointed. The Counsellors of State, acting on behalf of The Queen, have approved the appointment of Captain Derick Forbes and Mr James Forbes, FCA.

Captain Forbes of Gargunock, Stirling, is a woodland owner and farmer in Scotland and serves as a member of the Forestry Commission's West Scotland Regional Advisory Committee. An ex-Chairman of the Scottish Woodland Owners Ltd., Captain Forbes is a former President of Timber Growers Scotland and is a member of the Executive of the Scottish Landowners Federation. He has in the past covered Scottish forestry as a member of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Council.

Captain Forbes succeeds Captain David Bowser, whose term of office has expired. Captain Bowser has been a part-time Commissioner since 1974. He is a former Chairman of Scottish Woodland Owners' Association (now Timber

Growers Scotland) and is a well-known Perthshire landowner.

Mr James Forbes is Vice-Chairman of Tate & Lyle PLC, is a member of their Policy Committee and Chairman of the Tate & Lyle Pension Fund (£140 million). He was formerly Financial Director of Cadbury Schweppes. Mr Forbes is also a member of the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales where he is currently Chairman of the Technical Directorate Planning Committee.

Mr Forbes will fill the additional post of part-time Commissioner created by the Forestry Act 1981. A Scot, he is married with two sons and lives in Hertfordshire.

Latest on disposals

THE latest position in the Disposals programme was given in reply to a written Parliamentary Question on 21 October. Mr Dennis Canavan (Labour — West Stirlingshire) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, what was the total amount and value of assets sold or in the process of being sold by the Forestry Commission under the Forestry Act 1981.

The Minister replied: "From the passing of the Forestry Act 1981 until 21 September 1982, the Forestry Commission received £9.7 million from the sale of land and other assets. The area involved included 4273 hectares of forestry land and plantations. At the end of September a further 36,900 hectares of forestry land and plantations with an estimated value of £20.9 million were also in the process of being sold (i.e. they were either on the market or had been approved for sale and reserve prices had been fixed).

Other assets committed for sale at the end of September are expected to realise a further £4.5 million.

Area figures for other assets, which include residential properties, are not held centrally and cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost."

NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE IN THE COMMISSION?

EARLY this year the Director General appointed a Management Structure Review Group to review the effectiveness of the present management structure and organisation of the Forestry Commission from Conservancy to Forest.

The terms of reference were:—

"To consider whether the objectives of the Forestry Commission are best met with the present management structure of Conservancies and in particular to review the effectiveness of the present structure and organisation from Conservancy to forest and to make any recommendations necessary to secure the most efficient discharge of the Commission's responsibilities."

The Group, composed of Forestry Commission staff and chaired by Mr Hewitt, the Conservator for East England, presented their report in April and their main recommendations are:—

- No change in the number of management levels. The present four tier structure of HQ, Conservancy, District and Forest should be kept.
- The number of Conservancies should be reduced from 11 to 7. This would mean closing the offices at Aberdeen, Cardiff, Chester and Lyndhurst.
- The process of amalgamating Districts and Forests should continue. Districts should be reduced from 56 to 35-40 and Forests should be reduced from 216 to 160-180.
- The Forester and Forest Officer classes should be unified.

The Group say that if all these changes were made the Commission would be able to operate

efficiently with roughly 25% fewer office, professional and technical staff.

Following the first round of consultation on the Management Structure Review, the Commissioners have decided to:

- Reject the recommendation that the four tier structure be retained and instead introduce a three tier structure with around 70 Forest Districts below Conservancy replacing the present 211 Forests and 56 Districts;
- Accept the recommendation for a merger of the Forester and Forest Officer classes;
- Initiate consultations with the Trade Unions with a view to introducing the new Forest District structure on 1 April 1983;
- Take no decision on the recommendation on the number of Conservancies until a review has been carried out in 1983 of HQ and Conservancy functions and workloads.

AMALGAMATIONS

The Management Structure Review Group Report recommended that the number of Conservancies be reduced from 11 to 7. The responses to this proposal following the first round of consultation showed some reservations by both the non-industrial and industrial trade unions.

There are difficulties in commissioning

Continued on page 2.

**HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR
FOREST FARE COOK BOOK?
FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 2**

Axeman's Log

ROYAL CHARTER FOR FORESTERS

MEMBERS of the public now have a ready means of identifying people who are professionally competent in the subjects of trees and forestry. Earlier this year Her Majesty the Queen awarded her Royal Charter in the name of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The Institute has now completed the transformation by formal adoption of its Laws which regulate all its affairs and impose a code of ethics and practice on its members.

The granting of the Royal Charter brings foresters into line with other skilled occupations, such as engineers and accountants, particularly in the setting of standards of integrity for the benefit of the public and in the examination for technical excellence of those who practise forestry as managers, as consultants or as employees in the public or private sectors of the industry at the professional level.

The new Institute of Chartered Foresters is charged "to maintain and improve the standards of the practice of forestry, to advance, spread and promote all aspects of forestry... and to encourage the study of forestry."

Review of professional education and the setting of standards by examination for those entering the forestry profession are among its first tasks, and should ensure that those entitled to use the title

"Chartered Forester" are thoroughly competent.

Only corporate members may use the identifying initials FICFor and MICFor, Fellow and Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The award of the Royal Charter places on the Institute a greater responsibility for forestry affairs throughout the United Kingdom. The Institute spans the full range of interests in the forest industry, from forest establishment to wood processing, and arboriculture to forest landscape conservation.

The President and Vice-President, on whom will fall the task of implementing the terms of the Charter are Dr Bill Mutch and Mr Dallas Mithen. Dr Mutch is Head of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the University of Edinburgh, and a forest economist, and Mr Mithen is, of course, the Forestry Commissioner responsible for Harvesting and Marketing.

Also in the photo with Dr Mutch and Mr Mithen are Dr D. C. Malcolm (Editor) and Margaret Dick (secretary and treasurer) with the Royal Charter.



STRUCTURE

Continued from page 1.

Considering a change in the number of Conservancies before a review of HQ is conducted, because any change in the organisation and responsibilities of HQ may have a bearing on the size and number of Conservancies. It is therefore proposed to defer a decision on the number and size of Conservancies until a review of HQ has been completed. Such a review will be carried out in 1983.

It is appreciated that delaying a decision on the number of Conservancies until say, late 1983, will unfortunately mean continuing uncertainty for staff in Conservancy offices. However, this problem has to be set against the longer term importance of getting the decisions on management structure right and the Commission hope that the staff concerned will understand the needs of the situation.

CONSULTATIONS

It is estimated that about 25%

of all the staff at the present District and Forest levels (including District and Forest Clerks) will not be needed under the new structure.

It is proposed that consultations should now take place with the trade unions at Conservancy level to consider the details of the new Forest Districts and the staffing requirements of the new management level. Consultations on the implications of these changes will also take place at departmental level.

The Commission propose that consultations should include the following:—

- (1) The steps (including consultative procedures) necessary to achieve the smooth and expeditious transition to a three tier structure; and the staffing implications of the proposed changes;
- (2) The terms of reference and membership of the proposed working party to consider the amalgamation

THE FOREST FARE RECIPE BOOK

DOWN in the forest something is stirring... if the 406 recipes in the new Forest Fare Cook Book are anything to go by.

"The response from foresters and foresters' wives has been tremendous," says editor Margaret Kennedy. "130 different cooks sent in their favourite recipes, and the book has already been widely acclaimed."

Staff sent in ideas from as far apart as Dornoch Forest, Sutherland to Mendip Forest, Somerset

and from Ystwyth Forest in Dyfed to Wight Forest on the Isle of Wight.

Many of the dishes have a distinct forest flavour — venison en croûte, poacher's pie, hare casserole, elderflower sorbet, cloudberry jelly and a mixed nut roast which starts with 3 oz. of ground pine kernels!

Some are definitely an acquired taste like crow pie or sesame oil pigeons. However, the book is full of surprises and the recipes are so varied that there should be something

to excite the most discerning taste buds.

The recipes are divided into seven sections — Soups and Starters; Fish, Meat, Chicken and Game; Desserts; Savouries and Sundries; Drinks and Preserves; Cakes and Candies.

For quick and easy reference each section is of a different colour. Bulk supplies should be held at Conservancy offices, and copies are also available by post (£2.25 includes postage and packing) from Information Branch, Headquarters.

LET'S HAVE MORE IDEAS FOLKS

THE number of suggestions received was lower than for the previous year, 93 compared with 107. Fifteen suggestions were accepted compared with 25 for 1980/81. The number of awards was 22 compared with 38.

The cost of administering the scheme fell from £3840 to £2700 and the value of benefits from adopted suggestions fell from £4100 to £2600, of which £2500 is recurring.

Examples of the suggestions which gained awards are:

FIXING BUCKET AND ARM TO DIGGER/LOADER

This suggestion put forward a method of fixing the digger bucket and arm so that it did not protrude behind the machine during transportation between sites. An award of £20 was made by the Central Committee in addition to a local award of £30.

CONNECTION OF TUG LINES TO HAUL IN ON SMITH'S TIMBERMASTER

This is a new method of speeding up the time taken to

splice ropes which are broken during timber hauling operations. An award of £50 was made by the Central Committee in addition to a local award of £15.

HEADED STATIONERY

This suggestion concerned the wording of headed stationery which could result in confusion should the recipient wish to telephone the office. The incorporation of the words, "If telephoning please ask for..." made a vast improvement. An award of £20 was made by the Central Committee in addition to a local award of £20.

PRIZE DRAWS

THE Staff Suggestion Scheme is planning to introduce a new series of lottery prizes. These will consist of one major prize, drawn annually, in addition to four smaller prizes, drawn quarterly.

All suggestors who receive either a local or central award will be eligible for the new draws.

Further details will be announced soon.

Here's Health

HEAD Forester Eric Rogers of Wensum Forest in North Norfolk, whose address is Health Farm, agrees that the local air is bracing but thinks a recent job applicant rather overdid things when he wrote to The Forest Officer at Wensum Health Farm.

Further applicants should note that the scale of charges will be from £150-£300 per week, depending on how strenuous the work is, and its availability.

A couple of weeks on line thinning is guaranteed to tone up the muscles and reduces the flab — cheap at £600!

£300 award for David

THIS year's suggestion scheme has already got off to a flying start.

Mr David Lawson, Head Forester at Bareagle, South Scotland, receives below a cheque for £300 from Mr Andy Neustein, Director FMD. Mr Lawson's suggestion was to use ground nut meal available free from a local factory instead of hop waste as a fertiliser, resulting in a considerable annual saving. Looking on in the photograph are Ian Richard and Brian Atwell of the Staff Suggestion Scheme.



£90m INVESTMENT AT WORKINGTON

DIRECTOR GENERAL George Holmes was one of the top table guests at the opening in September of Thames Board's new 100,000 tonne integrated pulp and paper mill at Workington, Cumbria.

