

SLASHER

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Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

Acid rain conference

'We need to know more on damage causes'

MORE research into the causes of forest damage is needed to establish whether there are any new phenomena which cannot be explained, Dr Bill Binns, Forestry Commission, told a meeting in Edinburgh.

The three-day international conference, organised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, included speakers from Norway, Germany and Canada.

On the threat of "acid rain," Dr Binns, Head of Site Studies (South) said: "Most of the damage reported has been from central Europe, in particular West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, and more recently Switzerland, Austria and eastern France. Most recently some damage has been reported from the southern third of Sweden. Some pollution damage has been reported from California and the eastern United States. Almost all the Norway spruce damage appears to be later than 1970. Damage to other species (excluding Silver fir) appeared later. It follows that we are dealing with a new phenomenon and, to assert that we have damage from "acid rain" in Britain we must also produce evidence of some new forms of damage not previously observed.

He pointed out the main differences between Britain's maritime climate and the continental climate of Central Europe.

Phenomena

"Other important differences between Britain and central Europe are the lower absolute elevation; the reliance by commercial foresters in Britain on Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine, together with some larch, compared with mixtures of Norway spruce, Silver fir, and beech in central Europe. Scots pine in central Europe tends to be more frequent as a pure crop compared with the other three species."

Dr Binns said: "There are many causes of damage to forests and trees. Indeed it is important to remember that perfect health is an extreme rarity; trees, like other plants, are always suffering from some disorder due to less than perfect growing conditions or regular attacks by insects, fungi, etc. This is all part of what can be called the balance of nature and it is as absurd to claim disaster every time a leaf falls off a tree as it is to assert that everything is perfect.

"What we need to do is to find out whether there are any new phenomena of forest damage which cannot be explained by either well-known damaging agencies, or newly identified ones (e.g. the Great spruce bark beetle, the Pine beauty). Up till recently we were fairly confident that there was nothing in this category, but after last winter some new and quite widespread damage on a number of species, including Sitka spruce, has been observed in the north of England and west Scotland. We believe it is primarily climatic (i.e. caused by weather patterns) but it is exceedingly difficult to prove one way or the other."

IT'S COUNTDOWN TO BIG CHANGES

Efficiency is the aim of this facelift

Major changes are to be made in the structure and organisation of the Commission at Headquarters and at Conservancy levels. This decision has been reached after full consultation with the Commission's staff and trade unions, the Regional Advisory Committees and the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee. The basic purpose of the reorganisation is to secure further improvements in the efficiency with which the Commission carries out its work.

In line with the recommendation of a management structure review group the Commission has decided to reduce from 1 April 1985 the number of Conservancies from eleven to seven with the closure of its offices at Cardiff, Chester, Lyndhurst and Aberdeen.

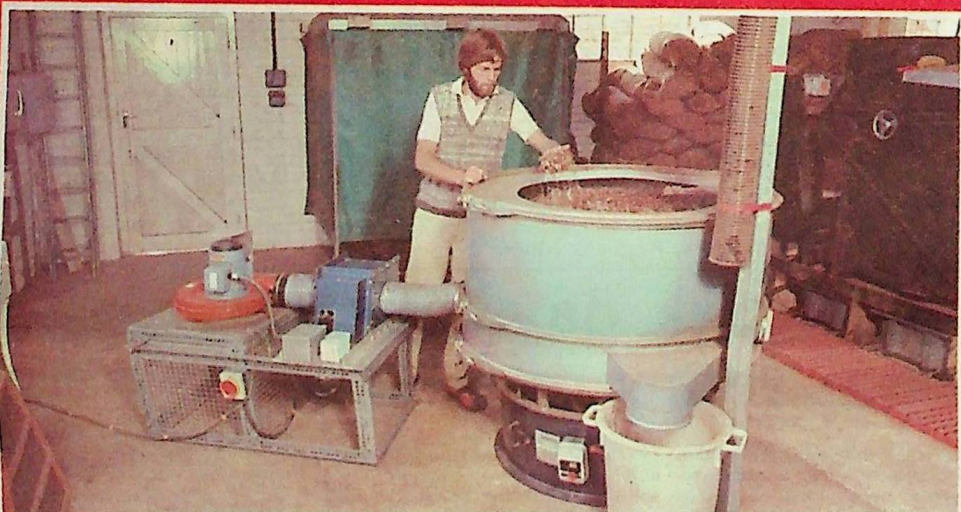
ANNUAL BUDGET

Announcing the Commission decisions, Director General George Holmes said: "They reflect our concern to re-shape the organisation to take account of the many changes which have occurred since the last management reorganisation in 1964." Mr Holmes recalled that since the mid-1960s many forests have moved out of the labour intensive stage of planting and establishment while others moved into the harvesting stage. Mechanisation and new techniques resulting in increased productivity had reduced industrial staff numbers by over 50 per cent since 1964 and improved communications enabled foresters to manage larger areas. "The changes are necessary to enable the Commission to continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of all aspects of our work," said Mr Holmes. "The seven Conservators and their teams will work with the 70 Forest District Managers to that end. Each will carry a substantial responsibility. Our purpose is to continue to achieve through our new structure further improvements in the management of the Forestry Enterprise. We also intend to give a fresh emphasis to our work as Forestry Authority. We will provide both at Headquarters and at Conservancy levels skilled staff who will have the task of looking to the interests of the development of the private sector and also of paying special regard to all the conservation, environmental, landscaping and recreational aspects which form such an important part of our work."

"In order to achieve our objectives we have redefined the responsibilities of the three full-time Commissioner posts. The arrangements for oversight of Silviculture and Harvesting and Marketing operations will be integrated under the Commissioner — Operations whose responsibilities will also include the work of the Engineering and Estate Management Divisions and the oversight of territorial operations generally.

The designation of a Commissioner — Private Forestry and Development recognises the increasing importance of the private

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The Alice Holt heater-blower which may be copied worldwide.

Super seeds bonanza is £900,000

Following a round-the-clock exercise, the Forestry Commission has secured its biggest ever harvest of seeds.

Thanks to an all-out effort by all involved in harvesting, storing, transporting and extracting, almost £900,000 of top quality seed is now in store and Douglas Clark, Seed and Plant Production Officer, reports a growing list of export orders.

"We have recently secured our biggest ever order from Canada, worth some £35,000, and are dealing with orders and possible orders from France, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Greece and even Nepal," he said.

"After last year's bumper harvest of mainly Sitka spruce, 1984 is likely to be a year of selective harvesting. We are planning, for example, a collection of Scots pine from East Anglia for use in the Christmas tree growing industry in the USA. This is a market worth a quarter of a million dollars and we are bidding for a large share. It is a highly competitive market with cheap continental seed currently enjoying the main share. We aim to change that."

Over an eight-week period in September / October last year, more than 6000 hectolitres of cones, mainly Sitka spruce, were collected in Commission forests. This was far in excess of the handling capacity of the extractory at Alice Holt and 2500 hectolitres were shipped to Germany for seed extraction.

"We are now in the position of being able to offer security of supply to our very important domestic customers for some years ahead and look forward with confidence to becoming more active in the competitive international market," said Mr Clark.

TONY WADDELL tells the story of how Alice Holt coped with the cone crush. — PAGE 6.

MARTYRS STONE NOW IN MUSEUM

The Martyrs Stone, which was damaged last year by vandals at its former site at Caltons Campsite, Glentworth, has been repaired and placed in the care of Newton Stewart museum.

The stone is believed to be the work of "Old Mortality" who lived from 1715-1801 and was set up to commemorate the death of six covenants who were cruelly murdered in 1685.

After vandals smashed the stone into four sections last August the Forestry Commission organised fund raising for its repair through the Ancient Monuments Division of the Scottish Development Department. The repair work was done at Stenhouse Conservation Centre near Edinburgh.

The stone has been returned to the Commission and we sent it to Newton Stewart museum as it was felt that the stone wasn't up to being at its outside site any more. Plans are going ahead to erect a replacement at Caltons Campsite.

CIVIL SERVICE BENEVOLENT FUND

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

YOU may never need a Benevolent Fund — we hope you won't. But can we tell you why you should know about it? For two reasons; if you have bad luck and run into financial troubles, the Fund may be able to help you; secondly, by supporting the Fund, you are giving help to those colleagues less fortunate who are in need of assistance.

The Fund was started 98 years ago to help Civil Service widows who, in those days, did not have a pension when their husbands died. Over the years it has grown into an organisation supported by the National Whitley Council (Official and Trade Union Sides) and by individual civil servants (including the

staff of the Forestry Commission.

Helping widows is now only one of our functions. In fact, we help serving staff a lot. Those on reduced pay due to long sick leave can seek grants or allowances; some who suffer unforeseen misfortune, i.e. virtually any domestic crisis, which causes hardship can receive lump sum grants or interest-free loans. Anyone prematurely retired due to ill-health is offered help as are all widows or other dependants, both of serving staff and those in retirement.

The Forestry Commission should tell us when a death or premature retirement occurs and should give everyone on reduced sick pay a CSF Form 11. The deaths of retired staff are notified to the Fund by the Paymaster General.

In addition to this financial help (during 1983, it amounted to over £500,000), the Fund has a Convalescent Centre at Bournemouth for both serving and retired staff and six homes in England and Northern Ireland for the handicapped and the elderly. Over 200 people, either civil servants or their dependants, have permanent homes in the Fund's care. A new home, which will also provide convalescence, is to be built at Dunbar near Edinburgh, and will open during 1986.

The Fund is a registered charity and therefore relies on the Civil Service and "fringe bodies" (like the Forestry Commission) to provide the necessary income. The Government makes an Exchequer grant (currently about

£330,000) and "fringe bodies" do the same as employers. But most of the income (just over £1 million in 1983) comes from individual civil servants who become members and make voluntary contributions of about £1 a month, deducted from pay and sent to the Fund. If a deed of covenant is also completed, the contribution is worth about 40p a month more because the Fund recovers the income tax already paid by the member.

● Further information and application forms are available from Caroline Jones at Forestry Commission HQ, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, or from Tom Cameron, the CSBF's Regional Publicity Officer at 14 Woodlands Drive, Bo'ness, EH51.



Finance chief takes new post

The Forestry Commission's new Commissioner for Administration and Finance in succession to George Murray, who retires in October, is Derek Rutherford (54), at present Principal Establishment and Finance Officer with HMSO in Norwich.

Mr Rutherford, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, takes up his appointment on November 1.

After entering the profession in Doncaster in 1948 he was admitted to membership of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors in 1953. After National Service as a Pilot Officer / Instructor in the Royal Air Force Regiment, he spent four years running his own practice as accountant and auditor, before becoming company secretary / accountant for P. Platt & Sons Ltd., a Doncaster company of agricultural merchants and engineers.

Between 1961 and 1974 he held a series of senior appointments with MacFisheries Ltd., T. Wall & Son (Ice Cream) Ltd., and Alfa-Laval Co. Ltd., where he was Director of Finance. During that period he also became increasingly involved in developing and implementing computerised accounting and administrative systems.

In 1974, Mr Rutherford became Group Financial Director of the Oxley Printing Group Ltd., and in 1975 joined HMSO as Chief Accountant, Publications Group. In various posts over the past nine years he has directed the computerisation of a number of HMSO's operations. He became Principal Establishment and Finance Officer in June 1983.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Caroline Jones, welfare officer, reports:

ON May 4, 1984, I attended the Civil Service Benevolent Fund annual general meeting in London, on behalf of this Department. The Forestry Commission paid a capitation fee of £3,155.40 in respect of about 7000 staff for 1984.

