

SLASHER



Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

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One of three selected New Forest oaks destined for the £5m York Minster restoration scheme.

Praise from the TV prof!

PRAISE for the work of the Forestry Commission in moulding forests and landscapes into a worthwhile British heritage came from Professor David Bellamy when he presented prizes to winners of the national "Forests in Focus" competition for amateur photographers.

"The Forestry Commission has taken a lot of stick over block planting but what is emerging now is a moulded, diverse landscaping which marries timber production with care of the environment and conservation," he told a gathering of staff and prizewinners at headquarters.

The "Forests in Focus" contest, organised by the Commission in conjunction with Pentax UK and "Amateur Photographer" magazine to mark International Year of the Forest, attracted 270 entries from people submitting a portfolio of three colour slides.

Director General George Holmes said, "This was a fierce challenge to photographers to represent all facets of forestry incorporating timber production and the environment and was a major part of our campaign to increase public awareness of the role of our forests and woodlands in IYF."

NATIONAL HERITAGE

Professor Bellamy, of TV fame, added, "As a nation we must get our act right and replant as many trees as we remove and strive to increase our wooded area. We have a lot to do to catch up with the rest of Europe in creating and maintaining valuable afforested areas but we are at last beginning."

"To plant a forest and leave a national heritage is an immense contribution; to lose any woodland or woodland walk is a great loss."

Overall winner of the competition was Mrs Wyn Witherall, a former local government officer who is a freelance writer using the name Wyn Frances. Mrs Witherall, from Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, submitted an entry of three photos taken in the National Trust's Ashridge Park, Herts.

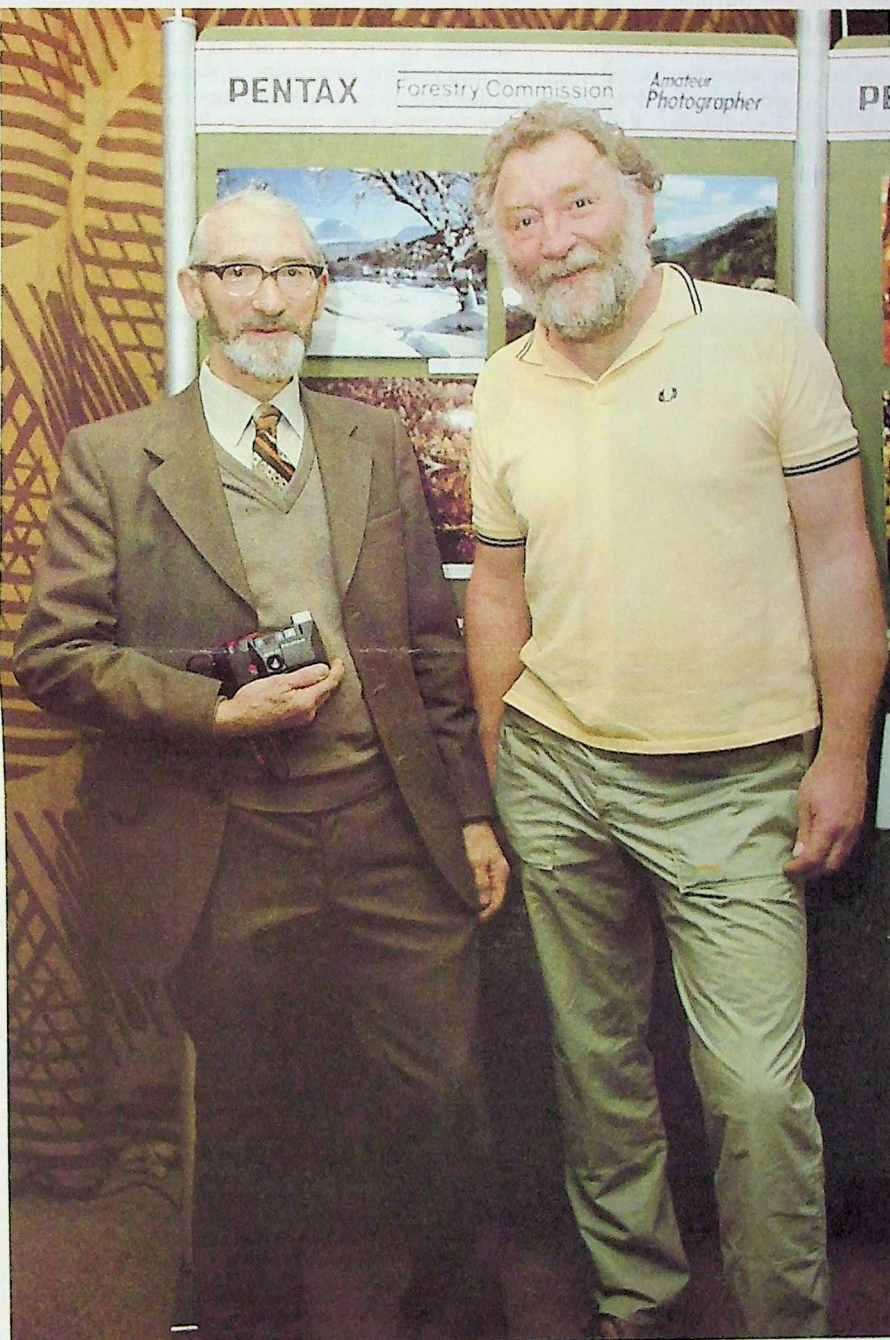
"Photography has been a hobby all my life and I am delighted to have won this competition," she said, after receiving her prize of a Pentax 645 camera and a week's holiday at an FC forest cabin centre.

'SLASHER' READERS

Runners-up who received prizes of Pentax binoculars plus a mini-break cabin holiday were Rev. John Bird, Bathgate, West Lothian, and Mr John Watkins, Ringstead, Kettering, Northants.