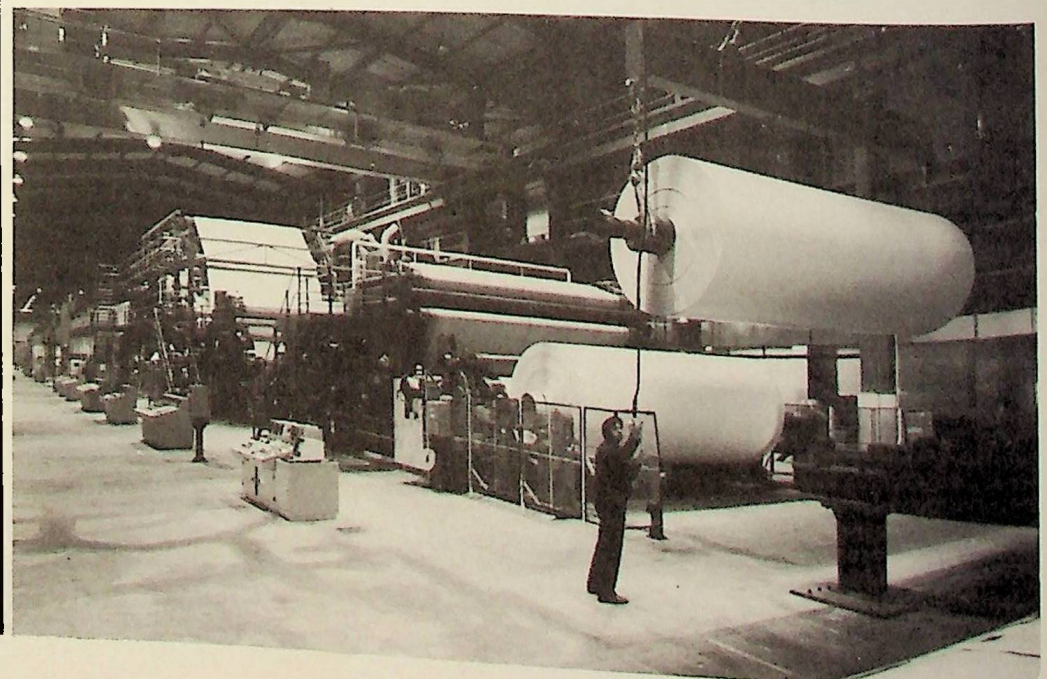
Thames Board is the largest supplier of packaging board in Western Europe, and their investment in Workington — the first machine was built there in 1967 — is the largest investment in the British paper and board industry to date.

The Workington decision was taken not only to ensure that Thames would continue to be the leading supplier to the domestic carton industry. The company also felt that with perhaps the most efficient plant in Europe they would be able to sell to export markets particularly within the European Community.

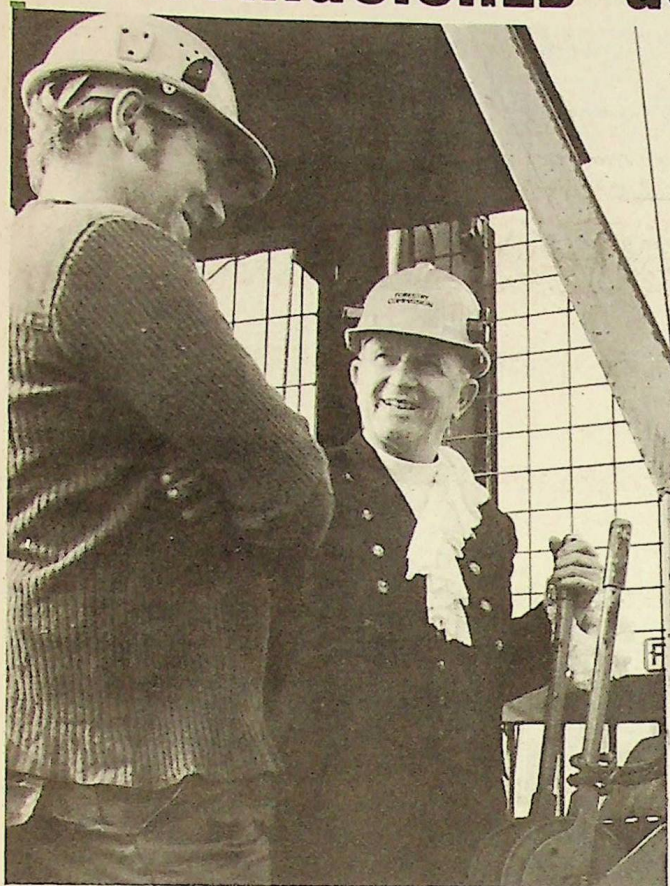
£90m was invested, enabling Workington's capacity to be trebled to 150,000 tonnes, complementing the existing, smaller number one machine. When fully operational next year, the two machines will consume about 35,000 tonnes of forest thinning per year.

The Commission's H & M Division have been closely involved in all stages of the development of the new mill, which will depend almost entirely on British conifer thinnings.

● Pictured below are reels from the No. 2 machine which weigh up to 15 tonnes.



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



THE MODERATOR of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev. Dr John McIntyre visited Barcaldine Forest, West Scotland. Above: The Moderator has the working of a Timbermaster Winch explained to him by winchman Billy Napier.

Below: Forest craftsman Neil MacDonald shows the use of a grass hook watched by Dr McIntyre, forest craftsman Donald McLennan, tractor driver Tommy McKellar and (behind) head forester Fred Webster. Mr MacDonald made the walking stick for the Moderator.

The forest tour was led by District Officer Malcolm Macpherson and Chief Forester Hugh McLarty. At the production site, forester Pat Ferguson explained felling and skyline extraction and introduced winch operators Willie Sutherland, Billy Napier and Angus MacDonald, and forest workers Ian Munro and Andrew Walker.

The 1982 National Tree Felling Champion, forest worker Duncan Gillies gave a demonstration of his skill, before the visit ended with afternoon tea provided by the ladies of the Barcaldine Community.



John Fletcher Conservator SW(E)

MR JOHN FLETCHER has been appointed Conservator for South West England Conservancy to succeed Mr Lesley Troup who is to retire on 4 February.

Mr Fletcher has been Assistant Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing since 1976. Closely involved in recent reviews of the wood processing industry, he was until recently Secretary of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee's Subcommittee for supply and demand and the Forestry Commission's representative on the FAO/ECF Timber Committee and EEC



Working Groups on wood processing industry.

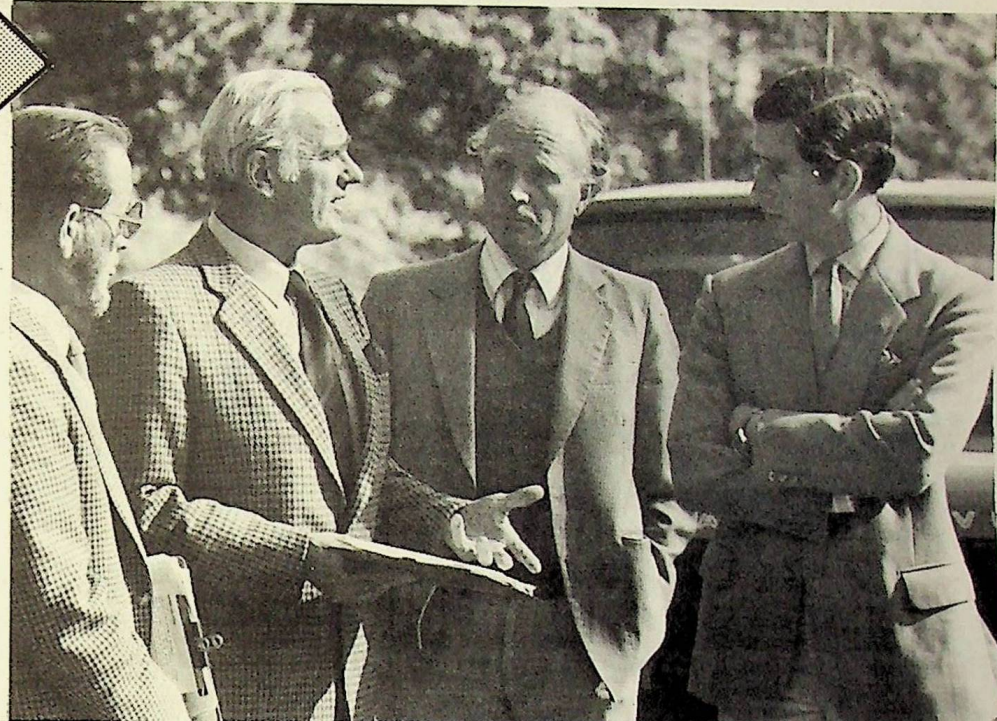
Mr Fletcher graduated with BSc (Forestry) from Aberdeen in 1950 and started his career as a forest worker in Allerston, North Yorkshire. He served as District Officer in Bakewell, Derbyshire, Kendal, Cumbria and Thetford, Norfolk, before being transferred to Edinburgh on promotion.

Two-Day Royal Visit

PREPARING for his new role as President of the Royal Forestry Society, the Prince of Wales spent a day's private visit to Commission forests in Perthshire. Accompanied by chairman Sir David Montgomery, principal forest officer Roger Larsen and temporary chief forester Alastair Fraser of Drummond Hill Forest, he saw a wide spectrum of activities from harvesting to restocking and deer control to the commission's involvement in landscaping.

Prince Charles also visited Ardgartan Forest (W. Scotland) where over 100 underprivileged young people from Glasgow, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool and London had spent the past fortnight with the help of eight Army Sappers building a footpath and a bridge in the park. The project was sponsored by the Prince of Wales Trust.

(Below). The Prince swaps hats with some of the youngsters on the bridge they built.

