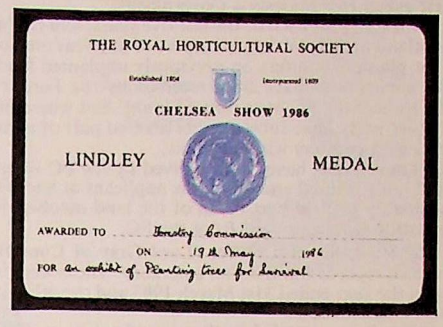
SLASHER

Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

ISSUE No. 325 SUMMER 1986

25,000 see our medal exhibition


THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established 1804 Incorporated 1809

CHELSEA SHOW 1986

LINDLEY MEDAL

AWARDED TO Forestry Commission

ON 19th May 1986

FOR an exhibit of Planting trees for survival

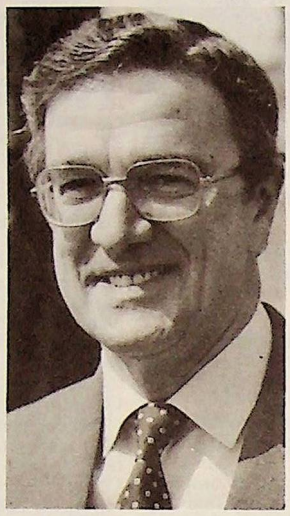
FULL marks to the Forestry Commission for their exhibit, "Tree Planting for Survival," at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

The exhibit, which attracted more than 25,000 visitors to the stand, won an RHS Lindley medal for the second year in succession.

Mr Brian Hibberd, Research Communications Officer, tells "Slasher" that it is proposed that Research Division should exhibit at next year's show with the subject being something on the lines of "Trees for Wildlife" in response to the growing public interest in trees and wildlife conservation.

He also suggests that the use of indigenous broad-leaved tree species, together with the value of introduced evergreens for winter shelter, could usefully be demonstrated and the Division's work on improving woodlands as habitats for butterflies, bats and birds could probably also be featured.

Blueprint on way forward for Scots forestry


GEORGE HOLMES

BALANCED, positive and forward-looking — that is how the chairman of the Forestry Commission, Sir David Montgomery, described a policy document — "Forestry in Scotland" — published by the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

The document, he added, accepted the need for more forestry in Scotland and concentrated on the way in which forestry could best contribute to a healthy and attractive countryside, not only for those who visited the countryside but, just as important for those who lived and worked there.

On the initiatives required to make forestry more environmentally acceptable, the document makes these points:

- The introduction of a system of planting licences to be administered by the Commission, analogous to the existing arrangements for felling licences.
- The need for afforestation plans to include all types of conservation interest and an indication of how management will seek to protect and enhance these values.
- An increasing role for local authorities in giving advice to the Forestry Commission on the preparation of indicative strategies for forestry in their areas.
- Effective consultation between the Commission and local authorities who should seek to ensure that all interests receive adequate consideration, through wider consultation where necessary, before approval to plant is given.

CONSERVATION

The document also considered that the much-criticised system of tax relief for forestry should be made conditional upon good conservation practice. This would create an incentive for "aesthetically and ecologically sound forestry" at the same time encouraging continued investment.

Sir David, speaking in Perth on July 10 at the launch of the document, said he welcomed this attitude because it opened the way to achieving a great deal together.

"It is my view," he said, "that any policies and practices for land use have to be socially, economically or financially acceptable if they are to be sustainable in the long run. In doing so, they have to have the support not only of the general public with their various interests, but also of the people who have to manage the land."

Co-operation is the target says Holmes

A BETTER understanding between foresters and conservationists and between foresters and farmers were the twin themes of a speech made by George Holmes, Director General of the Commission, at the Royal Agricultural Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Giving the address at the presentation of forestry awards, Mr Holmes said: "As part of the wide debate on the future of our countryside, forestry has been the subject of unprecedented scrutiny — in Parliament, in public, through the media, and numerous reviews and reports; and what we have perhaps come to regard as self-evident truths have had to be explained and justified. We are called on again and again — and often in no uncertain terms — to defend our policies and practices, both in economic and land use terms.

"As an example of the better understanding that now exists between ourselves and the conservation agencies, I signed, jointly with the Director General of NCC, a declaration of intent about the management of SSSIs on Commission land (page 5).

Mr Holmes pointed to some of the initiatives FC has undertaken:—

- We have updated our published policy on nature conservation.
- We have carried out a major consultation exercise, lasting some two years, on broadleaves, which resulted in last year's Government statement on broadleaved policy, and in the introduction on 1 October of our Broadleaved Woodland Grant Scheme — and I should add that, despite the misgivings of some people, this has got off to a most encouraging start with more than 1800 applications to date, very many of them with farmers.
- We now insist that a proportion of broadleaves be included in upland planting.
- There is an increased level of consultation, at both local and national level, between ourselves and the conservation agencies.
- Many specific conservation projects have been undertaken in our forests.
- And, not least, the needs of conservation have come to be accepted as part of good forestry practice. In this connection I particularly welcome the publication by TGUK of their booklet, "The Forestry and Woodland Code" which provides guidelines for the private forester.

TURN TO PAGE 2



A very special number plate — GUESS WHO

TURN TO PAGE 3

A special note for your diary

AS MANY of you will know, the Director General, Mr George Holmes, is to retire in November this year. A number of functions are proposed to mark the occasion, including:

- **A dinner which will be arranged by Director Research at an hotel near Alice Holt on the evening of Thursday, October 16, to which mainly both past and present R&D staff will be invited.**
- **A buffet with staff in Headquarters at lunchtime on Friday, November 7.**
- **A dinner at the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh, on the evening of Friday, November 7, with present and former Commission staff and their partners, as well as others associated in various ways with the DG and forestry.**

This note is by way of advance information so that dates and times may be noted. More details in due course.

Our regular feature on a selection of Parliamentary questions on forestry matters in the Commons and Lords since the last edition.

LORDS — MAY 8:

Lord Melchett asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether they will state, for each of the last five years, and for (a) England, (b) Scotland and (c) Wales, in respect of applications for forestry grant for planting conifers on previously unplanted land:

(i) how many applications have been received by the Forestry Commission (FC) where the FC have refused grant, and where the applicant or another party have subsequently planted part of all of the land involved with conifers without grant;

(ii) how many applications have been received by the FC where grant had been initially refused and where the applicant or another party has subsequently planted part or all of the land involved in the earlier application with grant-aid from the FC.

The Minister of State, Scottish Office (Lord Gray of Contin): Two cases have been recorded in the first catergory. These were in Scotland — one in the year ended 31st March 1983 and the other in the year ended 31st March 1986.

Only one case has been recorded in the second category. This was in Scotland in the year ended 31st March 1984.

In addition, there was a case in Scotland in the year ended 31st March 1985 in which an application for grant was made but the applicant planted part of the land before a decision was reached.

Lord Melchett: asked Her Majesty's government:

How many instances they are aware of where, in each of the last five years, and for (a) England, (b) Scotland and (c) Wales, land previously unplanted with trees has been planted with conifers in blocks of 10 hectares or more, without any application for grant-aid in respect of that planting being made to the Forestry Commission.

Lord Gray of Contin: The Forestry Commission is aware of only two such cases. These were in Wales during the year ended 31st March 1986 and involved the planting of approximately 20 hectares in one case and between 10 and 20 hectares in the other.

• • •

LORDS — MAY 20:

Lord Melchett asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many letters, postcards or other communications they or the Forestry Commission have received in the last two years from people who live in or near the New Forest, requesting that the Forestry Commission refuse to renew licences that allow the hunting of deer with dogs in the New Forest.

The Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Lord Belstead): Some 65 letters and 2,800 pre-printed post-cards have been received during this period calling for deer hunting to be banned in the New Forest. In addition, four petitions carrying a total of some 5,000 signatures were received.

• • •

COMMONS — MAY 22:

Mr Ottaway asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how much money the Government have spent, whether through the Countryside Commission or otherwise, on supporting farming and wildlife advisory groups in each of the years 1984 and 1985; and how the 1986 figures are expected to compare in real terms with the 1985 figures in actual and percentage terms.

Mr Waldegrave: The total amounts paid by, or likely to be available from, the Countryside Commissions (for Scotland and for England and Wales), the Forestry Commission, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Welsh Office are set out below. These figures include grant aid for the employment of conservation advisers, most of whom are employed directly by farming and wildlife advisory groups but some by county councils in pursuit of the same objectives.