In the special section for "Slasher" readers, the prize of a Pentax Auto-Focus camera went to Mr George Dey, who recently retired from the post of Forest District Manager, Inverness District.

Prof. Bellamy said, "I'm glad I was not one of the judges because the overall standard was very high showing the diversity of what forests and woodlands contribute to our lifestyle today."



'Slasher' section winners George Dey, pictured with David Bellamy.

They caught the Judges' eyes
P4-5

Timber for the Minster — 3 of the best

IN response to a nationwide appeal for oak timber to be used in restoring the roof of York Minster after the disastrous fire of July 1984, about 120 trees were donated by landowners last year.

However, very few of these were long, straight and true enough for the massive A-frame roof trusses which will form the main supporting structure of the roof.

Following a new appeal to find 30 exceptional trees suitable for this purpose, the Commission is donating three oaks valued at about £1250. Like all the trees donated for the Minster, these trees will be sawn by Henry Venables' saw mills at Stafford, specialists in handling large English hardwoods.

"Our difficulty was the length," said Roger Newland, Forest Operations Manager in the New Forest where the three oaks were grown. "We have plenty of thirty-five foot trunks but these beams have to be forty feet long."

Beams

The trees were planted in 1865 in Perrywood Hasleley Inclosure and were felled on January 22. When the branches were trimmed, the trunks were hauled out of the wood by tractor and loaded onto the wagon which took them to Venables' sawmill.

There they will be cut into three 40-foot lengths, 12 inches square, each of which will be cut again down the middle to provide two beams of 12" x 6" section.

The oaks remaining from the earlier plantings at the turn of the century for the needs of naval shipbuilding are unsuitable for beams. As they were thinned heavily in their early years to encourage the branching, which provided the shapes required for the frames or ribs of a hull, they lost the tall main trunk which closer-grown trees develop.

As well as supplying trees, the Commission last year co-ordinated collection and delivery of a number of oaks to the sawmills, donated by estates throughout southern England, including the Duchy of Cornwall, in response to their original appeal by the Minster authorities.

F.C. place in timber market
P2

Crafty idea rings up £100 prize
P8

Appeal fund target is £1m: P3

Our place in a free market

TIMBER TOPICS

by JOHN OAKLEY
Marketing Officer



THE first article in what is planned to become a regular feature in "SLASHER" providing information about timber markets and developments in the forest products industry.

Many people think that because the Forestry Commission is the largest single wood producer in Britain, we are in a position to dictate wood prices to industry — in other words, our position is akin to that of a monopoly supplier.

This is far from true because we operate in a free market economy where imported wood and wood products are freely available at world market prices. The price which our customers can afford to pay for the raw material is closely linked to the international price prevailing at the time.

British wood has no special features which make it intrinsically more valuable than imported timber. Our wood prices at roadside, therefore, are directly linked to the price of wood products which come from Scandinavia, Russia, Europe and North America.

The total consumption of wood and wood-based products in the United Kingdom, expressed in terms of the Wood Raw Material equivalent (WRME), was 40

million m³ in 1984. WRME is a measure of the volume of solid roundwood underbark which is needed to produce a given quantity of wood products. Domestic production in the same year was some 4 million m³ or just 10%. From this it is clear that our market place is dominated by the import trade.

Competition

Total domestic consumption is likely to remain fairly static in the future whereas the potential production from Britain's forests will rise from about 5 million m³ overbark in 1985/86 to about 9 million m³ by the end of the century. This increasing volume will have to be marketed against the competition from overseas suppliers anxious to retain their market share. We, together with our customers, must therefore offer a product to the final consumer which has advantages in terms of price, quality, con-

venience or security of supply. To this end the official openings of Shotton Paper Company's newsprint mill and Highland Forest Products' structural composition board plant at Dalcross in recent weeks are most encouraging developments. Together they represent about 560,000 tonnes of new capacity which is approximately equal to the capacity which was lost following the closure, in 1980, of the three pulp mills at Fort William, Ellesmere Port and Bristol.

In addition, since 1980, expansion at Thames Board Workington, Kronospan Chirk and Egger UK Hexham will, when all these developments are completed, add a further 400,000 tonnes of capacity. Thus by the end of this year the processing plant will be in place to absorb the potential supply of small roundwood into the early 1990s.

On the sawmilling scene, the domestic mills have traditionally expanded capacity in line with

increasing availability of sawlogs. Recent developments show that this trend is continuing. New capacity at Gordons of Nairn, Brownlie at Boat of Garten, Jones at Dumfries and Howie at Dalbeattie, to name but the most recent, have increased capacity substantially. These new mills are based on the Scandinavian pattern and rely on a high throughput and accurate sawing to achieve the quality and cost savings necessary to be competitive with imported timber.

The domestic share of the total UK consumption of sawn softwood is steadily increasing from about 10% during the period 1973/77 to 15% in 1984 and it is expected to rise to approximately 20% by 1990.

Many changes have taken place since the recession in the early 1980s and the forest products industry is now well prepared to consume the increasing volume of wood which is forecast to be available from Britain's forests.

Thetford plan a boost for wildlife

A PLAN to improve the landscaping and to enhance wildlife conservation in Thetford Forest — Britain's largest manmade pine woodland — has been unveiled by the Commission.

The primary function of the 20,000 hectare Thetford Forest, straddling the Norfolk-Suffolk border, is timber production but over the past six years the Commission has been drawing up a forest management plan for the future with special attention to wildlife conservation. The Nature Conservancy Council and the Game Conservancy were both involved.