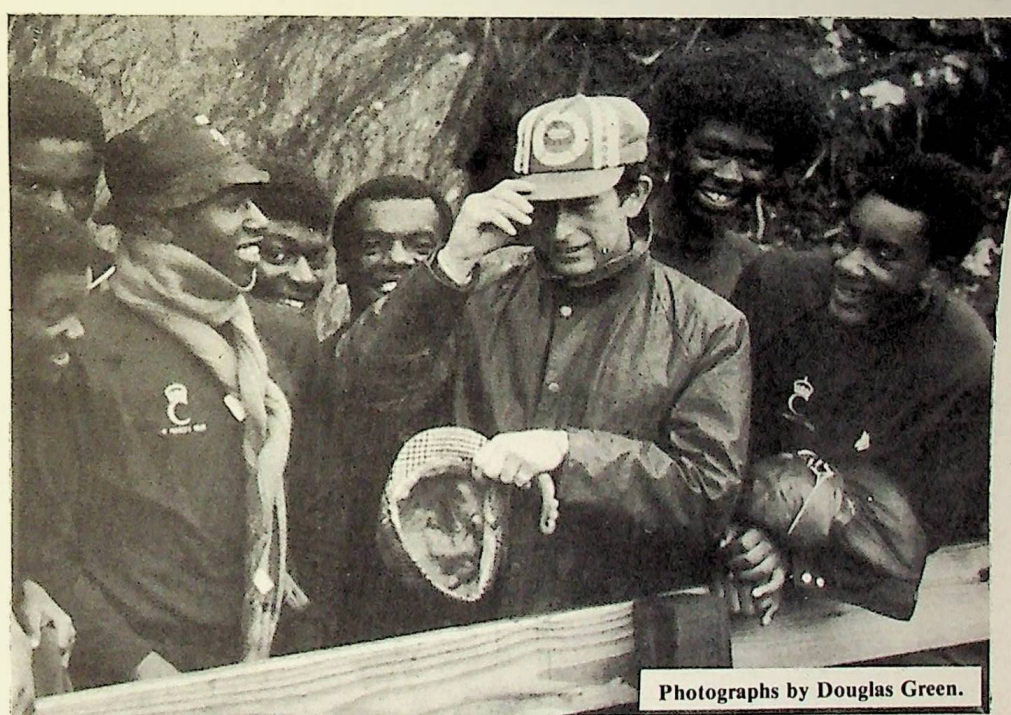


Forest Tour for Europe Chief

M. CLAUDE BAILLET, Head of the European Commission's Forest and Environment Division, visited Headquarters, NRS and West Scotland in September.

After being welcomed by the Director General he had discussions with senior officials and representatives of the private sector before going to Bush for a tour of the Northern Research Station.

The next day M. Baillet was taken to the Stirling and Aberfoyle areas to see our forest operations. He is pictured at Achray Forest watching clear felling with winchman Alastair Johnstone, head forester Ian Reid, M. Baillet, district officer Hugh Inley and West Scotland conservator David Robertson.



Photographs by Douglas Green.

NEW MEDICAL CHECKS FOR OP USERS

THE Commission has been reviewing the medical surveillance of workers who are regularly exposed to organo-phosphorus pesticides.

The use of OP pesticides is confined to nurseries and from an examination of records of exposure provided by Conservancies, our Medical Adviser has concluded that usage tends to be somewhere between "regular" and "occasional" as defined by the Health and Safety guidance notes on OP use.

In the doctor's opinion, the Commission should therefore carry out some form of screening on the comparatively small numbers of workers involved. He recommends that all workers who work with OPs, including those who mix the chemicals as well as those who apply them, should be given a "pre-use" medical examination by the local Medical Officer. This would include a blood sample.

Examination of the results of the medical tests will ensure that any workers who ought not to work with OPs can be identified. The

tests could also be important in the event of subsequent illness as a check if OP poisoning was suspected.

The health surveillance system will begin in time for the 1983 spraying season. Foresters are being asked to forward full details of each OP worker via his Conservator to HQ. Examinations will be carried out before the end of January.

In following years, those who have had a medical examination will only be asked for annual blood tests, unless during the preceding 12 months they have had health problems. In this case details will be forwarded to the Medical Adviser for his opinion.

As an added precautionary measure, any worker using OP pesticides on three consecutive days in any working week, or any worker suspected of being over-exposed to OP pesticides, will undergo a "post-use" blood test within six weeks of his last day of use.

JOHN IS THE DAHLIA KING



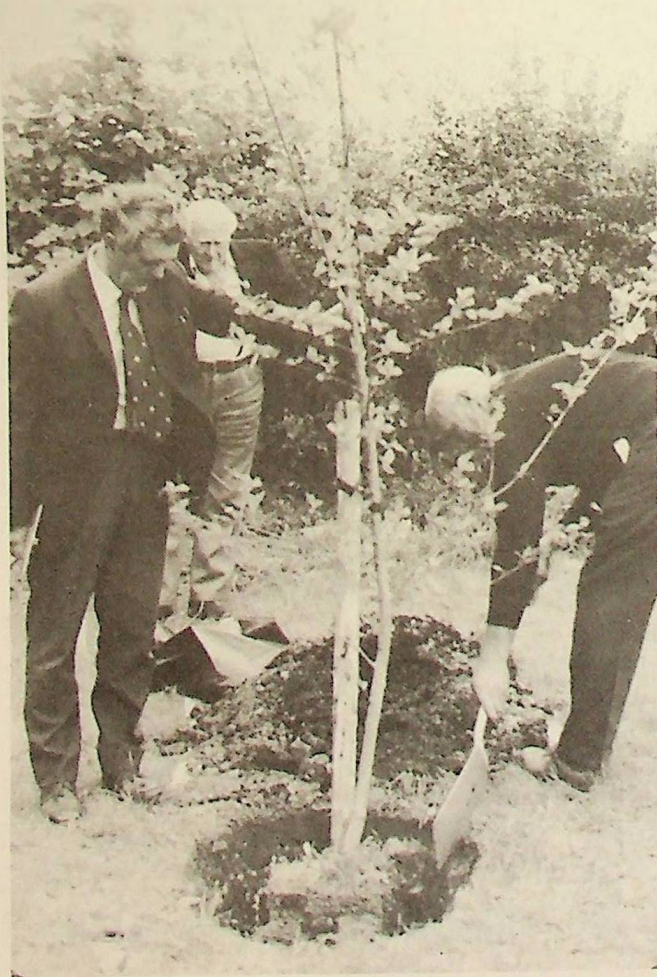
JOHN TODHUNTER'S green fingers brought home armfuls of trophies during the summer months as he collected some of the most prestigious awards for dahlias in South-West Scotland. John, a ganger at Bannan

Forest, first began growing dahlias nine years ago, and this has been his most successful show season ever. His sideboard groans under the weight of 24 trophies. He might even have won more trophies if the weather

had not cut his season short.

But he's not giving away the secret of his success. All he'll say is, "Everything just worked out well this year and I avoided any trouble with insects or bad plants."

KEN DIGS IN — AND GETS HIMSELF BOOKED



KEN MOAST has been a Forest Worker, Tractor Driver, Senior Ranger and Ganger, but above all he has been with the Forestry Commission for forty-five years.

Our picture was taken at Gravetye, part of St Leonard's Forest, where Ken was invited to plant a tree on the occasion of a visit by the local branch of the Royal Forestry Society to commemorate the Society's centenary. Ken's assistant on the left is Head Forester Alan Freeth, secretary of the branch and the tree is an English elm.

Ken Moast joined the Commission in 1937 at the age of 16 at Halwill Forest and went to Gravetye in 1947 after service at Exeter, Arundel, Friston and the New Forest.

Gravetye Manor was the home of William Robinson, some say the greatest English gardener and author of *The English Flower Garden*, the most widely-read gardening book ever written. After his death in 1935 the woodlands he had created on the estate were left to the nation and are today managed by the Commission. They are noteworthy for the great variety of species present, planted *en masse* rather than as specimens.

A book about William Robinson has just been published by Faber and should prove of enduring interest to gardeners and foresters both. And who should be mentioned on page 165? Ken Moast.

ACCIDENTS UP — DESPITE DROP IN WORKFORCE

LAST year was a bad year for accidents, according to figures issued by Safety Officer, Dan Bardy. The frequency rate of 8.6 accidents per 100 workers was the highest since 1965 and although our workforce decreased by several hundred the number of accidents was up from 431 in 1980 to 479.

Although the three main functions of Forest Management, Engineering and Harvesting all suffered an increased accident rate, Harvesting was the worst with one in five workers being injured during the year. This repeats the pattern of earlier years.

This reversal of the trend of recent years, which has shown a gradual improvement, was offset to some degree by a welcome reduction in the average length of incapacity experienced by workers, down from 23.2 days to 17.5.

The Accident Prevention Advisory Unit of the Health and Safety Executive is carrying out a survey of the Forestry Commission's safety policy and practice.

The APAU report is expected by the Spring and may give some pointers to ways in which the Commission can improve on its safety record.

The Commission already devotes a great deal of energy and money to foster good standards of safety. Statements on Safety Policy are maintained at each level and unit of manage-

ment. Support is given to the Forestry Safety Council in its work of publishing Safety Guides.

All the courses run by Education and Training Branch, whether for workers or supervisors, emphasise safe working methods. The services of Training Foresters are made available to Conservators as advisers on safe working in support of the advice and guidance provided by the Safety Officer at HQ.

Says Mr Bardy, "The Commissioners are determined to pursue a vigorous policy aimed at reducing the number of accidents. A study of the latest figures suggests that all operational staff must remember—

- the risks to juvenile workers and the importance of supervisors reinforcing the safe working methods which have been taught;
- that many accidents can be avoided if workers consistently use simple and well proven safe working methods;
- that safe working is not inimical to low unit costs;
- that a serious view (which

WELL DONE LADS

THANKS go to all who sponsored them from the Commission's Marathon Men.

In the Edinburgh Marathon, Alan Tregoning, CO in Superannuation and Garry Duncan, CO in Estates, raised over £300 for the Chris Booth Appeal Fund.

Also running to raise money for various charities were CA David Howard of Information Branch, Bill McLachlan, HEO in the Computer Centre, EO John Souden, now in E(S) and Keith Ball, Senior Cartographic Draughtsman in the Drawing Office.

All completed the course, and Dave, Bill, Keith and Bruce Inglis of Audit have now applied to enter for the London Marathon.

Bryn Lewis, a Mobile Mechanic stationed at Beddgelert, also completed a marathon organised by Clwyd Fire Service. Through sponsorship he raised £150 for the Bryn Derwen Old People's Home, Llanrwst.

Tired though he was, he declined the offer of a free donkey ride on Rhyl sands on the way home!

Congratulations all.

BA Events in 1983

THE Forestry Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be holding two meetings in 1983.

The first is a one-day conference on the theme "Replenishing the World's Forests" on 20 April 1983 at 23 Savile Row, London.

The annual meeting is at the University of Sussex, Brighton from 22 to 25 August 1983. The overall theme, under the presidency of Dr J. C. Bowman, is "Forest Research — Preparing for the Future." It is hoped to include papers concerning such topics as acid rain, broadleaved trees and woodland, cold resistance, gale damage, coping with infestations, land use on watersheds, and research needs in the private sector.

Outings will include looking at control of Dutch Elm Disease and visits to the National Pinetum at Bedgebury and working coppice in East Sussex.

The overall BA programme will include items for youngsters, so why not make a holiday of it for the whole family!

Further information from Dr Julian Evans, at Alice Holt.

does not preclude disciplinary action) will be taken when there is clear evidence that workers and managers are disregarding prescribed safe working methods."

FRED THE FERRET ON SHOW

THE largest of the county agricultural shows, the "Great Yorkshire" started in 1838 and eventually settled on its permanent showground at Harrogate in the early 1950s. Ninety-nine thousand visitors came to the show this year spread over three days of fine weather.

Many of these visitors found their way to the forestry exhibits which feature a permanent Forestry Pavilion, a large open area and an extensive area of woodland known as Hookstone Wood.