	1983-84	*Total*	*20,000*
Financial	*1984-85*	*payments*	*92,000*
year	*1985-86*	*provision*	*c. 160,000*
	1986-87	*£*	*c. 250,000*

The provision for 1985-86 is equivalent to £166,00 in 1986-87 terms, representing a real increase of £84,000 or 51 per cent in 1986-87.

• • •

LORDS — MAY 20:

Lord Melchett asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether, in respect of the forestry planting in the year ended 31st March 1985 in which an application for grant was made but the applicant planted part of the land before a decision on the application was reached, they will state (a) the total area of land involved; (b) the location of the area planted; (c) the name of the applicant; (d) what decision on the application was eventually reached; and (e) whether any grant for planting on this land has been agreed or paid.

The Minister of State, Scottish Office (Lord Gray of Contin): The information is as follows: Some 190 hectares of land were planted on Crichness Farm in the Lammermuir Hills, Borders Region. The application for grant was deemed to have been withdrawn when the planting took place, and no grant has been agreed or paid in respect of this planting. The applicants were Mr C. MacDonald Hall and Mr J. C. Smith.

• • •

COMMONS — JUNE 23:

Mr Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make a statement of the effectiveness of the various broadleaved assistance schemes in reversing the decline of deciduous woodlands.

Mr John MacKay: The Forestry Commission introduced a broadleaved woodland grant scheme on 1 October 1985 which offers significantly higher rates of grants for the use of broad-leaved species on their own. This scheme has had an encouraging start, with over 1800 applications being received in the first six months covering nearly 11,400 hectares of existing broadleaved woodland and land proposed for planting with broadleaves.

In the year ended 31 March 1986, the Forestry Commission grant-aided some 850 hectares of new broadleaved planting under its various schemes, including 46 hectares under the broadleaved woodland grant scheme: this represented a total increase in new broadleaved planting of some 42 per cent over the previous year. This figure is expected to be significantly higher in succeeding years as planting under the broadleaved woodland grant scheme gets into its stride.

Mr Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he will take steps to require private forestry companies to include recreational provision in any large scale planting scheme which benefits from forestry planting grants.

Mr MacKay: Applicants for grant under the Forestry Commission's forestry grant scheme and broadleaved woodland grant scheme are already required to accept as an objective that they should provide such opportunities for recreation, including provision of public access, as may be appropriate. Applicants are also required to accept as a specific condition of these schemes that they will enter into discussions, if requested by the local authority, with a view where appropriate to negotiating an agreement for public access; this condition does not, however, bind the applicant to entering into any such agreement.

• • •

LORDS — JUNE 24:

Lord Melchett asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many deer, foxes and hares are killed respectively by the packs of buckhounds, beagles and foxhounds that operate under licences issued by the Forestry Commission in the New Forest during the 1985-86 hunting season.

Lord Belstead: Five deer, fifty-nine foxes and eight hares were killed under licence during the 1985-86 hunting season.

• • •

LORDS — JULY 1:

Lord Melchett asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the National Audit Office have recently had carried out a study of the economics of forestry and, if so, whether they will place a copy of this report in the Library.

Lord Gray of Contin: Her Majesty's Government has no responsibility for the choice or conduct of studies undertaken by the National Audit Office, which are entirely matters for the Comptroller and Auditor General.

I understand from the Comptroller and Auditor General that an examination of the economics of forestry is currently being under-taken by the National Audit Office, but it will be for the Comptroller and Auditor General to decide when and how to report the conclusions to Parliament.

Conservancy faces a squirrel onslaught

DOWN in the forest, deer present problems, but they pale compared with the damage done by the grey squirrel.

Grey squirrels cause massive problems, according to RHA (Jock) Cockburn, Head Ranger and Wildlife Adviser in the Commission's West England Conservancy who was recently awarded the Balfour-Browne Deer Trophy for his work on deer management.

The West of England conservancy has five of the six species of deer found in Britain, but Mr Cockburn says that though they have problems with deer they had "massive problems" with grey squirrels because they caused so much damage to timber and particularly to broadleaved trees.

"Really," he said, "It's a waste of time planting broadleaved trees unless you control grey squirrels and from late Spring through to the end of July, over three-quarters of a Ranger's time is involved in controlling grey squirrels."

DESTRUCTION

On deer culls, Mr Cockburn said the numbers had to be controlled to maintain a population at a level where they did not do undue damage to the forest structure, or much damage to neighbouring crops.

Culling was not as "barbaric" as some people might suggest. It stopped the deer "eating themselves out of house and home" (which they would do), destroying the forest in the process, or dying from disease which would result with very high deer populations.

Mr Cockburn began work with the Commission as a stalker in Powerstock Forest on the Somerset / Dorst border in April 1968, a day after retiring from the army as a Lieut-Col in 17/21st Lancers.

Duke opens path for the disabled

The Duke of Buccleugh, himself disabled, officially opened a forest walk for the disabled at Salcey Forest.

During reconstruction of forest walks in Salcey Forest, near Northampton, one of the walks was surfaced for use by wheelchairs and the disabled.

The walk gives users a choice of a half mile or a full mile trail and special seats and leaning rails, provided by the Commission, were made by Salcey craftsmen.



Holmes' speech

FROM PAGE 1

"The changes that are coming in agriculture, with the CAP being adjusted to deal with surpluses in many agricultural products, means that forestry will almost certainly have a new, enhanced role to play as an alternative crop. This means that not only will there be more opportunities for forestry to develop, but the barriers against forestry taking place on the better land will at least be lowered. This will broaden the whole base and diversity of forestry, and with proper training foresters will be well-placed to take advantage of this. Best of all, agriculture and forestry will be seen, not as competing, but as complementary industries.

"I fully recognise the important complimentary role that farm forestry can play to the more traditional types of forestry, and I hope that agreement will be reached on ways of encouraging more farmers to take up forestry.

"Farm forestry is, of course, taking place now. More and more farmers are recognising the benefit of planting trees, and the psychological and practical barriers between farming and forestry are coming down.

"For our part, we are doing more than ever before — much more — in the way of publicity and advice to farmers to encourage them into forestry, but I think we all recognise that if there is to be a major break-through, if we are to persuade most farmers to devote part of the land to forestry, then a new, imaginative approach will be called for."

Gwyn Francis is named next Director General



Bright future for wood-using industries.

By "SLASHER" REPORTER

MR GWYN FRANCIS is to be the next Director General of the Forestry Commission. He takes up his post on November 10, following the retirement of Mr George Holmes.

Mr Francis (55), who was appointed a full-time Forestry Commissioner in 1983, is currently Commissioner (Operations) responsible for the Commission's activities in engineering, estate management, forest management, and harvesting and marketing.

On his appointment he said:

"The great strength of the Forestry Commission lies in the wide range of professional skills, experience and dedication of the people who work for it, not only in its primary task of growing trees to provide the wood to supply industries producing sawn timber, paper and other wood products, but equally important its stewardship of the nation's forests to provide for the conservation of wildlife and scenic beauty and the creation of opportunities for the public to enjoy their woodland as a place for peaceful recreation.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

"We also have a valuable asset in the Commission with its almost unique combination of scientific and technical ability in landscape design, conservation and research together with a wide practical experience of managing land and forests. This is particularly important at this time when there is so much debate on the place of woodlands and trees in the countryside. We have a vital role to play in the management of our forests so that they are in harmony with the environment.

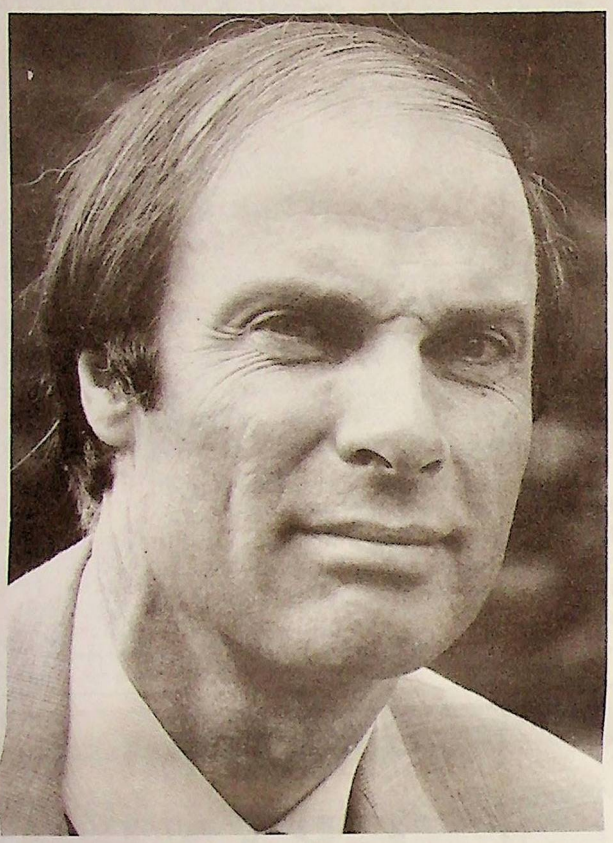
"Forestry in this country embraces a wide spectrum of ownership. The private sector has a major role to play in creating areas of new forest in Britain, which still has one of the lowest proportions of woodland of any country in Europe. The opportunities for adding to the forest area and for developing farm forestry present an exciting challenge and the prospects of a greater diversity of rural land use.