The meeting was very interesting as it gave an insight into the way the Fund works and its policies. At the meeting the 1983 Annual Report was examined in detail — photocopies of this are available on request.

During the course of the meeting the professional attitude of the Fund was clearly in evidence from the full-time staff, and also from delegates representing many of the Area Committees.

Several motions were moved and carried which aimed to improve the administration of the Fund, such as setting up a formal timetable for the Committee of Management to report back to members on the progress of remitted motions as follow-up on these had been patchy in the past. Motions requiring the spending of funds were all considered very carefully in order to utilise resources to the best advantage; for example it was on the grounds of cost and time that the idea of a national lottery was rejected as a possible fund-raising activity.

Plans are at an advanced stage for the building of a Civil Service Benevolent Fund Home at Dunbar. This will be the first home in Scotland, and the fund will consider a home for Wales when the Dunbar project is completed, sometime in 1986.

The motion on the agenda calling for the Committee of Management to reverse its decision to close Fenn Place caused a great deal of upset. The Committee of Management had taken the painful decision to close one of its homes — Fenn Place — because of the cost involved in maintaining this home, which is not purpose-built and requires conversion work, to the high standards demanded by the Fund. It was an emotional moment for all concerned; the Committee of Management regretted the necessity of closing Fenn Place, but felt that facts have to be faced sooner rather than later; and the Matron of the home was also present at this meeting — she may face redundancy along with the rest of the staff when the home finally closes at the end of 1984.

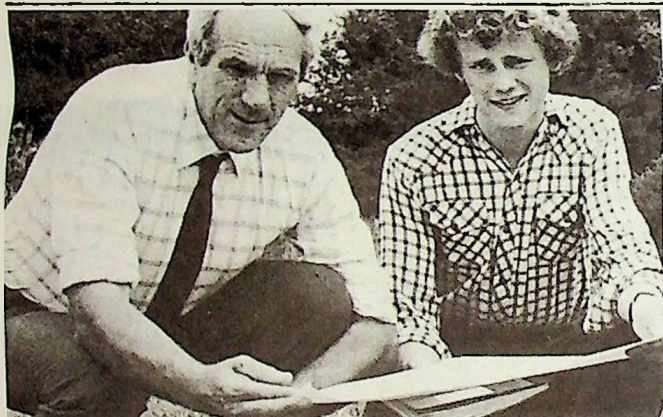
All the residents have been promised

places in other Civil Service Benevolent Fund Homes, but the splitting up of "the family" who have lived together at Fenn Place, some of them for years, is traumatic to both residents and staff.

The most fundamental problem facing the Civil Service Benevolent Fund is that only one in four Non-Industrial Civil Servants contribute to it. Membership was widened to include Industrial Civil Servants three years ago, but so far the increase in numbers of contributors is small. The Fund has appointed a National Organiser to help increase the number of contributors particularly among young Civil Servants.

Twelve Committee of Management Members were elected at the AGM, and it was possible to meet some of the candidates and get to know them during the breaks in business.

The Fund's Newsletter "Talking Points" is now issued three times a year, and the aim is to deliver copies to every Civil Service Office. The Newsletter contains much interesting information on the Fund's activities.



An 18-year-old student at the internationally renowned Gordonstoun School, near Elgin, Morayshire, has won the top prize in a major educational competition with a plan for a small forest plantation.

Philip Whitfield (above) from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, emerged the winner from 2000 entries submitted in the BTA (British Trades Alphabet) Study-cards project competition. BTA Study-cards are used in 30,000 schools throughout the UK to initiate and motivate individual study as well as school projects. It is the second successive year that a forestry project has won the national award.

His winning entry was "The formation of a small forest plantation with due regard to amenity." The proposed plantation site was a 7.29 hectare field close to the Forestry Commission's Heldon Woods near Elgin and the aim of the hypothetical study was to create a small woodland on marginal land that would provide quality timber, an improved landscape, shelter from wind for livestock and crops and enhanced wildlife.

Technical advice and support was given throughout the project by Mr John Keenleyside (pictured above). Chief Forester (Research) Forestry Commission, Newton Nursery, Elgin.

Philip plans to pursue a career

**PHILIP
TAKES
TOP
AWARD
FROM
2000
IN STUDY
CONTEST**

in forestry at university or college level. He said: "My interest in forestry stems from my uncle and since I was 13 years old I have wanted to be a forester. The idea for this project started as part of my studies for A-level geography and although the field work was a very intensive week of hard work the whole exercise was fascinating."

The BTA Study-card National Award is worth £250, and in addition Philip Whitfield is to receive a selection of forestry publications from the Forestry Commission.

TROPHY RANGER

Senior Ranger Alan Stewart will be keeping a closer-than-ever watch on the roe deer in the Kinloch Rannoch area of ECS.

His target . . . a buck that could take pride of place in any trophy collection.

For Alan, of Bridge of Gaur, had his name selected in a draw at the CLA Game Fair and the prize is to have a trophy fully mounted by one of the country's leading taxidermists, Allan Allison, of Kinross.

The dark days of war remembered

THE New Forest has witnessed many strange and momentous events in its thousand-year history, but none perhaps more incongruous with its ancient splendour than the build-up of armoured might preparatory to Operation Overlord, the Western Allies' bellicose return to the European mainland in 1944.

The months previously there had been a massive concentration of troops and equipment across the southern counties of England, known for the most part only to the local inhabitants. The New Forest offered almost an ideal cantonment with its concealing trees and proximity to a major port of departure. It was here that the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division spent the winter of 1943-44 under canvas and their padre Canon Keith Perdue conducted services for them at Mogshade Hill, where in April 1944 he set up a makeshift pine cross. Today a sturdy oak cross stands in the same place as a memorial to all those who lost their lives in the Normandy landings.

To mark the fortieth anniversary of D-Day, several thousand people gathered at Mogshade Hill for a service conducted by Canon Perdue with a march past of war veterans, the salute being taken by Brigadier General Christopher Snider, Chief of the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff.

MANAGING WOODS

The Forestry Commission has published what could become a standard reference on the cultivation and management of broadleaved woods in Britain.

The publication of "Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland," by Julian Evans (Forestry Commission Bulletin No. 62) occurs at a time of increasing concern over the state of the country's broadleaved woodlands and follows the recent issue of the consultative paper containing the Commission's recommendations for a national policy to safeguard the future of Britain's broadleaved woodlands.

The Bulletin recognised the importance of broadleaved trees and woods as a traditional dominant feature of the landscape, as a source of half the country's consumption of hardwood timber and their "inestimable value" for sporting, amenity and conservation.

Silviculture, the art and science of growing trees, is at the foundation of all woodland management and the book provides advice and recommendations on

the management of Britain's 750,000 hectares of broadleaves. Different management objectives are considered since it is only against this background that the appropriate silviculture can be selected. Silviculture is considered by woodland types — high forest, coppice, upland woods, farm woods, urban woods, and by objective — timber production, conservation, landscape, sporting, recreation. Accounts of all the important broadleaved species but notably oak, beech and ash are included in detail.

In producing "Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland" the Commission draws on its own experience of managing notable broadleaved forests in the Forest of Dean, the New Forest and the Chilterns, the wealth of knowledge gained from long association with private woodland owners, and a considerable body of research information some of which is published here for the first time.

The author outlines the many factors which led to the gradual decline in the broadleaved woodland area and the change

from a predominance of coppice systems to high forest. He suggests that the 1980s are witnessing a revival in both the traditional uses of woodland products and traditional woodland management systems, noticeably coppicing. The increased interest in coppice is not only for the products themselves — for example firewood for the growing wood-burning stove market — but because of the considerable conservation benefits associated with this type of woodland.

"Other influences of landscaping, amenity, public preference for broadleaved woodland, along with continuing demand for native timbers, suggest that the present time may come to be viewed as a turning point away from many of the trends — clearance, neglect, decline of coppicing — that have affected much of our broadleaved woodland during the 20th century," he writes.

The bulletin is expected to find a wide readership, including woodland owners, agents, foresters, students, local authority staff, farmers and, indeed anyone wanting to find out about broadleaved woodland.

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS ON THE REVIEW REPORT

What prompted you to call for the Review hard on the heels of the Forest and District restructuring?

It was always my intention to review the organisation at Headquarters and Conservancy level as well as the Districts and Forests. Once the decisions had been taken on the Forest District level it was opportune to review the position at Conservancy level, on which the Hewitt Group had already made a recommendation and to cover Headquarters.

The Review body missed their deadline by a considerable margin. There was a further delay before the Report was issued to all staff. What factors made you initially reluctant to circulate the report?

My intention throughout has been to deal as openly as possible with the staff in the matter of reorganisation. That is why each and every member of staff has been given access to the full text of the Reports of the Review Groups. There has been no question of reluctance on my part in making the Reports available to staff but I delayed the issue of the report for a few weeks until 18 March so that I could study it, together with my senior colleagues, and then distribute it together with my preliminary reactions to its recommendations.

Though you relaxed, slightly, your original impossible deadline for comment on the Report the progress to the final decisions was rapid. This rush to finalise has led your staff to believe you wanted a minimum — if any — consultation. Are you satisfied that your staff have had sufficient time to prepare and discuss with your alternative options?

Yes. Both to Working Groups and the Commission itself have engaged in a considerable consultative process. I am satisfied that the period for consultation extended as it was by a month at the request of the Unions was adequate and a number of important changes have been adopted as a result of those consultations.

Trade Union Secretary Ted Radford raises points with D-G

When the final decisions were published they were irrevocable. Would it not have been better to consult your staff before publication?

You must remember that when issuing the HQ and Conservancy Review Group Report to the Unions and staff of the Commission I gave a preliminary indication of my views at that stage. In the final outcome I did make changes to meet the views expressed by some members of staff. In the final analysis decisions on those matters are the responsibility of the Commission.

You have said the comments you received were constructive and useful, yet the weight of evidence in favour of retaining the present Conservancy structure has been rejected. What factors justify this rejection?

I believe that the reduction in the number of Conservancies and the re-structuring of the Headquarters and Conservancy organisation taken together with the Forest District reorganisation will greatly improve the efficiency with which the Commission carries out its work. We must of course ensure that delegation is made effective and that Conservancies and Forest Districts are given the resources to carry out the responsibilities that will be entrusted to them.

You are in the process of setting up and agreeing Terms of Reference for a reorganisation Consultative Committee (RCC). Before its first meeting a round of Conservancy visits is underway. What purpose can these visits serve when your staff cannot take sound decisions in advance of discussion at the RCC? If such visits are



Director General George Holmes.

necessary surely they could have been postponed so that you yourself could make them?

The purpose of these visits is to explain to the staff concerned as soon and as clearly as possible what the Commission propose to do in their interests, the job opportunities which can be made available, and the related procedures. I am anxious that there should be no avoidable delays in taking action in the interest of staff.

What steps have you taken to ensure that staff in the offices which are to close are aware that any preferences they might express in the questionnaire you issued are not binding?

They have been told verbally and given confirmation in writing that their initial statement preferences can at their discretion be changed.

Your covering letter issued with the final decisions is unspecific about closure dates and this uncertainty was



Trade Union Side Secretary Ted Radford.

increased at the last Special Whitley when you spoke of the transfer of work when convenient to management. How do you intend to ensure that management needs do not over-ride the staff interests and welfare?

