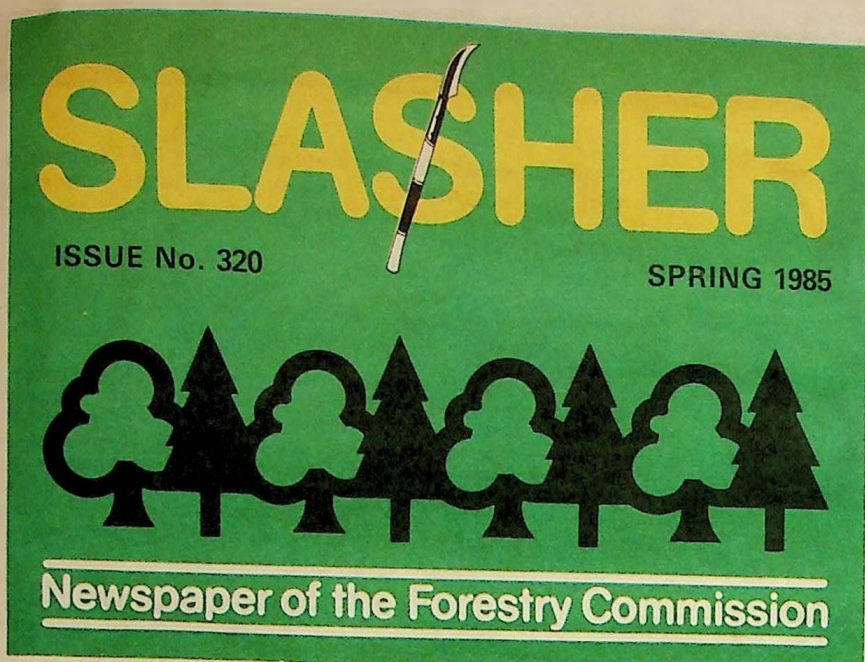




Shotton prepares for first timber

DELIVERIES of timber to the new pulp mill at Shotton were due to start at the beginning of April so that stocks can be built up and processes tested before the mill starts production in May-June.

The actual start-up date will depend on the success of the trials of component processes but, according to the Shotton Paper Company, progress on plant commissioning is well up to schedule.

Initially, the wood will come from Forestry Commission forests in Wales and the Borders but when commissioning trials are completed the build-up to full requirements of about 400,000 tonnes per annum of roundwood will require the combined efforts of the

private sector and Commission forests, with 270,000 tonnes required in the first operational year, 340,000 tonnes in the second year and 400,000 tonnes thereafter.

Training programmes for contractors have been in operation for some months and extra harvesting equipment has been ordered to cope with increases in demand for small roundwood.

In the early years a proportion of the timber will come from as far afield as South Scotland, but ultimately the majority will come from forests nearer to the mill.

EXPERTS GIVE OUR TREES THE ALL-CLEAR

Forests free of European 'curse'



Winter browning on Scots pine among Norway spruce: not yellowing.

Britain's coniferous forests show no signs of damage by air pollution as has happened in West Germany. That is one of the findings of a Forestry Commission nationwide survey on tree health which were presented to a press conference in London and which was attended by Dr Gunther Hartmann, senior tree pathologist at the Lower Saxony Research Institute who had helped advise the Commission on survey methods.

The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in Britain, was started in the autumn of last year, stimulated by growing concern about air pollution in forests in Europe and fears that such damage may be occurring in Britain. Professional field survey foresters visited 100 sites at varying altitudes and with different rainfall and sulphur deposition factors.

Dr Bill Binns, Head of Site Studies, Forestry Commission, said, "This survey has shown no signs of the damage seen in West Germany nor any unexpected abnormalities and thus is very reassuring. The survey provides a good base line to measure changes should they occur and it will be repeated in the autumn of 1985."

Forestry Commissioner Gwyn Francis told the 30-plus journalists at the press conference, "So far there has been no reason to believe that Britain's forests are being subjected to the same form of damage as those on Continental Europe. The most distinctive characteristic of Continental damage is yellowing of spruce needles. Nowhere in the countryside survey just completed has this feature been observed."

"In addition to the countryside survey (and during last summer) we also investigated reports of unusual damage in a number of locations in forests from Cumbria to Sutherland. Again there were no signs of the distinctive yellowing and the evidence strongly suggests the culprit is the extreme conditions of alternating warmth and cold of last winter's weather."

"Nevertheless, let me emphasise that because at this moment there are no signs of British forests suffering from the same sort of damage as those of Continental Europe does not mean that we can relax our guard. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the health of this country's forests and it is a responsibility we take very seriously. We are very bit as concerned as our European neighbours about any serious threat to the health of our forest and we must be constantly vigilant."

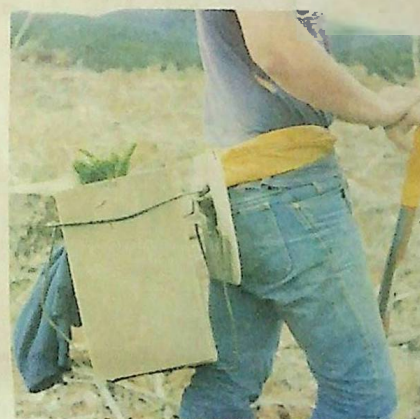
"We are able to report that there is no scientific evidence nor any circumstantial evidence in Britain today which points to air pollution causing damage to trees other than locally. We also have a clear responsibility to continue to monitor tree health and to make known our findings."

FULL REPORT: PAGE 3

REORGANISATION

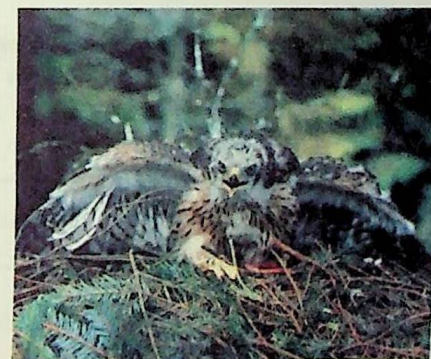
A complete guide to who's who and where to find them — INSIDE

Inside PLANTER'S WORLD



—PAGES 8, 9

BIRDS OF A FEATHER



—BACK PAGE

CAN YOU SPOT IT?



—PAGE 15

OTHER PAGES:

- Retirements
- Sports news
- Jenny's War
- Widow's cash

Injunction on tree felling

THE Forestry Commission obtained an injunction from the High Court in London on 8 March restraining Mr H. E. Hunt and his son, Mr D. Hunt, or any of their agents or workers, from felling any more trees at Longbrake Wood, Hasdor, near Alcester, Warwickshire. It was the first time a High Court injunction has been sought by the Commission with regard to felling.

The woodland concerned, which consisted of mixed ash and oak high forest and areas of young broadleaved trees, had covered some 15 to 20 hectares before clearing work had started. Approximately five hectares of the wood was standing when the injunction was sought and this woodland appeared to be in imminent danger of being felled. Investigations were initiated to ascertain whether the felling was permissible without a felling licence.

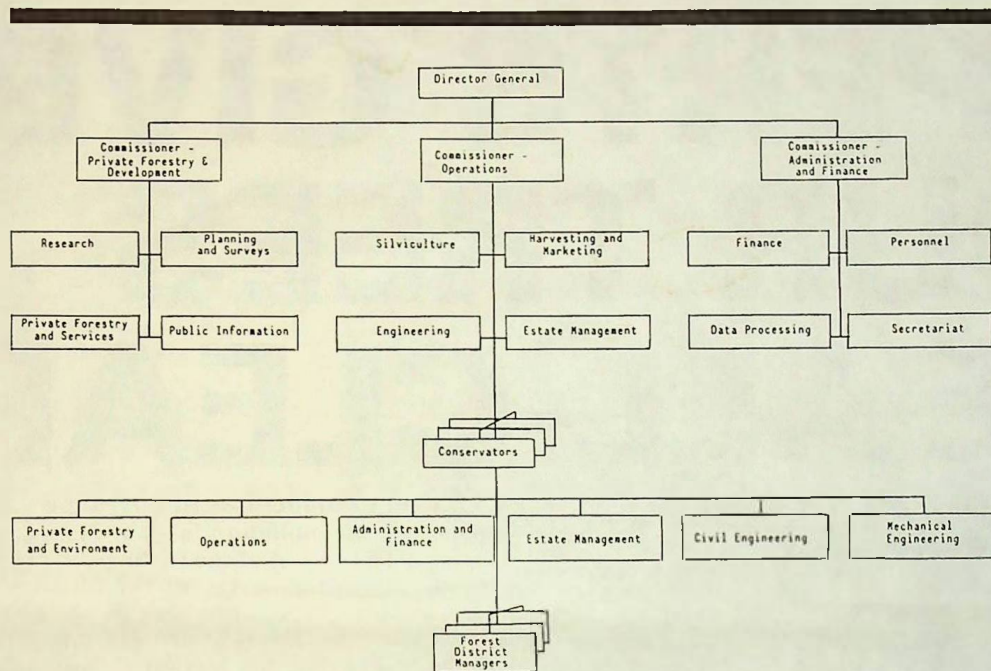
REORGANISATION

FLEXIBILITY TEAMWORK

Key words in our new look



Lorne District staff visited Ardgenton District Office to see the new computer at work. Left to right: Agnes Fogo, W. A. Mason, Di Cameron, Peter Ross, Ann MacLeod, Mary Forsyth, and Mary Haggarty. RIGHT: Richard Williamson with one of the new computers.



Appointments have been announced by the Commission as part of its re-organisation aimed at further improving efficiency at both Headquarters and Conservancy (regional office) levels.

The role of the Forestry Commissioners, both full and part-time members, will be unchanged. The Director-General will remain responsible to them for executive management assisted at Headquarters by the three full-time Commissioners whose responsibilities have been redefined.

With the number of Conservancies being reduced from eleven to seven the management role of Conservators has been enhanced. This phase of restructuring takes effect from 1 April 1985 and is the final stage of a major review of the Forestry Commission's organisation. Last year the Commission's previous network of Forests and Districts were amalgamated to form a new third level of management of 70 Forest Districts of a size more suited to the rapid expansion of timber production expected over the next decade.

Mr George Holmes, the Forestry Commission's Director General said, "The announcement about the first and second levels of management at Headquarters and Conservancies will give distinct advantages through greater flexibility and delegation with added emphasis on functional responsibilities and teamwork.

Overall the three-level organisation will provide an improvement in the management structure. In addition, there will be better lines of communication and streamlining of office work, which will be assisted over the next few years by the introduction of a network of computers and terminals.

"These measures will enable the Commission to respond more effectively to any new challenges both as the Government's Forestry Authority and as managers of the Forestry Enterprise."

Headquarters:

Under the new organisation the responsibilities of the three full-time Commissioners are:

Commissioner (Operations): Mr Gwyn Francis has responsibility for silviculture, harvesting, marketing, engineering and estate management.

Divisional heads will be: — Harvesting and Marketing — Mr Roger Bradley; Silviculture — Mr John Aldhous; Engineering — Mr Roger Hay; Estate Management — Mr John Gwynn.