Mr Roderic Hewitt, Conservator, East England, said: "From the outset of the management review it was made clear to all concerned that there would be no change in the primary objective of the forest — timber production. The review was established to identify feasible and economic courses of action to improve the design of the forest in the future for the benefit of the landscape, wildlife conservation and the provision of game shooting."

"The process is long term. It is intended that this review should set the pattern for the future of Thetford woodlands and that techniques and practices will evolve further towards the general objectives of developing the conservation, sporting and landscaping values of a major production forest."

Within Thetford Forest, about 10,000 hectares planted in the early years (since 1925) are now maturing and are due for clear felling. It was recognised that clear felling and restocking half the forest would provide an opportunity to adjust the management of this major production unit. A 1200 hectare survey area was selected by the Conservator who asked the Commission forest Design Branch, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Game Conservancy to prepare single purpose plans with principles of management they would like to see adopted.

Mr Hewitt said: "It was found that there was considerable scope for improving the landscape and enhancing the game and wildlife value of the forest without major penalty to timber production."

Among wildlife conservation proposals are the provision of special reserve areas for the maintenance of wetland, heathland, especially valuable areas of broadleaved woodland and particularly rare species; the management of selected rides for conservation, and the retention of small groups of trees beyond commercial maturity and other measures designed to increase the habitat diversity of the forest.

Landscaping proposals included designs principles to diversify the forest landscape as seen from public roads and the eventual redistribution of broadleaved trees into larger concentrations.

Chief Land Agent

MR Richard P. Illingworth has been appointed Chief Land Agent of the Forestry Commission in succession to Mr John M. Gwynn, who has retired.

Mr Illingworth (52), who is a Chartered Surveyor, comes from Neath, West Glamorgan. Mr Illingworth is a nephew of the late Leslie Illingworth, well known cartoonist on the Western Mail, Daily Mail and Punch.

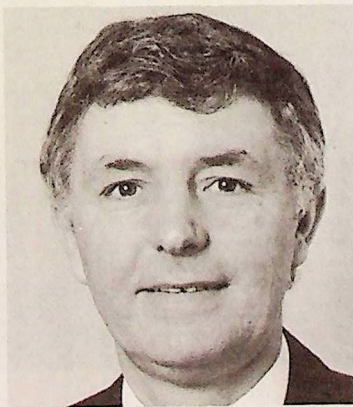
He joined the Commission in 1957 and served as a Land Agent in Argyll and Perthshire. After a spell in Headquarters on recreation duties, mainly concerned with the New Forest Study into public access and conservation,

he was appointed Conservancy Land Agent at Aberystwyth.

In 1978 he moved to Headquarters in Edinburgh to work initially on development of forest cabins and later as Conservator (Estates) on the Commission's sales programme. He is married with two children and lives in Edinburgh.

Mr Gwynn had been the Commission's Chief Land Agent since 1980. A native of Malvern, Worcestershire and a former pupil of Cambridge and County High School he graduated MA (Rural Estate Management) at Cambridge in 1951, joining the Commission a year later.

Head of information



THE new head of Public Information Division is Frazer Lindsay (49), who has been a Senior Information Officer at Scottish Information Office since 1975.

He started his journalism career with Cumberland and Westmorland Herald in 1952, and after specialising in agricultural reporting with the Glasgow Herald, Farming News and Farming Express, he served with the Scottish Sunday Express.

At SIO he has been involved with the development and introduction of computerisation's role in the press office. A keen hill walker, he is a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

He takes over from Peter Drumm who has left FC to become Visitor Services Manager, Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate of the Scottish Development Department.

Marketing boss

MR David Foot, Forestry Commission Conservator, South Scotland, was appointed Director, Harvesting and Marketing Division, at Headquarters in Edinburgh with effect from December, 1985.

Mr Foot, (46), graduated BSc Hons. (Forestry), Edinburgh in 1961, and joined the Forestry Commission in the same year as a District Officer in Ipswich. Following secondment to the Department of Forestry in

Malawi between 1964 and 1970, he worked in East Scotland and North Wales Conservancies, and was appointed Conservator, South Scotland, based in Dumfries, in June 1983.

Taking over as Conservator, South Scotland, from December 1, was Mr George Taylor (58), who has been with the Commission since 1952 when he graduated BSc (Forestry) from Aberdeen University.

Upland forests 'at a dynamic stage'

BRITAIN'S upland forests are now at a dynamic, transition stage as twentieth century plantations start to reach maturity, Mr Alastair Rowan, Forestry Commission Director of Private Forestry and Services, said recently.

Speaking at Banchory, Kincardineshire, he pointed out that Britain's target of reaching 2.03 million hectares of productive forest and woodland by 1995 had been reached in 1985 with minimal reduction in agricultural output.

Diversity

"We are now at a dynamic, transition stage as plantations develop into what we would all recognise as forests," Mr Rowan told the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology Seminar "Trees and Wildlife in the Scottish Highlands."

"The major ecological shift from bare land to full forest diversity of structure, appearance, habitat and wildlife takes time to develop and what we see today is no more than a snapshot of a continuing process."

"The forests change, as do people's requirements of them. The productive use of land makes good sense nationally and the creation of a renewable resource on this scale is no more than good husbandry, fully consonant with the principle of the World Conservation Strategy of resource conservation for sustainable development."

Bubbly Midlands take the honours

A special prize of a case of champagne was awarded to the Forestry Commission Midlands Forest District in a national conservation competition.

In its first year in Britain, the Laurent Perrier Champagne Award for Game Conservation attracted over 30 entries and the FC Midlands District work on forest management encompassing general conservation measures was chosen by the panel of judges for the first runner-up prize and a certificate of merit.

Leading prizewinners were The Game Conservancy for Conservation and Management of red grouse in North England; Economic Forestry Ltd. for work with roe deer in Eskdalemuir; and the Caddwy Shooting Society in South Wales for the creation of a shoot.