"This will need co-operation and understanding between all those interested in the countryside to arrive at a balance, so often exemplified by landowners with long established forest estates. The early success of the new broadleaved policy is an example of this.

NEW INVESTMENT

"The future is very bright for the wood-using industries of Britain. One of the great achievements over the past five years has been the scale of new investment in sawmilling, in paper-making and the manufacture of a variety of other wood products using wood grown in this country with benefit to employment and import savings. There seems no doubt that as wood production continues to increase the employment prospects in the forests themselves and in downsteam industries are assured for the long term."

Mr Francis was educated at Llanelli Grammar School, and obtained a BSc in Forestry and an Honours degree in Botany at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. He joined the Forestry Commission in 1954 and served in a variety of posts in Wales where for some time he was Principal of the Commission's Forester Training School at Gwydyr before taking an MSc degree at the University of Toronto in 1964. He returned to North Wales in 1965 where he was in charge of the Ruthin District and later Assistant Conservator responsible for harvesting and marketing in South Wales. He transferred to Headquarters in 1973.



The challenge of taking over forest operations

MR DAVID FOOT has been appointed as a Forestry Commissioner in succession to Mr Gwyn Francis.

Mr Foot (47) has been Director of the Commission's Harvesting and Marketing Division since 1985. He takes up his new appointment on November 10.

Replacing Mr Foot will be Mr Steven Quigley (47), who is presently Senior Principal in the Harvesting and Marketing Division.

Mr Foot said, "It is a great challenge to be taking over forest operations at a time of so much change. People sometimes forget that forest management is a long-term business and that we're creating forests now to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

"We've had a real boost from the timber industries this year with record sales. Growth prospects are excellent with wood production set to rise 70 per cent by the turn of the century. We've got a lot to do bringing that volume on stream and making a success of re-investment."

ON SECONDMENT

Mr Foot was educated at John Lyon's School, Harrow and took a BSc Honours degree in Forestry at Edinburgh University. He is a member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

He joined the Forestry Commission in Ipswich and after short spells at Princes Risborough and Northampton, spent five years on secondment to the Department of Forestry and Game in Malawi. After periods in Wales and East Scotland, he was promoted to Conservator in South Scotland, based in Dumfries, before taking up his present post.

Mr Quigley was educated at St Columbs College, Londonderry. He joined the Government Service in 1956 and after various posts in the Admiralty and the Department of the Environment he joined the Forestry Commission in 1974. He is a former Chairman of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (FC Branch) and was a Whitley Council representative from 1964 to 1983.

Commissioners appointed by the Queen

THE QUEEN has approved the appointment of Mr Charles Woosnam as part-time Forestry Commissioner and the re-appointment of Captain W. F. E. (Derick) Forbes and Mr James Forbes as part-time Forestry Commissioners.

Mr Woosnam (60) is a woodland owner and farmer in Powys, Wales. As a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and partner in Woosnam and Tyler Land Agents, he is involved mainly in the management of agricultural and forestry properties in mid/west Wales.

Well known in agricultural and forestry circles, he is a member of the Valuation Panel of Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, a member of the Panel of Agricultural Arbiters for Wales, Deputy Chairman of Timber Growers UK and a member of the Forestry Commission's Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee and the Regional Advisory Committee for Wales.

Mr Woosnam is also a former Chairman of Builth Rural District Council and former High Sheriff of the County of Powys. He takes up his appointment on October 18 for an initial term of four years.

Captain Forbes, a Forestry Commissioner since 1982, has been re-appointed to serve another two years from October. A Scottish woodland owner and farmer he is Chairman of the Forestry Commission's National Committee for Scotland and a member of Timber Growers UK. He is Chairman of the Central Scotland Countryside Trust and a member of the Scottish Landowners Federation.

Mr Forbes whose original appointment in 1982 was to bring a business and commercial background to the Board of Commissioners has been re-appointed for a further two years from November 1. He is a non-executive Director of Steetly Plc and other companies and was formerly Vice Chairman of Tate & Angela.

Other appointments previously held by Mr Forbes include Chairman of Tate & Lyle Group Pension Fund, Group Finance Director of Cadbury Schweppes and Treasurer of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

● Lord Gibson-Watt retires on October 17 after 10 years as a part-time Forestry Commissioner. Lord Gibson-Watt, a farmer and woodland owner at Llandrindod Wells, Powys, was Conservative MP for Hereford from 1956-1974, a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury (1959-61), and Minister of State at the Welsh Office from 1970 until 1974. He is a former President of the Welsh Agricultural Society.

Gatehouse of Fleet Centre



THE Commission has recently opened its refurbished Centre at Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas District.

The Centre has been redesigned around the theme of broadleaved woodlands, predominantly oakwood.

A large number of other species are seen on the site. An all-weather forest walk has been established in conjunction with an interpretative leaflet.

The photograph shows Mr A. Rowan performing the opening ceremony.

Ice-man cometh — and his name is Snowdon

ICE STATION — no, not Zebra but Deadwater at Bellingham, is appropriately named when winter sets in! And this year, it's hardly been away!

Mr. P. Cullum, manager of Bellingham Workshops, has sent "Slasher" this account of the endeavour by one of his staff — Mr Michael Snowdon — to get on with the job in almost impossible weather conditions.

Mr Cullum writes:

"Mr Snowdon — mobile mechanic from Bellingham workshop — religiously re-fuelled the generator at Deadwater Radio Station every three days for the ten-week period of very near Arctic conditions over the winter.

"Deadwater is an emergency generator which takes over when the main electric becomes ineffective. Owing to the very severe weather conditions, the overhead mains cables were blown down and the electricity board were unable to carry out repairs until the weather subsided. The radio station serves the Forestry Commission, police and ambulance networks, hence the priority given to it."

"The installation is about three miles from the public road. A tracked vehicle was able to get within about one and three quarter miles but no further because of the massive build-up of snow — as much as 20-feet drifts.

"Therefore the only way up was to walk which is what Michael did every three days carrying a bag of tools on his back.

"The engine is fed by a secondary tank with three days fuel supply (for safety reasons) backed up by a 1000-gallon tank *which has to be opened manually to refill the secondary tank. The workshop is at present fitting an automatic electric fill up system to alleviate the problem in the coming and future winters.*"

Mr Cullum also praises everyone of the workshop staff who gave their assistance at the worst times. Very well done.

IT'S JAWS!



DO OUR EYES deceive us or could it be a giant crocodile here in the upper reaches of Savernake Forest. Wildlife abounds we know but if there are many more like this about there will be no alternative but to issue bazookas to the Wildlife Rangers. In fact, it is one of Savernake's ancient Beech trees, which at about 230 plus years of age are gradually falling into decline. About 100 or so have to be felled every year for safety reasons, each one yielding about 13 cubic metres of timber and firewood. Jim McIntyre took the picture.

Commission welcomes report

IN its major report "Forestry: Britain's Britain's Growing Resource," the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) concludes: "Further expansion of the British forestry industry is in the national interest and should be encouraged, subject to constraints arising from meeting the reasonable needs of other land users."

The Commission has welcomed the report "as an important contribution to the current debate on the role of forestry in the British countryside and should prove to be of interest to all concerned with rural interests.

Visitor trails put accent on conservation

A CONSERVATION trail through an area of Special Scientific interest in Salcey Forest near Northampton, was opened by Roger Tabor, Resident Naturalist with BBC TV East.

The new trail winds through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) past oaks up to 140 years old, by a stream, ancient thorn hedges, and old gravel workings and long grassy forest rides.

Salcey Forest is one of the largest remaining areas of the ancient Royal Hunting Forests in the Midlands and has been managed since 1923 by the Forestry Commission. It covers some 1250 acres and contains old (1847) oak areas together with younger coniferous areas planted mainly in the 1950s and 1960s.

And a new interpretative forest trail, which explains the geology of the Highland Boundary Fault and its influence on the history of Central Scotland, has been opened in Achray Forest, Aberfoyle.