Commissioner (Private Forestry and Development): Mr John Kennedy. His designation recognises the increasing importance of the environment and private forestry. He will also co-ordinate the development of strategies and techniques relating to the needs both of private forestry and the Forestry Enterprise.

Divisional heads will be: — Private Forestry and Services — Mr Alastair Rowan; Research — Mr Arnold Grayson; Planning and Surveys — Mr David Grundy; Public Information — Mr Peter Drumm.

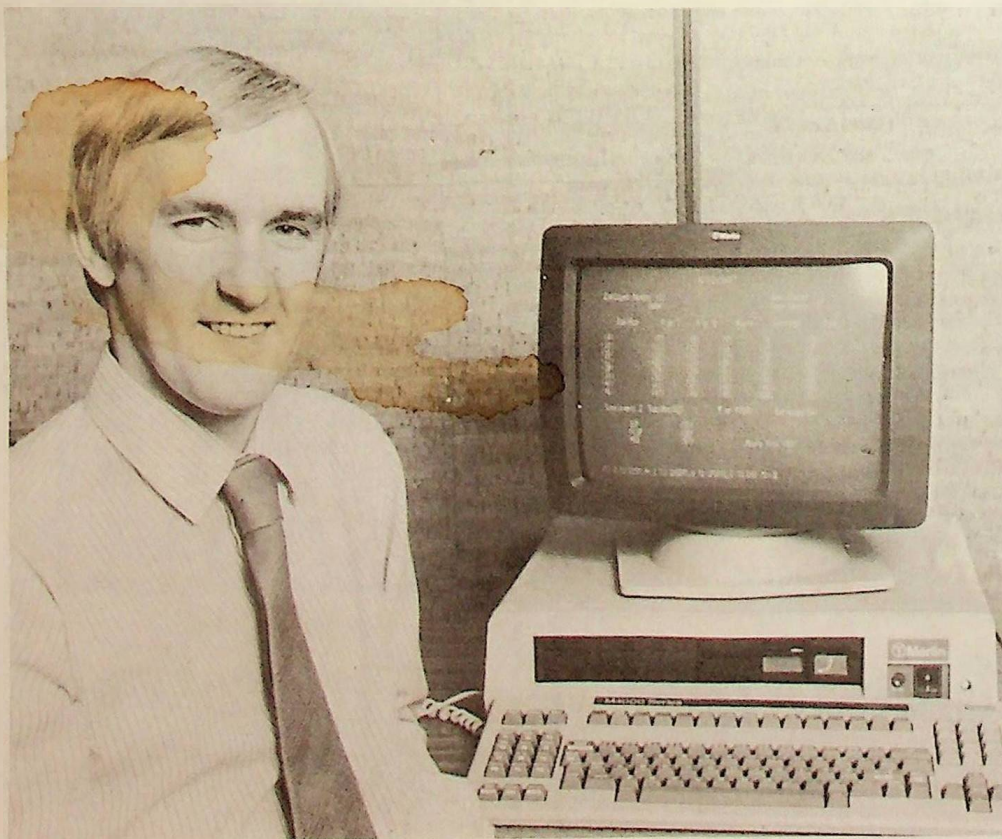
Commissioner (Administration and Finance): Mr Derek Rutherford, whose department includes Secretariat, Personnel, Finance and a new Data Processing Division.

Divisional heads will be: — Finance — Mr Colin Turquand; Personnel — Mr Charles Simmonds; Secretariat — Mr Peter Clarke; Data Processing — Mr Edward Arthurs.

Conservancies: Under the re-organisation programme announced July 27, 1984, the eleven Conservancies are being amalgamated to form seven with the resultant closure of Conservancy Offices at Aberdeen (East Scotland), Chester (North West England), Lyndhurst (South East England) and Cardiff (South Wales). The latest Forestry Commission directory is on pages 3 and 14.

WE'RE IN THE AGE OF THE WONDER CHIP!

By RICHARD WILLIAMSON



The plans to introduce Distributed Processing Systems throughout the Commission have been making significant progress recently. The purpose of this article is to outline the latest position.

Shortly before Christmas, British Telecom won the contract to supply the microcomputers for use in Forest District offices. These microcomputers incorporate the very latest technological developments including ergonomically designed workstations for improved operator comfort and ease of use.

Depending on the initial workload at each Forest District the microcomputers will be supplied with either one, two or three workstations (screen and keyboard) and sufficient fixed disk capacity to store either 10 or 20 million characters of data. Each system will also include a printer, with an acoustic cover to reduce the noise level and a floppy disk drive to enable programs and data to be copied into and out of the system.

This equipment will be delivered in phases during the first half of 1985 in parallel with a series of training courses for Forest District Staff. The first application to be run will be a payroll package for calculation of net pay for the industrial forest workers. It is planned to add a Forest Produce Stock Control system and a Job Costing system later in 1985, and there will be scope to add further tasks after that if required. Similar equipment will be installed in Engineering Workshops, R&D and Brandon Central Depot to handle payroll for the industrial staff based at those locations.

Credit limits

The next stage of the Distribution project will be based primarily on two major new applications. The Credit Control and Invoicing of Sales Produce system (CCISP) will provide information to facilitate control of contracts and credit limits, together with production of invoices, statements and sales statistics.

The Fleet Management system will provide information to maximise the usage of the Commission's vehicles, machinery and equipment, while minimising the cost of so doing.

Data will be entered into and extracted from these systems at all levels of the Commission, using the microcomputer at those locations which have one, and terminals and printers at other offices. Mini-computers similar to the existing one at HQ will be purchased, and it is expected that installation of this equipment will be during early 1986.

Communications equipment to link all the terminals and microcomputers to the mini-computers will also be purchased. The initial network will be capable of future expansion to cater for growth and additional applications.

As an interim measure, it has been decided to place a terminal and printer in each new Conservancy and in Alice Holt, to provide staff with access to data held on the HQ computer. This equipment should be installed by early March and will help with the completion of the End of Year Accounts.

SURVEY FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF 'ACID RAIN'

A NATIONWIDE survey of tree health in Britain's forests, with special emphasis on the possibility of air pollution damage, has been completed by the Forestry Commission. The survey, the most comprehensive of its kind ever undertaken in this country, was stimulated by growing concern about air pollution and damage to forests in Europe, and fears that such damage may be occurring in Britain.

The results of the first year's observations show that of the trees surveyed about 6% of the spruces and some 20% of Scots pine displayed an appreciable degree of crown thinning. This is well within the usual range of experience. However, there is no sign whatever of the yellowing of needles which characterises the damage occurring in German forests.

Reassuring

"This survey has shown no signs of the damage seen in West Germany nor any unexpected abnormalities and thus is very reassuring," said Dr Bill Binns, the Forestry Commission's Head of Site Studies. "While it cannot be decisive in linking symptoms of damage with particular causes, it does provide a good base line to measure changes should they occur."

The survey began in the autumn of last year, immediately after a series of meetings of an FAO/ECE Working Party on "Impact of air pollution on forests" agreed methods of surveying tree health. The most important characteristics selected are the density of the crown, the number of years for which needles stay on the tree and yellowing of the needles. For the first of these our assessments adopt the same class boundaries as have been used in the 1983 and 1984 surveys of German forests.

In planning the survey the Commission sought advice from Dr Gunther Hartmann from the Lower Saxony Research Institute who has spent three years assessing forest damage in Lower Saxony.

Because it is known that the worst damage to German forests occurs on old trees at high elevations on sites subject to drought,

Continental damage not observed

the Commission survey included a cross section of areas above and below 800 feet (250 metres) and forests with an annual rainfall of less than and greater than 1000 mm. The areas were also divided into zones with sulphur deposition of more or less than two grams per square metre per year. The country was split into six regions for purposes of survey although not all the environmental factors listed could be found at two levels in every one of these.

The tree species assessed were Norway spruce, which is regarded as an important indicator species in Germany and would provide a link with Continental surveys; Sitka spruce, because it is the principal tree planted in upland Britain; and Scots pine because of its wide distribution. The particular variety of Silver fir which is suffering in Germany is not found in Britain. Stands of between 30 and 45 years old were assessed both to include rather older trees and to provide scope for continued observation over a longer period.

Plots in each of the regions were selected by computer and professional field survey foresters then visited 100 sites to select 24 trees in each. Each tree was assessed for crown density, needle life, browning or yellowing, shoot death, insect or fungal damage and tree diameter and height. In the absence of observations of yellowing, this report concentrates attention on the first two features.

The condition of the crown was assessed in terms of its density. This characteristic assesses the degree of fullness of the canopy both of branches and needles, so that Class 0 refers to a tree showing no more than 10% needle and branch loss, 1 showing 11-25%, 2 showing 26-60%, 3 61-99% and 4 100%.

Percentage Distribution of Sample Trees by Crown Density Classes					
	0	1	2	3	4
Scots pine	48.0	29.5	16.9	5.4	0.2
Sitka spruce	65.3	28.3	5.8	0.4	0.1
Norway spruce	71.4	25.9	2.5	0.3	0.2

In reviewing these results, it must be emphasised that in contrast to Continental countries, Britain is a very windy place and this means that physical damage is a normal feature; this results in a more open appearance of crowns than on the same species elsewhere. Of the tree species surveyed, Scots pine is particularly prone to damage by insects and fungi and, in a number of areas, this feature accounts for the poor condition of crowns observed.

Analysis of the results for variation in crown density across stands at various levels of the environmental factors distinguished indicate that sulphur has no deleterious effect on the crown density of any species and, apart from regional differences, the only effect deduced is that Scots pine and Norway spruce show lower crown density in higher rainfall zones. Overall the observations do not suggest a new or unusual state of affairs.

Needle life

The other measure of health reported here is needle life. The two spruces can hold needles for up to 12 years, though this is unusual; Scots pine, in contrast, never holds its needles for more than 3 years.

Average Needle Life	Years
Scots pine	2.2
Sitka spruce	6.2
Norway spruce	6.4

Statistical analysis of needle life shows no significant effects of altitude or rainfall, nor any damaging effects of sulphur. The data on needle life combined with the absence of yellowing indicate a generally healthy condition.

In addition to the main survey we also investigated in detail in the second half of 1984 some unusual damage on a variety of conifers in northern Britain. This damage affected six species (Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, Lodgepole pine, Grand fir and Douglas fir) but was most marked on Sitka spruce. Damage was most severe on old trees (more than 45 years old and occurred predominantly at high elevations (more than 250 metres), in western forests from Cumbria to Sutherland. Minor damage occurred in crops which probably total several thousand hectares, whereas serious damage was much more restricted and occurred only at scattered locations affecting a few hundred hectares.

Browning

It must be emphasised that the damage was confined to needle browning and shoot death; there was no evidence of the needle yellowing that is such a prominent feature of the damage observed in Germany in recent years. The very widespread nature of the symptoms and their sudden appearance are quite unlike those associated with air pollution here or on the Continent. The evidence strongly suggests that damage in all species was caused by certain features of the weather in the winter of 1983-84, in particular, alternating mild and cold periods accompanied by strong winds.