City and Guilds awards

It was with pleasure we heard that Mr Paul Davison of our mechanical engineering workshop at Bellingham had won the City and Guilds bronze medal for excellent performance for Motor Vehicle Craft Studies at the Gateshead Technical College.

There's a cash target — and it's £1 million!

ANY birthday is a cause for celebration, but a 100th birthday is one which merits special happiness.

This important milestone in the Civil Service Benevolent Fund's history will be marked by the "centenary appeal" which has a target of £1,000,000 plus a substantial increase in membership. To ensure the appeal is a success, departments and associated fringe bodies have been asked by the Fund's chairman, Sir Brian Cubbon, to appoint an appeal co-ordinator.

The appeal co-ordinators will liaise with the CSBF representative in every establishment to let them have the appeal literature, collection sheets and contribution forms.

The Fund is asking all staff to donate at least £1 and to complete a contribution form (PL7). Please give generously when the Fund representative has a word with you. If you do not already make a regular contribution to the Fund, complete a contribution form.

Recently, a number of beneficiaries have asked the Fund to mention the help that they have received in order that the work of the Fund can be more readily appreciated. We are therefore pleased to have this opportunity to mention a few colleagues assisted when misfortune struck.

Brian Burchill, a Higher Scientific Officer, Ministry of Defence, was knocked off his bicycle on his way to work. Unfortunately, he sustained injuries which have left him permanently paralysed. He is married with two children and the Fund made a grant towards the cost of an extension to his house to provide a downstairs bedroom, bathroom and toilet.

The Fund recently assisted Mrs Maureen Ritchie who suffers from a very rare and crippling disease, Friedreich's Ataxia. Maureen was a Tax Officer — Higher Grade with the Inland Revenue

at East Kilbride until her ill-health retirement on September 17, 1985. The Fund made a grant towards the purchase of an outdoor electric wheelchair which is helping her to cope with restrictions placed upon her by her disability.

Finally, of the many people assisted by the Fund, Malcolm Brown deserves a mention. Malcolm is able to carry on working as a PTOII with Property Services Agency in Portsmouth despite suffering from multiple sclerosis. The Fund was pleased to meet the cost of the initial 20 hours of hyperbaric oxygen treatment and sincerely hopes for a sustained improvement in his health.

The demand on the Fund's resources continues to increase. By supporting the Fund in its Appeal, you will ensure that people like Maureen, Brian and Malcolm can continue to look to the Fund for help, along with the many beneficiaries receiving cash assistance or being cared for in the Homes and Convalescent Centres.

The Civil Service Benevolent Fund is proud of its past achievements and, rightly, intends to celebrate this very special time nationwide by holding a series of events in conjunction with its area committees. These local committees are working hard to ensure that, in your area, the centenary year does not pass by unnoticed. In the very near future publicity for your local celebrations will appear on notice boards and we hope that you will support your own, special, charity by attending these events during 1986 and if possible raising cash for the Fund yourself during the year.

• The Forestry Commission is keen that employees should be able to play a full part in this appeal if they wish, and Welfare Branch are planning a local campaign in the Spring and early Summer.



It's Christmas — so they say

CHRISTMAS festivities began when the Sports and Social Club Hut was opened for viewing by anyone who wished to partake of a glass of mulled wine and mince pies — on sale to raise further funds for the Club.

The hut is nearing completion and a grand opening is planned.

The following day began with the usual Ladies v. Men hockey challenge (ending in a draw), but by the time the presentation of the trophy came round, it was declared that the Ladies had won, largely due to a new resident goalkeeper "mini kilt lumley." A collection for the F.C. benevolent fund was held during the match and £23.57 was raised.

Unfortunately, Mr Arnold Grayson was unable to attend the lunch in person but due to the hard work of two people (who wish to remain anonymous), he made an appearance as a working cardboard replica with his own recorded message giving David Burdekin a few hints on how to conduct his speech. At the end of which "Arnold" replied: "Not bad, not too bad at all David."

The after-lunch "cabaret" arranged by Kate Fielding and her helpers was a great success with six Sugar Plum Fairies (see pictures). With Jim (Legs) Dewar, Steve Coldrick, Mark Potter, Andy Moffat, Calvin Booth and Ian Lumley, all a vision of utter loveliness in White tights, tinsel and wings.



RETIREMENTS

HUGH MORRIS and WILLIE PATIENCE retired in December. Hugh, after 42 years of service, and Willie, after 38. Both had spent their entire careers in (NS) Conservancy apart from a couple of years at forestry school.

Hugh began his career as a forest worker at Craig Phadrig Forest near Inverness in 1947, and after postings throughout the north, including Chief Forester at Inchnacardoch and Glen Affric, came full circle and completed his career as District Forester H & M at Inverness Forest District.

Willie began as a forest worker in the nursery at Millbuie and, after several postings in the north, transferred to Culloden.

Following the forest district Christmas lunch at the Coach House Inn, Inverness, friends and colleagues bade farewell to Hugh and Willie. Forest District Manager, Graham Gill, presented each with a cheque and best wishes on behalf of colleagues throughout the north.

JOHN WILKINSON, road foreman with Bellingham Engineers, has retired after 36 years with the Commission. John has worked all this period in the Kielder and Falstone areas of the Border Forest. He was presented with a zoom lens and secateurs on behalf of all his friends and colleagues.

THE departure of MIKE HOUGH from Newtown Roads Wales for Dalby North England was marked by an informal gathering. The many friends he has made during his 12 years in the Conservancy made sure that, although for the present he will have less time in his garden, he will be well equipped with stainless steel spade, fork and cultivator to ensure maximum utilisation of effort available.