Unveiling a descriptive board at the beginning of the trail at the Forestry Commission's David Marshall Lodge, Lieutenant Colonel John Stirling, Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk, said: "I believe the Forestry Commission, in its early days, was a little fearful of welcoming the general public onto its properties, but they have given a lead in the past years which has put them second to none in this field.

"They have welcomed people into their woods, explaining to them what is second nature to us — the do's and don'ts of living in the countryside.

"The Highland Boundary Trail is just one more example of the many footpaths, tracks, picnic areas and facilities for fishing, canoeing and bathing that are being provided here in this Conservancy and elsewhere."

The trail was opened during a visit to the forest by the Board of Forestry Commission Commissioners.

Union in farm forestry talks

AT A meeting in Edinburgh between the Scottish NFU and senior representatives of the Forestry Commission, union representatives confirmed their strong resistance to privatisation.

In a statement after the meeting, Union Vice-President, John Goodfellow, said, "This is the unanimous and emphatic opinion of our legal and commercial committee. The Commission must continue, as a public organisation, to fulfil its central, essential role in the development of forestry in this country.

"And as we explained to the Commission, that must from now onwards include greater attention to and concentration on farm forestry.

"As revision of the CAP continues, as price pressure and other restraints on established forms of agricultural production continue to build up, the forestry option must be made more available and attractive to farmers.

"To achieve this, there are three principal requirements. Establishment grants must be reviewed and increased; provision must be made to produce an income from the trees during the growing period; and farmers must have a secure stake in part at least of the final maturity value. Additionally, tenant farmers must have full access to all farm forestry provisions. We have in mind specific ideas on how these objectives could be met.

"It is clear that Government, both nationally and at EEC level, recognise the potential importance of forestry as an alternative use for land in the years ahead, and there appears to be an increasing willingness to consider measures to encourage farmers to move in this direction.

£45,000 GRANT FUNDS PROJECT

A £45,000 grant from the Forestry Commission is to fund a new research project of the ecology of broadleaved woodlands for pheasants under the supervision of Dr David Hill of the Game Conservancy.

Increasing awareness of the conservation importance of broadleaved woodlands in Britain led to the inception of the Forestry Commission's "Broadleaved Woodlands Grant Scheme" in October 1985. Pheasants represent a vital incentive to the planting and management of broadleaved woodlands which the Scheme helps to promote. However, the ecology of pheasants in relation to different woodland types remains poorly understood. This new project, which is integrated into The Game Conservancy's existing research work on pheasants, aims to fill these gaps in knowledge.

The new project has three aims:

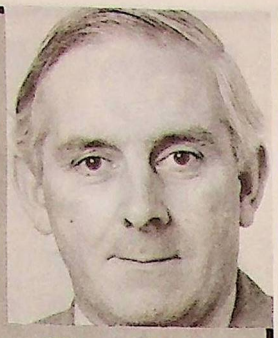
- **To establish the habitat requirement of pheasants, using intensive techniques such as radio telemetry.**
- **To examine the effects of pheasant management on other species of wildlife, especially birds and butterflies.**
- **To determine the economic implications of pheasant management in relation to longer term income from timber production.**

The project, which will run for three years, will employ one doctoral research assistant, and three temporary seasonal research assistants. This study will be an important contribution to the future conservation of large areas of British woodlands. Anyone wishing to know further details about the project, and how they can support it, should contact:

Dr D. A. Hill (Research Department), or Colin McKelvie (Head of Information), The Game Conservancy, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF. Tel. no. 0425 52381.

TIMBER TOPICS

JOHN OAKLEY



SAWLOGS FOR THE FUTURE

IN COMMERCIAL terms, the production of good quality sawlogs is the aim of all foresters who manage softwood plantations. Sawlogs are our "bread and butter" product and find a ready market in the domestic sawmilling industry through our regular programme of auction sales and tenders.

The latest Sawmill Survey, for 1985, shows that there are over 400 sawmills in Britain. These vary in size from the small estate or family sawmill with an input of less than 5000 cubic metres per annum to the larger sawmills many of which have an input in excess of 25,000 cubic metres. The small sawmills account for 70 per cent of the total number but only 25 per cent of the sawlog consumption. The largest, most modern sawmills, amount to only 4 per cent by number but account for 30% of the volume of sawlogs consumed.

The new sawmills in Britain are generally Scandinavian in origin and are designed for a high throughput of sawlogs with top diameters in the range, 18-35 cms underbark. High speed throughput is achieved by sorting logs by length and diameter, prior to sawing, so that batches of logs can be sawn without the need to adjust the equipment for each individual log.

Modern sawmills work best when sawing straight sawlogs. This means that considerable care must be taken when cross-cutting trees in the orest to ensure that whenever possible bends and bow are eliminated. This is why it is so important to liaise with the sawmiller before cross-cutting. It helps to ensure that best use is made of the timber, taking account both of the characteristics of the trees to be felled and the current requirements of the market.

SOFTWOOD

The ultimate customer buying sawn softwood from a sawmill usually buys "redwood," i.e. pines, or "whitewood," i.e. spruces, and some sawmills specialise in one or the other. It therefore pays to keep these two groups separate when marketing sawlogs. There are of course special uses for larch, douglas fir and other species but in the future the bulk of sawlogs coming from our forests will be either spruce of pine.

The recent Sawmill Survey also shows that sawn softwood production rose to 1.4 million cubic metres in 1985, representing 18 per cent of the total sawn softwood consumed in Great Britain. This means that British sawmillers have doubled their share of the market over the last 10 years or so and now have a greater market share than all other countries except Sweden. Sweden has been the largest supplier to the British market for many years and other major importers are the USSR, Finland, Canada and Portugal.

The production of softwood sawlogs in Britain will double by the turn of this century. However the overall consumption of sawn softwood is only expected to increase slightly over the same period. This means that British softwood will have to displace the imported equivalent if we, as foresters, are to have a market for our main product.

The traditional markets such as mining timber, timber for pallets and packaging and fencing and agricultural use, are not large enough to consume the additional volume of sawn wood and the real opportunity for expansion is in the construction sector which represents around 70 per cent of the whole market. So far the penetration of British sawn wood into this sector is only around 5 per cent.

British timber is unlikely to compete significantly with quality joinery grades but, well sawn and presented, it already competes successfully with the bulk of imported whitewood and redwood in the general construction grades.

OBE for Roger Lines

CONGRATULATIONS to Roger Lines, Principal Scientific Office, NRS, who received the OBE in the Birthday Honours.

Roger, who is 59, has been with the Commission for 32 years. After a brief spell as a forest worker in 1943 prior to Army service he studied at University College of North Wales graduating BSc in 1951 and taking first class honours in botany in 1952.

He joined as a District Officer in 1953 and showed a special flair for research work. In 1968 he was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to undertake a six-month study tour in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. He became a PSO in 1971.

Other awards were: CBE to Col. D. A. Campbell, former chairman of Forestry Safety Council; CBE to I. Prestt, Director, RSPB; OBE Prof. P. F. Wareing, chairman of FC's Advisory Committee of Forest Research.

CABERS FOR THE GAMES

THE Commission provided the props for a spectacular Highland "fling" at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh, during the Commonwealth Games . . . logs for the weight-lifters and the wood for the caber tossers from the forest at Tentsmuir in Fife.

The trees — of Corsican pine — were felled and peeled over two months ago to give them plenty of time to season.

Apart from caber-tossing in the special events the cabers also featured in some items rarely seen at Highland gatherings. One was the "Fergus" or "Farmers' Walk," aimed at finding out how far and how long the contestant can carry cabers. The name for the Walk originates from the old days when farmers had to carry their heavy milk churns from the cowshed to the pick-up point for the delivery van.

Another event involved six cabers being tossed simultaneously so that when they fell they formed the figure "13" — the number of Commonwealth Games that have taken place so far.

The Commission made a gift of the logs for use at future Highland Games in Scotland.

MEET OUR SUPER SCOT

John Dell, ALA N(S), was a recent contestant in the BBC TV Quiz Super Scot. He sailed through the first round demonstrating an excellent all-round knowledge of Scotland, particularly of those obscure and seldom mentioned places and names.

All was well in the second round until the picture of Flora MacDonald's statue was to be unveiled and named. Pressure and familiarity took its toll, he failed to identify the lady whom he passes daily in front of Inverness Castle. Hard luck, John — but we are all very proud of you just the same.

Pact signed on sites of interest

THE Forestry Commission has reached agreement on a "declaration of intent" about the management of its 344 Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The agreement is the culmination of three months' discussion with the Nature Conservancy Council, and was one of the declared aims of the Commission when it launched a major debate on countryside conservation in March this year.