Decisions on the timing of the transfer will take account of the interests of staff and the needs of management. I intend to hold a fair balance and to ensure that staff are consulted as necessary and kept informed both through the operation of the Consultative Committee under Mr Simmonds' Chairmanship and through the local procedures for keeping in touch with the views of staff.

You have frequently said you are concerned that displaced staff are treated with consideration. Do your contingency plans include provision for alternative employment for those staff?

We are already in touch with the Staff Transfers Unit in this connection and there are of

course jobs available to those who wish to transfer within the Commission. We will do our level best to avoid declaring redundancies save as a last resort.

You have also said that your rush to implement is partly due to your wish to remove staff fears and uncertainty about their futures. Are you now certain that the Forestry Commission has the right structure to get on with its work without looking over its shoulder for yet another Review?

I do not accept that to implement on 1 April 1985 is in any sense a rush. We must now bring to an end the uncertainties which have existed for too long. I am satisfied that the reorganisation provides the best way forward and I have no plans for any further major restructuring. There may be further adjustments from time to time as there were before the major restructuring between 1983 and 1985.

DRAGONFLIES: THEIR LIFE AND TIMES

As those who study dragonflies will know, reading material about them is far from plentiful. It is a particular pleasure therefore to welcome a readable and comprehensive conspectus based on the observations over several years of the New Forest Odonata Study Group.

There are three main types of wetland habitat in the New Forest where the dragonflies breed: heathland ponds and lakes which are mainly shallow and man-made, including marl and gravel pits, decoy ponds, bomb craters and the like; rivers and streams, slow and quite shallow in the summer, but liable to flash floods after heavy rain; and the prime breeding sites, the valley bogs. Altogether the New Forest supports breeding populations of twenty-seven of Great Britain's thirty eight species of dragonfly, and the valley bogs are one of the few remaining areas in the country where as many as thirteen species of dragonfly can be seen on a mid-summer's day.

This pocket-sized book covers the life cycle of dragonflies and their habitat requirements before launching into a detailed description of each species, all delightfully and evocatively named, from the beautiful Demoiselle and the scarce Blue-Tailed Damselfly to the Broadbodies Chaser.

There are ten plates of line drawings, a guide to identification, and a table of distribution and main flight periods; a useful summary of preferred breeding habitats and a guide to further reading complete a most useful survey which contains much of interest for both the layman and the specialist.

Our own specialist, David Winsland, who contributed the introduction and is an active member of the study group, is a mechanic in our Lyndhurst Workshop when not crouching by a reed-fringed pond, dodging the Black Darter.

● By Noelle and Tony Welstead, with an introduction by David Winsland, 41 pages. Published by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust, £2.50.

Continued from page 1

Strategies for the future

sector and the need to develop strategies and techniques to meet the needs both of private forestry and the Forestry Enterprise. His Department will also take a close interest in environmental, landscaping, recreational and conservation matters.

The Commissioner — Administration and Finance will continue as the Commission's Principal Finance and Establishment Officer. His Department will include the Secretariat of the Commission, the Finance and Personnel Divisions and a new Division — Data Processing Division which will provide in-house automatic data processing to supply line managers more quickly with the information needed for good management."

Mr Holmes who has visited each of the four Conservancy offices due to be closed and had discussions with the staff there said: "I am conscious that the introduction of the new structure will mean a period of uncertainty, particularly for those affected by the amalgamation and closure of offices but we will do our utmost to implement the changes humanely and expeditiously with the minimum disruption to individuals. We certainly hope to keep compulsory redundancies to an absolute minimum."

Staff at the offices to be closed are being consulted as to their wishes. Those who are willing to move will be offered vacancies elsewhere in the Commission. Efforts are being made to find vacancies in other Government Departments for staff who do not want to move their homes.

Rothbury was home from home

THE following trio have recently ended their careers at Rothbury Forest District.

Rothbury was George Wilbert's last posting in his time with the Forestry Commission. He spent most of his 30 years in the Border Forests after a successful career as a professional footballer. His reminiscences of life at Kielder, and the people who lived there, made you realise that they really were the good old days. His farewell present was a Hardy's carbon fibre fishing rod. It will be put to good use, no doubt in the waters of Kielder.

Dick Elliott spent all his time at Harwood forest doing every job that forest craftsmen are called upon to perform. After 33 years he took voluntary redundancy and set himself up as a

drainage contractor at, would you believe, Harwood, where he is making a splendid job of drains maintenance with his specially set up machine.

George Tait, or Doad to his friends, was the first worker to be employed at Kidland Forest, and also the last worker because of redundancy. He was gamekeeper for a number of years during the rabbit boom before myxomatosis. He then took up a planting spade instead of a shotgun and dogs and proved himself to be just as effective.

Both Dick and Doad received Long Service Certificates from Conservator, Mr J. A. Spencer, at a small ceremony in Rothbury Forest District Office. All three are still in their old stamping grounds, and long may they remain.

VIP FOR FOREST

Many official visitors from this country and overseas came to Strathgry Forest, but none was more distinguished than its last. The Right Reverend Dr Fraser McLuskey, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, began his pastoral visit to Balquhider Parish with the Forestry Commission.

This event was inspired by Captain David Bowser of Argaty, Elder and Member of the host Presbytery of Stirling, a former Commissioner and former member of the Regional Advisory Committee.

During the tour of the forest cabins and a harvesting site on the West side of Loch Lubnaig, informality was the keynote as the former "Parachute Padre" of World War II still has the sense of humour, which endeared him to those with whom he served. Interested in modern felling techniques, he recalled his Boy Scout training and noticed that a "lay-in" was still a necessary part of the operation.

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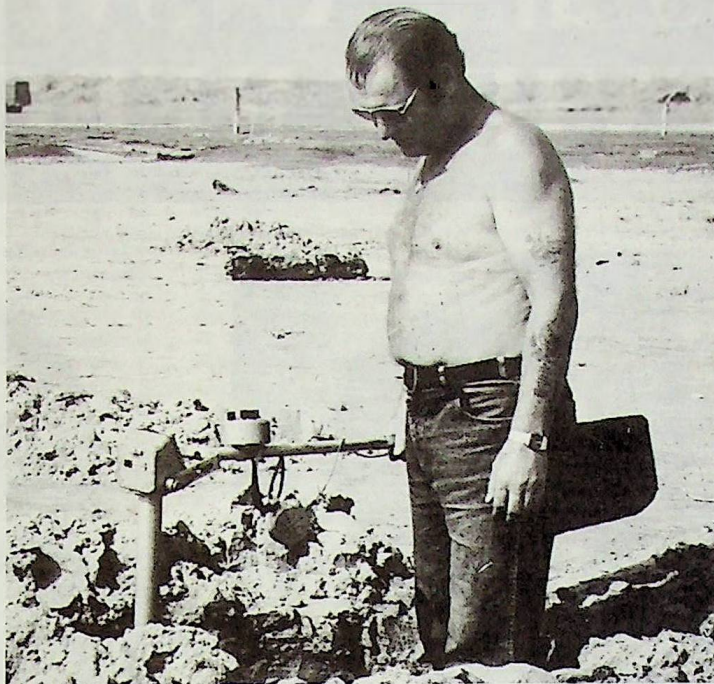
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Ted Radford

Live ammunition found near Culbin Forest

DANGER! BEACH BOMB TEAMS AT WORK



A 33 Royal Engineer civilian team member using sophisticated electronic equipment in the search for buried missiles.

Bomb disposal experts are still searching the beach adjoining Forestry Commission's Culbin Forest on the Moray Firth after the discovery of live ammunition left over from World War Two exercises.

More than 100 bombardment rockets have already been found and detonated by teams of experts using sophisticated detection equipment and the clearance operation is expected to continue for some months.

Struan Stewart, Chief Forester, Laigh of Moray, said: "This could be a long-term operation before we know that the foreshore is clear."

The first unexploded bombs were discovered in mid-August west of the fishing village of Findhorn on the forest shoreline. Within days more than 60 of the five-inch diameter rockets had been located by bomb disposal teams.

EXERCISES

During the war Culbin beach was a practice and training ground involving ship-to-shore barrage exercises in advance of the D-Day landings.

Apart from the rockets, other ammunition, up to 25 lb. shells, have been found by the squads.

Said Mr Stewart: "We have something like eight miles of foreshore alongside Culbin Forest but we believe the bombardment training area only covers two to three miles of the beach. However, we must continue to urge the visiting public to exercise caution in the area until we are given the all-clear."

As an extra precaution, the bomb disposal units are sweeping areas in the forest where roadworks are projected.



Through three days of perfect high summer on the splendid lawns of the Broadlands Estate in Hampshire, the staff of SE(E) Conservancy demonstrated once again against strong competition that when it comes to putting on a display, Forestry Commission staff can stand comparison when it comes to flair, imagination and hard work with any professional design team with their five-figure budgets.

Using the theme of the humane control of wildlife, the exhibit showed the identification and distribution of deer, mink, hares, rabbits, grey squirrels and edible dormouse. A comprehensive selection of rangers' equipment was on display and two local innovations: the New Forest-style high seat and a device for loading deer carcasses into vehicles.

The constant stream of visitors bore

ample witness to the interest generated by our stand and all the staff on duty hardly stopped answering questions all day. In a deliberate return to an earlier style of exhibition, visitors were not channelled through a progressive panorama; instead, the centre of the marquee was left open, with seats for more lengthy discussions (or aching feet!), from which all the separate parts of the display were visible at once.

Amongst the latter was the owner of Broadlands, Lord Romsey, here seen with Conservator Ian Skinner and Deputy Surveyor Nicolas Banister. Staff from Conservancy Office as well as field staff from the New Forest and elsewhere contributed to the planning and execution of our exhibit, and all played an essential part in its success. Special mention is nevertheless due to Head Forester Fred Courtier for his specialised knowledge and dedication to the project.

Forestry
staff on
the ball
with a
top
display



Princely award

The Forestry Commission's contribution to the permanent exhibition at the new Offa's Dyke Heritage Centre at Knighton was recognised at a presentation ceremony. The Centre won a 1983 Prince of Wales Award.

In presenting commendation certificates to the Manpower Services Commission team who carried out the main work, and to the individual contributors, Lord Gibson-Watt — a Forestry Commissioner and also a member of the Prince of Wales Committee — thanked Forestry Commission staff for their co-operation in supplying permanent panels for the exhibition and also the provision of forest walks and car parking facilities in the area. He said the Committee had been impressed by the immediate success of the new Centre.

The photograph above shows Mr Peter Harrison, Harvesting & Marketing Head Forester at the Llandrindod Forest District, receiving the certificate from Lord Gibson-Watt.



A watery grave

The passing of Inverliever into Loch Awe was "celebrated" when the old forest sign was ceremoniously dumped into Loch Awe, by Hamish MacDonald our senior forest worker — a boy with but 46 years FC (and wartime) service. This ended a long history which started in 1909 when Inverliever was acquired by the Office of Woods as an experiment to see if there was a better use for Argyll hill land than the traditional sheep and cattle farming.

At the line management meeting which followed our farewell photograph a toast was drunk to the old forest and as the bottle was not drained a toast was also drunk to the new forest district of Loch Awe.

In all its history Inverliever had but seven foresters-in-charge. Sadly the original forester, John Boyd, died in harness. As a pioneer, great credit is due to him.

Great interest was taken by him in the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society and its Diamond Jubilee which included Inverliever in its May tour of 1914. Letters of these early days are now filed as historical, but they are also hysterical — the old style of writing, what happened when the army commandeered the forester's horse, legal advice to a forester on cheeking up to the hierarchy. All these are recorded for posterity, but hopefully for posterity too, will march the spirit of Inverliever in the beat team of the new Loch Awe FD.