WILLIAM EDWARD LILLIE retired on medical grounds in September after 30 years service. He joined FC as a forest worker and then transferred to Engineering Division as a driver in Bellingham.



Yes, we are sailing . . .

A NEW 36-foot fast cruising yacht has been purchased by the Civil Service Sailing Association.

The yacht, the latest SIGMA model 362, is the actual vessel shown at the Earls Court Boat Show, in January, where the CSSA was recruiting members. It will be used by the CSSA's Channel sailing division for introductory cruises, training (from novices to skippers) and members' charters.

The British-built SIGMA 362, a high performance cruising yacht, has been equipped to the highest standards of safety and efficiency. It becomes the flagship of the member-funded CSSA fleet of three offshore yachts, and will be named "Sea Essay of Hamble."

David Matthews, Captain of the Channel

sailing division and a member of the DHSS, said at the boat show: "This superb new vessel represents another step forward for our division. The new Sea Essay will provide more capacity, a longer cruising range, and a better performance in greater comfort. I am sure she will encourage many more of those who have always wanted to try offshore sailing to contact us and have a go."

The CSSA is the sailing arm of the Civil Service Sports Council, and has over 1500 members drawn from the Civil Service and the wider public sector throughout the country.

Anyone interested in trying offshore sailing — entirely without obligation — should contact the Channel sailing division secretary, Brian Hennah, on 01 233 4369 (work), or 0990 20860 (home), OR your Departmental CSSA representative.

Planting for the big year

AS part of the International Year of the Forest, Aberfoyle Forest District, together with Stirling Conservation Volunteers, extended the broadleaf area around Cobleland caravan site, by Aberfoyle.

A total of 1000 mixed broadleaves were planted, of which 270 were put into tree shelters. Further work is planned, in the next planting season, to increase this area of broadleaves. Inspections indicate a good take by the trees planted.

A total of six guided walks took place, five in Achray and one in Strathyre sections of the forest, and were attended by a total of 42 members of the public. Five of the walks, were conducted by forester grades and one by an OND Sandwich year student.

Great interest was generated amongst those attending the walks, as highlighted by the many and varied questions asked of the guides.

During an open day, despite inclement weather, some 200-250 members of the public took the opportunity to board one of the 22 mini-bus tours operating from Aberfoyle and Strathyre.

The Aberfoyle tours consisted of separate routes dealing either with harvesting or with re-afforestation and land use. The Strathyre tour covered all aspects of forest operations.

The tours were enthusiastically received and praised for their content. Many requests were received to make this a regular feature.

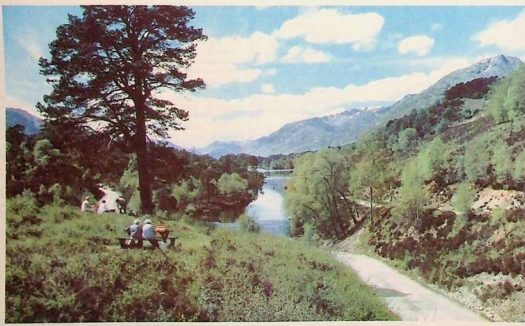
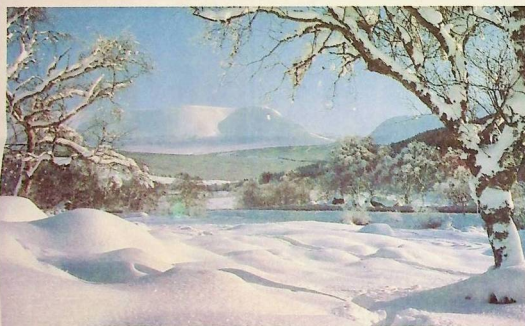
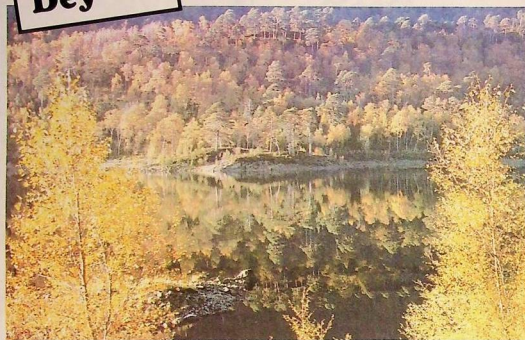
Your 'Slasher' News Team

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George Dey

● Below and down . . . Autumn colours of birch and Scots pine reflected on Loch Beinn a' Mheadoin, Glen Affric, Inverness-shire; Birch decorated with snow at Inchkeo, Ross-shire; A party picnicking amongst the contrasting birch and Scots pine at Glen Affric.



The eye-catchers!

'Forest in focus' — and our winners snap to it



THEY ALL CLICKED

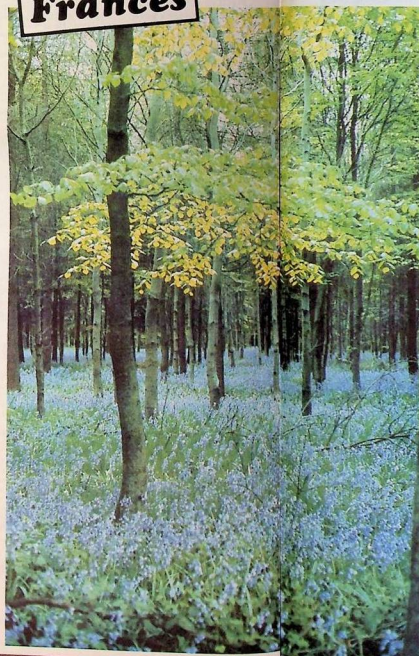
LEFT: The winners, from left — Rev John Bird, Sir David Montgomery, Forestry Commission chairman, Professor David Bellamy, Wyn Frances and Laurie Moore, of Pentax UK.