The Commission will manage its SSSIs so as to maintain the nature conservation value for which they were designated, and the Nature Conservancy Council will provide advice to the Commission in meeting the declared objectives for management.

In particular, both bodies have agreed that management plans should be agreed for each individual site using a standard approach, and agreed management plans will embody appropriate consents by the NCC for specified management, forestry and ancillary operations to take place.

The Commission and the NCC have also been, for some months, discussing joint research into the wildlife habitats of new conifer forests, and the effects of conifers in broad-leaved woodlands.

Mr Roger Bradley, Commissioner for Private Forestry and Development, said, "In our announcement in March we stressed that the Commission has a duty to endeavour to achieve a reasonable balance between the management of its forests for timber production and the protection and conservation of wildlife and the environment.

"Our policies on conservation were spelled out in Policy Paper No. 4 and we decided to carry out top-level consultations on the implementation of those policies with all the bodies who have an interest in, or a responsibility for the countryside.

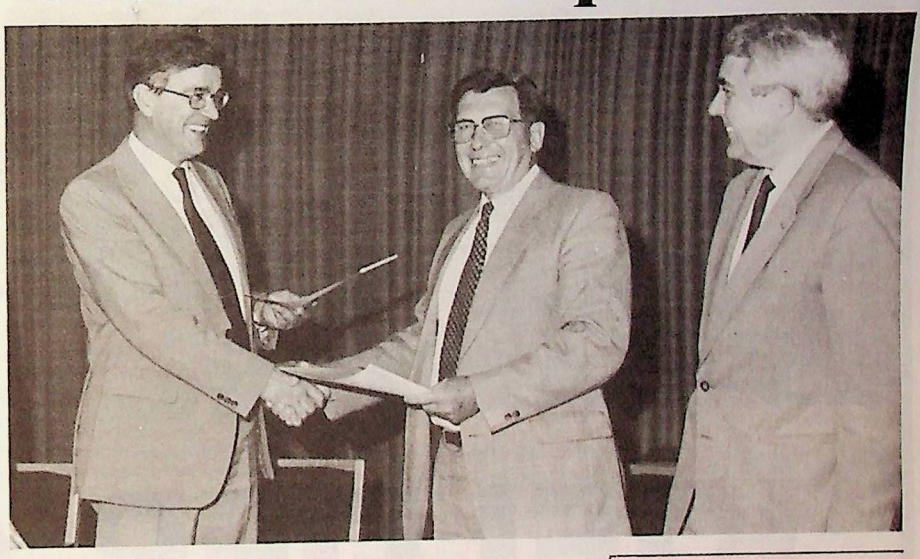
OBJECTIVES

"One of the most important of these is the Nature Conservancy Council, and we agreed that there was much we could do together to advance our different, but complementary objectives.

"I am delighted that we have, in such a short time, reached agreement on this declaration of intent. It represents a major advance and included in our agreement will be co-operation at local level in developing forest conservation management plans. The NCC are also to provide facilities for the training of Forestry Commission personnel.

"Research is a second, vital element of our aspirations for the future. Much needs to be learned about the wildlife habitats of the conifer forests. They are not the barren wildernesses which some would suggest. The species of wild-life found in conifer forests may well be different from those found in broadleaved woodlands, but we believe the conifer forests are already rich in wildlife and can be improved. We already have evidence that some rare bird species and a number of bat species, for example, find conifers to be welcome habitats.

Seeds of co-operation



AT A BRIEF ceremony in Edinburgh on June 23, the Director General, Mr George Holmes, and the Director General of the Nature Conservancy Council, Mr Richard Steele, signed a "declaration of intent" on the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Mr Holmes said after the ceremony, "This agreement will enable both organisations to establish nationally agreed guidelines for the management of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest under which we shall maintain the nature conservation value for which they were designated.

"Each of the special sites will have its own management plan but this new agreement will involve the minimum of administration. The "local" plans — on which we have been working for some years — will embody appropriate consents by the Nature Conservancy Council for specified management, forestry and ancillary operations to take place.

"I consider this agreement to be a recipe for continuing co-operation in a most sensitive area of public concern."

●Our picture shows Mr Holmes, Mr Steele and Commissioner Gwyn Francis.

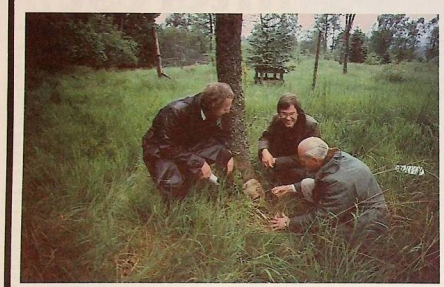
DEER HUNTING

It has been revealed in the House of Lords that 3000 letters have been sent to the Forestry Commission calling on them to end deer hunting in the New Forest. Graham Searle Chairman of the New Forest Protection Council is writing to the PM about the matter.

SNOOKER

IT was a fun night at Pockets in Edinburgh when the HQ team retained the coveted snooker trophy with a 10-5 victory over the lads from NRS. They put up a brave fight but there was no stopping the rampaging HQ team. Ronnie Lee was named as "player of the match."

BELLAMY BACKS OUR POLICIES



IT'S BOUQUETS for the Commission from Bellamy — that crusading conservationist, known to millions through his television appearances.

Bellamy — actually it's Professor David Bellamy — spoke in praise of the Commission at two recent functions. The first, when he opened the Grove Picnic Place at Hamsterley Forest in Co. Durham and the second at the celebrations held to mark the 60th anniversary of Kielder Forest.

But through a diary date mix-up, David failed to get to the celebrations in person. He was attending (in his own words) "a really boring international conservation meeting in Ireland" (his honesty does him credit — Ed).

His message to the Kielder "Diamond" Jubilee had thus to be broadcast over the public address system, but even without his presence it was significant and heartening.

After recalling that Kielder had been set up to produce pit-props, he said: "Kielder Forest is now fantastically important." He added: "Over the 60 years since Kielder was first planted, the whole concept of what forestry is about in Britain has changed and the Forestry Commission have led the way with diversifying their forests — not just different sorts of trees, different forms of planting — but creating what in reality is a giant coniferous, copious woodland with all different stages, giving a whole range of habitant both for plants and animals."

FISHERIES

He added: "Now, with the new and fantastically important broad leaf policy of the Commission, we are seeing broad leaves going in along the edges of the river, again to help fisheries — broad leaves which help to buffer the acidifying properties of the vast coniferous plantations round about."

David spoke about how he had been helping local children — many of whose parents are forestry workers — to put in a whole diversity of bird boxes at Kelder and they were able to tell him what the different boxes were for and why the Commission were doing it.

The most important thing the children had told him was that this was being done to attract tourists and David said: "Now the Kielder Forest, with the great Kielder water running [illegible] phenomenal [illegible] and more pe[ople] with their bi[rds] expecting to [see] fantastic scher[ies] are going to b[e] enjoy."

So, he said, Kielder's 60 ye[ars] of forestry ha[s] Commission [has] tracts of the [most] breathing spac[es] enjoy — the ch[ance] space and the[ir] wildlife."

He ended [by] "Britain, than[ks] more and mor[e] the new, carin[g] developed an[d] Forestry Com[mission] look forward [to] a bright future."

David was [unable] 3000-acre Ha[msterley] nearby — [where] picnic place b[y] tree trunk.



ABOVE LEFT: Tyne Tees TV star Bill Steel joins the Commission's Alastair Rowan and Rod Leslie in search of unusual wildlife.

LEFT: Gathering for Kielder open day.



RIGHT: Bill Steel and some of the children who braved the midges during the Kielder Jubilee Day.

KIELDER OUT IN FRONT

THE FORESTRY Commission's Kielder Forest, the largest man-made forest in Britain, is setting a lead on future forest design as it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, according to Commission Chairman Sir David Montgomery.

At the opening of the Jubilee celebrations at Kielder Castle, Northumberland, Sir David said: "The first planting at Kielder Forest began in 1926 when the object was to replace timber cut during the first war and to provide a strategic reserve for the future. What we now see today is an excellent example of a productive upland forest which is managed for a variety of purposes and which provides considerable employment, from its 200 square miles of plantations.

"Although the first production of wood was in 1948, when the thinnings were first harvested, it is in the past ten years that the most obvious changes have taken place. The forest is approaching the time when it will become a fully productive upland forest.

"The present annual output of timber is some 160,000 tonnes, and as more of it matures it will provide an annual sustainable production of 350,000 tonnes by the year 2000.