Back in routine

The Queen has approved the re-appointment of Lord Gibson-Watt of the Wye, PC, DL, as part-time Forestry Commissioner for a further two years. Lord Gibson-Watt, a farmer and woodland owner at Llandrindod Wells, Powys, has been a Forestry Commissioner since 1976. Educated at Eton and Trinity College (BA) he served with the Welsh Guards from 1939 to 1946 and saw action in the North African and Italian campaigns and holds the MC and two bars.

Identification is Alan's game

The Arboricultural Association's award for 1984 has been presented to Alan F. Mitchell who retires in December from his post as Dendrologist with the Forestry Commission Research Division. He has gained a reputation as one of the country's leading authorities on tree identification and must be one of the best known arboriculturists in Britain.

Birds are Alan Mitchell's first love, and it is fortuitous for arboriculture that his interest in trees was kindled. It is reported that during war service as a radio mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm Alan was eventually reduced to reading the section of

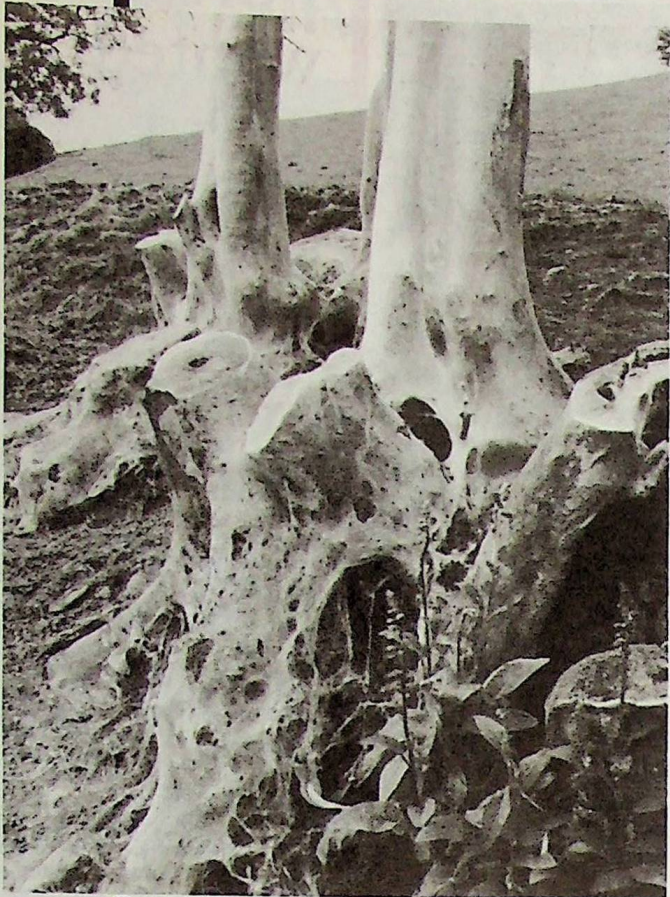
library books on trees. While reading these books Alan realised that trees and birds were interdependent.

After the war Alan took a degree in Forestry at Trinity College, Dublin, before joining the Forestry Commission as Assistant Geneticist in the Research Division. In his early years he worked particularly on the larches — work which took him around Britain and gave him an opportunity to develop his interest in the variations within tree species.

More recently most of Alan Mitchell's time has been spent in supervising management of the Forestry Commission's arboreta. Probably of greater

significance to practical arboriculturists and the enthusiastic layman are the books Alan Mitchell has written. The best known "The Collins Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe" topped the booksellers sales for many months and has now run into several editions. In addition it has received acclaim around the world as indicated by the 14 foreign language editions.

The Arboricultural Association commends Alan Mitchell for having "so greatly enriched our knowledge of every variety of tree that will grow in these islands" and for having endeared trees to so many people.



Introducing the ghost trees of Terregles

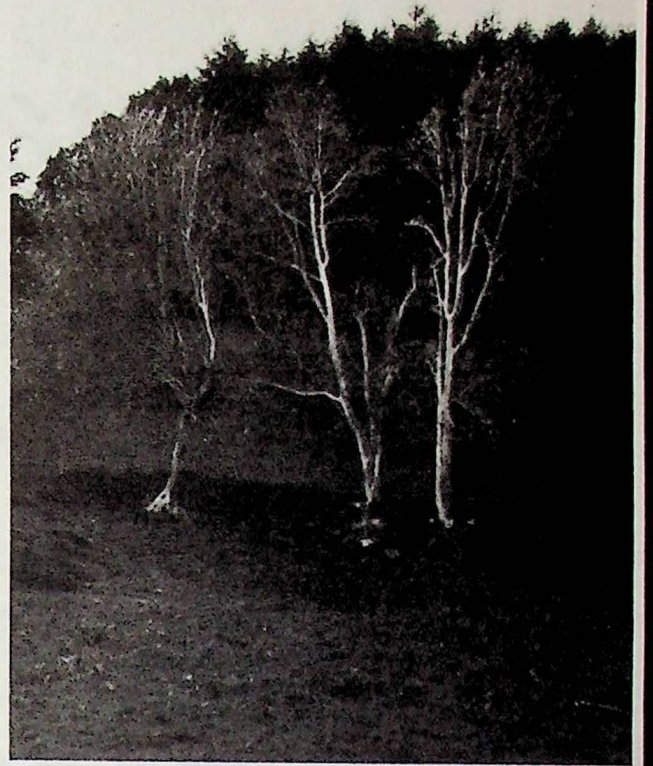
THESE eerie pictures are not from the set of some horror movie, but part of nature's rich tapestry.

In early summer the caterpillars of one of the species of small ermine moth (*Yponomeuta evonymella*) feed on the leaves of gean, the wild cherry tree, protected from birds and other predators by secreting webs of silken strands around themselves.

Usually the occasional leafless twig, enmeshed by a pale grey film, provides clear enough evidence of the caterpillars' activities, but when caterpillar numbers become so great as to affect a whole tree — or group of trees — the effect can be quite dramatic.

By mid-summer the trees can take on a distinctly unreal or ghostly appearance with not a green leaf to be seen and every twig, branch and stem covered by a shining silvery membrane of silk webbing. When fully developed the caterpillars often gather together into large colonies and spin cocoons, which look like loose lumps of dirty cotton wool.

Within these they change into chrysalids or pupae from which the moths eventually emerge later in the summer. Another species of small ermine moth (*Yponomeuta padella*) is responsible for the defoliation of stretches of hawthorn hedge



Colleagues' tribute to Jim

MORE than 80 colleagues and friends gathered in Madley Village Hall to say farewell to Head Forester Jim Walsh when he retired from Hereford Forest SW(E). To show the appreciation and affection they had for their boss, the evening was organised to perfection by Jim's workforce.

Like many of his contemporaries, Jim had an eventful war career. He recalled with Spike Milligan-humour the defeat of the Afrika Corps in the Western Desert, time spent in Malta and the invasion of Italy.

Starting his forestry career in 1947, Jim spent two years at Dartington Woodlands before entering the Dean Forestry School in 1949. A posting to Bodmin followed.

Further postings to Halwill and Hartland followed where Jim got to grips with upland forestry and all its associated problems. In 1975 Jim took charge of Hereford Forest.

International action needed on the future of forestry

DETERMINED efforts both by international agencies such as FAO and the World and Regional Development Banks and also by national governments and politicians are essential to the future of world forestry.

That was one of the main points made by Forestry Com-

mission Director-General George Holmes in his keynote address to the International Forest Congress in Quebec in August.

He reminded delegates that in the world there are some 4000 million hectares of forest, occupying about 30 per cent of the total land surface, corresponding to less than 1 ha per head of population and, with current trends in deforestation and the rising population in developing countries, that is expected to fall to less than ½ ha per head by the year 2000.

Prospects

The prospects of sound policy goals for the future would depend on political awareness of the importance of forestry; an effective public forest service; and improved communications between the forestry profession and the public.

Mr Holmes said: "First, 'political awareness' — as we all know the long time scales of forestry contribute to a lack of political appeal and hence the frequently low priorities and low resource allocations to forestry in national development plans."

"Forest resources are not only about trees, they are about people and their welfare and quality of life and about conservation of natural resources. Attention to such aspects will improve political awareness."

"Second, government must have an effective machine in the form of its forestry administra-

tion or Forest Service to assist government in formulation and execution of policy.

"I believe that by and large this approach has worked well, based as it is on the concept of a professional administration managing the national forest estate and advising and helping the private forestry sector to run their affairs in a manner consistent with national forestry policy."

Emphasis

"Third, communications with the public by foresters, state and private, are crucial in developing forestry policy and, in this, forestry's track record is poor. Foresters have tended to be pre-occupied with forestry and the average forester has been happier dealing with trees than with people."

"Foresters have placed insufficient emphasis on the links between forestry and agriculture and with environmental and conservation interests. I think the profession is now fully alive to this and steps are being taken to improve communication both with the public and with special interest groups. However, we still have a long way to go both in our willingness to communicate and to listen."

"It is essential that the initiative is taken to involve other land-use interests and environmental interests in dialogue and debate on forestry and land-use issues."

Woodlands of Britain

Twelve outstanding colour photographs feature in the Forestry Commission's 1985 calendar "Woodlands of Britain."

It captures the changing face of the countryside from snow-covered high forests to colourful streamside broad-leaves.

One of the best value calendars on the market the price is still unchanged at £1.75 (£1.90 by post) from Information Branch, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Obituaries

JACK MARSHALL

MR JACK Alexander Marshall died recently. Jack started with the Forestry Commission in 1930 as a Forest Worker and apart from a year in 1941-42 in the RAF stayed in NE(E). He worked in Hamsterley, Wark, Weardale and Ampleforth and was Head Forester at Ampleforth when he retired in 1974. After his retirement Jack joined Durham County Council and for five years looked after reclaimed mining sites, turning them into woodland areas. We offer our condolences to Mrs Marshall and family.

ISOBEL INGLIS

IT IS with regret that we record the passing of former Forest Clerkess Mrs Isobel Inglis. Mrs Inglis was at our Lammermuir Forest for eight years before retiring on health grounds in 1983. Our sympathy goes to her husband, two sons and daughter at this time.

MORAG McINTYRE

IT IS with regret that we record the death of Mrs Morag McIntyre, wife of Head Forester Mr Colin McIntyre, Newton Stewart Forest District. Our sympathy goes to Mr McIntyre, two sons and daughter.

Order form:

Please send copy/copies of the 1985 Calendar "Woodlands of Britain."

NAME

ADDRESS

I enclose cheque/postal order for £..... (£1.90 per copy by post) payable to Forestry Commission.

Gathering in the cones harvest

by Tony Waddell

THE 1983/84 season has been our busiest for many years. A total of 3848 hectolitres of cones has been extracted, of which 3300 hectolitres was Sitka spruce. The rest was made up of Lodgepole pine, Hybrid larch and Corsican pine. Our previous highest total of Sitka to be extracted was 1561 hectolitres — in 1976.