RIGHT: Members of the Pentax Club enjoying photo facilities at Westonbirt Arboretum.



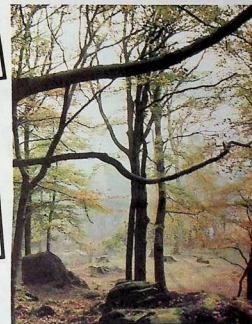
Wyn Frances

● A glorious feeling of country atmosphere as Wyn Frances captures the footpath to Little Goddessden, Ashridge Park, Herts.



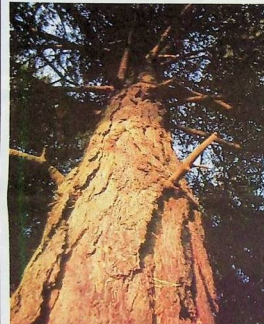
John Watkins

● Beauty in the eye of the beholder as seen by John Watkins at Irchester, Northants.



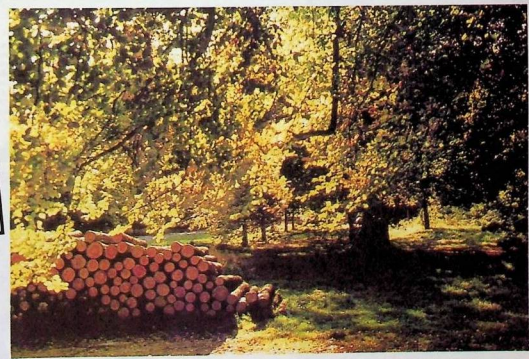
John Bird

● The Rev John Bird sees magic in the silhouette of trees at Lake Buttermere.



Wyn Frances

● Wish you were here . . . Yes, spring is just around the corner and Wyn Frances sees all the vibrant colours erupt in a landscape at Ashridge Park.



RETIREMENTS

Dai tees off for a life of ease

DAI MORRIS, District Forester Forest Management, retired in December after 38 years of service with the Commission. After serving five years in the Royal Air Force as a rear gunner of a Lancaster bomber, Dai joined the Commission at Ystwyth in 1947. He spent all his career in Wales serving at Betws-y-Coed, Hafren, Rheidol, Bechan and Carno, Brecon and Tywi. A farewell party to mark his retirement was held at the Black Lion, Lampeter. Mr Alistair Scott, Private Forestry and Environment Officer, presented Dai with a set of golf clubs on behalf of friends and colleagues in the Llandovery Forest District.



Two say their farewells to Wales



Phil Rowell (left) receives a gift from Tony Summers (Conservancy Civil Engineer, Wales).

A STRONG contingent of friends and colleagues met at the "Wagon and Horses," Llanidloes, on the occasion of Phil Rowell's retirement to present him with a number of gifts including a pocket tape recorder, crystal wine glasses and record token. Before joining the Commission he had worked for a number of private contractors, mainly in Southern England. He has been with the Commission for 19 years, eight of these at HQ, Basingstoke and the past 11 years at

Newtown where he was a Surveyor on Roads. A man of many interests and talents, Phil was a Northampton man and studied at the Liverpool School of Architecture until the war where, after a short spell in "Dad's Army," he joined the Fleet Air Arm where he served as a fighter pilot and Divisional Officer with 899 and 894 squadrons on HM Indefatigable, British Pacific Fleet, and later permanent RNVR service until 1952.



Pryderi Jones talks to a family visiting the centre at Maesgwm.

PRYDERI JONES retired in August after a long service at Coed-y-Brenin, North Wales. He joined the Commission at the age of 14 until he was called up into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1943 with whom he served in Normandy and Denmark and with the War Graves Commission until demob in early 1947. In July 1947 he returned to Coed-y-Brenin where he worked in the full range of forest operations including the small nursery

that was operative at the time. For the past 10 years of his service his wide knowledge of the forest and surrounding area was passed on to the many visitors and school children at the Forest's Visitor Centre at Maesgwm. A number of his colleagues gathered for a retirement farewell tea party at which he was presented with a shooting stick and field glasses in recognition of his long and devoted service to the Commission.

BRYN MORGAN has retired from Llandovery Roads after serving 29 years with the Commission as a civil engineering machine operator. A presentation party was held at the Sexton's Arms, Llanfawr, where he was presented with a barometer and cheque, and Mrs Morgan with a bouquet of flowers. The photo shows Bryn Morgan taking his gift from Mrs Moses, clerical officer in Llandovery. Also in the photo is Mrs Morgan and, on the right, Mr D. C. David, area civil engineer.



Ex-horsedriver

MR JOHN COOK, Forest Craftsman at Aberfoyle Forest District, mid-Scotland, retired at the New Year after 37 years service with the Commission. He started his working life on private estates and then went into the army at 18 seeing active service during the war. John first started in the Commission as a horsedriver and then worked on cable crane operations and finally working on forest management operations. He was presented with his Long Service Medal and colleagues and friends enjoyed a farewell celebration at Balleich Store.

RETIREMENTS

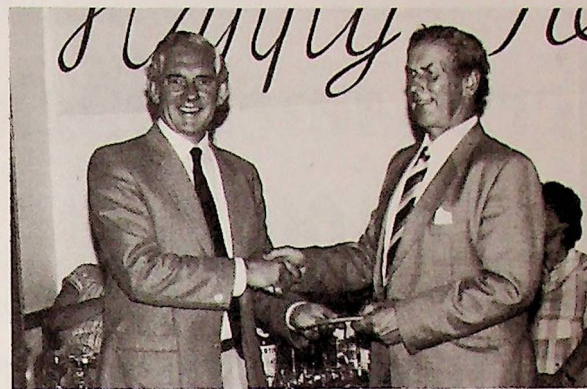
THEY NOTCHED UP 173 YEARS



MONICA HOPKIN, of Alice Holt, was given a cheery send-off at her retirement by her many friends and colleagues after 38 years of service in the typing pool, the past ten as Senior Superintendent. The Director General, Mr George Holmes, thanked Monica for her many years of loyal service and presented her with several gifts donated by her colleagues.