The Commission outdoor area forms one of the pleasantest corners of the showground with a large picnic area and children's toys designed and made by Brian Cauwood and the estate staff at Dalby Forest. Hookstone Wood provides a cool, quiet area with a

woodland trail and a wildlife exhibit run by Charles Critchley and his staff of rangers.

The main theme this year was the Forestry Commission's touring exhibit, "Timber in Britain," which almost filled the Commission's area of the Forestry Pavilion although space remained for the sale of publications and a special holiday information desk which brought many inquiries to the Conservancy Office staff.

The relative sylvan peace was shattered three times a day by Tom and Jim Potts with an exhibition of chainsaw carving. These extremely skilled brothers from Wark Forest have also been successful in many chainsaw competitions.

Below: Charles Critchley, Head Ranger at Pickering, introduces Fred the ferret to a young audience.



FACILITIES OPEN AT MALLARDS PIKE LAKE



MALLARDS PIKE Lake, designed and constructed by the Civil Engineering staff of SW(E) Conservancy, has been officially opened by The Viscount Bledisloe, QC.

The lake will provide youth groups and schools with the opportunity to learn boating and canoeing skills under guidance of their own instructors and managed by the Lions Club of the Forest of Dean. Facilities are also provided to cater for day visitors with toilet and parking facilities sited under the canopy of mature Norway spruce and Scots pine surrounding the lake.

The preliminary survey and design began during early Spring 1979. Conservancy Engineer Mr J. R. Pennell and his staff ascertained that the valley offered suitable contours and features to provide an acceptable lake.

The geology was studied in detail with the Deputy Gaveler for any likely coal workings below the area to be flooded.

The investigation and survey also indicated that due to the very slight gradient of the valley the intended lake would have a capacity greater than five million gallons and come within the Reservoir Act.

This problem was overcome by dividing the lake into two smaller lakes allowing the upstream lake to act as a silt pond and an area devoted to encouraging wildlife.

Construction work started during Summer 1980 and was completed during the Summer of 1981, utilising the best summer weather of each year to carry the excavation, Dam and the landscaping of the surrounding area. The capacity of the main lake is 4.8 million gallons covering an area of 1.79 has., average depth 1.2m., having a catchment area of 950 has. — total cost £30,000.

The excavation was completed using a D8 Semper unit to provide an acceptable basin using selected material to construct the Dam. The Fill was

compacted by a 72T Vibratory Roller towed by a TM56 Angle Dozer in 250mm layers.

The water level is maintained by a 1m. clear "draw-off" tower which has been designed to cater for average rainfall periods, backed up with a spillway for excessive run-offs.

Facilities have been provided in the design of the "draw-off" tower to drain the lake completely when necessary.

The whole operation from start to finish has been a success, thanks to the interest and high standard of work of the Civil Engineering staff and Foresters in the Forest of Dean.

TIE OF FRIENDSHIP

WHEN Seed Officer Douglas Clark was in Denmark to meet private seed merchants and representatives of the forestry services, he presented a tie to Helmut Barner, Director of the Danish State Forestry Service Tree Improvement Station. The tie symbolised the strong links that are necessary between the different state forest services. Mr Barner is pictured receiving the tie outside his office in Humlebaek.



REFLECTIONS

ABOUT the turn of the year I was talking with a colleague in another part of the country about a relationship difficulty which was then current and, at one point, he said: "There is really no point in having a meeting because we have no alternative to offer."

For a reason which I didn't understand then, that comment jarred with me, and it wasn't till much later, after I had learned that the two halves of the difficulty had never met, never spoken, and had corresponded only briefly by letter, that dawn began to break in my mind.



by Welfare Officer,
Brian Atwell.

Glib excuse

Which led me to think that sometimes having nothing to offer is the very reason to meet and to talk, and that, particularly when we have moved away from very logical matters, and where emotion is playing a part, exploration of entrenched positions is essential.

I am beginning to believe that that marvellous expression "lack of communication" is over-used generally, and that, instead of being an explanation of the current state in a fluid situation, it has become a rather glib excuse to end something before exploration has properly begun.

One of my starting points is that each of us has two parts to our make-up. One part deals with things logical — or intellectual — and the other with things emotional — feelings.

Tranquility

Now nothing can be as simple as that, but what is clear is that when we deny one or other of these two basics, we tend to be moving into a difficult phase in our life. When the two are in harmony — even for short periods — a little tranquility can be found.

Whenever I come across someone I admire — and in my case that tends to be people who achieve but who are also thoughtful and aware — I seem to find a person who has successfully married his/her emotional and intellectual halves.

I wrote earlier this year of William and Joan, and of William's intellect and Joan's powerlessness. They were clients of mine many years ago in another setting, but in many ways they represent what we have come to regard as a norm. A logical intellectual man who is ill-at-ease with his feelings, and a woman who is very much in touch with her feelings, but to an extent that logic and intellect are over-powered.

In the male-dominated world in which we live, such a woman may well be a natural victim since this society tends to openly admire and support the clear-cutting intellect, and openly despise the soppy soft feelings.

We do seem to actually train our children to follow that norm ("big boys don't cry" — or — "this dolly cries real tears"), and little girls are taught to use their feelings and their minds in a slightly passive way, whereas little boys are taught to use their minds and bodies in a more active manner. That does not seem inappropriate to me, but

when we find ourselves in adult relationships without the inherent tools to cope, I begin to have doubts.

It doesn't seem too risky to me to suggest that many men are emotionally stunted: that they have never learned to use or understand their emotional base: that the male concept (conspiracy?) which says that intellect and logic are masculine and emotions are feminine, is born out of a lack of understanding, and is therefore quite a defensive stance.

If the above holds true — and I would argue that on a general basis it does — is it not ironic that the very people who may be most at risk from a continuation of this, are those who, in the role of Mum, are the guardians of a child's emotional development?

A cheering sight for me has been the Women's Movement and the better understanding which must come in its wake. However, despite this, I see precious little signs of changed attitudes in my own environment.

Expectations

It angers me to see girl children still being raised to have lower expectations than their boy brothers — both in the narrow field of academic attainments, and in the large area of life planning.

It seems to me that a woman whose intellectual capacities have not been developed is just as ill-fated for today's society as is an emotionally stunted man.

I heard a story the other day which reflects the timelessness of some matters as well as an acceptance of things as they are.

Watching his wife prepare a ham for boiling, a husband was conscious of two things. Christmas was approaching, and the wife had topped and tailed the ham before putting it in the pot.

"Why did you do that?" "That's how you cook a ham." "But why?" Impatiently: "You'll have to ask my mother because she taught me."

In due course, when it came back to mind, the same questions were put to mother-in-law who, conscious of her status in these matters, took a long time to say much as her daughter had said and eventually referred husband to her mother, who had taught her.

"How do you boil a ham Great-Granny?" "Well, I top and tail it, I season it and I boil it."

"Why do you top and tail it?" "Well, I never had a saucepan big enough." Hmm.

ALICE HOLT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THIS group has met regularly since its formation at the beginning of 1979. Members from various denominations, and indeed others who do not regularly attend a local church, have shared together their beliefs and thoughts on subjects encompassed by the Christian faith.

Meetings usually alternate between Bible studies and prayer fellowship. From time to time special topics are discussed.

If there are Christian groups meeting in other FC offices, or if you think that there is potential for forming a fellowship at your place of work, do let us know so that we can share advice and experience.

We meet every Monday lunch-time, 12.45 to 1.30 pm, usually in the Conference Room. If you are visiting Alice Holt Lodge we invite you to join with us — Ron Brown, Julian Evans, Sue Kirk, John Parker, and others.

ARBORICULTURAL ACCOLADE

THE Arboriculture Association at its 16th National Arboriculture Conference in Nottingham in September inaugurated a new award for services to arboriculture by presenting Dr Hugh Insley with an inscribed elm plaque and a selection of trees for his garden.

Between 1976 and April 1982, Hugh was engaged on the Department of the Environment contract for arboriculture research at Alice Holt. He is now Forest Officer in charge of the Aberfoyle district.

His very successful work on the effect of grass competition on newly planted trees and other topics such as the drying out of roots during plant handling have formed the basis of his PhD thesis for Wye College (London University) and have also caught the attention of the arboricultural industry.

Hugh, with typical modesty, generously attributes his success



to support of colleagues who have been involved in his projects.

His work and the published results have done much to convince both foresters and arboriculturists that they have many problems in common.

Trees are trees regardless of whether they are in a forest or in city streets, and many research results are equally applicable to both forestry and arboriculture.



The beetle is dark brown in colour and 1/8 inch long.



THE battle against the Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*) began on a private estate in Shropshire in August.

The manager of the privately owned woodland drew the death of some trees to the attention of District Officer Arthur Barlowe, who called in our entomologists who verified it as the Great Spruce Bark Beetle.

When our worst fears were confirmed, the District staff alerted Headquarters who immediately assumed a control function. The first concern was to ensure that affected logs were not moved. Commission officers were mobilised to spend the weekend examining neighbouring Sika plantations. By Monday afternoon arrangements were well in hand for an extensive survey and sanitation felling programme.

A major exercise was urgently mounted within a 50 mile radius of the reported outbreak. Aerial searches followed up by ground surveys of Commission and private sector forests identified affected areas in Morimer Forest, and as the search widened, evidence of the beetle was discovered in Shropshire Hills, Wyr, and the Forest of Dean. In Wales, the beetle was found in Radnor, Cerri, Mairafal, Dyffryn, Dyff, Cwyndaw and Clacknam in the north (only one tree affected) and at Talbont in the south.

Vulnerable

The whole approach to the control of the Great Spruce Bark Beetle is based on the principle that no infected material should be allowed to be moved out of the forest. Resources are being deployed as effectively as possible to achieve this.

Immediate search

A search of susceptible stands and age classes in all other Conservancies revealed no further evidence of the beetle.

In addition to the field work, Conservancies at once were in touch with the timber growers and merchants in the private sector to put them fully in the picture and seek their help.

Headquarters quickly prepared a Press Notice which was circulated to all national and local newspapers and to appropriate interest groups. An information poster showing symptoms to look out for was also designed and distributed from Conservancy offices to forests, private woodland owners and others.

Conservancy staff visited sawmills who had received timber from infected stands to identify infected bark and ensure that any treatment action was taken.

Vigorous action

The other ones were tackled first because there was the immediate risk of emerging adult beetles. Adults which had recently emerged would not emerge until the Spring. Further felling has continued including the clear felling of badly infected stands and many infected trees have now been removed.

Mr Dallas Milten, Commissioner responsible for plant health says: "This poses serious problems for all concerned not only in the Commission, but in the private sector too. In the last analysis jobs could depend on our ability to stamp it out."

"We must therefore seek out and eradicate all pockets of known infestation by vigorous action. We have a formidable task before us."