"This production will come from the harvesting of trees which were planted in the late 1940s and 50s, a period when nearly half the present forest was established."

He added, "Now that the felling and restocking of the earlier plantations is taking place, it is allowing us to introduce a much more varied age-class structure, and a greater diversity of species, into the forest.

DIVERSITY

"New methods of management such as the creation of open areas, deer lawns and ponds will give the forest a more diverse and interesting appearance. More than 350 miles of watercourses will eventually have broadleaved species planted alongside. As you look around today you will see that the improvement of the forest landscape is becoming one of its most satisfying features.

"The management of today's forests also includes many provisions for public access and the emphasis is being placed on encouraging conservation.

"As we come to fell areas of the forest we seek to protect the native flora and fauna, and indeed the value of the forest as a most varied series of wildlife habitats is perhaps best demonstrated by the appearance of a number of species — especially birds — which are new to this corner of Britain.

"The increasing demands of the public for leisure pursuits in our forests has resulted in hundreds of thousands of visitors every year coming to Kielder. Here they can enjoy simply walking in the forest, or the more energetic sports such as orienteering, motor rallying and the wide variety of water sports catered for on Kielder Water and which are administered by the Water Board.

"A forest, however, is primarily a source of timber and Kielder illustrates how this is being achieved whilst the landscape, nature conservation and public will continue to benefit.

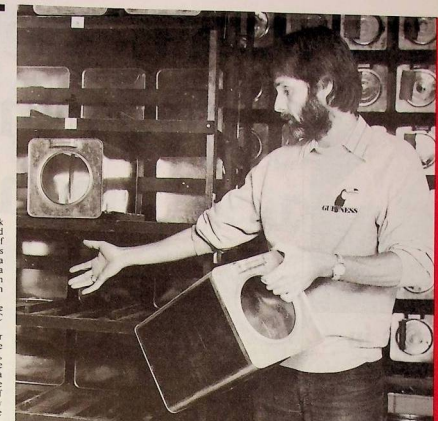
"This forest produces many thousands of tonnes of timber for the construction industries — for house building, industry, agriculture and the domestic market. And the smaller logs, harvested as part of the overall operation, have a ready market for paper-making or for the panel and board industries.

"The employment which these activities bring to this area is significant. Not only are there about 170 Forestry Commission staff, but many more are employed as forestry contractors. There are also other jobs created in the supporting services such as construction, transport, recreation and the downstream industries such as saw-milling and other wood processing.

"The direct and indirect employment attributable to Kielder Forest is difficult to quantify with accuracy, but I think it is not too wide of the mark to suggest that this forest supports well over 600 jobs.

"In Kielder we have one of the first examples of a major upland forest in this country coming into sustained production. Considerable criticism has and is being levied at the so-called upland blanket spruce forests created over the last 20 or 30 years. However we are now seeing here in Kielder some of the changes that will take place in all the major forests over the next decades and when felling begins we create more diversity of age structure and species.

"Kielder now represents the first major step forward in the management of the emerging forests of this country. Much of the credit for this must go to the Conservators and Foresters now in charge and to those who have gone before."



How staff can help sow the seeds of future success of broadleaves

THE Forestry Commission is seeking to enlist its staff to help in a new nationwide quest for the collection of more seeds from good quality home sources. And, with the new policy, the accent will be on broadleaved seeds.

Up until now, the proportion of "British-born" seeds from broadleaves has been far too low. The aim of the new campaign is not just to double home broadleaved seed collection, but to increase it five fold — possibly even more — over the next two or three years.

The benefits would be considerable — a cut in our seed imports bill, and eventually a great chance to cash in on the export market. But the first priority is to ensure a better supply of seed for the home market including, of course, the Commission's own nurseries and forests.

Spearheading the new drive are Mr Douglas Clark of the Silviculture Division at HQ in Edinburgh, and Mr Tony Waddell at Alice Holt.

Mr Clark told "Slasher" that the demand for broadleaved seeds was increasing with British nurserymen keen to buy "home collected" and not imported seed.

"It's a competitive business but nevertheless our customers in the private sector are prepared to pay a little more for British seeds because they know the seeds come from a good quality source," he said.

Mr Waddell (seen in our picture above) said that partly as a result of the new policy for planting broadleaves, broadleaved seed has been in great demand: consequently the Commission stocks have been depleted and are now very low.

BETTER SUITED

"The demand has been especially strong for British seed. Sadly, out of a total of 10,600 kg of broadleaf seed that we supplied last year, only a meagre 13 per cent was of home-collected British seed.

"We could import more German birch, Hungarian ash or Russian rowan seed but our own established, well-grown trees and shrubs — having becoming acclimatised — must surely produce seed to produce plants that will be better suited to the British environment.

"From a conservation view-point we would much prefer to use good quality British seed."

Mr Clark is confident that Commission staff will rise to the challenge. He said: "Five years ago we were in almost the same situation with conifer seeds. We were importing more than three-quarters of our seed requirements with less than a quarter coming from home sources. Today, thanks to the interest and hard work of staff in every corner of the country, that situation is reversed and a flourishing export market is being developed."

He added: "We would like anyone who knows of potential sources of broadleaved seed to help us to achieve our new aim and get in touch either with the appropriate seed liaison officer in the Conservancies or Mr Waddell at Alice Holt."

COMPETITIVE PRICES

Naturally, collectors' efforts will not go unrewarded: Mr Clark said they were looking at a price range for collectors which would nevertheless enable the seeds to be sold at competitive prices.

Mr Waddell told "Slasher:" "Parent trees should always be well-formed specimens; we want to avoid mis-shapen hedgerow trees. From the seed processing point of view it would be better if we could rely on one or two good substantial sources of each species from which worthwhile collections could be made, rather than dealing with very small quantities from all over the country."

WANTED are seeds from: Ash, Alder, Beech, Common Birch, Hairy Birch, Bird Cherry, Field Maple, Gean, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Hornbream, Horse Chestnut Large leaf lime, Small leaf lime, Norway Maple, pedimenculate oak, Serisile oak. Special standards of course apply to oak and beech because those come within the scope of current seed regulations.

A full list with information about the quantities required and the target collection cost can be obtained from Tony Waddell.

QUOTE

Our customers are prepared to pay a little more for British seeds because they come from a good quality source.

QUOTE

We would like anyone who knows of potential sources of broadleaved seed to help us to achieve our new aim and get in touch.

Your chance to cash in on a bright idea

HERE'S a chance to get some cash — provided you're aged between 18 and 35. If you can come up with a bright idea for a business project you could quality for an award of £1000.

The offer is being made by "Venturecash," a recent initiative organised jointly by the National Farmers' Union and the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. It has been sponsored by the National Westminster Bank.

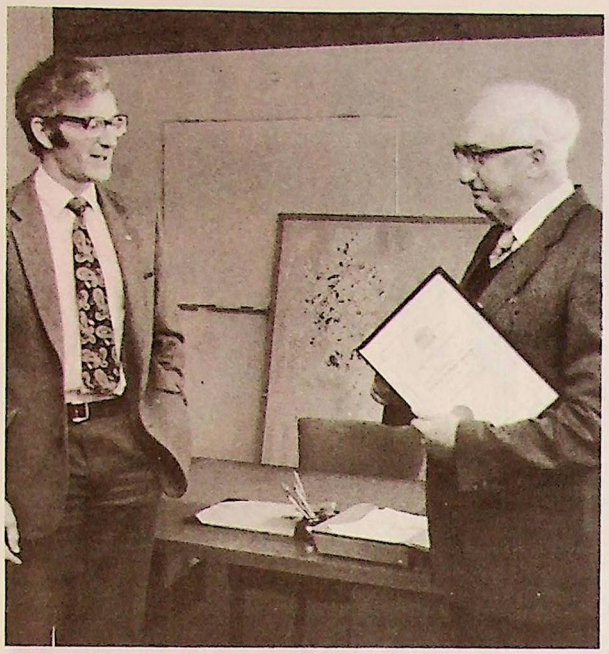
"Venturecash" is offering successful applicants up to £1000 each to undertake research into a new business development that they themselves have thought out.

The aim is to provide a means for young people to carry out their own detailed practical research into new business opportunities in the agricultural, horticultural and food related industries.

Scope, surely here, for Forestry Commission staff!

You are eligible to take part in the scheme if you live in England and Wales and in the right age group.

Application forms are available from the NFU's marketing division, 4 St Mary's Place, Stamford, Lincs. Tel: 0780 51513.