As a direct approach to the question of pollution effects the Forestry Commission has initiated a programme of experimental work using open top chambers to establish whether any effects on tree health and growth can be found from the levels of pollution found in rural areas as opposed to the urban areas where research by other institutes has been concentrated. This work will be aided by extended monitoring by the Department of Industry, of oxides of nitrogen and ozone.

The 1984 countrywide survey of tree health will be repeated in the autumn of 1985.

Timber's looking good!

A favourable outlook for the wood products industry in Britain was predicted by Forestry Commission Director General Mr George Holmes at the Timber Trading '85 Conference in London.

He said that instead of the problems of over-supply of small roundwood brought about by pulp and particle board mill closures in the early 80s, demand for all sizes of British-grown coniferous roundwood was now more in balance with supply and even exceeded it in some locations.

"Substantial new markets have been created by recent investment in wood-using industry," he said, "expansion by Thames Board at Workington, Shotton Paper Company's new pulp and paper mill, Highland Forest Products' new structural composition board mill at Dalcross, Inverness, and new chipboard lines by Kronospan at Chirk, Clwyd and Egger (UK) at Hexham, Northumberland. As far as England and Wales are concerned there is now no significant quantity of small roundwood available for any further major development until well into the next decade," said Mr Holmes.

"In Scotland there is still small roundwood potentially available. I am sure there are sufficient institutional and other

advantages which will encourage investment in further processing capacity using small roundwood in Scotland.

"In the longer term, the forecast of potential cut shows that annual wood production will double from 4.5 million cubic metres today to some 9 million cubic metres," he said. "The wood products industry in Britain is very favourably situated because Britain is one of the few countries with an increasing supply of timber. It is close to a large domestic market, has access to the Common Market and the volume of British timber production will double by the year 2001."

Although British timber still only accounted for 10% of domestic consumption overall Mr Holmes saw scope for continuing import substitution in several sectors of the wood market, particularly in sawn softwood. The percentage of home produced timber in the sawn softwood sector which was 10% in 1973 was expected to rise to 20% by 1995. The new British Standard for the Structural Use of Timber should increase demand for British wood in the construction industry.

"The main scope for import substitution is in the construction timber sector where even by the mid-1990s it is suggested that British sawn timber should account for 10% of that market," he said.

OBITUARIES

DAVID ANEURIN JONES, MBE, died only months after his retirement and having just been awarded the MBE. "Nye" joined the Commission as a 15-year-old in 1940 as a forest clerk in Dyfi Forest, also undertaking forest worker duties. In 1967 he transferred to the Harvesting and Marketing Section in the North Wales Conservancy at Aberystwyth and it was during this time that he met and married his wife, Elizabeth, who is the present Superintendent of Typists. He was promoted to EO in 1972 and remained on the Harvesting and Marketing Section until his retirement last year. He was awarded the MBE in the 1984 Birthday Honours. He was a Deacon of the Blaenplwyf Presbyterian Church in Wales, the Church Secretary, was on the Llanyhaearn Community Council and had been a past Chairman and was also a Trustee of the local Village Hall Committee. Music was a great love of his life and he played the organ and piano accordion and also sang in local choirs. He was a great supporter of the Welsh language and of the Welsh way of life in general. He will be greatly missed in many parts of the community.

ROBERT HENRY LLOYD GRIFFITHS died after a short illness, at the age of 64. He worked for the Commission for 40 years until his retirement in March 1982 as a craftsman/carpenter. "Bob Hermon," as he was affectionately known to everyone in the area, was a quiet man, and always a gentleman. His work as a carpenter was beyond comparison. Bob's passing is a great loss to the community.

GLYN ROWLANDS died at the early age of 58. Glyn joined the Commission in 1959 at Glanllyn Forest, which later became Penllyn. He was employed on Forest Management duties which he carried out efficiently and cheerfully. He saw the establishment of a large part of Penllyn and the results of his labours coming out as thinnings. Glyn was taken ill in February 1984, and fought against his illness with great fortitude. He is survived by his wife and family.

SIDNEY GEORGE LEATHERS died at Weston-super-Mare, where he and his wife retired in 1977. Sid moved to Aberystwyth when the Shrewsbury office closed in 1966. Previously he had worked in the War Department from 1964 until 1965, and started as a Clerical Officer in the Commission's (then) North Wales Conservancy at Shrewsbury in 1965. He leaves a wife, Peggy, (also an ex-Forestry Commission CO).

T. R. MORGAN died at the grand age of 96. Mr Morgan, known by all students as Tommy, the son of a Dean forester, entered the Dean School in 1905 and spent most of his career as forester on the Nagshead / Parkhill walks of the forest. After retiring at the age of 60, he lived in Bream near Lydney and was for some 40 years organist at the local church.

MERVYN R. WILLIAMS who was a forest craftsman at Llandovery Forest District died at the age of 58. Mervyn, who had served with the Commission at Crychan for 28 years, was held in high esteem by his colleagues. He leaves a widow and two children.

MRS A. N. CURRY, a former typist at Kielder Forest, has died. Alice joined the Commission in 1950 and worked as Secretary of the District officers until her retirement due to ill health in 1969. Alice was a very active member of the village, President of the WI and an amateur dramatic enthusiast.

PETER BINKS, who was a CO in the Finance Section at York Conservancy Office, died after a long illness. He joined the Commission in 1980 after retiring from the British Rail Transport Police. He was a quiet, unassuming man who was respected by all his colleagues.

J. R. PRICE (A&FO Alice Holt), whose death in February was received with great sadness by colleagues and friends throughout the Commission. Dick joined the Civil Service in 1949 with the Ministry of Food and transferred to the Commission's Shrewsbury office in 1954. He moved to York in 1964 as an E.O. and to Basingstoke as an H.E.O. in 1972. He was instrumental in setting up the computerised financial control system and many of his specifications are still in use today. He moved to Edinburgh HQ with the bulk move in 1974 and was promoted to S.E.O. in 1981 and to Principal in 1982 taking up A&FO duties at Alice Holt in February 1983.

DAVID PERCY, retired head forester SW(E), died in March, aged 62. He joined the Commission in 1948 as a forest worker in SE(E), went to Glentworth Forester Training School and returned to SE(E) as foreman and forester moving on to work study in 1965 and was promoted to head forester in 1978. He moved to SW(E) in 1973 and his last nine years of service were spent on private woodlands. A Colwall parish councillor he was also an active Malvern Hills Conservator.

A. C. LAURITUS, Leading Civil Engineering Assistant in South Wales until his retirement in April 1976 after 27 years with the Commission died on 25th January. Mr Lauritus, a Latvian by birth, came to this country when his country was over-run by the Russians. He joined the Commission in 1940 as a draughtsman and after 13 years in charge of the Cardiff Drawing Office transferred to the Engineering side in 1962 on appointment as Civil Engineering Assistant. He did much work on surveying coal tips on FC land and his models and photographs of the tips were a great asset in getting local authority support for the Commission's tip reshaping schemes.

Due to restructuring of Conservancies there are now only seven Conservancy correspondents. If you have new views, photographs, etc., which you think may interest "Slasher" readers please inform your correspondent. My thanks to the regional correspondents who have helped so much in the past and who continue to provide much of what becomes the newspaper of the Forestry Commission.

Editor,
Roy Gregor.

CORRESPONDENTS

England:
North — Rita Cunningham.
East — Pauline Marshall.
West — Audrey Child.
Wales:
Brina Evans.
Scotland:
North — Sheila Ferguson.
Mid — John Watson.
South — Paul Gibson.
Alice Holt — Brian Hibberd
N.R.S. — John Smith
T.U.S. — Ted Radford



Participants in a previous UNICEF fund-raising walk at Grizedale at the half-way halt.

Grizedale walk for £100,000

ONE of Grizedale Forest's activities involving International Year of the Forest and International Youth Year will be a UNICEF fund-raising walk. Young folk (and some not so young) from all over the country will be taking part in the walk on May 19 to raise money. UNICEF Senior Regional Officer, Mrs Jane Robertshaw said: "This year's event brings and added challenge for if it is as successful as in the ten previous years then a total of £100,000 will have been raised to help the world's poorest children."

If you would like to be associated with this venture, contact Mrs Robertshaw, UNICEF, 69 Cross Street, Sale, Cheshire, M33 1HF.

... and we can all help in 1985!

FIVE YEARS OF CHANGE

IT IS now over five years since the new government took office in 1979, and almost as long since I was fortunate enough to be appointed Chairman of the Commission. These must have been five of the most demanding and challenging years in the Commission's history.

Within a few months of taking office the government initiated a review of forestry policy which led to the 1981 Act, confirmation of a policy of expansion, with private forestry to take the lead in new planting, and also the instruction to the Commission to sell off parts of our estate to raise money to reduce our dependence on public funds. There were also a number of "Rayner" reviews aimed at improving efficiency, and we initiated two main in-house reviews of our whole structure, from forest to headquarters.

As if this wasn't disruptive enough, the slump of the world economies hit timber demand and prices, and led to the closure of a number of major wood-using plants. It has been much to everybody's credit that, despite these setbacks, we not only continued to find acceptable markets at home and abroad for most of our timber, but recently have been able to attract new processing industries, notably at Shotton and Inverness.

Conservation

Finally, this all coincided with the upsurge in the public debate on conservation and the countryside, a debate which I am sure will continue to be with us well beyond the end of the next five years, and to which I will refer later.

These events have, I know, given rise to uncertainty, lack of confidence, and apprehension as to where forestry and the Commission is heading.

Many of you, I know, have been uncertain of your own futures, wondering where you might be posted and what job you might have following the various phases of the reviews and the restructures.

Much of this is, of course, now largely behind us and we must be more concerned with the years ahead. The restructuring exercise is now almost complete and we can look forward to what I hope will be a period of consolidation.

The disposals programme is no longer based on raising specific annual sums of money since, in future, sales of assets are to be directed towards achieving a better rationalisation of the estate and therefore a more efficient organisation.

The era of technology is now well and truly with us and shortly, with the introduction of computers, much more information should be quickly

and readily available at both Conservancy and Forest District Offices. In the forests increasingly sophisticated machinery is taking some of the drudgery out of harvesting tasks, and often enables the work to continue in almost all weathers.

Within the Commission itself, we are looking to major increases in the harvesting programmes in the years ahead which, provided prices remain reasonably stable, should bring within sight, the time when we will reach "break-even", and no longer require the annual investment of public funds.

As I have said, the government's policy is to encourage a reasonable expansion of the nation's forest estate, and while it is there intention that this should be primarily through the private sector, the Commission will continue to have a new planting programme of some 5000 hectares per annum. This will enable us to fill out and rationalise some of our existing forests and, at the same time, let us develop new plantations in some of the more remote areas of the country.

Balance

Whatever else the future may hold, I have no doubt that the main political (with a small "p") problem will be how to achieve a reasonable and acceptable balance between on the one hand conservation, both of nature and of the amenity of the countryside, and on the other the requirements for planting and normal forestry operations.

The Commission has had an increasingly good record in sensitive management of the countryside, but there are many people (some of extreme views) who will seize on almost any opportunity to criticise the Commission's work.