What the new spruce controls will mean

THE Restriction on Movement of Spruce Wood Order, 1982, controlling the movement of spruce in Wales and the West Midlands came into operation on 20 October. "Slasher" put the following key questions to Plant Health Officer, Duncan Campbell.

Can wood with bark on be moved from a non-scheduled area into or through the scheduled area without licence?

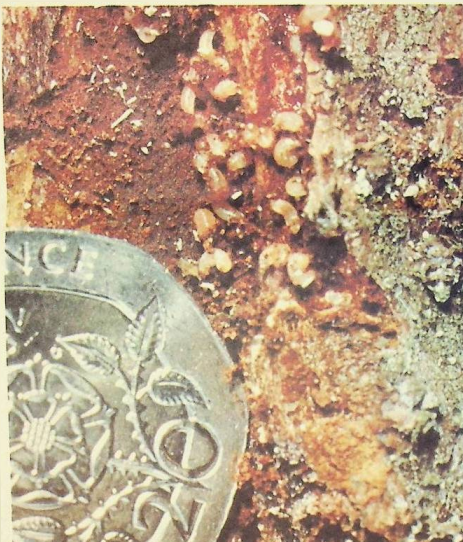
Yes. Only wood grown in the scheduled area is controlled, so that wood from a non-scheduled area (including imported wood which is subject to separate import regulations) may be moved without a movement licence into or through a scheduled area.

How will you police the Order?

The strategy is that no infected material should be allowed out of the forest. This will involve close supervision by the Commission at felling sites including those on FC land where exactly the same standards will apply. As the Commission own by far the greater proportion of spruce plantations in the area the extent of the supervision necessary of private woodlands activity as well within our capacity. Adequate surveys of the whole area is a pre-requisite to determine or not and this is already well advanced.

Have we the manpower to check that every movement of suspected spruce is licensed or has been declared?

Yes. We shall usually be dealing with stands of timber where there are felled rather than with individual loads of logs, which makes it easier. Where there are infected trees we may serve a notice requiring bark to be removed.



The eggs hatch into larvae which eat their way from the chamber round the trunk often ring barking and killing the tree.

and treatment carried out, and our inspectors will not issue a movement licence until he is satisfied that the wood is pest free.

What powers does the Order give the Commission?

Can FC officers enter private premises such as sawmills, for example, to stop timber leaving on the road?

Yes. The Commission's inspectors have wide powers under both the 1980 and 1982 Orders to enter and examine premises (which includes vehicles) take or mark samples, examine records or require relevant information to be produced. If we want to examine a lorry we shall do so either before it leaves the forest or at its destination —

a sawmill, for example. We are unlikely to challenge drivers of vehicles on the highway and would do so only with the aid of the police. Sawmill inspections will be carried out as a matter of routine.

What are the penalties for a breach of the regulations?

We believe that private owners, agents and hauliers involved in the scheduled area have too much to lose by not co-operating. However, for willful breach of the regulations, an offender could be prosecuted under either or both the 1980 or 1982 Orders. The penalties on summary convictions under either Order are a maximum of £100 for a first offence or

£200 for a second or subsequent offence. Under the Criminal Justice Bill (imminently completing passage through Parliament) fines will be increased to a maximum of £1000.

Will offenders be prosecuted, or are there other sanctions which can be imposed?

Yes. Prosecution will be undertaken if it needs be. However, the Commission hopes that with the qualified support being given by the private sector, it will not come to that. Representatives of the Timber Growers' Organisation and Timber Merchants' Association are members of the Commission's Working Party

devising practical policy and monitoring arrangements for dealing with the outbreak. With such support and co-operation it should not be necessary to have recourse to the courts.

Is this not going to flood the market with spruce, which we will either have to sell at give-away prices or leave in the forest?

No. Felling and selling is a continuous process and we are talking here about trees which are ready for marketing. We may have to adjust felling programmes minimally in order to deal with some infected woods first. There is no indication that prices will be affected.

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE BEETLE

EACH FEMALE LAYS UP TO 300 EGGS A YEAR

THE GREAT SPRUCE BARK BEETLE probably arrived in Britain on timber imported from Northern Europe.

The beetle is unobtrusive in appearance, dark brown, about 1/8 inch long, rather like a large millipede beetle. It has been found in Europe from the south of France to north of the Arctic Circle, but so far serious outbreaks have been confined to Denmark, Holland and the northern part of West Germany.

The females lay eggs throughout the summer, from 100 to 300, generally in two batches. The next generation of adult beetles emerge throughout the following summer, though in colder climates it may take three years for the next development cycle.

The females lay eggs throughout the summer, from 100 to 300, generally in two batches. The next generation of adult beetles emerge throughout the following summer, though in colder climates it may take three years for the next development cycle.

"It is always unwise to make predictions, but believe by March we shall have made severe inroads into the beetle population by having removed all trees identified as being infected. In the subsequent months we will continue our efforts to identify and deal with any infested trees we have perhaps missed."

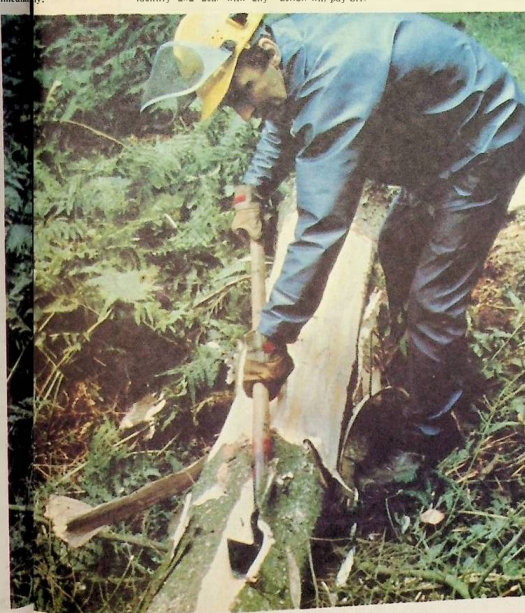
"I am impressed by the responsible and realistic approach of private owners and merchants whose full co-operation is being given in the matter. I am sure our concerted and co-ordinated action will pay off."

The beetle only attacks a standing green tree, and usually one which is under some form of stress. It mainly attacks spruce, with Sika being the most vulnerable, but has been found in most coniferous species. Trees of around 25 years old are particularly at risk.

The female beetle hives into the stem of the tree and, after eating out a small rounded chamber immediately under the bark, lays its eggs. As they hatch, the larvae feed from the edge of the chamber, enlarging it which was ultimately cause the death of the tree. The adult beetle eventually emerges to repeat the cycle.

The first tell-tale symptoms are short resin "wubs" on the outside of the bark indicating where the beetle has entered, which may be followed by dead or dying tops.

Colour Photographs by Douglas Green



An infected tree is felled and stripped of its bark.

Nature News



Pipistrelle Bat

ALL wild bats in Great Britain are now protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Nature Conservancy Council must be consulted before any action is taken which might harm them or exclude them from their roosts, except in the living area of a house.

It is now illegal for anyone without a licence intentionally to kill, injure or handle any of the 15 species of wild bat in this country. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection, or to disturb a bat while in occupation. However, if a bat — usually a young, inexperienced one — enters the living area of a house it can be carefully removed.

The law is intended to stop the destruction of bats — all of which have been declining severely in recent years — and to encourage anyone with problems caused by bats to seek the help and free advice of the Nature Conservancy Council, or the NCC's specialist adviser, Dr R. E. Siebings.

The greater horseshoe bat (which together with the mouse-eared bat was already protected under the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1953) has

declined by about 95% in the last hundred years; but even the commoner bats such as the pipistrelle have almost halved in numbers in the last three years.

The decline in bat population is due mainly to loss of roosts, loss of feeding grounds and food, pollution, and bad weather at critical times. But probably the greatest single threat to bats is remedial timber treatment, with over 100,000 buildings now being treated annually, often using chemicals that are lethal to bats.

People are generally unaware of bats roosting in their houses or property, as they fly mainly at night. Bats do not chew or cause any damage to buildings or paintwork, and they do not build nests but simply hang by their toes. Many people welcome bats, as they are fascinating to watch at dusk. They can each consume as many as 3000 insects a night, including mosquitoes, moths and beetles.

A PRESENT FROM THE HITCH-HIKING BEES



Bee keeper Fred Eckun removes the swarm from the pick-up.

WHEN photographer Isobel Cameron was sent to take pictures at a South Wales forest, the last thing she expected to encounter was a swarm of bees — happily at home in a Commission tent box.

The box was on the back of a Shropshire pick-up awaiting repair at Cychan Forest Repair Bay. The bees had swarmed and, spotting that the lid of the box was not firmly shut, decided they had found the perfect dry spot to get on with the business of making honey.

They swarmed in the weekend, and the thousands-strong colony was only discovered when the mechanics decided to move the vehicle into the garage on Monday morning.

Luckily, mechanic Fred Eckun is a bee keeper, and he quickly brought along his equipment to round up the squatters and transfer them to one of his own hives.

But the swarm had left a thank-you present in their temporary home. They had been there long enough to produce a honeycomb, and Chief Forester Angus Maxwell and his staff all got a free portion of delicious golden nectar to spread on their sandwiches for afternoon tea break.

HEROINE HILDA'S BIG DAY OUT

MISS HILDA SMITH, a clerkess at the Huntly Forest Office in East Scotland, was one of a group of "heroes" invited by the Secretary of State for Scotland to a reception in Edinburgh.

All had assisted the police and were wined and dined as a thank-you for their public spirited action.

Hilda was at home in bed when she heard noises outside and saw men in a car acting suspiciously beside a parked Commission van. Knowing petrol had been stolen the previous week, Hilda raised the alarm but the men had gone by the time the police arrived.

The next morning, on her way to work, Hilda spotted the car again and noted the number. The police were alerted, and Hilda's prompt action led to three men being arrested and charged with theft in six different towns.

Hilda (third from the right) is photographed with Mr Allan Stewart, Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment and the other Grampian area heroes.



Rally charges go up

THE increasingly high cost of repairing damage to forest roads caused by car rallies has compelled the Commission to raise its charges. With effect from 1 December the charge of 95p per car mile was raised to £1.25 per car mile.

About 2800 miles of Forestry Commission roads were used for rallies in the past year, and the charges levied are aimed solely at recovering the cost of making good the damage caused.

A spokesman for the Commission commented: "We make no profit from the charges for rallying, but we must levy a charge to meet the considerable expense of repairing damage caused by the cars."

"We appreciate the importance of forest roads to serious rallying in Britain, and those involved — organisers, competitors and spectators — will be aware of the amount of road surface which is gouged up and sprayed out as the cars speed round the stages. We regret having to increase our charges again, but it is unavoidable."

The fall in the number of contestants at rallies has been evident for some time and this trend can be attributed to the general economic climate and high cost of the sport, even when Commission charges are discounted.