George puts in 31 fine years

LEADING Research Worker (Supervisor) George Howieson retired after 31 years' service. He began as a Forest Worker at Loch Eck in 1955 and after a short time at Tulliallan he spent the majority of his service, 29 years in total, with Research Division, Silviculture (North) as a Research Worker at Bush Outstation. At an informal gathering he was presented with an inscribed Silver Salver and cheque. The enclosed photograph shows George receiving his Long Service Certificate from Dr Alan Low, Principal Silviculturist (North).



Clocking out, that's Will

A LARGE gathering of colleagues met at Llanidloes to mark Will Evans' retirement. An inscribed clock was presented to him on behalf of workmates by Spencer Davies, Area Engineer, Newtown. He also received a long service certificate for his 36 years.

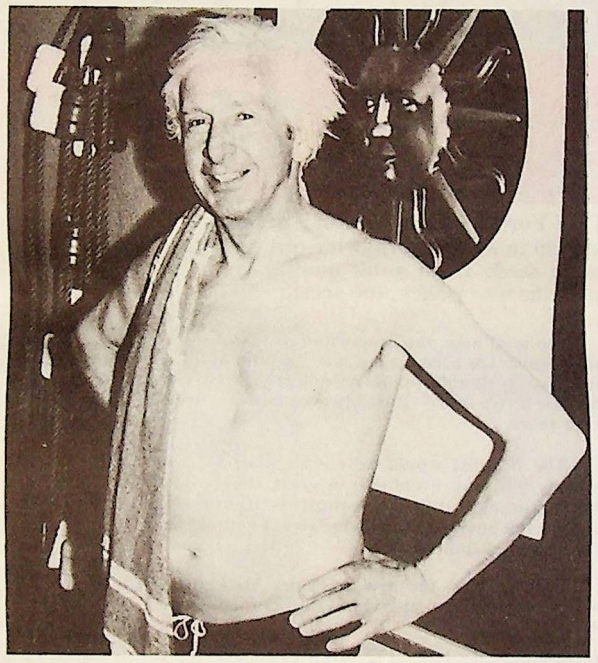
Will joined the Forestry Commission in 1949 after working on a local estate owned by Judge Stables. From 1949 to 1963 he was a Forest Worker at Hafren and Twymyn, where he was involved in planting and general forest work. On joining Newtown Roads Depot in 1963 he worked as an operator on graders, angledozers and diggers. Will was well respected, well-known and popular with colleagues in the Mid-Wales Area.

Dennis loyal to Irfon

MR DENNIS Davies retired recently after completing 31½ years of service as a Forest Craftsman / Ganger with the Commission. Dennis spent his entire service at Irfon forest, working mainly on Forest Management operations. He served not only as the Ganger but also as the Beat Steward and Forest Workers' Safety Representative.

At a farewell party held at the Neuadd Arms Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells friends and colleagues presented him with an engraved pewter tankard and a cheque.

SWIMMER TONY SETS PACE WITH TWO MEDALS



WALES Conservancy Civil Engineer Tony Summers has won two gold medals at the Sun Life Welsh Masters which took place at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff. Tony, who works from both the Conservancy office at Aberystwyth and Roads Department at Newtown, lives in Hyssington and swims for Newport and Maindee Swimming Club.

Masters swimming has been designed to encourage swimmers of all standards, who may have retired from the sport, to resume an active interest by taking part in national competition. It is unique in that it embraces the full range of abilities, from those who swim purely for fun or to keep fit, right up to former internationals of the calibre of Olympic gold medallist, Duncan Goodhew, who took part at Cardiff. The races are arranged in five-year age groups from 25 up to the over-70s and Tony won his medals in the 60-64 age group.

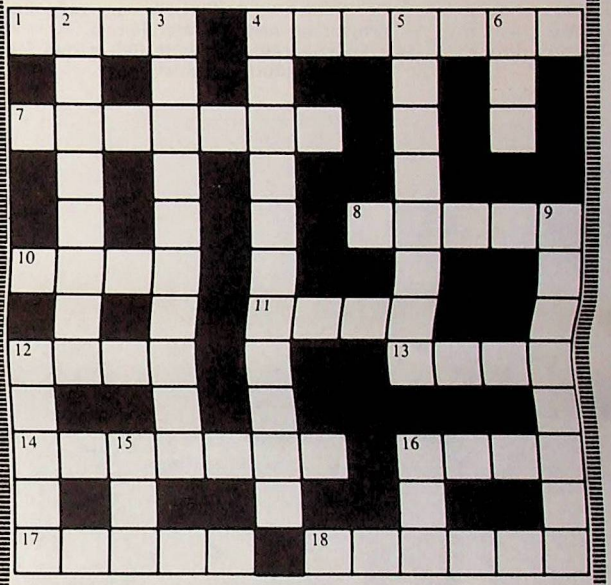
Tony is not new to competitive swimming as he competed in the London Olympics as long ago as 1948 and he keeps himself fit and up to scratch by swimming every day and galloping up the Conservancy office's 55 steps three at a time!

AND GOLFERS PICK UP CUP

THE glorious weather of Friday, 16 May, proved to be the best day of Spring, but it was also the day when the nine-member Forestry Commission golf team, drawn from Forest District, outstationed specialists, Conservancy office and a retired Forester, regained the Bowaters Challenge Cup following a barren period lasting six years.

Several members from both sides claimed to be occasional players, but the skill displayed on the day belied their modesty. John Lloyd of Dolgellau is the find of the decade — a recent convert to the game — he made a significant contribution to the Forestry Commission win.

CROSSWORD



Compiled by BRIAN HIBBERD

Across:

1. and 4. Sounds as though canine pop-singers chew trees . . . (4, 7).
7. . . . especially this one! (7).
8. A swirled cape with 500 in it removes branches (5).
10. One of the famous shakes? (4).
11. One of the apple eaters will point the way to this type of distribution (4).
12. and 13. Measure for old areas? (4, 4).
14. Windswept and cursed at (7).
16. God of mischief from a land of forests (4).
17. Fallow turned south by the waterside (5).
18. Low gas levels produce a butt length (6).

Down:

2. Eucalyptus might be on a hot day (8).
3. Desk gnawer re-organised the collection (3, 7).
4. US woman goes for these trees (11).
5. There's a thing around at the pub which actually produces small roundwood (8).
6. Only a cockney would make a ship's wheel from this tree (6).
9. Alarming loss of grip when pulling timber? (8).
12. Old resin found in cream berries (5).
15. This river used to cut through the trees (3).
16. Humble type of 5? (3).

RETIREMENTS



MRS COUPLAND



KEN KERR

Nithsdale loses a trio with total of 99 FC years



DURING the past eight weeks, the Commission at Nithsdale Forest has lost three of its longest serving members.

First to leave was Mr K. Kerr, a long-serving tractor driver at Mabie Forest. *Kenny was well liked and respected not only by his colleagues but also by a host of* Commission firewood customers to whom he delivered fuel during the past five years.

Secondly, we lost Mr R. MacDonald, a Ganger also at Mabie. Bobby joined us in 1947 after serving for six years with the Royal Engineers. Made up to Ganger in 1948 he refused further promotion to stay at Mabie. He has been involved with planting on all Commission areas South of *Dumfries to the Solway Coast. Bobby was wished a long and happy retirement by his* colleagues and friends and presented with a Forestry Commission Long service Certificate (see picture above) by the Conservator, South Scotland, Mr G. G. Taylor, at Mabie Office.

The third member of this long-serving trio was Mrs G. Coupland who joined the Commission in 1955 as a forest worker at Ae Forest. She left forest work in 1972 and immediately rejoined as the cleaner at the Forest Office and Management Training Centre where she continued until May 2. Gladys has the distinction of being the first resident of Ae Village, moving there in 1949, with her late husband Bill, another long serving Commission member, who died in 1977.

Between them, these three veterans have spent ninety nine years in service to the Commission and the public, and we who remain will sorely miss their combined knowledge and experience.



Stalwarts take their leave

TWO STALWARTS from Savernake have retired. They are (left) Mr Robert Vallis with 38 years service, and (right) Mr William Sprules (Ganger) with 36 years service. Both were involved in motor-way duties during the past 12 years. They received retiral presentations at the Royal British Legion Club, Burbage, Wilts — beer mugs and cheques and, of course, long service certificates.

In addition, two other forest craftsmen have also retired — Mr Fred Ball from Cornwall and N. Devon (Kenow Forest) after nearly 30 years and Mr Charles Vinnicome from Somerset and S. Devon (Dartmoor) after nearly 29 years.

Lifelong interest in wildlife and conservation

IT WAS a fond farewell to Mr Dick Buckingham of Alderholt when friends and workmates gathered at the Commission's Ashley Heath offices to pay their tributes to him on his retirement after 39 years as a forestry worker.