Forestry and agriculture

And the future now looks brighter

Says Sir David Montgomery,

may in the past have been less that sympathetic to some aspects of conservation and landscape, but this was to some extent excusable at a time when all the pressure was to produce as much as possible as quickly as possible, and neither governments nor public showed much concern for those other aspects of land management.

Attitudes to these matters today are very different and we must therefore respond to these changes in public opinion, and equally important, be seen to be responding. It is part of the job of every one of us to "sell" the achievements of the Commission on every possible occasion.

Not only must the Commission practise good overall land management and find the balance between production, conservation and enjoyment of



the forest by the public, but we must also persuade the private sector to adopt similar policies and practices if the British forest industry is to be acceptable. Yet we must not forget that the Commission is now big business, and in an increasingly competitive world we must adopt the best of business methods and look constantly for new techniques and working methods to improve our efficiency, reduce our costs and increase our

margins.

These have been testing years — of that there is no doubt. I believe the major uncertainties are now behind us, and we can concentrate on further developing in Britain efficient forestry of a high technical standard, practised with concern for all the many other needs of the countryside and the people. With the staff we have in the Commission, I am certain it will succeed.

QUOTE

... We are looking to major increases in the harvesting programmes in the years ahead which, provided prices remain reasonably stable, should bring within sight the time when we will reach "break-even" and no longer require the annual investment of public funds.

The Forestry Commission is spearheading Britain's contribution to the campaign of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to arouse greater awareness of the need to protect and enhance the world's forest resources and of their importance to rural development through International Year of the Forest 1985.

The FAO Council, the organisation's interim governing body declared 1985 as the International Year of the Forest to heighten awareness and seek solutions to threats to the world's forests. "Forests are vital for the environmental stability of our planet and the quality of life on it" according to FAO Director General Edouard Saouma.

FAO estimates that over 11 million hectares of tropical forests are disappearing each year; atmospheric pollution is severely damaging forests in Europe and North America; forest fires in the Mediterranean area, deforestation in acid zones and shortage of fuelwood in tropical countries are all major problems.

"There are clear signs that Governments are ready to take separate or collective action. With the growing understanding and support for forestry that are now evident worldwide, I am confident that we shall succeed in resolving these problems."

The immediate objective of the year is to raise political and public awareness of the value of the forests and the forces threatening them.

"Although we in Britain seem far removed from the urgent problems of disappearing rain forests we must not underestimate the value of conserving and expanding the forest resource in this country," said Forestry Commission Director General George Holmes. "Britain is still one of the least wooded countries in Europe and although we have increased the woodland area from about 4% to 9% since 1919 we must improve the standards of management and care of the woodlands we have and sustain a gradual expansion of woodland for the ultimate benefit of the rural and national economy."

To mark the International Year of the Forest the Commission will launch a programme of events to highlight the value of Britain's forests. There will be National Forest Open Days, exhibitions, competitions, publications and a variety of conservation and tree planting projects in which the public will be invited to participate.

"As 1985 is also International Youth Year we hope to initiate a number of projects involving schools and youth organisations in making a contribution to International Year of the Forest," said Mr Holmes.

Widows' cash — what you need to know

THE FACTS AND FIGURES



WHEN Civil Engineer Brian White was asked to clear a short track and dig a hole with his Hanomag loader recently, the result was more exciting than the usual Forestry Commission activities.

Harlech TV chose Sherwood as the location for four days filming of a spectacular car and motor-cycle chase as part of "Jenny's War" their new four-hour mini series, made in association with Columbia Pictures.

Already sold to an American network, the £5 million production stars Dyan Cannon, Robert Hardy, Elke Sommer, Nigel Hawthorne and Christopher Cazenove. Based on the true story of a young British woman married to a German, whose son by a previous marriage was shot down over Germany, "Jenny's War" recounts her adventures as she manages to smuggle herself into a German prisoner of war camp to see him, and eventually engineer his escape.

Fighting Jenny's War — in Sherwood

Proteus Army Camp at Ollerton was adapted as a PoW camp for four weeks filming and the chase in Sherwood was one of the last scenes to be shot.

Bemused visitors to the Forest District Office at Sherwood found themselves surrounded by jack-booted Germans complete with coal scuttle helmets as all the paraphernalia of the film set canteen swung into action during breaks in the filming; and when rain stopped play in the woods there were strange happenings with a coffin inside our forest depot.

With Chief Forester

Jim Barraclough acting as location adviser, special ramps were constructed and concealed in forest roads to cause cars and motor-cycles to overturn, culminating in an exciting stunt where Dyan Cannon and her companion Jeremy Bulloch chased by the pursuing Gestapo Chief in the guise of Robert Hardy hurled their motor-cycle and sidecar into a disused railway cutting.

Adapted from a book by Jack Stoneleigh by director Steven Gethers, "Jenny's War" is being produced by Peter Graham Scott and Bob Chenuault, and will be seen on ITV.

And it's farewell from all of us

A FAREWELL buffet dance was held in the Holburn Suite, Aberdeen, to mark the pending closure of East (Scotland) Conservancy, reports Doug Furneaux.

Our Conservator George Taylor welcomed a company of past and present East (Scotland) Staff together with wives and friends, plus a number of our good friends in the timber trade.

It was a particularly happy evening and many former friendships were renewed.

As is usual on such an occasion, feelings were put into verse, this one composed and sung (to the tune of Galway Bay) by Chief Forester Bill Brown, who is now with the Research establishment at Bush.

"A decision has been made down at Headquarters And that's the reason we are here tonight They wouldn't listen to the pleas of Mr Taylor One day soon I'm sure they'll find out he was right."

Forests now in this new set up are much larger Supervision can mean driving many a mile

Just to find that when you reach your destination

The Contractor's gone! The journey wasn't worth your while.

However -

The axe has fallen on us here in Aberdeen

Resistance to the closure brushed aside

But we will always look back and remember

The East in which we all had so much pride.

Just a final word to all the staff affected

It may be for the best, we'll wait and see

I hope that all the friendships will continue

Wherever in the future we may be."

Looking for 'Mrs Potter'

WE have been asked by an Inverness firm of solicitors if we can help trace a relative of the late Mr Andrew Robert Gordon who may be entitled to share in the residue of his estate.

She is a Mrs Margaret Potter (nee Dallighan) who on her divorce from Mr Potter in 1948 married an employee of the Forestry Commission (name not known) in Edinburgh district and who transferred to Wales in the early 1950s. It is believed "Mrs Potter" was in the Wrens during the war and should be aged in her late 60's. Her second husband was a "naval man" prior to employment with the Forestry Commission.

Any information to Anderson Shaw and Gilbert, York House, 20 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1ED. Tel. 0463 236123.

All employees who have been with the Forestry Commission for five years or more receive a lump sum of money and a pension when they retire at age 60 or later. To provide for their spouse, should they themselves die, all male employees, whether married or not, pay towards a widows' pension by deduction from pay each week or month.

However, a number of people recently have found themselves in considerable difficulty at this time of their life because, while they have lived together as man and wife for many years, they have never gone through a marriage ceremony and therefore have no marriage certificate.

Without this, the money paid for a widow's pension over the years as an automatic reduction from wage, may simply be paid back to you with interest, at retirement time — or, if death occurs before retirement, to the next of kin.

People decide not to marry for many reasons. An earlier marriage may have ended in such anger and discord that there is a strong reluctance to reopen the wound to start divorce proceedings. If that marriage still exists, even if you have had no contact with your spouse for many years and may have lived with another for those years, your death may result in your legal spouse receiving a pension from the Forestry Commission, and your life partner receiving nothing.

Sometimes we feel a lot of shame about living together while unmarried and this can stop us from thinking matters through as we would with any other potential difficulty, taking advice if necessary, and resolving the matter. So please remember, no matter how happily or how long you have lived with your partner, if you are not married, a widow's pension will not be payable to that partner. Worst still, if your previous marriage has not been ended by divorce, then your death may result in the partner of that marriage receiving a Forestry Commission pension.

BETTER NEWS

As far as the Forestry Commission is concerned, it does not matter when you re-marry. You could marry for a second or subsequent time on the very day you retire, and that partner would then be eligible for a pension on your death based on the length of your employment with the Forestry Commission.

There is better news about your lump sum and many will have completed a death benefit form in which you have named your husband or wife to receive a lump sum benefit if you die before you retire. This form enables the Superannuation people to quickly pay the benefits to a surviving wife or husband without waiting for legal formalities to be completed.

This is very useful since it usually eliminates money worries at a time of stress and great crisis.

Recently there has been a change to allow us to nominate anyone we choose to receive our death benefit. This means that you could nominate your life partner if you are not married, or perhaps your adult child. You may wish to nominate a trusted friend and/or your executor. You cannot name a company of solicitors or a bank however since an individual must be specified. You can change your nomination and you may well wish to do this if your personal circumstances change over the years.

Duke of Beaufort is remembered



MEMBERS of the Westonbirt Arboretum Consultative Committee commemorated the late Duke of Beaufort by planting a group of Beech trees on the Downs near the entrance to the Arboretum. A group of five native Beech were planted by Professor J. P. M. Brennan (Chairman), Mr C. D. Bricknell, Mr J. Workman, Mr A. J. Grayson (Director Research) and Mr Alan Mitchell. It was with regret that members of the W.A.C.C. also learned of Alan Mitchell's imminent retirement, as he also has been associated with the Arboretum for many years.

Graeme's big thanks

GRAEME RUDD NE (E) Conservancy Office always had trouble making his wheelchairs last. Then, through an acquaintance, he met the importer of chairs from the USA and found a model that he thought would suit him just fine.

It weighed only 26 lbs as against 50 lbs for the standard NHS issue. It can be folded and put into a car with just one hand. As the price was about £1300, he approached the

Welfare Department and an officer there tried to raise some money towards its purchase and the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund came up with £750.

Graeme is now the owner of an extra strong but lightweight chair that makes life just a bit easier and more comfortable. He is very grateful and thanks all subscribers to the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund.

Research and development on the other side of the world

Voyage of discovery through New Zealand's forests

Towards the end of last year, Mike Coutts, principal physiologist at NRS, and David Paterson, head of Forest Operations Branch, FMD, visited New Zealand to assess developments in plant production, plant handling, restocking practice and aerial fertilisation. They examined relevant current and recent research projects and the process whereby research programmes are identified, resources made available, results achieved promptly and transferred into practice. Both state and private forestry practice was seen. This is David's report:



A strip structure at Eyrewell.



Root pruning before packing in cardboard.

4 Reading about New Zealand forestry during the long plane flight via Los Angeles and Honolulu, we appreciated that, although the indigenous evergreen forests have been massively reduced, there remain 6.2 million hectares of indigenous forest and one million hectares of exotic forest, occupying 27 per cent of the total land area.

About 45 per cent of the exotic plantations are privately owned. Already 95 per cent of the timber cut at about 10 per cent cubic metres is now supplied from the exotic forests and they have an export trade in timber and forest products.