The new increased charge will still not recover all the expense

DEMONSTRATION DAY AT ALICE HOLT

FOLLOWING the very successful "Broadleaves in Britain" Conference early in the year, the Silviculturists at the Forestry Commission Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, held a day of demonstrations and discussions featuring the latest developments in broadleaved species research.

Around 200 foresters from both the Forestry Commission and the Private Forestry sector assembled on Friday, 1st October, to see experiments out of doors covering a range of topics, which included the use of plastic tree shelters to accelerate tree growth after planting, experiments on free growth of oak and the control of epicormic branches, the effect of different grass sward control methods on moisture retention (of particular importance for amenity planting) and the growing of broadleaved species as shortwood rotation coppice for fuel.

Vegetative propagation of

some species as an alternative to the use of seed was highlighted in a tour of the plant production nurseries where the raising of plants in containers in greenhouses was fully covered.

Visitors had the opportunity to discuss developments with the project leaders themselves, and to see and purchase Forestry Commission publications.

Fortunately the weather was fine and the day was a great success. There is a possibility of similar events being mounted in the future.

Graham Tuley explains how to erect plastic tree shelters and the materials to use.



Richard Davies and Joe Gardener demonstrate the use of various treatments to control grass sward.

SNOOKER CHAMP

JOHN GRIFFITHS, production forester at St Gwynno, has recently been honoured by being selected as a member of the successful Welsh International Snooker Team, which retained the Home International Championship at Prestatyn in September. John was successful in securing the match-winning frame in both his matches.

Winning at a high level is not new to John who has beaten current World Professional Champion, Alex

"Hurricane" Higgins, former champion Terry Griffiths and former world amateur champion Cliff Wilson, and during the current year was a finalist in the Welsh Pairs Championships and a semi-finalist in the Singles.

Although he has not yet achieved the magic 147 break, his highest individual break of 141 and competition breaks of 136 gives an indication of the very high standard attained by this talented player.

5-A-SIDE CHALLENGE

THE forest of North Lindsey in Lincolnshire is gaining recognition locally, not for its natural function of forestry, but for its impact in local five or seven-a-side football.

The team was formed and started playing in the spring, using an all weather pitch at a local leisure centre. They had no kit so the first priority was to obtain funds to purchase essential items, and they came up with the novel idea of "sponsored goals" and appealed to colleagues, members of the family, and friends, to donate so much for each goal scored by the team.

To their surprise they raised almost £50 in the first two games, and were then able to get kitted out and purchase that much needed ball.

Head Forester Bob Gladman managed to persuade HQ to part with some FC badges, and these were stitched on to the shorts.

They then entered the "Glandford Fives" tournament and did very well. Playing against teams from local industries they reached the semi-final before they were narrowly beaten.

Since then they have been playing most weeks and are anxious to carry the flag against other FC forests.

Those wishing to take up the challenge should telephone John Hendrie at his home Scunthorpe (0724) 762627.

POSTBAG

Dear Sir,

Now that my time as a Commissioner has come to an end, may I, through your columns, express my appreciation and thanks to all those officers and members of staff with whom I came in contact for their kindness and help to me over eight very happy years.

It has been a privilege to be associated with the Forestry Commission for so long — eighteen years, counting my time as a member of an RAC before becoming a Commissioner — and a wonderful experience.

My best wishes for its future.

Yours, etc.,

DAVID S. BOWSER.

Dear Sir,

I am an ex Forestry Worker and Timber Contractor. Although I left this line of employment a great many years ago, I still retain a great deal of interest in our Forests.

I would like to see some organised competition for us forestry or ex forestry types in wood chopping events as practised in other countries.

These events could consist of the horizontal or vertical type wood chop with heavy axe and/or the single handed wood sawing event by "bow" or bushman type saw.

Anyone interested in helping to organise and participate in any of these events at local level and possibly later at a national level, please contact me at the following address.

Mr P. B. MARTIN.

5 Cairnhope Avenue,
Cairnhill,
Airdrie,
Lanarkshire ML6 9EU.

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE

THIS is my last edition of Slasher as I am leaving the Commission to edit a staff newspaper in private industry.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to Slasher over the past three years, particularly the Conservancy correspondents who have provided such valuable material.

Best wishes in 1983 to you all.
GORDON MacNEILL.

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West: Archie Cameron
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RESEARCH:

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

STAFF SIDE (Based in Headquarters):

Mrs Jean Thompson



Around & About

ALICE HOLT



140 CAME TO PAY TRIBUTE

THREE Commissioners were among the 140 Forestry Commission staff and their wives and husbands who attended the retirement dinner for Mr David Johnston at the Bush Hotel in Farnham.

Director General, Mr George Holmes, referred to Mr Johnston's exceptional university record and impressive rise in the Commission to become Director of Research and Development in 1974.

Mr Johnston graduated

from the University of Oxford in 1952 and joined the Forestry Commission in 1953. He served in the field in South East and East England and was the Director of Management Services before becoming Director of R&D.

He enjoys a worldwide reputation as a forest planner and has undertaken a number of consultant projects for FAO, in Europe and Africa in the past, and will continue with such work in the future. On a more personal level

he makes very high quality wooden furniture, and has written one book already on the subject.

Mr Holmes presented David Johnston with a set of woodworking clamps and a cheque, and the best wishes of friends and colleagues throughout the Forestry Commission. Mrs Johnston received a bouquet of flowers.

Above: Mr Holmes pays tribute to Mr and Mrs David Johnston (seated centre).

DICK'S SKILLS WILL BE MISSED



DICK BUTT, building handyman at Alice Holt, retired in September on reaching the age of 65.

At an informal gathering in the Carpenters' Shop at Alice Holt, the Director R&D, Mr Grayson, presented a youthful looking Dick with his Long Service Certificate and a sizeable cheque made up from donations by his many friends and colleagues. Dick intends to purchase a greenhouse to while away his idle hours.

Craftmanship

Mr Grayson praised Dick for his skill and craftsmanship which he used to great effect over the years in order to maintain the character of the Lodge.

Dick joined the Commission in 1950 as a Forest Worker in SE(E). He was promoted to ganger in 1955 and in July 1957 joined R&D.

His wife Peggy retired in July 1981 after 10 years in the R&D Library and his son Rikki continues the Butt family tradition in R&D on the electrical advisory side of Experimental Workshops.

Dick had become a familiar and well respected fixture at Alice Holt and he will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.

EAST ENGLAND

WALT'S BEAUTY SPOT

AT a lunchtime gathering in Branton, South Yorkshire colleagues and friends of Don Forest said farewell to Walt Fisher who has retired early after a period of ill health.

Head Forester Graham Haddock presented Walt with camera equipment and an engraved Sheffield steel penknife to enable him to continue his hobbies of photography and woodwork. Mrs Fisher was presented with a floral basket.

The scattered woodlands around Doncaster established at times against heavy odds stand as a record of Walt's achievement over 25 years with the Commission. Particularly Melton Wood, or Walt's wood, now an established hardwood beauty spot much visited by the people of Doncaster.

We wish Walt a long and healthy retirement with his wife and family.

BUFFET FAREWELL FOR CHIEF STEVE

CHIEF Forester Steve Chapman has retired after a career totalling some 36 years, which included spells in SW England, the Ministry of Defence, and his last eight years at King's Forest, Thetford.

Colleagues and friends gathered at the Brandon House Hotel for a Buffet Supper and drinks to launch Steve on the path of retirement.

The Conservator expressed the gratitude of the Commission for Steve's meritorious service, and mentioned some amusing little anecdotes from various places of Steve's service.

He then presented Steve with a Camera, and a set of Lead Crystal Glasses. Mrs Field, one of the Clerks at King's Forest presented Mrs Chapman with a bouquet of flowers.

We all wish Steve a long and happy retirement.



Around & About

NORTH SCOTLAND

GUESTS OF HONOUR AT DINNER DANCE

GUESTS of Honour at a dinner dance held by the Shin Forest staff at Laing were Mr and Mrs Mackay and Mr and Mrs Kerr as both men were retiring from the Forestry Commission.

Johnnie Mackay has worked on forest management duties since his employment in 1953. His intimate knowledge of the area was a tremendous help to the many forests he served with, especially during fire danger periods. His main interests were forestry and fishing but it is no fisherman's tale to say that he actively supervised the planting of over 8000 acres during his career.

Donnie Kerr joined the Forestry Commission in 1959 as a keeper and retired as a senior ranger at the end of last year. Donnie was a first class hill man and an excellent shot which helped to produce a high annual

deer cull but perhaps it was his fox control abilities which made him so popular with the neighbouring crofters. Donnie's wonderful singing voice made him a well-known figure on concert platforms throughout the north of Scotland.

Man of all trades

DUNCAN McGREGOR, the messenger for the Inverness Conservancy Office retired in July after serving the office faithfully for the last 10 years.

As postman, office commissioner, gentleman's gentleman, doorman, female flatterer, tipster, political exponent and switchboard operator he will be greatly missed.

Duncan was presented with a cheque by his colleagues to buy a set of bowls.

Three leave

KEN ROSCOE, A&FO, lines up to wish a fond farewell to three retiring members of the Inverness Conservancy Office staff at a reception held in a local hotel.

From left to right the picture shows Stewart MacIntosh (EO) and Mrs MacIntosh; Dorothy McHardy (Superintendent of Typists); and, past Ken Roscoe, Mrs McConnachie with Joe McConnachie (Superintendent of Works with the Civil Engineering Branch).

Around & About

Around & About

Around & About

SOUTH SCOTLAND



GEORGE MAKES A WEDDING VOW!

THE Lammermuir squad turned out in force to say a fond farewell to Ganger George Johnstone, who was retiring after 30 years, all spent in the same forest.

At a supper dance in the Duns Social Club, George was presented with his Long Service Certificate by Head Forester Andrew Liddell, who made a witty speech thanking him for his loyal service.

In reply, George — a very

well-known musician who is also organist at a local church — made a special offer to all the unmarried members of the squad.

He promised to play at their weddings — without his usual fee!

Earlier in the week, George was presented with a wall clock from Forester Gordon Watson at an informal gathering in the forest office.

As well as having more time for his music, George

intends to keep busy in his retirement helping with a number of local voluntary organisations.

JEAN GOES

MISS JEAN CRAWFORD, Specialist Typist, has retired. Jean started work in the Home Grown Timber Supply Department in 1940, moving to the Board of Trade for a few months, then to the Commission in 1946.

Jean will be sorely missed by all her colleagues who presented her with a cheque to mark the occasion.

SAM KEEPS IN FOCUS

SAM CAVEN joined the Forestry Commission in 1946 when the North West (England) office was based in Carlisle. After a short spell in the new office in Chester he moved back to Dumfries where he remained until his retirement.

Sam was presented with a pair of binoculars from his friends and colleagues. This will enable him to keep a friendly eye on us all from a safe distance.

GLENTRESS WILL MISS JIMMY

JIMMY DEACON'S farewell from the Forestry Commission ended almost 50 years of continuous Government service.