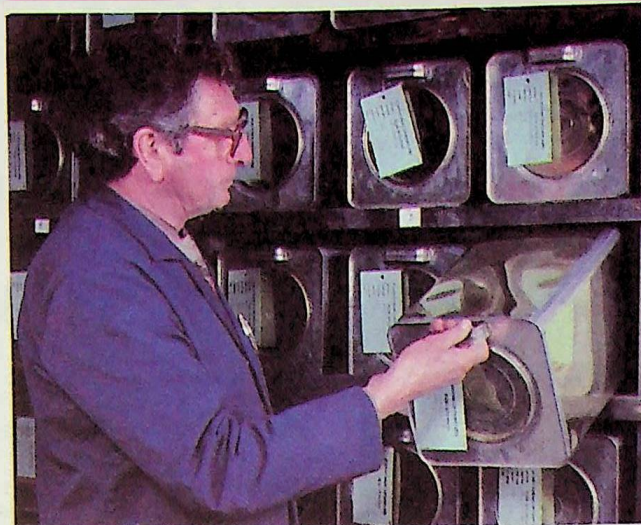
Our season started in mid-September 1983, and we finally finished the seed processing at the end of this July. The Extractory was built in 1964 and was only designed to cope with an annual maximum of about 2000 hectolitres of cones. But with a lot of goodwill and help from many people we have successfully coped with this season's bumper harvest of cones. Particular thanks is due to the two Extractory workers, Nigel Keatley and Richard Napper, who endured what must be one of the noisiest, dustiest job in the Forestry Commission. With many hours of overtime, they did the bulk of the work.

Of great help to us this season has been the regulated flow of cones to the Extractory, instead

of an unplanned flood. This has been achieved through the co-operation of 19 Seed Liaison Officers (SLO's) and Forest District staff. The Seed Liaison Officers, each with a particular interest in, and enthusiasm for seed collection, have successfully organised and co-ordinated the collections and transport of the cones to the Extractory, and again, much thanks is due to them for their help.

The Sitka cones yielded a total of over 3100 kilometres of good, germinable seed. The yields of good seed increased from about 830 grammes per hectolitre (gm/hl) at the beginning of the collection season to 1300 gm/hl at the end. This was probably because some collections were made a little too early when the cones still contained immature and empty seeds.

We are proud that we are able to produce high quality, clean seed at the Alice Holt Extractory. This is due in part to our method of removing the wings of Spruce and Pine seeds by using water, and vibrating the wetted seed in our own-adapted industrial screening machine. Most other extraction plants use dry-rubbing methods to de-wing their seed, which results in a dirty, dusty product.



Les Cumplin (Storeman) with a 10 kg can of Sitka spruce in the +2°C Storage Chamber. Over 4000 kg of home collected spruce seed was extracted at Alice Holt in the season.

Most of those few who use a wetting method, literally use a cement-mixer, so it is little wonder that our machine is being copied and used more and more throughout the world.

When seed has been wet — de-winged it has to be dried before further cleaning can take place and this has always been a problem to those in extraction plants, who have made their own drying devices because no suitable model is commercially available.

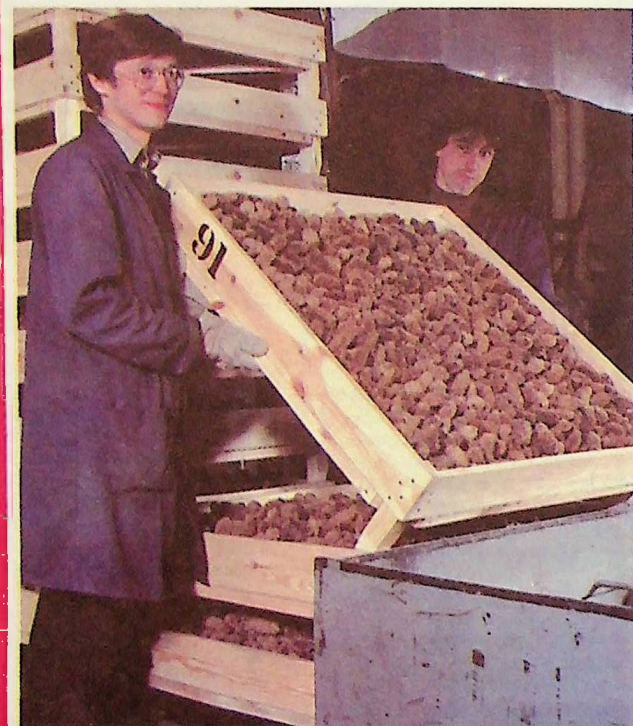
We have experimented with blowing warm air up through the dewinged wet seed, in the dewinger machine, using a vacuum-cleaner in reverse. The idea worked, and now Jim Bodkin in the Alice Holt Research Engineering Branch has built us a "Mk I" Heater-Blower Unit which has halved the normal time taken to dry the seed. We hope this will prove to be another Alice Holt Innovation which will be copied worldwide.

In most years we have a small flock of Tits and Finches, including Siskins, feeding on the remaining seeds in the extracted cones piled outside the Extractory. This season the flock of Siskins, delightful little Winter visitors to us, built up to about 300. The occurrence was publicised in the local paper, which resulted in many bird-watchers coming to see these very tame birds.

● **RIGHT:** Sitka spruce seed being separated from needles and rubbish on the cleaning machines. Great care is taken to ensure that high quality seed is produced.

● **BELOW RIGHT:** Tony Waddell (Manager) with the fully processed seed. Five processes ensure that the seed produced at the Alice Holt Extractory is some of the best in Europe.

● **BELOW:** Richard Napper and Nigel Keatley tip opened Sitka spruce cones into the drum kiln conveyor. The cones are heated for up to 24 hours at 40°C in batches of 24 hectolitres to open them and release the seed.



Foresters wanted in Third World

THE Vanishing forests of Third World countries may seem a remote prospect to forestry experts in this country.

But there's a chance for professional foresters to help the developing countries help themselves by becoming a volunteer with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) for two years' service in Nepal, Kenya, and the Pacific Islands.

VSO is urgently looking for degree or diploma-holders to work in community forestry work in these countries. The postings will involve helping to establish nurseries, planning tree plantations, how to protect them, and drawing up a plan for utilisation of existing forests in integrated forestry programmes.

The emphasis in all projects is on the community and working out how best the people can benefit from the projects. In addition to the integrated programme, there are opportunities to introduce non-indigenous species, mensuration and large-scale forestry management.

"These are all interesting jobs with plenty of variety," comments John Nurse, head of VSO's Agriculture section. "There is desperately urgent work needed to be done in the rapidly diminishing tropical forests, so that the community, above all, will benefit."

The number of requests to VSO for foresters from Third World countries has trebled in two years. Volunteers should be aged 23-65, and hold a UK or Commonwealth passport. Accommodation is provided, and they receive a small living allowance based on local rates of pay.

Address any enquiries to VSO, 9 Belgrave Square, London SW1, or ring 01-235 5191.

Task Force to the aid of visitors

A POPULAR visitor spot in Wentwood Forest now has the added attraction of a specially built barbecue area, play area and viewing ramp for disabled visitors in wheelchairs, thanks to a scheme sponsored by the Manpower Services Commission.

In a Community Programme project, funded by the Manpower Services Commission, a local Community Task Force of 32 unemployed young men and one young lady worked for six months clearing the site of an old work shed at Wentwood Lodge. On it they have created a children's play area, and a fine barbecue site where they have built five stone barbecue stoves.

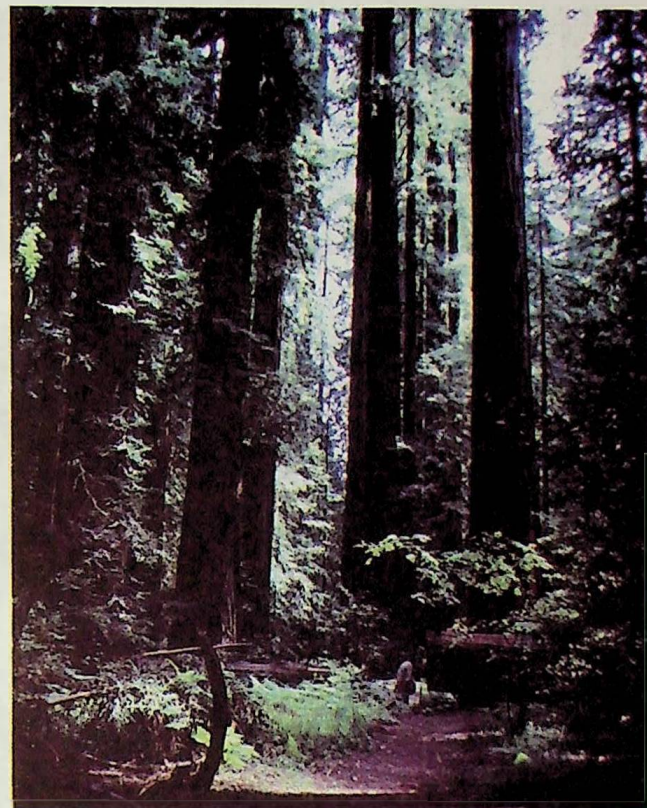
The surrounding area has been grassed and trees planted to complete the landscaping of the site. The Task Force has also built a ramp and viewing platform suitable for wheelchairs which will enable disabled visitors to enjoy panoramic views of the forest and over the Bristol Channel.

To mark the completion of the first stage of the project the barbecue site was opened with a barbecue for the Task Force and others who had been involved in the project. After tucking in to generous helpings of barbecued sausages and beefburgers with salad the whole party let their hair down to country music by William Laird, one of the team supervisors, and his group, followed by games and tug-of-war and crosscutting competitions.

A silviculturist on an American odyssey



Monterey cypress (above) — "gnarled, twisted veterans." Redwood Mountain Grove (right) — "as near as a forester can get to heaven."



WELCOME TO LITTLE AND LARGE SHOW

IN May I gave a talk, "Lodgepole pine Management in Britain," at a symposium in Spokane organised by Washington State University. I was able to follow this up with a holiday in California, which enabled me to see trees and forests which I had read about for nearly half a century yet never managed to reach.

Starting in the north of the state near the town of Mendocino I visited some of the most southerly Lodgepole pine on the coastal dunes at MacKerricher State Park. This is the subspecies *contorta* and the seed source of one of the collections by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations. The trees by the beach are low and scrubby, trimmed by the winds off the Pacific Ocean, though in a cleared patch by the old logging road which runs up this part of the beach, young regeneration looks like the normal "south coastal" type and in shelter has good straight stems with no basal sweep.

Mixed with the dark green Lodgepole pine were greyer green Bishop pine (*pinus muricata*). Lodgepole pine from stands like these grows well in southern parts of Britain, but cannot stand the shift of 18° of latitude to Shin Forest in Sutherland. Only a few miles away, close to Mendocino airport, is the famous "Pygmy Forest" which grows on the "White Plains," an extremely acid podsol with induration and seasonal waterlogging.

General Grant — the Giant Sequoia standing 267 feet high.

Here the same two pines occur, mixed with a rare local curiosity *cupressus pygmaea*, all extremely stunted in growth. Thirty years ago Dr Bill Critchfield found that these dwarf Lodgepole pine were a distinct subspecies (*bolanderi*) based on cone and leaf characters, and recently Dr Ian Forrest from the Northern Research Station has shown that these two (almost contiguous) populations have different terpene patterns. The dwarf Bishop pine here has very thick, deeply-fissured bark.

Just north of Mendocino I saw one of the southernmost native stands of Sitka spruce, here severely restricted to the coastal fog belt. In Humboldt County further north, Sitka spruce grown in association with the Coast Redwood, *sequoia sempervirens*. The Redwood belt includes 700,000 ha of commercial forest and I had not

ROGER LINES TAKES A LOOK AT CALIFORNIA

expected to see logging trucks hurtling along with Redwood logs from 100-year-old second growth.