Our first view of New Zealand's forests was from a humpy De Havilland Otter flight between Auckland and Rotorua — giving a fascinating glimpse of steep grazing on lush *Lolium* maku and grass pasture in an agro-forestry designed plantation of pruned *Radiata* pine.

Rotorua, as well as being a famous centre for viewing the geothermal activity of geysers and mudpools, is where the Forest Research Institute (FRI) is located and also the Rotorua Conservancy Office, the largest in the country managing 230,000 hectares of plantations.

A recent controversy in Rotorua is that FRI is consuming too much geothermal energy and this is alleged to reduce the geysers displays for the tourist. Forestry is always in hot water!

We were made welcome in FRI's modern building which includes visitation research in its accommodation. New Zealand foresters are very conscious of the end product in all their forestry practice and this may well stem from the close association in the research level, leading to the current major revolution in cultural practice involving extensive use of weeding and pruning *Radiata* pine to six metres for clearwood butt logs and the minimising of sawlog production.

High priority is given to a few carefully selected projects, often supported by private sector funding, backed by a project or task force of inter-disciplinary resources. We were most impressed with their rapid achievement from this kind of focus. There are no outstations, apart from the Protection Division which is on the University campus at Christchurch in South Island and one small office nearby. Conservancy staff assist with field work especially in the remoter areas of South Island. This contrast with more dispersed research staffing and the greater inter-disciplinary specialist staff provided a fruitful area of discussion of relative advantages.

IDEAL SITE

Our first day in the forest saw us at Tasman Forestry's enterprise at Kaituma within sight of the huge pulp and sawmill plant which derives much of its intake by rail from the 116,000 hectare state forest of Kaingaroa. The annual production of this plant is staggering — 200,000 cubic metres sawn timber, 500,000 tons of pulp and 130,000 tonnes of new-pine! We saw a 14-year-old *Radiata* plantation reared from cuttings and in their nursery — an ideal site — we saw over one million cuttings just inserted to produce one year rooted cuttings next year.

Mike was fascinated by a visit to their tissue culture laboratory, a project in which the company was investing more than £100,000. Passing through the new plantations on volcanic ash where weed

growth is lush, we saw Mas workers pruning 14-year-old plantations to two-three metre height using short aluminium ladders where necessary and removing approximately 50 per cent of the live crown. Pruning is done progressively up to six metres height in three operations and is usually completed by the age of 10 or 12 years.

PLANT SURVIVAL

While Mike went off to see the magnificent laboratory facilities at FRI, I went to New Zealand Forest Products (NZFP) at Kiriwaka to see restocking practice and study their computer management system. Nursery workers were hand-lifting one year understock and several *Radiata* pine and making them horizontally into wadded cardboard cartons holding approximately 90-100 plants. The cartons are then packed into crates. The packing crates holding about 3,000-4,000 plants which are then sent out on a daily basis of supply to the worksite.

Each carton is dated to the time of lifting can be checked on site. All the cartons I saw were less than 48 hours from date of lift. Naturally, with this treatment, plant survival is excellent (95 per cent) and puts us to shame. DF receives the same treatment. Both the companies and the Forest Service use contractor resources for many forest management operations, and use aerial photographs a great deal. Here again there was an industrial plant of astonishing size consuming 25+ million cubic metres of roundwood in a combined sawmill / pulp mill. Timber prices at roadside are very low.

Helicopters are widely used in forestry practice, for controlled burning of slash and for application of herbicide. *Radiata* pine, younger than 15 years, suffers 10m defoliation by needle infection from *Dolichostroma*, a disease like *Brunchistia* in Corsican pine. This is treated by applications of copper oxychloride from fixed-wing aircraft.

Visits to three state forests volcanic ash rounded off a most useful insight into afforestation and restocking practices around Rotorua.

EROSION ZONE

A flight to Christchurch to see the gently-rolling Canterbury landscape and the reseeded of the growing stock by using foliar to expose the gales which descend from the Southern Alps. The narrow strip heavy deep ripper turned by an 8000 lb tractor was used to break up the heavy deep ripper turned by an 8000 lb tractor was used to break up the heavy deep ripper turned by an 8000 lb tractor.

Direct heavy extraction from regarded as too expensive and the tour. On the plantations of the saw mechanical restocking the Southern Alps. The narrow strip heavy deep ripper turned by an 8000 lb tractor was used to break up the heavy deep ripper turned by an 8000 lb tractor.

The next drive on our way through the Alps to the West Coast. The Hebe



Rip and bed equipment used in restocking.



A stand of Eucalyptus.

reminiscent of Mediterranean monsoon vegetation. Before going through Arthur's Pass, we called at Craigburn Research Station where pioneer work on planting in the erosion zone above the Mountain beech (*Nothofagus solandri var. cliffortioides*) has been done for many years. Here I saw a bell-bird which I had first heard in Whakarewa Forest beside FRI. The management of 4% million hectares of this indigenous forest is shared by the Forest Service and the department of Lands and Surveys. These forests include the delightful Podocarp forest containing the well-known Punga tree and the valuable native timbers of rimu and "white pine," all arranged in a confused jumble of canopies and including epiphytes and the white clematis, as well as a wealth of native and introduced birds.

The West Coast lived up to its reputation as we shocked around the out-over rimu scrub where *Radiata* pine was being planted on a variant of our own rig-and-fur experiments on one of the steepest soils I have ever seen, wet silty loess over stony gravel — more a social than an economic investment.

Generally, few New Zealand foresters display much interest in the management of the native forests for both production and conservation and devote most of their energies to the hard commercial world of *Radiata* pine which is the money-spinner of the industry and from which the exacting rate of interest (10 per cent) demanded by Treasury has to be won.

GOLDEN DOWNS

After a drive through rugged country we came to the pre-convict foothills behind Nelson where the terrain was reminiscent of parts of Wales. Here Douglas fir is a favoured species and we saw extensive areas being felled and restocked on Golden Downs forest which extends to 30,000 hectares.

A call at the Protection Research Division at Christchurch gave an opportunity for discussion on pest control and also on the landscaping service which is based here. Then it was back to North Island for a trip north of Rotorua taking in Cambridge Nursery, the Auckland Water Catchment afforestation scheme — seen from a helicopter trip — the huge sand dune afforestation scheme in the North and also the vast afforestation programme being jointly undertaken by Shell and NZFP on former sheep farms in broken terrain in the interior of North Auckland.

This kind of enterprise fully displayed the energy of the New Zealand foresters using contract resources to the full, and it was an inspiring sight to see this afforestation scheme. Planting has topped 20,000 hectares and is planned to achieve 15,000 hectares. Much of this production will go overseas in 20-25 years time and contribute to an estimated 20 per cent of all national export earnings from forest products after the turn of the century. The basis of NZ afforestation rests on the fact that no-one can blame them for their great enthusiasm with such a versatile and productive species. From time to time we had seen some *Eucalyptus* species and there is also some interest in *Acacia melanoxylon* and, regionally, Douglas fir — but there is no doubt about where a New Zealand forester's true love lies.

We left with a very high respect for the professionalism of the New Zealanders and their very practical, effective and integrated approach to research, establishment, management and harvesting. I



A line example of 50-year-old Douglas fir at Kaingaroa.

RETIREMENTS

TREESPOTTER SUPREME

ALAN MITCHELL, Dendrologist, retired from the Forestry Commission after 32 years service, all of it with Research Division at Alice Holt Lodge.

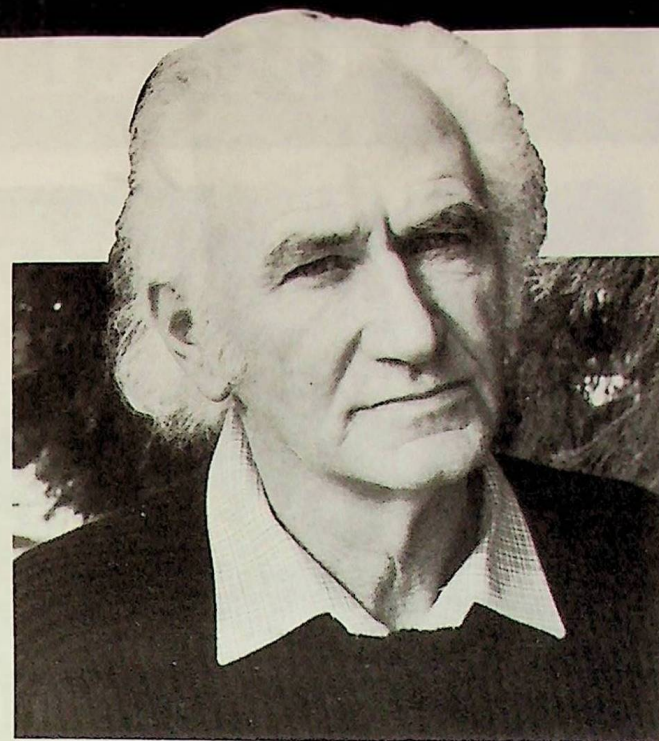
His early years were spent with Genetics Branch but the latter part of his work concentrated on measurement of growth of specimen trees in arboreta and gardens. From this stemmed a unique knowledge of trees in Britain which enabled him to write more than 80 books and technical papers — both official Forestry Commission publications such as "Know your broadleaves" and "Know your conifers" now being re-published, and privately published books on tree identification of which "A field guide to trees of Britain and Northern Europe" is the best known and most successful.

That Alan intends to continue his tree measurement activities in

retirement was made clear by his wish that he should be given a hypsometer with part of the sum contributed by colleagues to mark his retirement. David Burdekin, Chief Research Officer made the presentation at a party at Alice Holt Lodge at which friends and colleagues gathered.

Alan's knowledge of trees and birds and his lecturing ability make him much in demand for talks to societies and he has for many years run evening classes and courses on tree recognition and tree subjects.

As a publicist for the intriguing story of tree introductions into Britain he is unrivalled. Although retiring from the Forestry Commission it is clear Alan is not retiring from his work of trees. We wish him many more happy years tree hunting.



ALAN MITCHELL



Gold watch for Pat's farewell

"Pat" French, Workshop Manager at Balnacoul Workshop, has retired after 40 years service. Starting at Monaughty in 1940 with the Home Grown Timber Production, apart from a four-year army interlude, Pat has looked after the mechanical well-being of the northern part of East (S) Conservancy in one capacity or another ever since.

After occupying a series of sheds, each one slightly bigger than its predecessor he took over the new Balnacoul Workshop in 1974 and was promoted to PTO IV shortly after.

The high esteem in which he was universally held was reflected at a dinner dance attended by 120 of his friends and colleagues. Pat was presented with a gold pocket watch, a pair of binoculars and a wallet of notes to mark his departure and remind him of his FC days.

CME Bill Falconer made the presentation.

John plants an oak

JOHN LESLIE planted an oak at Bramhill Forest to mark his retirement after seventeen years as a District Officer.

John began in the Forest of Dean in 1951, moved to Chester in 1954 and to the New Forest in 1960. He then travelled north in 1964 to take over the Durham District and returned south in 1968 where he remained, his final posting being as Private Woodlands Officer for South East England after stints as territorial District Officer in the

Conservancy.