Following war service which saw him in a glider landing in a turnip field near Arnheim, which in turn led to nine months as a POW, Jimmy returned to live in the Tweed Valley where he made his contribution to starting Elibank as a forest.

Subsequently he moved on to Cardrona and to Glentress where such jobs as the Christmas Tree market, work for the Highland Show, the forest walks, the Wayfaring Course and the Forestry Commission Water Supply will not seem the same without him.

Friends and colleagues, past and present, gathered to see Conservator John Davies, with the help of Glentress staff, present Jimmy with an engraved watch and other parting gifts.

SOUTH WALES

Two heads leave Brecon

FRIENDS and colleagues gathered at Nythfa House Hotel, Brecon, to wish farewell to two Head Foresters from the Brecon District.

JOHN BOWEN who had been Head Forester in charge of Mynydd Du for the past eleven years retired at the end of June and GIL DAVIES who had charge of Glasfynydd for the past nine years retired in July.

Both started their careers in South Wales. John's service was mainly in the rural areas, whilst Gil had spent a considerable time in the coalfields, mainly at Cymmer.

Tributes to their long service to the Commission were paid by David Evans, District Forest Officer, and John Everard, Assistant Conservator, Harvesting and Marketing, who also presented them with cheques on behalf of colleagues.

ROY MADE HIS MARK

ROY LEWIS, Head Forester at Tintern Forest has retired after 34 years' service with the Commission.

A native of Suffolk, Roy joined the Commission after wartime army service. After training at the Gwydyr FTS he served for short spells at Clocaenog, St Asaph, Myherin and Talybont Forests, before moving to Tintern in 1951. During his 30 years at Tintern he was in charge of nurseries, South Beat, Chepstow Forest and since 1971 has been Head Forester with special responsibility for Conservation, Recreation and Amenity, a role in which he was an outstanding success.

He initiated many recreation projects including the popular and much appreciated Trail for the blind and partially sighted.

At a large gathering of colleagues and friends at the Anchor Hotel, Tintern, he was presented with a pair of binoculars, a Black & Decker workmate and a set of Royal Doulton crystal wine glasses. Mrs Lewis was presented with a bouquet.

Andy had their welfare at heart

ANDY OSWALD, Clerical Officer in the South Wales Conservancy Office retired in July after 48 years in the Civil Service.

Andy served at Glasgow, Inverness and Chapelhall Workshops before moving to Cardiff in 1967 on promotion to Higher Executive Officer, a post he held until two years ago when he reverted to Clerical Officer on reaching retiring age.

He was for many years Conservancy Welfare Liaison Officer where his knowledge of establishment matters and sound advice was a great asset.

In presenting Andy with a cheque on behalf of colleagues, Roy Davies, A&FO, paid tribute to his long and valuable service in the Commission and thanked him especially for his helpful work in the welfare field.

NORTH EAST ENGLAND

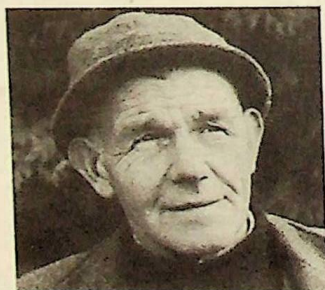
TOMMY WAS NEVER OFF SICK

TOMMY ROGERSON, Senior Ranger I, has retired from Redesdale Forest after 20 years' service — all in Ranger duties.

Tommy's attendance record was perfect — he had never been "off sick" in the whole of his service. And if weather conditions were not good for fishing at the end of a leave year, Tommy often forfeited some of his annual leave allowance.

Fishing, movie photography and caravanning are his hobbies and his colleagues at Redesdale presented him with a Movie Viewer Editor at an informal gathering at the forest office.

Tommy's fellow rangers in Kielder District also presented him with a fishing reel and some



metric heads for his socket spanner set.

We all wish him well for a long and happy retirement.

ONE LESS COLOURFUL CHARACTER

ONE of the most colourful characters in the Low Dalby scene has retired. George Jones, Road Foreman with the Dalby CE Unit was presented with a long service certificate for 35 years' service and a retirement gift by Conservator Mr J. A. Spencer at an informal ceremony in the Village Hall.

After joining the Commission in 1947 as a lorry driver, he transferred to Civil Engineering Branch, where he has seen no less than seven Supts of Works pass through his hands. In 1962 he was promoted to Road Foreman.

George's cheerful and ready wit will be missed.

HEADQUARTERS



JOIN THE COMMISSION AND SEE THE WORLD

JOIN the Forestry Commission and see the world! That was certainly true for Chief Education and Training Officer, John Goodwin, who has just retired from a career that took him to Finland, Czechoslovakia, Holland, India, Sweden, France, Honduras, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Nepal.

John doesn't plan to put his feet up in retirement either. He hopes to continue as a forestry consultant, beginning this winter under the palm trees of Jamaica.

At a gathering in headquarters of his many friends and colleagues, from Edinburgh, Ae Training Centre and a number of conservancies, John was presented with a cheque by Mr Charles Simmonds, who paid

glowing tribute to his pioneering work in education and training.

John joined the FC as a forest worker in 1940, and after attending the Dean Training School he went on to Aberdeen to take his Forestry Degree. He then entered the training field with the major expansion of training at the end of the war, and became almost unique in the Commission — remaining in the one specialist field for the rest of his career.

As Charles Simmonds said, "It was either a splendid example of how flexible the Forestry Commission is — or a superb piece of opportunism!"

John's career progressed via the Dean Training School and the development of Newtonrigg until he became Chief Education

and Training Officer at Basingstoke and then Edinburgh. Always forward thinking, he built up a highly professional system of education and training, and it was his ideas which were adopted at the new school of forestry at Inverness, making their courses the most advanced in the country.

In reply, John Goodwin thanked everyone for the cheque, which he plans to use to buy a slide projector and photographic equipment. He expressed his tremendous gratitude to the number of foresters who have helped him in his career, and looked forward to continuing as a consultant — "he who can, does — and he who can't consults" — was John's definition.

CHEQUE FOR CYRIL

CYRIL WALLACE has recently retired after 17 years as a driver and plant operator for the Durham Roads section of the NE England Civil Engineers.

At an informal get-together in Hamsterley Forest office, friends and colleagues gave Cyril their best wishes and presented him with a cheque.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Around & About

Around & About

Around & About

NORTH WALES



FOUR LEAVE COED-Y-BRENIN

FOUR of the Coed-y-Brenin staff have retired on Job Release. GORONWY WILLIAMS and EMMANUEL EDWARDS were Forest Rangers, NEM EVANS a Forest Craftsman, and BOB GRIFFITHS a Handyman.

Mr Roger Bradley presented the Long Service Certificates for a total of 137 years' service with the Commission. We wish them a long and happy retirement.



EVAN NEARLY COPPED-IT!

HEAD Forester Evan Griffiths (or Ianto, as he was affectionately called by many members of staff) has retired. To mark the occasion, a party was held attended by 93 colleagues, retired colleagues and friends from the timber trade.

The Conservator reviewed Evan's long and varied career, spanning 45 years and Mrs Mary Breeze, forest clerk and Girl Friday to Evan during his 10 years at Ceri, presented him with a cheque donated by his many friends and, dare we say it, admirers!

Evan responded in jocular vein and it was only then that we learned how the Commission had very nearly missed acquiring this treasure!

It seems that, many moons ago, Evan had actually joined the boys in blue — but had a change of heart and didn't turn up for the job.

Haydn worked through the ranks

HAYDN NICHOLLS retired in June after almost 35 years in the Commission. He began his Forestry career in 1947 and after "working through the ranks" in South Wales, including a spell in nursery work, he went north to Dyfi forest on promotion to Chief Forester in 1973.

A gathering of colleagues, including the Conservators of North and South Wales met in Corris to give Haydn and his wife Beryl a warm farewell party, to wish them a happy retirement, and to present them with a variety of gifts including sets of whisky and sherry glasses and a set of wood carving tools.

Haydn and Beryl will continue to live in their home in Dyfi Valley where Haydn will continue to pursue his horticultural skills and develop his hobby of wood turning.

(Right) Haydn receives his gifts from Conservator Mr Roger Bradley.



TIME FOR HIS GARDEN

HEAD Forester Brian Sutton has retired. He served in the Commission from 1949 and up until 1972 was in South East England. He transferred in 1972 to Gwydyr and his duties were on Forest Management and more recently Recreation.

A cheque from friends and colleagues in the Conservancy was handed over by Chief Forester Bill Taylor. Brian and his wife intend to buy garden furniture for their new home.

60 YEARS

TWO forest workers, with almost 60 years' service between them, have retired from Gwydyr Forest.

MR OSSIE WILLIAMS retired on health grounds after a long illness. He joined the forest

in 1953, at the age of 15, straight from school.

MR LEN SPENCER retired on Job Release having worked in Gwydyr since 1954. He began as a lorry driver at the Gwydyr Forester Training School, then moved on to Forest Management duties.

WILL JACK'S GREEN FINGERS COME UP ALL WHITE?

MR JACK RICHARDS, Forest Craftsman at Ystwyth Forest has retired after 27 years' service. He started work when the Forest had three nurseries and was mainly employed there.

When they were closed he was on maintenance work for seven years and for the last 10 years he was the Handyman making gates and repairing tools.

For nine years he did voluntary work for the Rothemstead Experimental Station collecting moths by artificial light.

Mr Richards plans to take up Botany in retirement hoping to fulfil his ambition to produce a "Pure-White" Marigold plant, by careful cross-pollination. He has in fact been experimenting for 15 years and so far has had only partial success.

EAST SCOTLAND



WINNIE IS WEIGHED DOWN WITH GIFTS

ON 23 September, Winnie Watson retired at 65, after 13 years as a Clerkess with the Commission, the last 10 at Research, Newton, after short periods at Teindland Forest — now part of Speymouth — and Laich of Moray.

Tireless

Winnies' careful and meticulous work will be missed, as will her tireless efforts to provide staff and visitors alike with welcome, sustenance and refreshment on those cold wet winter's days.

At a gathering of friends and colleagues in Elgin, Winnie was presented with numerous gifts and a cheque.

Ron packs his measuring tape

AFTER 27 years with the Commission Senior Clerk of Works Ron Raisborough has packed his measuring tape and retired to his native Norfolk. Ron has served in the Conservancies of East England, West and East Scotland.

On 20 October colleagues gathered in Perth where at a luncheon in his honour Ron was presented with a cheque by Charles Cooke, the Conservancy Land Agent.

JOHN'S WORK WILL BRING BETTER TREES

AT a gathering of friends and colleagues at Newton Nursery, John Dyce was presented with a teak garden seat to mark his retirement after 33 years' service.

Most of his time was spent in North Conservancy but during the past seven years he was Forester in the Genetics Branch responsible for the establishment of a large number of progeny trials in NE Scotland.