IDWAL ROBERTS (Newtown FD) retired recently after nearly 30 years with the Commission. At a gathering of his friends and colleagues at the Royal Oak Hotel, Pontrobert, he and his wife Phyllis were presented with a carriage clock by John Maisey, Forest District Manager Newtown on behalf of the FD staff. Head Forester Harry Hindle and Forester Brian Williams paid tribute to Idwal's long and conscientious service.



JIM BLYTH, a Clerical Officer in Dumfries, has retired after almost 40 years' service with the Forestry Commission. Jim, who started work at the Glasgow office in 1946 had periods of duty in Edinburgh, London and eventually returned to Dumfries for a second time in 1978 as an HEO. The occasion was marked by a splendid buffet in Conservancy Office attended by family, friends and colleagues. The Private Forestry & Environment Officer, Mr John Ogilvie, presented a cheque.



JAMES HATTON, Forest Craftsman at Mull Forest District, retired recently after 31 years of service, all of which was spent on the island. He received a pocket watch, suitably inscribed from his colleagues. On behalf of the Conservator, the Forest District Manager, Frank Sutherland, presented Jimmy with his long service certificate.



A SURPRISE reception awaited typist Jean Graham when she went to an evening out with husband Graham at Dunivard Hotel. At the interval she was asked up to the stage where she was presented with gifts to mark her retirement after 14 years at the Kilman office of Cowal Forest District. FDM Bob Selmes and CO Margaret Robinson made the presentation.



AT AN informal gathering of his friends at The Lodge, Weston Rhyn, Ted Jones (left) was presented with a clock/barometer in Welsh Slate by Stan Jones, on behalf of his colleagues, and an engraved tankard by Paul Barnfield on behalf of the staff at Chirk Depot. Ted started work at the old Goror forest and then Ceiriog and finally Ruthin Forest District and for 15 of his 19½ years was a driver with an excellent record.

OBITUARIES

Alan Connell

FORMER Conservator, who died in December, will be remembered by many in the forestry industry which he served for more than 50 years. A graduate of Oxford he joined FC in East Anglia in 1931 and became a Conservator in 1946. He retired in 1968 when he was Conservator South West England. He was closely involved in techniques of fire fighting methods and also helped develop the FC radio telephone link from Borgie to Bodmin.

Jardine Currie

WE are sad to record the death of Jardine Currie, the popular Superintendent of Works at East Roads, South Scotland. Jardine died after a period of illness which was most marked by the positive approach and courage shown by both him and his wife. Jardine, who was involved in many local activities and was a founder member of the Dumfries Office Curling Club, will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

Roy Roberts

A former Senior Executive Officer at headquarters, Roy died in August after a serious illness. He had retired in October 1983. Roy, who was well known in HQ and in Conservancies in his staff inspectorate role, had been responsible for the purchase and installation of the new Edinburgh furniture, fittings and office equipment in the new Edinburgh HQ. He was awarded the MBE in 1976. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

W. E. Stretch

THE death of Mr Stretch occurred recently. Mr Stretch had been employed by the Forestry Commission from July 1950 to June 1975, completing almost 25 years service. His career included all aspects of Forest Management work in Delamere Forest, before transferring to the Old Pale Nursery, where he spent 20 years, much of it as a leading ganger.

Jimmy Deacon and Pim Boyle

IT is with deep regret that we record the deaths in retirement of two Glentress stalwarts who between them contributed almost 100 years' service with the Forestry Commission.

D. Henderson

DUNCAN, retired ranger at Lochgoilhead, died in October at Oban after a long illness. He was 77. He brought to the Commission a lifetime of experience together with local goodwill for his services to agriculture as Cowal fox-hunter.

Cliff Ball

GANGER at Abbots Moss Nursery, Delamere, died in hospital, in November, aged 66, after a brief illness. He had retired in July 1984, after 19 years at Delamere.

G. Brownbill

DIED in October. He was a forest Craftsman at South Lakes until his retirement on medical grounds last March.

Farewell to friends

GUY GOUGH, Forest Craftsman at North York Moors Forest District, retired recently after 41 years of service. All were spent at Wykeham Forest where he has gained the friendship and respect of his many colleagues. Guy joined the Commission in 1942, two years later he was called up and joined the RAF. Eager to pursue his forestry career Guy returned to Wykeham forest in 1946.

DONALD McDUGALL has retired after 36 years service at the Old Drummond Hill Forest. An inscribed clock and long service certificate was presented to him at a meeting of colleagues at Dalerb.

PERCY TILBURY retired in December after 33 years service. He joined the Commission in 1952 after serving with the Royal Signals as a despatch rider in India and Burma. His duties included felling and extracting with both horse and tractor and he was a part-time Ranger.

MOC DAVIES, Forest Craftsman at Tywi Forest, retired after 25 years service all of which were served in the same forest of Llandovery Forest District. He was presented with a cheque with which as has since purchased a clock suitably inscribed.

IN SPITE of Don Hoskins' insistence that he wanted nothing much to mark his retirement, a select group of 170 people gathered at the Anchor, Tintern. It was a splendid party attended by friends, colleagues and members of the timber trade. Chief Forester Hoskins was well known in South Wales area having started his career in Tintern followed by a long spell in Crychan where he was largely responsible for developing the Crychan winch. He completed over 40 years service close to his place of birth in Gwent Forest District.