Most of the virgin woods have been cut so I was impressed by the surviving 40 ha of untouched Redwoods in Hendy Woods State Park on the Navarro River. These giants soar up to the skies, making photography of whole trees impossible and one can only appreciate their size by walking along a fallen stem. The tallest tree on record has a height of 112 m.

Trees may live for over 1000 years and though they do not reach the massive diameters of the Giant Sequoias, the sheer volume of standing timber can reach an almost unbelievable 3425 m³/ha. Few pure Redwood stands occur above 1000 ft elevation and it can only thrive where heavy summer fogs from the ocean keep the humidity high.

Monterey, 116 miles south of San Francisco, is famous as the home of Monterey cypress (*cupressus macrocarpa*) whose natural range is restricted to a

2-mile strip along the Monterey peninsula and a few hectares at Point Lobos. My preference is for the latter, not only for the gnarled, twisted veterans, but for superb scenery and the attractive sea otters, sealions and pelicans. The survival of *C. macrocarpa* here is said to be due to cool water in deep trenches offshore and to its ability to grow on the poor granodiorite soil.

The highlight of my visit was undoubtedly the Giant Sequoia (*sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the Sierras. These trees occur in isolated groves mainly above 4500 ft and as high as 8000 ft and in pretty rugged country. It is hardly surprising that although coastal California was settled by the Spaniards in the 1770s, the 10,000 ft-plus Sierras made a forbidding barrier and the Redwoods were not discovered until 1852 at the height of the Gold Rush.

Their discovery sparked off worldwide interest and much destruction. One of the largest trees was felled just so that its height could be measured accurately.

The "Mother of the Forest" had its bark stripped off to a height of 120 ft, using scaffolding, so that this could be re-erected at the Crystal Palace in London, as the tree itself was

Continued on page 8

Retirements

Talented Sandy's shoes prove difficult to fill



IN the best traditions of a football team manager, the area land agent of the day swooped on the McIntosh household late on a July evening in 1946, and made what was to prove his finest signing.

During the 38 years of his service, Sandy McIntosh led by the example of considerable drive and energy. With him spades were always spades and he achieved remarkable standards of output and economy. He was held in the highest regard both within the Commission and amongst outside contractors.

Sandy is a man of great character and diverse talents and there is no task that ever defeated him.

His duties included the organisation and the running of the Forestry Commission sign unit and the Joinery Workshop, where he applied his considerable talent for design in the production of picnic furniture and toilet blocks which are regarded as first-class for their purposes by Local Authorities and the Countryside Commission.

A replacement for Sandy has not been easy and his retirement, originally due in September 1983, was extended on no less than six occasions.

A large company of friends gathered in the Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin, to mark his retirement and Conservator George Taylor presented Sandy with a swinging chair, garden hose and sum of money, and his wife Jean was presented with a plant and plantstand.

At the Grant Arms, Fochabers, Sandy's colleagues in Estates Branch presented him with binoculars and a pot plant was presented to his wife.

Camera gift for a manager

RON HUNT, Manager, St Hilary Workshop, retired after 35 years' service with the Commission in South Wales. Ron joined the Army in 1938 as an apprentice and saw active war service with the 1st Army in North Africa and Europe. He joined the Commission in 1949 as a Mobile Mechanic and became Workshop manager at St Hilary in 1978.

A large number of colleagues and friends had gathered at the British Legion Club, Cowbridge, for his farewell party. Ian Matthew, Conservancy Mechanical Engineer SW(E), who had held the same position in S(W) during much of Ron's career, paid tribute to Ron's long service to the Commission, and Tom Williams, Workshop Manager at Treglog, presented him with a 35 mm camera on behalf of colleagues. Mrs Hunt was presented with a bouquet by Mrs Morgan.

Head Forester Eric Treweeks retired after 37 years with the Commission. He started work in January 1947, as an FWTS trainee, and after attending the Dean FT School in 1949/51, served at Talybont, Brechfa and Geyre, before taking charge of Drathen Forest in 1968. He moved to Coed Taf Fawr in 1973 where he remained in charge until the formation of the Brecon Forest District in July 1983. Eric had been responsible for the Garwnant Visitor Centre from the outset and had seen it develop as the focal point in the Brecon Beacons for forest visitors and as a study centre for school and other parties.

Head Forester George MacMillan retired after 38 years' service. He joined the Commission in 1946 as a Forest Worker in Dyfi Corris and after training at the Dean FTS, served at Dyfi-Bryncynfil and Llanover, before taking charge of Brecon Forest in 1958, a post he held until the re-organisation last year. Since then, he had been in charge of standing sales in the Brecon FD.

There was a large gathering of colleagues and friends at the Mont-Ddu Lodge, Cwm Taf, at the farewell party for Eric and Mac. Alan Rix, Conservator, presented Eric with a cheque and Mac with a painting of the Brecons, on behalf of colleagues. Both were also presented with beautifully carved walking sticks by Mervyn Davies, Former Head Forester at Rhondda. Mrs Treweeks and Mrs MacMillan were presented with baskets of flowers by Mrs Pat Griffiths and Mrs Jennifer Straddling, Clerks at Brecon FD.

Little & Large

FROM PAGE 7

too heavy to move. The skinned skeleton still stands today in Calaveras grove — a grey reminder of man's thoughtlessness.

I paid my respects to the General Grant tree. 267 ft high, containing 1344 m³ and beautifully symmetrical. The General Sherman has lost its top yet remains the largest tree in the world, standing 275 ft tall, and containing 1487 m³.

The Sequoias occur in groves scattered down the west side of the Sierras, each grove occupying a very restricted area, so that the total area is small. There was therefore a real fear that commercial logging would almost eliminate the species. In 1885 a Marxist Commune was set up in the grove containing the tree later to be named "General Sherman." They called it the "Karl Marx" tree and were planning to log the Sequoias. Fortunately, the commune broke up in time to save this tree.

It was one of that famous Scot John Muir's achievements to have Yosemite and Sequoia declared National Parks in 1890. Another factor that saved the Redwoods was that the timber from the ancient trees was brittle and the stems frequently broke when felled. Its main use was for cutting up into vine stakes and for shingles, an incongruous fate for the world's largest and almost the oldest trees.

The "General Sherman" started life 3000 years ago, just as the Iron Age began in Western Asia. Most tourists visit the Grant and Sherman Groves and the protective fences and crowds somehow break the feeling of being in a "real" forest. I therefore went to Redwood Mountain Grove, which is only accessible by driving along a 2-mile dirt road, and then hiked alone through a superb forest of Giant Sequoias, vast Ponderosa pines, Incense cedars and White firs at over 6000 ft elevation and as near as a forester can get to heaven!



Sam shifts gear

SAM ELLIS started work with the Commission in July 1951 at the (then) Llangollen Forest. Later Llangollen merged to form part of Ceiriog Forest in which Sam worked as a driver and part-time Ranger until his retirement. Always pleasant, friendly and reliable, he will be greatly missed by all his workmates and forest staff.

At a small gathering at his home he was presented with a Long Service Certificate by the Forest District Manager, Mr N. H. Clayden, who conveyed the best wishes of the Conservator and local staff.



Spirit of co-operation

A PRESENTATION lunch for Head Forester Frank Farrelly, at the Sportsman's Arms, Denbigh, was attended by many of his colleagues in the FC, private forestry, planning departments and WOAD / ADAS. Mr D. Y. M. Robertson, Conservator N(W); Assist. Conservator H&M Mr D. M. Hughes; Assist. Conservator FM Mr A. H. A. Scott; former Forest Officer Mr Euros Jones, and present Forest District Officer Mr N. H. Clayden, were there.

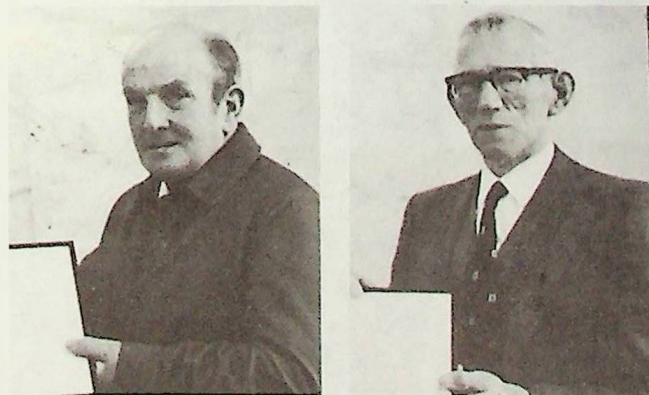
The Conservator drew attention to Frank's long and loyal service in N(W) and, in particular, his years as PW Head Forester in the Ruthin District — Frank had built up a valuable spirit of co-operation between the various Forestry interests and the planning and agricultural departments. He was presented with a cheque towards a new music centre, and Monica, Frank's wife, was presented with a bouquet by Miss Menna Evans, Ruthin Forest District Typist.



The 'OG' says farewell

THE retirement presentation for Head Forester O. G. Griffiths ("OG") was an informal gathering of his colleagues in Ruthin District at the Ceiriog Forest Office. Forest District Manager, Mr N. H. Clayden, commented on his 48 years devoted service to the Commission, almost entirely in N(W), and echoed the concern within the organisation at the loss of the irreplaceable experience and detailed forest knowledge gained over such a length of service.

His colleagues presented him with a cheque, which he said would probably be used to buy another item of fishing gear. Mrs Lillian McKie, the former Ceiriog Forest Clerk, presented Mrs Griffiths with a Spring bouquet.



Mark up 65 years

THE Conservator, Mr D. Y. M. Robertson, and Mr E. Jones, the District Forester Harvesting and Marketing, joined with a large number of colleagues and friends to say farewell to Mr D. G. Jones (above left), Craftsman, of Clocaenog Forest, and Mr I. H. Thomas, of Elwy Forest — now jointly Ruthin Forest District.

Mr E. Jones paid tribute to both men's loyal service and asked the Conservator to present the Long Service Certificates to both men, Henry Thomas for 34 years, and David Jones for 31 years. Mr Thomas had latterly worked for some time on motorway planting and Mr Jones in the stake production yard at Clocaenog.

Mr I. Peters, Foreman, presented a wristwatch to Mr Thomas, and Mr A. Phillips presented Mr Jones with a radio / cassette player on behalf of their colleagues, and both men were wished a long and happy retirement.

JOHN HITS 47

Mr John Parker retired from Coed-y-Brenin earlier this year after 47 years' service. He first joined the Commission in 1937 as a 15-year-old boy. Mr D. Y. M. Robertson, the Conservator, presented him with the Long Service Certificate.

The Coed-y-Brenin ladies laid on the "retirement tea" and he was presented with a barometer as a mark of esteem from all those who had worked with him and enjoyed his sense of humour.



Machine operator will be missed

A SOCIAL evening was held in the Grapes Hotel, Newton Stewart, by members of West Roads Department to mark the retirement through ill-health, of machine operator Branko Vuleta.

Roads foreman Jimmy Irvine welcomed Branco and told of how he had arrived from Yugoslavia in 1948. After a spell with the Department of Agriculture he joined the Forestry Commission during May 1954 as a forest worker. After becoming a dumper driver for Dalry Roads on 31st July 1961, he progressed through all the civil engineering plant to become one of our most respected machine operators.

Jimmy concluded by saying that Branco was a man of pleasant and obliging nature, reliable and trustworthy, and that his presence would be missed by his workmates.