Data from these trials will have a big impact on the quality of trees which we grow in the future. John's retirement marked a milestone in the history of the Genetics Branch since he was the first forester to retire from active service.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

A REAL CRAFTSMAN

OLD SE(E) hands will remember the Chiddingfold workshop, from where came wet weather shelters, sectional office buildings and sheds in an endless stream. They will also remember Harry Brooks, who ran it from 1962 to 1970 during its heyday. Harry not only made buildings, he went on to deliver and erect them all over the Conservancy.

The only way they could stop him was to close the workshop down. Nothing daunted, Harry then extended his general forest duties to include a little corner in cleft oak and chestnut rail fencing, thereby contributing with his skill to much of the amenity value of Alice Holt Forest today.

Harry has now retired after thirty-five years' service and at a gathering in the Alice Holt Information Centre Conservator Charles Begley presented Harry with his long service certificate and a gift from his many friends and colleagues, a clock/barometer, to save him the trouble of making one himself. Mrs Kitty Brooks received a magnificent bouquet of flowers.

Rarely has the term Craftsman been more accurately bestowed. Harry showed his mettle early on when in 1959 he constructed virtually single-handed the first iron and concrete bridge in the Conservancy, successfully translating an engineering blueprint without technical advice or assistance. Even the Christmas tree packing funnel as we know it was developed by Harry Brooks.

WEST SCOTLAND



HAVING completed 28 years' service, six in Benmore and 22 at Inverliever, Alistair McIntyre finally rode home from work on 30th July — on a mount borrowed for the occasion from the Lochawside Trekking Centre.

At a well-attended ceilidh dance in his honour in Dalavich, he was presented with a hedge-cutter, a carriage clock and cheque, by District Officer Peter Quelch. Mrs Quelch presented Alistair's wife Peggy, still a mainstay in operating the Lochawside cabins, with a crystal vase.

In outlining Alistair's 28 years' service, George

Francey paid tribute to his ability as a piece-work saw operator right up to his last day of service. An apology was also offered to Alistair for promoting him from horseman to craftsman at a wage reduction of one old penny per week.

As often in Argyll, the band was slightly late, but this minor delay produced one of the highlights of the evening — Peter Quelch's virtuoso performance on his tin whistle. Another feature of the evening, not mentioning food, was the number of cabin visitors who joined the fun and danced until morning.

500 YOMP IN ACHRAY MIST

ONE of the actions which played a major part in the success of the campaign to re-capture the Falkland Islands was the 30-mile trek by British troops to mount the attack on Port Stanley.

They carried up to 100 lbs. on their backs in equipment, weapons, etc., over rough, heavy ground, often in atrocious weather conditions.

As a way of commemorating that achievement, the Scottish national newspaper, The Sunday Post, in co-operation with the

Commission and the Army's Scottish Command arranged a similar type of trek through Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, Aberfoyle, on Sunday, October 31.

The cross-country trek, with heavy packs, is undertaken as part of regular training by our Commando Forces. The Commandos have their own word for this endurance test. They call it a "YOMP."

The Sunday Post YOMP, '82, started from the Commission's David Marshall Lodge, a short distance north of Aberfoyle.

Five hundred Yompers, aged from 16 to 60, set out from the Lodge from first light carrying packs of up to 30 lbs. in weight, to tackle a course of just over 14 miles.

They had come from as far afield as London and Limerick, Aberdeen and Aldershot.

Palace team

They included representatives of all three Services, Territorial Army, police, firemen, hospitals, walking clubs, women's groups, many youth organisations, and individual members of the public.

Teams — each consisting of three members — ranged from Buckingham Palace staff to Barlinnie Prison officers.

The course had been devised by Forester John Baird and took them up a steep hill track, through deep heather, thick grass, marsh and peat hags. Along a ridge over 2000 feet high, and along muddy forest tracks.

Conditions could not have been worse. The mist was down to 1000 feet, but everyone had come well prepared and the organisers, after consulting with the Commission staff, Army and police, decided the Yomp could go ahead.

Escape routes

For the safety of the entrants, the Army and the Commission set up and manned seven checkpoints along the route. Each check-point was in radio contact with the start point and each had first-aid facilities.

Men from 1/51 Highland TA, Perth, and from 15 Para TA, Glasgow, were on duty, under the command of Captain Selby Macduff-Duncan, adjutant, 1/51 Highland.

The first of the Yompers left at 7.30 am. Over 12,000 had applied to take part, but for safety reasons this number was ballotted down to 500.

By 10 am everyone was on the course. The rain refused to give



The Buckingham Palace team leave the David Marshall Lodge at the start of their royal ascent.

up and the first stage, a climb of over 2000 feet, soon sorted out the sheep from the mountain goats.

John Baird had included escape routes from checkpoints two and three, and many of the weaker Yompers took advantage to get off the mountain and back to the Lodge where Warden Charlie Stewart and his staff were kept busy selling reviving cups of tea, coffee and soup.

The first Yomper to complete the course arrived back at the Lodge in just over four hours. Exhausted!

By the end of the day, every competitor had been accounted for. Only a handful completed the entire course, but thousands of pounds had been raised for charity. And five hundred people went back to their homes all over Britain, with many a tale to tell about their day out in the forest.

Colour photographs by Isobel Cameron (who also yomped)



Two weary competitors reach the end of their exhausting, 14-mile march.

And Murphy yomped too!



Murphy, John Baird's springer spaniel, was the only dog on the Yomp. He knew his way — he'd already completed the course twice!

Obituary

MR S. C. ANDERSON

WE regret to report the passing of Mr Sam Anderson, who retired in 1968. Mr Anderson planted the first tree on Keillour Forest, which is now part of Dunkeld. He was also one of the longest serving Commission employees in the old Foreman grade.

MR R. F. E. BARTLETT

ALL who knew him well will be saddened by the news of the death of Radford Bartlett. He had served for the past eleven years as Regional Head Forester, Field Surveys at Mabie and previously in posts at Cropton, Pickering, Wykeham and Thetford.

MR D. CAMERON

OUR sympathy goes to the wife and family of Mr Dan Cameron, who died recently. Mr Cameron retired from Glencoe Forest in December 1978, after nearly 30 years as a member of the original Duror Forest squad.

SIR A. H. GOSLING, KBE, CB, FRSE, FRICS

SIR ARTHUR GOSLING, who died in August at the age of 81, was Director General of the Commission from 1948 until 1962. During his 43 years, he served at every level from Forest Worker to Director General and in all three countries.

His unrivalled experience and the grasp of essentials that distinguished him proved of immense value both to the Commission and to forestry as a whole during one of the most formative periods in history.

After his retirement he was, from 1963 to 1972, Chairman of the Commonwealth Forestry Association. He had been appointed CBE in 1950 and was created KBE in 1955.

We have lost a fine forester who did much to shape British forestry during the period of its greatest expansion.

MR S. W. NICHOLS

OUR sympathy goes to the widow of Mr S. W. Nichols, who has died aged 77. Mr Nichols retired as a Ranger from the (E) Conservancy in 1970 after 51 years with the Commission.

MR A. PYMAN

MR ALEC PYMAN, head of the forestry department at Cumbria College of Agriculture and Forestry in Newton Rigg since 1963, died in September. Mr Pyman was active in many aspects of forestry education, a member of the Forestry Training Council, and chairman of the Royal Forestry Society's Education Committee.

MR F. H. WILLIAMS

IT is with regret we report the death of Mr Frederick Williams, who retired from Hazelborough Forest in 1975.

Around & About Around & About

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

EAMONN ANDREWS COULD NOT HAVE DONE BETTER

THE surprise party to mark the retirement of Joe Guest was organised with a degree of secrecy that M15 would have been proud of.

Joe was such a popular member of the Hereford Forest staff that everyone was determined to mark the occasion with a party. Complete secrecy was achieved. Ranger Brian Price dropped in casually to take Joe and his wife Amy out for a drink and took them to the Walwyn Arms at Much Marcle — where the whole forest staff had gathered.

Joe was presented with a fitting reminder of his 12 years with the Commission — a map! Which will help him tour round on his trusty bicycle, which Joe

would never dream of swapping for motorised transport.

He was also presented with a work bench and a bottle of his favourite tipple.

In his retirement, Joe plans to spend more time in his large garden and in the company of his five daughters and nine grandchildren.

WATCH THE BIRDIE!

MANY Conservancy staff gathered in the canteen (the only place in the area large enough!) to say farewell to Mr John Taylor, A&FO at Bristol since March 1968.

Conservator Mr Leslie Troup, made a speech in appreciation of Mr Taylor and presented him with a camera, a cheque and a card signed by his colleagues. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Taylor. In retirement Mr Taylor plans to combine photography with picture painting and bird-watching.

FAREWELL TO YOU ALL

RANGER Mr Ernest Delaney has retired from the Dean. He joined the Commission at the tender age of 13 and apart from a couple of years with the Royal Marines during the war, he spent all his working life in the Dean.

Another to go was Ganger Gordon Planting, who joined the Commission in 1934. After the war, Gordon stayed on the Continent for a couple of years, returning to the FC in 1947.

Mr Joe Guest has left Hereford Forest after nearly 12 years with the Commission. He had spent the greater part of his working life in farming but quickly applied his agricultural skills to forestry.

Another former agricultural

worker was Mr Alfred Sparks, a very skilled tractor driver. He has left after 19 years' service.

Mendip Forest said farewell to Mr Mervyn Fountain, who has been forced to take early retirement through ill health. He began with the Commission in his teens, and has been in forestry all his working life.

The Conservancy Office has said farewell to Mr Albert Butt, who had been HEO in Bristol since 1970. Albert was previously EO in the Finance Section, and also had spells in Chester, Aberystwyth (twice) and HQ offices.

Persistent back trouble forced him to retire early, and at a short ceremony in the office, he was presented with a Flymo and fishing tackle.

Head Forester Rowland Bultitude has retired. He had been on PW work for some years, but many associate him more with Dartmoor Forest where he spent four years and where he wrote his well-known diary during the 62/3 Winter. Rowland did much to keep the Community going and subsequently received the BEM. He

received a gift at a quiet ceremony in the Okehampton District Office.

Head Forester David Percy has also retired, he too was employed on PW work for some time. He spent the early years of his career in SE(E) and moved to the South West in 1973.

He celebrated his retirement by inviting colleagues past and present to a lively party at the Pavilion on the Christchurch Camp Site, with refreshments, singing and dancing. The musical items included a duet by Mr Percy and ex-PW Head Forester Jim Freeman on the subject of Private Woodlands.

Mr Troup presented David Percy with a painting of the Malvern Hills, and a hedge cutter was given to his wife.

The Conservancy Office will miss Mr Donald Chainey, who has been there for 31 years. Since 1974 he has been EO on H&M and FM and is well-known to most foresters as well as many timber merchants in the region.

At an informal gathering in the office, Mr Chainey was given a cheque which is being used to buy a new power lawnmower.