Conservator Ian Skinner paid tribute to the effective and loyal service John had given to the Commission. It was particularly apt that these farewells should have been said at Bramhill, where John had pioneered the large-scale and continuing restoration of land for afforestation following gravel extraction.

To John and his wife Enid on behalf of their many friends in the Commission we send best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Angus and Bert to the 'Wells'

A combined farewell luncheon, attended by nearly 100 colleagues and friends, was held at the Llanfair Grange Hotel, Llandovery, to mark the retiree of Angus Maxwell and Bert Bignell.

Angus Maxwell started his forestry career with the Lothian Estate in 1936.

After six years in Scotland at Twig Lees, Ae and Mabie, Angus was transferred to North Wales in 1955 where he was stationed at Ystwyth, Gwydr and Radnor before moving to South Wales. From 1971 to 1983, Angus was Chief Forester in charge of Crychan and his final service to the Commission was as Forest District Manager at Llandovery.

Bert Bignell joined the Commission in 1946 at Findon. From 1948 to 1950, Bert attended the Forestry School at Dean and then served at Ault-sigh and Glen Righ in Scotland before being posted to Wark in Northumberland in 1954.

From 1958 to 1969 Bert was based at Launde in Leicester and from 1969-74 at Kershope in the Borders. In 1974, he moved to South Wales where he worked as Head Forester at Rheola until 1979 and from 1979 until 1984 he was Head Forester in charge at Irton.

Both Angus and Bert have retired locally to Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells respectively.



ALISTAIR CRAWFORD, Chief Forester of Leanachan Forest, pictured here with his wife Nancy and the clerical staff of Lochaber Forest District past and present, retired after 34 years service with the Commission. His friends and colleagues gathered for a dinner-dance at the Imperial Hotel, Fort William, and presented him with a pair of Zeiss binoculars and a cheque. He was also presented with a bottle to "add a sparkle to his eye" and a cheesecake "to add an inch to his waist."

PHOTO: A. MacMILLAN.

Farewell to our clerks

DUE to the reorganisation of the forest district structure, we had to say farewell to two of our part-time forest clerks, due to their inability to travel to the nearest forest district office.

At an informal gathering at the Llanfawr Office, Aberystwyth, Ms Dawn C. Connor was presented with a cut glass vase on behalf of the staff in the Aberystwyth FD in appreciation of her work and loyalty, especially at the Aeron Forest Office.

Mrs Mair Hughes was the other forest clerk to leave. She joined the Commission at Penlllyn from the Pulford Estate which was taken over by the Economic Forestry Group. Mrs Hughes was presented with a standard lamp and cheque from past and present members of staff. Our photograph shows Forester C. E. G. Lewes presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.



THE ORDER: GET YOUR SKATES ON!



NOT quite Torvill and Dean, on the ice at Alice Holt: Deirdre Waddell and John William.

The big freeze means its nice on ice

ARCTIC weather conditions in the south of England during January and February enabled the Alice Holt Lunchtime Skating Club to meet for the first time since the winter of 1982.

The tradition of skating on Lodge Pond at Alice Holt goes back to the early 1950s. On average it freezes only about every third year, but this winter provided two spells for skaters — unknown for at least 20 years.

After the early New Year frosts, enthusiasts were on the

ice on January 14, many using skates from a motley collection gathered over the years by John Williams, Robin Carnell and Brian Greig.

Our correspondent says: "The condition of the ice was considered poor by the aficionados but skating was possible for a week. Then three weeks later the cold weather returned with a vengeance with six inches of snow and temperatures as low as -19.5C on the night of February 10. Skates were quickly donned again and, on perfect ice, more people joined the lunch sessions.

"Tuition was given to novices and during half-term week we were joined by several children and their parents. The younger/or skilful skaters started playing robust games of ice hockey which left several people sporting bruises.

"The weather also brought a new sport — the Bentley Run, Alice Holt's answer to the Cresta Run. Tobogganing down the road to Bentley Station attracted an assortment of sledges, plastic bags and metal trays. With the half-mile run steep and narrow in parts there were many spills but with one (unnamed) exception injuries were minor."

On your skis for fun in the snow



THOUSANDS of skiers headed for Glenisla in Angus Forest District to enjoy the facilities of twelve miles of cross-country routes. In what is largely a care and maintenance area four routes have been set out by the Forestry Commission and a local ski holiday company Highland Adventure. According to FDM Robert Adam it was a great success with people of all ages and varying degree of skill making use of the facilities on often perfect snow conditions.



PHIL'S A TOP SHOT

Philip Rowell, Surveyor, Newtown Roads — is still shooting Fullbore Rifle for Hampshire and the Civil Service, and he went to British Columbia and Ottawa as Adjutant of the Great Britain Team.

He helped to win international matches at Heals (Vancouver Island) and at Ottawa, but had to make do with second place in individual events.

As a consolation prize he won the "British Hundred" Roll Challenge Cup, awarded for the aggregate of six shoots throughout the year.

SUPER SOCCER

Huw George Evans is a Clerical Officer in the Harvesting & Marketing Section at Aberystwyth. His every spare minute is spent training and playing for Aberystwyth Town Football Club where his position as sweeper has earned him the title of Aberystwyth Town Supporters' Footballer of the year.

(Aberystwyth Town were winners of the Central Wales Football League).

Huw also plays for the Civil Service Team in the All-Wales Cup Competition.

TABLE TOPPER

And last — but not least — there's John McGough who (you may know) is the Administration & Finance Officer in the Aberystwyth Conservancy Office. It is a well-informed rumour that at the present time he is winning every round of the Aberystwyth Individual Table Tennis League (his team are also in the lead) and they are hoping to carry all before them into the final!



Champagne Charlies!

MEMBERS of the Alice Holt staff met at Frensham Common to participate in the 4th Frensham Ponds Fun Run in aid of the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

The 1 1/4 mile cross-country course, described as "scenic" in the programme, was attacked well by everyone and despite having lost some of our best runners back to the forest, we managed to retain the first prize in the social club category.

A team from Alice Holt has been placed first in the social club category for the four years for which this event has been held. The magnum of champagne presented to the winning team in each category was obviously a good incentive!

Our photograph shows the team members before "cracking" the bottle. The next Fun Run will be held on Saturday, November 30. All runners / joggers are welcome.

DUMFRIES DO THE TREBLE IN BOWLING

FOR the third year in succession a rink from Dumfries, representing the Dumfries and Area Civil Service Sports Association, have won the Scottish Civil Service Bowling Championship.

The latest success was at Titwood Bowling Club in Glasgow where they defeated Glasgow in the semi-final 21-12, after being down 9-1 at one stage. In the final they beat Rosyth 30-19.

The rink was skipped by Jim Byth from the Conservancy Office in Dumfries, and this year it

was an all Forestry Commission rink — Billy Gordon from Nithsdale District played third, Alan Young, retired Chief Forester played second and John Carruthers, Head Forester from Lockerbie District played lead.

The rink hope to add the British trophy when they represent Scotland in the Civil Service International Tournament in Bath in July and we wish them well. Jim Byth and Billy Gordon were members of the rink which won the British Trophy of Penarth in 1983.

Arwel's a cue above the rest

ARWEL THOMAS is a Cartographic Draughtsman in the Aberystwyth Drawing Office but much of his leisure time is spent playing pool. In the past year he has won the Welsh Civil Service Singles Pool Championship; and has won (with his partner Pete Jones of the DHSS) the Welsh Civil Service Doubles Pool Championship — this for the second year.

After this he went on to take third place in the British Civil Service Pool Championship Finals.

Even though Arwel is so obviously of "professional status" he still continues to pinch our Conservancy Office Christmas Pool Tournament trophies with only a chuckle; perhaps a ban on future play should be considered to give lesser mortals a chance!!

Ian's place in the sun

IAN RITCHIE, leading civil engineering assistant, retired from the Commission after 17 years, all of which were spent at Newton Street in South Scotland.

He started work in the deep mines of the Fife Coal Company. When the coal industry was nationalised, he continued as a mine surveyor but on open-cast work.

His pastimes have concentrated mainly on music, being the organist and choir master in various churches both in Fife and Stranraer. Having relinquished this very strenuous activity a few years ago he now concentrates on his garden where his main hobby, he says, is sitting in the sun.

Instead of saying goodbye to one large group he enjoyed himself by having lunch with a number of small groups of colleagues at various locations. The culmination of these was lunch with his six immediate colleagues when he was presented with a camera and thanked for the many superb maps that he has left with the Commission.

Toast to Roy Jones

MORE than 60 friends and colleagues of Roy Jones, Head Forester at Llandrindod Forest District, gathered at the Lion Royal Hotel, Rhayader, to say farewell to him on his retirement.

He joined the RAF in 1940 and served throughout the war. On returning to civvy street he joined the Ministry of Works as a clerical worker. In 1951 he entered the FC at Glenloy, North Scotland, as a forest worker going on to Gwydyr School in 1952. He worked his way up through the grades of Ganger, Assistant Forester, Forester and then in 1980 was promoted to Head Forester and took up a post at Coed Sarnau Forest.

Mr A. H. A. Scott presented Roy with a portable typewriter, a workmate and a pair of binoculars and — the pièce de résistance — a bottle of Famous Grouse. His wife, Pat, received a gold chain presented by Mrs Shirley Stephens who was, until reorganisation, Roy's Forest Clerk at Coed Sarnau.

Sadly, Roy's son, aged only 26 years, died recently and Roy would like to thank everyone through "Slasher" for their support at this time.

The camera catches those last goodbyes



NORMAN JOHNSTON, P&TOI at Chapelhall, retired recently after seven years service. During this time Norman served at Kielder, West Scotland and more recently at Chapelhall Workshops. A farewell gathering was held at Chapelhall when a gift of woodworking equipment was presented on behalf of colleagues and friends by Mr R. Hay, Chief Engineer. Norman is seen receiving a bouquet of flowers on behalf of his wife from Mr Hay.



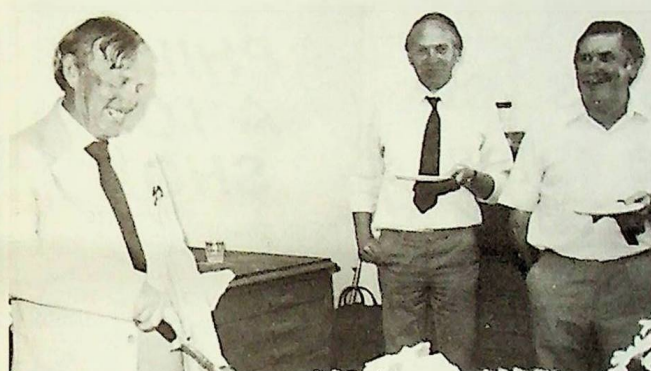
JOHN HENDERSON retired from North Wales Conservancy recently as Forest District Manager of the Aberystwyth Forest District. His career with the FC began in South Wales in 1955 in the Carmarthen District, after serving five years with the Colonial Forest Services in West Africa. A large group of friends and colleagues, both past and present, gathered at the Dyffryn Castell Hotel, Ponterwyd, to pass on their best wishes for a long and happy retirement. Our photograph shows John Henderson, sitting with John Clarke, the present Forest District Manager.