AFTER a sum total of 78 years at Drummond Hill Forest, colleagues of Alastair McDougall and Campbell Walker met at Tay Forest District Office, Dunkeld, to bid them a cheery farewell. Each received a long service certificate and enshrined carriage clock. Both will now have time to view the fruits of their labour as they will remain in Acharn and Fortingall which lie on opposite sides of Drummond Hill, now part of the new Tay Forest District.

SUGGESTION BOX

...and
craftsmen pick
up £100 for
a novel idea

A CENTRAL Committee award of £100 under the Staff Suggestion Scheme has been presented to Glendaruel Forest Craftsmen Ian Salisbury and Peter McLachlan.

Their 'C' ring for speeding up the operation of tensioning spring steel fencing had earlier won an award of £35 made by W(S) Committee.

Presenting the Central Committee award Forest District Manager Bob Selmes stressed the small size and simplicity of the device which makes the process of straining net easier, saves time by allowing longer strain pull and does not add a substantial amount of equipment to the fencer. It can also be used on barbed wire.

The Forestry Commission Scheme also provides for "Bonus Awards" twice a year. The names of those who received

awards for suggestions during the previous 6 months go into a draw for 2 prizes. The first prize is £100 and the second prize £50.

The names of those not winning a prize in the first draw that they are eligible for are added to the list of names for the next draw, which means that there are 2 chances of winning a bonus prize.

Remember, the staff suggestion scheme is open to all members of staff — if you have a suggestion for improving efficiency and reducing costs — send it to your local Secretary.

The prizewinners in the draw for January to June 1985 are: £100, Number 7 M(S) — Amendment to form B10; £50 — Number 16 Wales — Calculation of oncost.

The next draw will be for the period July to December 1985.



Honour for John

IN the New Year's Honours List, Mr John Gwynn, who recently retired from the post of Chief Land Agent, was awarded the CBE.

Mr Gwynn, who is 59, joined the Commission in 1952 as a District Estate Officer in West Scotland. After a spell in North England he moved to Basingstoke in 1966 and to Edinburgh HQ in 1974 becoming Chief Land Agent in 1980.

In the mid 1970's he was in charge of forest cabin development and since 1981 was involved in the FC sales programme.

BILL KING, who works as the harvesting ganger at Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas Forest District, has so far this year collected two accolades for his efforts in recent forestry examinations.

Earlier this year Bill collected the "Duke of Buccleuch Memorial Trophy," the "Silver Slasher" for his outstanding work in Part II of the SCOTEC certificate in forestry block release. To cap this, in November he was awarded the best student prize, a £14 book token, for his results in SCOTEC Certificate of Forestry, Part III Block release.



ON THE MOVE IN THE EAST

AFTER a long association with the Government buildings in Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, the East England Conservancy Office has now moved to its own building in Tenison Road, very close to the railway station. In fact the building, Great Eastern House, takes its name from its original purpose which was British Rail's Area Office for the old Great Eastern Region which covered most of East Anglia.

The Lord Manners, Official Verderer of the New Forest, unveiled a plaque made from Suffolk Oak and planted a New Forest Oak in the grounds at the official opening ceremony.

In inviting Lord Manners to open the building, Derek Rutherford drew attention to the fact that the new enlarged East England Conservancy spans an area from Humberside to Sussex and Oxfordshire to Suffolk. In all it now covers some 20 counties not to mention the Peak Park, South Humberside and the Greater London Council area.

Lord Manners thanked Mr Rutherford for his introduction and, in declaring the building open, mentioned that in addition to the 20 counties covered by the new Conservancy, there were over 200 District Council areas. As well as being the biggest, in total area terms, of the Forestry Commission Conservancies, the new East England Conservancy has the biggest work programme (except new planting), the highest production and the highest receipts. The work of the Commission as Forest Authority (e.g. administration of Private Woodland Grant Schemes and Plant Health Regulations) is particularly heavy in this large lowland area.

Kielder nests put the accent on birds

KIELDER Forest is at the centre of a major conservation project undertaken by the Forestry Commission to conserve the forest's bird population.

One thousand artificial nests will be sited at appropriate locations throughout the forest. In planning the project the Commission has received advice and help from members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust as well as from its own wildlife research staff and rangers.

To cater for the wide range of bird species living amongst the plantations, moorland, watercourses and grazings within the forest, a great variety of artificial nests are required. These range from traditional small wooden boxes for the tits through extensive moss covered rafts for water birds to even artificial crows' nests for kestrels and merlin!

All boxes will be manufactured by a local joiner. Most will be sited by the Kielder ranger force. However there has been enthusiastic support from schools in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. As a result during December-February, 250 boxes will be assembled from kits by Northumbrian school children and brought to Kielder to be sited carefully in the forest. It is hoped that many schools will retain a long-term interest and involvement in the scheme helping our rangers in the monitoring.

Although this is a major project — it is not in isolation. Kielder has a long-established and growing tradition in conservation work particularly with birds.

Goldeneyes scheme for Highlands

Mr Tony Hinde, Conservation Forester with the North Scotland Conservancy has been involved recently with a scheme to encourage the unique Scandinavian duck, the goldeneye, to nest in the Highlands.

The Forestry Commission supplied the wood and cut the nesting boxes into kit form ready for youngsters at Raddery School at Fortrose to assemble. At the moment there are 60 pairs of goldeneye nesting in the Highlands most of them in boxes put up by the RSPB.

A.P.F. status

THE Association of Professional Foresters has changed certain rules of the Association and as a result, Forestry Commission employee members will now have full instead of only associate membership status and thus will have full voting rights.

Further information from the APF Secretary, Brokerswood House, Brokerswood, Westbury, Wiltshire. Tel. (0373) 822238.