Mr Bob Brown, the Area Civil Engineer, presented Branco with a beautiful crystal decanter and glasses along with a cheque. In doing so, he thanked him for his services and contribution to the construction of many miles of forest roads. In reply, Branco thanked Mr Brown and his fellow workmates for such lovely gifts. He said he felt very sad that his ill-health had forced him to retire, but that he would nevertheless take into retirement many pleasant and happy memories of his 30 years with the Forestry Commission.

Sounds like goodbye

BOB BAIRD, Chief Forester at Kirroghtree Forest, S(S), for the past 12½ years, retired from the Commission in June after a total of 49 years in forestry work.

Bob had also worked in Skipton, Harrogate, and Wycombe Forest, Scarborough. Before he joined the Commission he worked in private estates, and his wartime service was with the Forestry Company, Royal Engineers, which took him to France and Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Jim Hamilton FDM presented him with a stereo radio, binoculars, and a sum of money in recognition of his work with the Commission.

Arran here I come

HEAD Forester Jimmy McRorie, of Tulliallan Nursery E(S), has retired after 44 years with the Forestry Commission.

Jimmy started his career with the "Timber Control" in 1940 before graduating to Benmore Forestry School in 1942. From there he was accepted by W(S) where he served in various Forests, including many happy days spent planting up the "Benmore Isle of Arran" where he intends to retire.

Some 15 years ago Jimmy was posted to Tulliallan Nursery which was to become his swan song. Although Tulliallan Nursery transferred to E(S) when the new Regional Boundaries came into being, Jimmy's loyalties still remained with W(S) where many of his beloved plants found a home, and as one W(S) Forester aptly put it, the "Wee Devil always did his best to help."

Colleagues and friends met in the Oakfield Hotel, Kelty, for a lunchtime get-together where Roger Larsen, Assistant Cons E(S), presented him with a cheque with which Jimmy intends to purchase DIY tools. A bouquet of flowers was presented to his wife Marion, by Mrs Margaraet Hodge, CO Fife District Forest. The previous day, Jimmy was presented with a wristwatch by the Tulliallan Nursery staff.

Norman in the garden

NORMAN FOWLER retired from York Forest District, having worked in forestry for the past 40 years. After training at the Dean Forestry School, he spent a number of years in Northumberland before returning to his native Yorkshire to spend the last 17 years at York Forest, during which time he witnessed many changes, not least being the creation of the largest (in area) forest district in the country.

At an informal lunch attended by friends and colleagues, he was presented with rose bushes and a garden voucher with wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Three say cheers

THREE retirements took place in East England recently, well within the space of 24 hours. Head Forester Jim Gould (Private Woodlands, Northants) and Forester Jack Trussell (Motorways — Cambridge) were both presented with a selection of cut glass tumblers and wine glasses by Conservator Rod Hewitt in the convivial atmosphere of a public house at Catworth on Thursday, June 21.

At lunch the following day in a public house in Bramfield, Herts, Head Forester Stan Law (in charge at Bramfield for many years) was presented with a Black and Decker Workmate and a selection of plants for his garden by Conservator Rod Hewitt on behalf of his mates.

CHEERIO DUNCAN GRANT

Chief Forester Duncan Grant of Ratagan in North Scotland has retired from the Forestry Commission after 30 years' service. Duncan started his career as a forest worker at Glenbrittle in his native Skye during the war years. After forestry school, he was posted to Mull, and it was there that he met and married Catherine. Shortly after, he was returned to Skye to take charge at the Dunvegan section.

Periods of duty followed at Glenrigh, Queens, Achnashellach, as Regional Training Officer in North Scotland, and finally as Chief Forester at Ratagan.

A keen union man, he will long be remembered for his support for the north Scotland members.

As a strong Liberal and Regional Councillor for Glenelg, his complete mastery of local politics was greatly helped by a fluency in his native Gaelic — matched word for word by an equal command of English.

The farewell ceilidh at Loch Duich, organised by Head Forester Grant MacKintosh, and attended by friends within and outwith the Commission, was a typical West Coast "do."

CHEERIO CECIL

Cecil Saunders recently retired at Brightling, SE(E), after having completed 25 years' service. Many of his original plantings he had served to see thinned at least twice.

His colleagues gathered at the Netherfield Arms in his honour and presented him with an inscribed pocket watch: "Tis the busiest man who has time to spare."

IT'S 29 YEARS FOR ALF

Alf Peter has retired after 29 years service with the Commission. He began his career with the Duke of Buccleuch Estates and in 1955 joined Kershope Forest.

He transferred to Whitelee Forest in 1972. During his time there he planted many thousands of trees and was joined in this task by three of his sons.

Alf also served as beat steward up until his retirement.

At an informal gathering, Mr Brian Roebuck (District Forest Manager) presented Alf with a crystal decanter on behalf of his colleagues.



THE TOAST TO PETER

QUITE a few retired SE(E) foresters joined friends and colleagues at the retirement of Peter Awbrey, Head Forester, Challock Forest.

Peter is well known for his expertise in the specialised art of managing sweet chestnut coppice — and as a winemaker for his ability to produce a very palatable

drink from anything that grows in the countryside.

He joined the Commission after Army Service in Africa and spent his forestry career in SE(E). Conservator Ian Skinner presented him with a cheque to help equip his new house and garden, and his wife, June, received a bouquet.

Obituaries

Tragic death of Jimmy Wilson

It is with regret that we have to report the premature death of Chief Forester J. F. Wilson.

Jimmy had left his post in Fife Forest District a few days previously. Tragically, he was still officially on leave pending his final retirement date when he died.

Apart from relatively short spells at Benmore Training School and North-East (England) Conservancy, Jimmy was an East (Scotland) man during his 38 years service, some of which was in his native Perthshire at Dunkeld and Drummond Hill Forests and in later years in Fife.

Charities

At Ochil Forest (formerly Blairadam) where he served for 13 years until retirement, Jimmy created a wonderful community spirit. For example, each November a Woodchopper's Ball was held and proceeds went towards presents for the old and for sweets for the local nursery children when they visited his Christmas tree sales centre.

Before his untimely death, Jimmy had already been presented with a large cheque at a Woodchopper's Ball held in his honour. He had put this money towards the purchase of a new set of golf clubs in preparation initially for the Commission Open at Southport. On retirement he donated some money for raffles for the local handicapped children and the home at Gordon Cottage, Kelty, has benefited by more than £100.

Due in particular to his Christmas tree activities and the proximity of his office to

the HQ paper and clothing complexes, Jimmy was well-known to HQ personnel notably in Purchasing and Information branches.

He was a happy man, unfailingly good-humoured and immensely popular. His

love of life included social functions, golf, curling and the local rotary of which he was a recent past president.

Our sympathy in their loss is extended to his widow, Grace and son Eric and his family.

WILLIAM ANDERSON

IT IS always sad to record the passing of a friend and colleague, especially so after 32 years of service with the Commission.

"Bill" Anderson, who died recently at the early age of 60, was a stalwart in the Mechanical Engineering staff ranks, joining the Forestry Commission in 1952, serving in Edinburgh, London and subsequently returning to (Chapelhall and) Edinburgh.

The appointments he held included those of Mechanical Engineer, Directorate Mechanical Engineer, Plant and Transport Manager and latterly he was Transport Engineer for the Commission.

Many staff in various parts of the country, and of various disciplines, came to recognise the familiar tall, bouyant figure of Bill who carried out his duties with flair, humour and considerable charm.

Bill was also widely known and respected by many persons outside the Commission. He had wide interests, not the least of which was his generosity and effort in respect of various charitable organisations in the city of Edinburgh.

He is survived by his wife Muriel and his two daughters Carol and Susan, of whom he was justly proud, and to them we extend our deepest sympathy in their (and our) great loss.

JOSEPH PEARCE

IT IS with regret that we record the sudden death of Joseph Pearce, Head Forester, Newton Stewart Forest District.

Joe, as he was popularly called, started his career with the Commission in October 1950 as a Juvenile Forest Worker in Cleveland. Following National Service in the RAF he returned in June 1954 to Cleveland as a Forest Walker. In September 1954 Joe became a student Forester at Faskally and was appointed Assistant Forester at Kirroghtree in August 1958 before transferring to Bennan in November 1963.

In April 1964 he was promoted to Forester at Bennan where he remained until promotion to Head Forester at Edgarhope in 1971. In 1974 Joe was transferred to Arcleoch Forest where he remained until reorganisation took him to Newton Stewart in January of this year.

Joe will be sadly missed by all his colleagues and our sympathy goes to his wife and three sons at this time.

SLASHERSPORT

ONE

RIDDLE OF MISSING MARAFUN CLUE

**SMILES
GALORE
ON A
BIG DAY
OUTDOORS**



Almost 1200 competitors had a glorious weekend in the Queen Elizabeth Park at Aberfoyle on a "Marafun" organised by "The Sunday Post."

The idea was for them to cover an eight-mile route through the Achray forest, answering clues about trees and wildlife — culminating in having to add up how many hills were named on a relief map in the David Marshall Lodge.

It was fun galore — thanks to super scenery and wonderful weather.

One family travelled from London by train to Glasgow, hired a car to get to Aberfoyle, walked the route, then did the long journey all the way back to London again. Another family set out from Nottingham at 6 pm, reached Aberfoyle at 1 am, slept the night in the car, completed the course, then drove on for a visit to Aberdeen.

There was a couple from France, a pen pal from America, a family from Holland, and a man who works in a hospital in Saudi Arabia.

BUSIEST DAYS

Clubs were sponsored to raise hundreds of pounds for all kinds of good causes.

The David Marshall Lodge, where the Marafun started and finished, had two of its busiest days ever — with Charlie Stewart and his wife run off their feet, but coping valiantly. The "Sunday Post" held preliminary discussions about arranging the Marafun with Public Relations Officer Hazel Pottinger and Press Officer Roy Gregor at HQ in Edinburgh. Then the aid of the staff at Aberfoyle District was sought.

Brian Roebuck (F.D.M.) and Ian Reid (H.F.) got things underway, and then Colin Sobota (T.R.) set out to suggest a route and possible clues. And thereby hangs a tale.

One of Colin's suggested questions was as follows: "You'll see a tree in this area — with which American President is it associated? The answer was a cherry — which was the type of tree chopped down by George Washington, the boy who couldn't tell a lie.

Soon after that, two reporters from "The Sunday Post" — Ron Paton and Susan Barrows — walked the eight-mile course to check the clues. They agreed there was a cherry tree growing beside the track at one point.

PANIC-STRICKEN

Two days before the Marafun was due to start, with all the questions duly printed, "The Sunday Post" got a rather panic-stricken call from Aberfoyle.

Sorry about this . . . but we can't seem to find that cherry tree. If the Forestry Commission were worried, it was nothing to the abject horror which broke out in Oor Wullie's gang hut! Would it mean having to go over each of the thousands of leaflets printed to score out the cherry tree question?

But like a resourceful Forestry Commission officer might be expected to do, Colin Sobota came up with the ideal solution. He said he'd find another cherry tree! And he did — though so far no one's found out where.

When a check was made of the route early on Saturday morning — there was a cherry tree. A gey droopy cheery tree, to be exact. The day was already becoming hot. In fact, it was so droopy that one competitor identified it simply as a "dead tree" — and assumed it

must therefore be associated with the assassinated President Kennedy!

BIG MYSTERY

The big mystery, still unsolved to this day: What happened to the first cherry tree?

The unkind among us have ventured to suggest that Colin confused a cherry with a rowan. And that "The Sunday Post" also confused a cherry with a rowan. But it's also claimed no other solitary tree of any kind could be seen in the area.