WILL THOMPSON'S career with the Commission started in 1935 at Coed-y-Brenin where he was employed on ground preparation for planting and earned the grand sum of 2 shillings per day! He returned to the Commission after war service and was transferred to the Roads Department in 1948. Initially he worked as a dumper driver but was later transferred to an Angle Dozer, working as a Dozer driver until his retirement. At his retirement presentation at Gwydyr Uchaf, Will was presented with a Long Service Certificate by the Conservator, Mr D. Y. M. Robertson.



KEN HUGHES, Forest Craftsman in the Ruthin Forest District, retired in January after 35 years service to the Commission. Ken started work with the Commission at Goror Forest on 25 July 1949, most of his early years being spent as a tractor driver at the nursery. To mark his retirement Ken's colleagues met at the Ruthin Forest District office. The Conservator, Mr D. Y. M. Robertson, presented Ken's well-earned Long Service Certificate and congratulated him on 35 years fruitful work.



BRIAN MAXWELL had worked for the Commission for over 18 years as a Surveyor, originally at Coed-y-Brenin but latterly at Gwydyr. A large number of colleagues from all areas of the Conservancy gathered at Gwydyr Uchaf for a buffet lunch. Mr T. P. Summers, Conservancy Civil Engineer, thanked Brian for his many years of excellent service and presented him with a computer chess set and cheque on behalf of his colleagues. Our picture shows Brian Maxwell cutting a cake; in the background are D. M. Hughes, Assistant Conservator H & M and K. Lewis, Foreman.



MR I. D. HUGHES ("Ike") retired on medical grounds. He had worked for the Roads Department since 1951, starting as a dumper driver and, after operating various machines, finishing as an Angle-Dozer operator. At a gathering at Gwydyr Uchaf the Area Civil Engineer, Mr D. J. Killer, presented Ike with a Long Service Certificate. He was also presented with a water-colour painting set on behalf of his colleagues.

SERENADE FOR CATHIE

CATHIE MacMILLAN started forest work at Minard in 1942, working mainly in the nursery there. After a short break in 1949 she restarted as Forest Clerkess in Minard but soon moved to Achaglachgach Forest where she worked for many years for the late Donald McCallum. On his retirement Cathie spent a further year at Achaglachgach before transferring to West Argyll Engineers at Lochgilphead in 1974, where she remained until her retirement in October 1984, working first under John Hugh Carmichael and then Bob Cartledge, latterly as a Clerical Assistant.

On her last active day of service a lunch party was held at the Argyll Hotel, Lochgilphead, attended by 30 staff and colleagues from West Argyll Engineers and Kintyre and Loch Awe Forest Districts.

later, at the Whitegates Office, staff gathered together for various presentations. Pat Thomas, Area Civil Engineer, presented Cathie with a wrist-watch, of her own choice, and a leather wallet-purse suitably filled. John Dishington, Cons. Civil Engineer, representing Conservator W(S), presented the Long Service Certificate and Cathie's recently appointed successor, Mrs Fiona McDonald, presented a bouquet.

The company were later entertained by John McCallum (harmonica) and Cathie McLennan (songs) supported by Bob Cartledge, Chris Logan and Alan Henderson with assorted comic songs!

Cheers to a happy life

ALEX HUMPHREY, forester at Exeter, retired after spending his career in South West England after attending Dean FTS. His colleagues presented him with a radio direction finder for his boat.

Others who have left SW(E) recently are GORDON DREW, tractor driver and member of the chainsaw gang, Exeter; CHARLIE NEAL, who left Bodmin Forest after 34 years, which included involvement with research experiments at Croft Pascoe; and Jack Massey, Forest Officer at Bristol, who spent ten years in Fort William before moving to SE(E) in 1962 and then to SW(E) in 1971.

JENKIN DAVIES (mobile mechanic) who had a surprise party on his last day of service. A gathering of about 40 people were at Llanafan Church Hall, near Aberystwyth, including local mechanical engineering staff and colleagues from Chirk. On their behalf the Conservancy Mechanical Engineer, Mr R. Harrison, presented Jenkin with a Black & Decker Workmate bench.

EO JIM MILNE, one of several East Scotland Conservancy Office staff to leave recently for other departments, has transferred to VAT. Leaving after 20 years his colleagues presented him with a lighter and a tankard.

R. I. ELLIS retired from Llanwrst Forest District recently — just short of 30 years service — nearly all of which was spent in Gwydyr Forest as a Forest Craftsman.

G. L. FOULKES, Forest Craftsman at Corris Forest District, retired recently.

E. M. LLOYD retired on medical grounds after a career that had started in 1940 when he was employed as an Office Clerk at Coed-y-Brenin. After war service he returned to the Commission as a member of the ploughing team, later transferring to the Roads Department and working as an excavator operator.

BILL HANN (Head Storeman, Chirk Workshop) retired recently. A large number of colleagues and friends gathered at the Plas-y-waen Hotel for Bill's farewell party. Bryan Evison, Workshop Manager, presented him with a carriage clock.

D. E. McROBERT, BEM retired after 35 years service as a Ploughing Tractor Operator. He was transferred from Scotland to North Wales and based at Chirk with a team of 12 plough tractors. He was awarded the BEM for his work on ploughing of the Army fire ranges at Trawsfynydd, during which live bombs were uncovered and blown up by the Army team.

Wildlife rangers' handbook full of advice

The growing importance of skilled management in nature conservation is reflected in the publication by the Forestry Commission of a completely new book — "The Wildlife Ranger's Handbook".

The Forestry Commission has been training its own wildlife rangers for many years, and much of that training has evolved and been conducted at Cannock Forest under the direction of Head Ranger Gerald Springthorpe BEM, one of Britain's foremost authorities on deer, and the principal editor of the handbook. The book brings together much of the material used on these training courses, augmented by the personal experience of the editors and other Commission officers.

It is a book written by rangers for rangers and, though it has particular interest for the forest ranger, it is felt that it will fulfill a long-felt need among all individuals and organisations concerned.

Produced by the Forestry Commission's Conservator for North West England, the handbook is believed to be the first text-book covering the variety of knowledge and skills which the wildlife ranger must today have at his command. Personal qualities which are demanded of ranger staff, the training and handling of dogs, firearm regulations, plants as habitat indicators, creation and management of a wide variety of wildlife habitats, and communications with the public are just a few of the subjects covered. Even so, the editors do not claim that the book is totally comprehensive; the work of the ranger is constantly changing and it is planned to expand the material in future editions.

Colour photographs and drawings, many contributed by the son of a head ranger, and an informal writing style make the book appealing to everyone concerned with the countryside, as well as to the specialist seeking practical advice on subjects from bats to butterflies, badgers to birds, flowers to forestry, or snakes to sporting management.

Publication of the book on 1985 — International Year of the Forest — is especially appropriate, and it has already been welcomed by a number of leading personalities in the world of nature and countryside conservation.

Mr Richard Steele, Director General of the Nature Conservancy Council, says, "The Wildlife Ranger's Handbook contains practical advice on wildlife conservation, clearly expressed and presented attractively. It will help all those concerned to maintain and enhance woodland wildlife and habitat."

Prof. David Bellamy: "For those who would argue that the Forestry Commission does not care about the wildlife of our countryside, this book proves beyond all doubt that they have the know-how and the dedicated personnel to keep conservation and forestry in massive action. The book deserves to become a classic in conservation, forestry and natural history."

The Wildlife Ranger's Handbook is available, price £7.50 (plus £1 postage and packing) from Forestry Commission, Forest District Office, Lady Hill, Birches Valley, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2UQ.

Have YOU seen this fungus?

THE Pathology branch at Alice Holt needs the help of "Slasher" readers to collect samples of the pine rust fungus, *Peridermium pini*. *Peridermium* is described in Forestry Commission Leaflet No. 49, "Resin top disease of Scots pine."

It has long been known in North East Scotland on Scots pine and in Thetford Forest since the 1950's, where in recent years it has progressively become more common on the older SP. *Peridermium* causes lesions on the branches and stem which may eventually girdle the tree leading to its death.

Peridermium produces irregular blister-like structures on the bark of

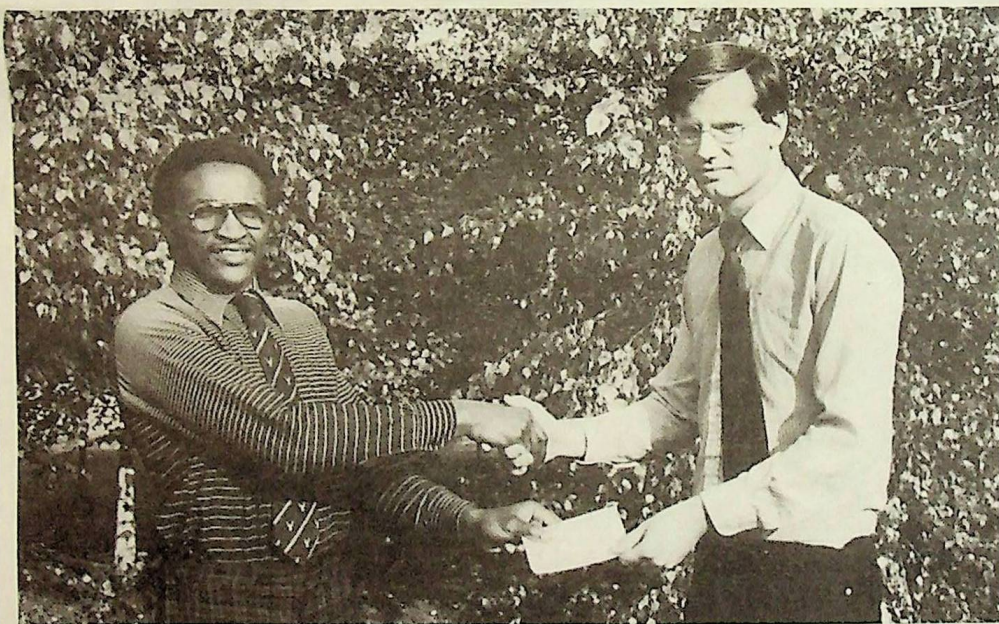
small branches and twigs during May and June. These blisters have a white papery outer covering which splits to expose masses of pale orange spores, as seen in the photograph.

During 1984, the Pathology Branch discovered that intriguing differences existed between spores of *Peridermium* obtained from infected trees in Thetford and those from trees in north-east Scotland. It is important that this matter should be investigated further and therefore we are very keen to receive more samples of the typical blisters, from Scotland and especially from other parts of the country.

The blisters are most conspicuous on young branches (3-6 years of age) but

may also be found on older stems and are likely to be seen in the crowns of felled trees during thinning or clear-felling operations. The disease is most common on Scots pine crops more than 40 years old, but also occasionally occurs on Corsican pine.

If anyone finds blisters of *Peridermium*, please send small sections of branches or stems to Brian Greig or John Gibbs, Pathology Branch, Forest Research Station, Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey. Samples should be carefully wrapped in newspaper and sent as quickly as possible by 1st class post. Please give full crop details and location.



A bright idea— for £100

Ade Solowo-Coker, Work Study Forester at Thetford, was delighted to receive the first £100 staff suggestion award winners' draw prize.

His original award was for an idea he had when he was a forester at Hereford, before transferring to Work Study Branch. His idea came from personal experience while using

a post hole borer with the motorway planting squad he was supervising, when he found that the continuous twisting of the handle against the operator's leg caused painful bruising.

With the help of a local saddlemaker he designed a leg pad made up of a sandwich of heavy foam rubber between the leather, and with elasticated

straps fastened with velcro, avoiding the use of buckles which might dig into the leg. The leg pad has proved entirely successful in improving the comfort when using powered post hole borers.

Rod Leslie, Work Study Officer at Thetford, presents the cheque.

Royal award for an expert

Finlay MacRae, Forest District Manager for Easter Ross, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Finlay is a Skye man who won international recognition for his work in conserving the Caledonian pine woods of Glen Affric. He is still closely involved with the Pine Woods Project which aims to help the regeneration of the last remnants of the prehistoric forest which once covered most of the Highlands.

He has worked with the Forestry Commission for 33 years and is also a noted expert on wildlife in the Highlands. In 1967 he was

awarded the Balfour-Browne Trophy for his work on conservation and deer management. He has now retired but has been appointed wildlife and forest design consultant to Fountain Forestry.

The BEM was awarded to Stan Cator, crane operator at the FC Brandon Depot for 36 years of his 42 years' service. Stan is well known for his activities with the TGWU and since 1974 has been Safety Representative at Brandon. For the last four years he has been Chairman of the Editorial Committee of "Slasher". He has been a JP since 1972 and is Vice-Chairman of the Mildenhall Bench.

'Invent it' for forest award

FORESTRY is one of the target areas for this year's International Inventors' Awards, organised by the Swedish Inventors' Association, the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study, the International Foundation for Science and the Salen Foundation.

One prerequisite for the forestry sector is that the innovation should have "sustainable qualities."

The organisers state: "The innovations that hopefully will compete may be found within a wide area of forestry eg. within the biological or the harvesting phase or in the better use of already existing forestry resources. They might not only be hardware or gadgets but also software like systems for the improvement of forests or forest plantations."

Also new methods of afforestation, management, logging, transport and storage may be considered as well as new administrative practices, land use systems or forestry laws."

Nominations for the award close on August 1, 1985. Further details are available from F. Petrie-Hay, Secretariat, HQ, Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Battle of the beetle hots up

NEW measures are to be introduced in the campaign against the Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*) which was discovered for the first time in this country in August 1982.

The Forestry Commission is to tighten its present movement controls by extending the Scheduled Area, and to require that in future all spruce wood leaving a forest or woodland will have a movement licence.

The Restriction on the Movement of Spruce Wood (Amendment) Order 1985, which came into force on March 25, enlarged the Scheduled Area of control to include the counties of Lancashire, Merseyside and parts of the counties of Avon, Dyfed, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and West Midlands. This extension was made necessary in view of the slight outward spread of attacks of the pest to existing boundaries and also more particularly to take account of the outlying outbreak at Bowland, Lancashire, which has been dated back to 1976, and to facilitate the movement of wood from there to processing outlets in the present Scheduled Area.

The movement controls require that, prior to wood being moved out of a forest or woodland, a Forestry Commission movement licence must be obtained. The long distance spread of the beetle has been contained by this means and it is an essential integral feature of the continuing strategy to help to prevent the spread of the pest to other spruce growing areas of the country.

Hitherto wood which had been peeled in a forest or woodland was exempt from the licensing provisions; in future, however, the movement licence requirement will apply to all spruce, whether peeled or not, grown in the enlarged Scheduled Area.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Have I spotted the deliberate error in your Winter issue? On page 3 you describe the acquisition of the collection of photographs of Kielder and there are two photographs depicting the extent of afforestation. The upper picture claims to be "before the Second World War," the lower "today."

Yet today's photograph shows an apparent Inter-City rail link between Kielder and Deadwater. British Rail officials were mystified when I attempted to book a ticket. More confusion was caused when I presented my rail warrant for the journey.

Could this be the Marie Celeste of British Rail? Have local staff, as rail enthusiasts, rebuilt the line?

Will the public be told?

R. TOLEMAN

West Scotland Conservancy.
● R. Jackson of Perth also spotted our "Oops" and wrote to tell us.

According to Mr Jackson, the line was closed in 1958.

CONSERVATION

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

THE effects of afforestation and forest management on birds are emotive topics for discussion between the various forestry and conservation organisations. And while it is now appreciated that expansion of the forest estate has had some benefits there has been little objective information on the subject.

We lack sound quantitative studies on the effects of forest management practices on both individual species and bird communities. In addition, the ecological requirements of a number of forest birds are poorly, if at all, known.

Within the Forestry Commission there are many field staff with more than a general interest in birds who together can provide much expertise. Because they live in some of the more remote areas of Britain they are ideally placed to undertake some of this work.

For instance, Commission employees are engaged in detailed

studies of barn owls in Galloway, nightjars in Thetford and sparrowhawks in the New Forest, together with a number of projects of small birds in North Wales.

BIRD ECOLOGY

In a widely spread organisation like the Commission, it is difficult to keep in touch — or even to be aware of people with similar interests. So, it is proposed to form a "Forest Bird Research Group" for employees of all grades.

One of the group's main aims would be to bring together all those who are studying some aspect of forest bird ecology. Prospective members should be aware, however, that the group would be entirely a voluntary organisation. It would be a condition of membership that a short abstract is produced of the forest bird research in which the member is involved.

In this way the success of the group would be directly related to members' willingness to participate. The group could provide

help for those less experienced in the various methods of data collection and analysis, and it would also keep members up to date with forest bird research carried out by outside organisations.

It is suggested that the group might produce a newsletter to record studies, results and publications. There would also be the possibility of holding occasional meetings where participants could give short talks about their work.

If these ideas interest you, then write to:

STEVE PETTY,
Wildlife Research Branch,
Invernaden Gate,
Glenbranter,
STRACHUR
Argyll
PA27 8DL.
Phone Strachur (036 986) 296.



LEFT

Tawny owls are probably the most abundant forest bird of prey, yet little is known about how they have adapted to the extensive commercial forests in the uplands.

RIGHT

Felled and restocked sites, Glenbranter Forest, Argyll. Little work has been undertaken to show how the bird population adjusts to felling and restocking.



... and where they stick together!

THE Forestry Commission is to participate in the national survey of heronries being undertaken throughout Britain and Northern Ireland during 1985 by the British Trust for Ornithology. The heronries census is the longest running BTO survey, having started in 1928, with sample censuses carried out annually and national surveys in 1928, 1954 and 1964.

Heronries can occur miles from water, and trees provide the main sites. The 1983 FC Bird / Mammal Damage Questionnaire suggested that heronries on FC land are more abundant in western and north parts of Britain where the BTO survey coverage could be stretched, and Forest

District Managers with heronries on FC land are being asked to contact if survey assistance is required.

According to BTO News, Number 134: The main aim of the 1985 survey is to locate all heronries in Britain and N. Ireland, and to assess the number of breeding pairs at each. The methods used will be the same as for the sample census, to permit comparison of the results. Observers will be asked to make up to three visits to each heronry, with the priority visit being in the latter half of April. Details of the methods are printed on the back of the survey card, which is available from your local organiser.

Heronries in many counties of England and Wales are already counted annually for the sample census. This

sample is currently heavily biased toward S. England, and one objective of the 1985 survey will be to identify further areas for annual sampling which will allow regional trends in population size to be examined. The 1985 national census will thus complement the annual sample census, which may be extended geographically in future years.

Coverage problems will, as usual, be greatest in Scotland, where heronries tend to be small and widely dispersed.

It is in these areas that the Commission can help most. Details of the census and record cards have been sent to each Forest District for staff to become involved in the survey where there are heronries on FC ground.

A complaint with stile!

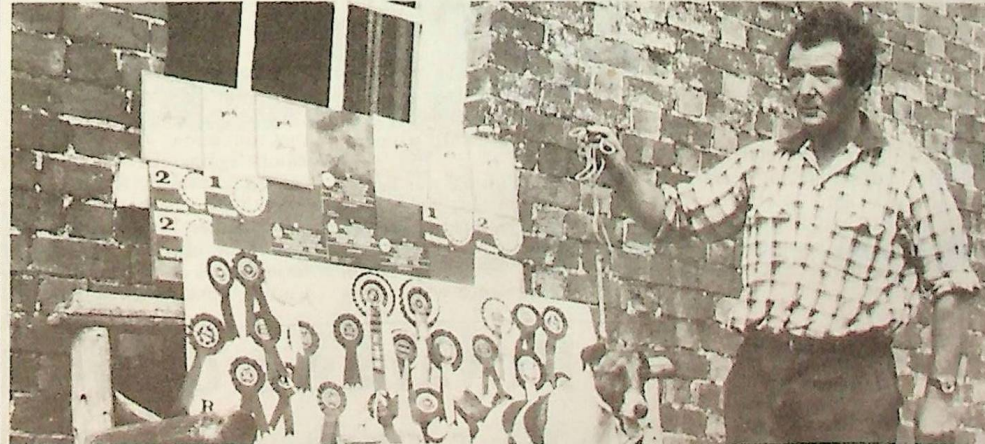
IT can be a dog's — and dog handler's — life down in the Forest of Dean! That's the message that was sent to Martin Orrom, Assistant Conservator, South-West England, from two ladies who had taken their Old English sheepdogs into the Dean and encountered a sheep-proof stile.

"We and our dogs have enjoyed your marked walks the length and breadth of Britain without any difficulty until we encountered the Dean design," wrote Dr. A. J. Ellen and Dr. M. Thomson, from Bedfordshire. And they enclosed photographic evidence of their problem.

A sympathetic Martin Orrom replied: "Thank you both for one of the most well described and amusing complaints I have ever received. Tears came to my eyes at your plight over the stile which is not to say I do not recognise that you have a point — for elderly sheepdogs read elderly citizens — we do need to provide a wider platform for the final assault."

"I cannot promise instant changes throughout, but our fencing gang will devise an answer as they go round on their repairs. You have struck a real blow for canine rights."

• Our photo shows Dr Margaret Thomson and canine friends and the stile of Dean.



Albert rules canine contest

ALBERT PHILLIPS, a skilled forest worker on Coed Sarnau, Llandrindod Forest District, has been with the Commission for 23 years. He has been showing dogs in competition for 10 years, starting with Jack Russell terriers.

"Ruler" is the terrier's pet name, he is three years old and is Albert's most successful dog to date.

His successes include two firsts and a reserve in the 1983 Royal Wales Show and another two firsts and a second in 1984. At the Aberystwyth show he took two more firsts and the Best terrier Cup. He hopes to breed a line of champions using Ruler and his promising bitch Newmaidley Kindly in the near future.