So there must have been a tree there which everyone thought was a cherry. So did the cherry tree — if there was one — simply take up its roots and walk? Or was it spirited away in the night? Or did the ghost of George Washington chop it down? Or had Colin Sobota, not to mention "The Sunday Post" staff, spent too long in the Black Bull at Gartmore?

Anyway, cherry tree or not, everyone had a great time.

Especially gratifying as far as the Forestry Commission were concerned was the fact that the event attracted so many people who'd never been near the area before. And even reasonably local Scots who'd never been near the David Marshall Lodge and didn't realise the facilities existed or that forests could be such fun.

Demand for information, leaflets, booklets and maps from the David Marshall Lodge was insatiable. And Mrs Stewart and her catering staff went through mountains of pies, sandwiches, biscuits and gallons of soup, tea and soft drinks.

And despite the 1200-or-so folk over the August weekend, not to mention the normal weekend visitors, there was hardly a speck of litter to be seen afterwards.

The reluctant raftman

A HELPING HAND FOR OUR TEAM



Principal District Officer for Kielder District, Arthur Barlow, went along to WATCH the raft race on the North Tyne at Bellingham.

But as you can see from our picture on the left, he was reluctantly involved — as he went to the aid of the Commission raft, HMS Conifer, which went aground (right).

After refloating though, the crew of Pat Brown, Josie Sanderson, Ann Armstrong, Muriel Giggall and Jan Barlow managed to get their craft past the winning post in sixth place.

● In another race, Kate Blakesley, Doreen King and Lorraine Frear — the NE(E) Conservancy Officers entrants for the 1984 RNLI raft race on the River Ouse at York — paddled their way to the winning post in fine style on a very successful raft built by the mechanical engineers in NE(E).

Out of a starting line of 70, they came in sixth overall and first of the ladies teams.



SLASHERSPORT

TWO

VICTORY IN NICK OF TIME

Heavy rain delayed the start of the annual cricket match between the Forestry Commission and North East England Timber Merchants Association at Bellingham in June and the match was restricted to 20 overs each.

Our hosts, the timber merchants, won the toss and elected to bat first, scoring 121 for 8 wickets in the allotted overs. The most successful bowlers were R. Banks (3 for 24) and G. Jackson (2 for 25). The Forestry Commission started steadily with J. Richardson and G. Jackson putting on 40 runs for the first wicket. The score advanced to 73 for 5 wickets by the 15th over which left the Commission needing 48 runs to win from the final five overs. By this time J. Richardson had scored 50 and was joined by K. Stockhill who, with some big hitting, including a six over the longest boundary almost into the North Tyne scored a whirlwind 21 runs in two overs and the pair brought the Commission within sight of victory before Stockhill was out with the score at 108 in the 18th over.

The win was duly achieved with one over to spare with J. Richardson finishing the match in style with an unbeaten 68 which, added to his match-winning score of 108 not out last year, brought his average in four matches to 254.

The Place Trophy was presented to Captain, Mr R. McIntosh, by Mr P. Townson at the Riverdale Hall Hotel, Bellingham.



Forget L.A.! It's the other Olympics

The annual sport day organised by the FC Edinburgh Sports and Social Club attracted "enthusiastic" teams from HQ and we were also able to entertain Chapelhall, Gentry Forest Office, South and West Scotland Conservancies, although Northern Research Station couldn't make it this year (writes Laura Yerbury).

Weather stopped play at one point but did not disturb proceedings in the indoor events (which remain nameless). The novelty relay was a mixed event . . . and it certainly was!

In the popular tug-o'-war some teams got shirty but First-Floor found it a pullover. In the football, Gentry Forest Office stole the glory, winning over First-Floor by corners.

The netball was rather a disappointment with only two teams competing. South (S) won (obviously practice at lunch-time pays) with the ground floor coming in second. Other events included hockey, skittles, rounders, target golf and ladies football.

The overall result came to the First Floor with a five-point lead over the Ground Floor.

I would like to thank the floor and event organisers without whose help total chaos would be reigned. Thanks also to the brave teams of Chapelhall, Gentry Forest Office SW(Scot) Conservancies and hope that their impressions of the HQ "animals" will soon leave their memories.

The Sports and Social Club will no doubt be holding another fiasco next summer, so start training now, it's never too late (or so they say!). As always, visitors will be most welcome to join our rabble for the afternoon and compare bruises in the changing rooms after!

WARNING OVER CLUB'S FUTURE

The Forestry Commission (Edinburgh) Sports and Social Club could founder due to lack of active support, chairman Mr G. Perry, told the annual meeting at HQ.

In his report, he drew attention to the ironic situation facing the club: while the finances were very sound the burden of maintaining that situation and servicing the activities necessary to provide the revenue was falling on fewer and fewer people.

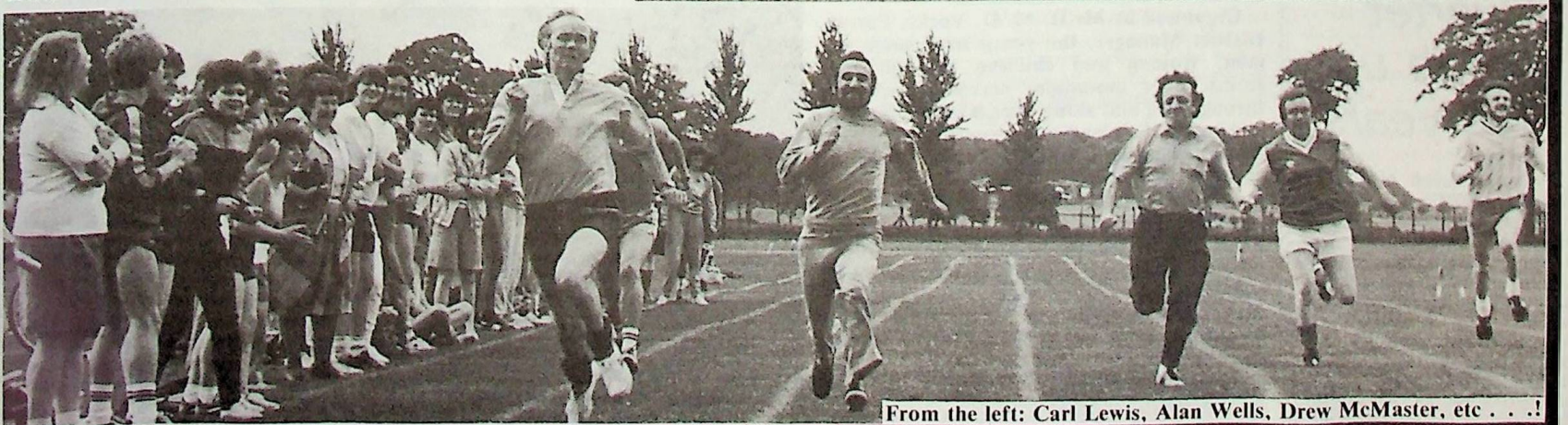
He highlighted the position by pointing to the fact that not one nomination had been received for membership of the committee and said it was unreasonable for members to expect that the club could continue to function without regular injections of new blood.

He appealed for people to come forward and offer themselves as candidates for office. If this did not happen, it was possible that despite its financial solvency the social club could founder.

During the financial year, £1284 was spent on functions and £825 was donated to the various club sections.



These ladies obviously decided that it was disco time!



From the left: Carl Lewis, Alan Wells, Drew McMaster, etc . . . !

£5000 IN KITTY TO CONSERVE THE LAND

THE Forestry Commission is to contribute £5000 to the Farming and Wildlife Trust over the next five years to help finance conservation advice to farmers and land-owners.

The trust was launched earlier this year to raise funds for the 62 farming and wildlife advisory groups that have been set up throughout Britain to promote the integration of profitable farming and the conservation of landscape and wildlife, an important element of which can be trees.

The Commission's contribution of £1000 a year over the next five years was announced by Commission chairman Sir David Montgomery. He said: "All efforts to promote better land management, combining production with conservation, must be welcomed and the farming and wildlife advisory groups have done much to encourage sensitive management of the countryside."

"The Commission has welcomed the grass roots activities of farming and wildlife advisory groups, and our staff have been closely involved in providing advice. Now, through the Farming and Wildlife Trust we can help finance the provision of advisors in the field for these groups."

BENEFITS

"In our recently published consultative paper, 'Broadleaves in Britain,' the value of farm woodlands was emphasised and we have since published an advisory leaflet 'Managing Farm Woodlands' which is aimed at making farmers more aware of the benefits that can be derived from their woodlands, both in terms of timber production, revenue and in environmental gains."

"Along with the Agricultural Advisory Services, the Forestry Commission is trying to encourage farmers to create areas of new woodland which will add to the amenity of the countryside as well as make a contribution to the nation's timber resources," said Sir David.

Mr Wilf Dawson, Director of the Farming and Wildlife Trust, said: "We welcome the support that the Forestry Commission has provided in the setting-up of the farming and wildlife advisory groups and the promise of extra finance over the next five years will greatly assist us in establishing our network of advisors in the field."

Quartet notch up 135 years

A buffet lunch was held at Sherwood Office to celebrate 135 years' service by four retiring Forest Craftsmen. George Charvill, Ranger on the Southern end of Sherwood was the most senior with 38 years' service, followed closely by Jim Farenden with 35 years, Jack Brown with 33 years, and the youngster of the group was Eric Westgarth-Taylor, retiring after 29 years.

BACK-PAGE PICTURE SPECIAL

This model's ahead of the pack



TOO good to compete... that's the problem North Scotland Conservancy were faced with this year at the Black Isle Show at Muir of Ord.

Their forestry exhibit has won the top section prize in the exhibitors' competition so often that this year it was decided not to enter.

A pity, because the fascinating history of forestry complete with tools and working models would almost certainly have taken the top prize.

One of the main features was the water-powered model sawmill outside the exhibit which attracted a constant flow of fascinated visitors.

It was built by Conservation Head Forester Tony Hinde who estimates he put in at least 100 hours of work on the model.



Billy's top corner



A VIEW of Billy Day's Corner, six hectares of Duncan Wood in Sherwood Forest, which won two major awards in the woodlands competition run by the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

The awards were the Longhurst Trophy for conifers and the silver medal certificate

for conifers of over 40 years. The block is P26 Corsican Pine.

The awards were presented at the Royal Show by the Duke of Kent and our photo shows Sherwood Forest District Manager Hugh Insley (left) and Chief Forester Jim Barraclough with the Longhurst Trophy.

Yomping's the name of the game

DOWN in the forest, at Coed-y-Brenin, something stirred — it was a YOMP! This strange animal was responsible for raising £250.79 for neuromuscular research when pursued by Forester Gerwyn Lloyd James and his colleague Paul Jarman.

Organised by Mr D. M. D. Yorke, Forest District Manager, the yomp took some 60 men, women and children through the forest, over mountain, across moorland, through bog and along river bed to complete a 13-mile Falkland-type march, complete with back-pack — 24 lbs for men and 15 lb for women.

While the fastest time (2 hrs 12 mins) was the objective of the more fit and able, others did it for the fun (or agony) and took their time (6 hrs-plus). Course completion was sufficient to "win" a medal presented by Mrs Yorke, with Mr D. Y. M. Robertson, Conservator North Wales, and Senior Officer, Wales, in attendance.

OUR picture shows: Gerwyn James and Paul Jarman (sponsored yompers) and Reg Wheeler (retired recreation head forester).