Mr Buckingham now 65, was presented with the Commission's long service award by Forest district manager, Mr Robert Kemp.

Mr Ivor Arnold, on behalf of friends and colleagues, gave Mr Buckingham an oil painting of a forest scene by local artist Peter Buss.

ROYAL NAVY

One of 13 children, Mr Buckingham was born and brought up in Ringwood and developed his life-long interest in wildlife and conservation as a boy.

He served for five years with the Royal Navy and then joined the Commission.

He spent all his working life in Ringwood Forest, tackling all the foresters' many jobs. In his farewell speech he said that in the past few weeks he had actually been felling trees he planted 39 years ago. "Some people might find that a bit sad," he said, "but I don't. There's a continuity about forestry. There are always young trees coming on and cuttings to be taken. That's what makes it such a satisfying job."

RED SQUIRRELS

Mr Buckingham is anxious that the right balance should be struck between conservation and development, particularly in Ringwood Forest.

"There were red squirrels in the Forest when I first came to work here, but they were driven out by the greys," he recalled. "I just hope that the deer aren't going to be forced out by the new roads and all the housing developments. They are beautiful creatures and the forest is their traditional home."

SIX foresters have retired in West England in the past six months. The first to go was GEOFF WAYGOOD, who started with the Forestry Commission in South Wales and then went to Benmore FTS in 1942. After this came war service, and then back to S(W) as a Forester. He went to the Dean in 1961 and stayed there for the rest of his career, rising to Chief Forester.

The other five are:—

Forester JOHN PEACH, who attended the Dean FTS from 1949-51. Then he had a short spell in S(W) before moving to a private estate in 1952. He returned to the Forestry Commission in Cornwall in 1959, becoming an Assistant Forester. In 1961 he moved to Mendip, Somerset, where he became a Forester and his last move was to Dartmoor Forest in 1975.

Forester MIKE JAMES spent 1952-54 at the Dean FTS, subsequently becoming Assistant Forester at Neroche. He stayed in the then SW(E) for the rest of his career, moving to Dymock and Hereford, where he became a Forester and finishing at Bodmin, now part of Cornwall and North Devon Forest District.

Head Foresters JOHN MacKENZIE and RON MacDONALD both retired from Marches Forest District. John went to both Glentress and Benmore FTS and thence to North Scotland in 1951. He then moved to Cannock Forest in 1953 and remained in the old NW(E) for the rest of his career. Ron also went to two FTS, this time Dean and Benmore followed by a short spell at Kershope and then National Service. After this a brief stay in Somerset, and another in the New settling in NE(E) in 1950. In 1957 he moved to NW(E) and remained there until retirement.

Head Forester FRED STRAWBRIDGE was at Lynford FTS from 1948-50, after which he worked in E(E) as Ganger, Foreman and Forester. He was seconded to the Seychelles Forestry Service in 1958 and returned in 1961 to Somerset. He became Head Forester in 1965 and then moved to Cornwall in 1975 where he stayed.

In the Spring, the Management Training Centre in the Dean was the venue for a farewell lunch to Tony Joslin, Deputy Surveyor and Forest District Manager of the Dean and three Counties Forest District. Tony started as District Officer in East (E) and then went as an instructor at the Dean FTS. He must have liked it as he spent the rest of his career in the Dean.

MR RON RUMBELOW has retired. He joined the Commission in August 1953 and spent the following 32 years in the York District.

He's a bit of a hero. He started his working life as a fireman on the mainline steam trains from Doncaster and was awarded the British Rail Bravery Award for saving a colleague who had been badly burned.

Ron's principal duties in the Commission were in Forest Management. His hobby (suitably) is woodwork, especially making clocks and tables.

GWENT District colleagues and friends gathered in the Cherry Tree Inn at Tintern to mark the retirement of DON LUCIANI after 21 years with the Commission.

Don came to Britain, his adopted country, during the war and has since worked in agriculture and forestry. Don is a keen gardener.

KEN DAVIES retired early as the result of a wound he sustained in 1944. In spite of this painful leg injury he was a leading member of the production gang at Wentwood for over 28 years. Friends and colleagues gathered at the Kings Head in Llanvair Discoed to wish him well for the future.

After 32 years with the North Lakes Forest District, Mr ERNIE RIGG retired. Ernie spent four years in the RAF before joining the Commission, where most of his time was spent on harvesting at Thornthwaite.

Reasons of health caused Mr FRANK THOMPSON to retire after 32 years service at Border Forest. He and Daphne are moving to London.

RETIREMENTS

It's two for the road



JACK DAVIES was obliged to retire on medical grounds after a long period with the Commission. He joined the Commission in 1941 and was employed as a Forest Worker on general duties for about two years. From 1943 he worked as a lorry driver with the "forest" side until the late 1950s. For most of his time with the Roads Depot, Jack worked as a roller driver, for a number of years he was a Beat Steward with the TGWU. He is a keen gardener with a smallholding near Aberystwyth. Many of his colleagues gathered at Llanidloes to mark his retirement. The photo shows Jack being presented with his parting gift by Mr T. P. Summers.



CAERINI ROBERTS, Skilled Forest Worker, retired after a career spanning almost 25 years with the Commission at Clocaenog Forest (Ruthin Forest District). His initial duties included draining, brashing, planting and fencing but, over the past 13 years, he is best remembered for his cheerful presence at the Brynhyfryd Conversion Depot. Friends of Caerini met at the Red Lion, Cyffylliog, and Mr N. H. Clayden, Forest District Manager, outlined Caerini's career and asked Mr Glyn Davies, on behalf of everyone in the Forest District, to present an engraved slate combination barometer, clock and thermometer. Mr Alan Harper (Head Forest H & M) gave him a cheque and Miss C. Hughes (CO at Ruthin Forest District office) presented a bouquet to Mrs Roberts.



SNAP to it for Roy's goodbye

THE Commission's Bwlch Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre was the appropriate venue for a gathering of friends and colleagues to mark the retirement of Recreation Forester Roy Dean.

In making a presentation to Roy, Mr David Robertson, Conservator Wales, recalled that the early years of Roy's career were devoted to the establishment of Talybont Forest, before moving to Wentwood, then joining Research and Development for a spell based at Knighton.

Roy's lifelong interest in wildlife and nature photography came into prominence when he was appointed Recreation Forester for the Aberystwyth District in 1975. He became known to thousands of forest visitors through his contribution to the development and operation of the Bwlch Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre over a period of ten years.

Roy was stationed at Conservancy Office and had begun working on the refurbishment of the Maesgwm Centre when, sadly, he was taken ill a year ago and has now accepted early retirement.

Our photo shows Roy (left) with Reg Wheeler, retired Recreation Head Forester.

IRFON GETS WELCOME TO THE CLUB

MR T. I. BOWEN retired recently after 38 years service with the Forestry Commission. Irfon started work at Crychan in 1948 and transferred to Radnor on his marriage in 1951, remaining there until his retirement.

At a gathering of staff and colleagues, Irfon was presented with a long service certificate by Mr R. A. Nicholas, the Forest District Manager at Llandrindod.

On behalf of staff and colleagues, Mr Henry Cartwright, Forest Craftsman and long-serving workmate, wished Irfon a long and happy retirement and presented him with a carriage clock.

Mr Peter Harrison, who recently retired after 15 years as Head Forester in charge of Radnor Forest, thanked Irfon for his loyalty and welcomed him to the "Retirement."

CLICK!

IORRIE Bowen retired recently after 29 years service. He spent most of his time on forest operations driving navvies and ploughing tractors in South Wales. In 1976, he joined Neath Roads as JCB driver until he retired.

A farewell party was held at which the Area Civil Engineer present the collection made by Iorrie's colleagues. As he is a keen photographer he is to use the money to change his camera from a Pentax to a Cannon.

25 YEARS

GLYNDWR Williams joined the Forestry Commission at Pembrey Forest in 1961 and during his career he worked on general forest duties; tractor driving on harvesting work doing extraction and latterly doing Department of Transport work on the M4 Motorway since 1974. All his ex-colleagues join together to wish him a long and happy retirement.

Ploughman Trebor keeps on walking



TREBOR MORRIS of Beddgelert, Llanrwst Forest District, retired recently after 31 years service. Trebor is well known throughout the former North Wales Conservancy forests as a mobile ploughman, having worked in every forest in North Wales and many of the South Wales forests. At an informal gathering of his workmates he was presented with a carriage clock and walking stick.

FELLING CONTEST

The 1986 National Tree Felling Contest will be held at the Forestry Commission's Dalbeattie Forest in South Scotland on Saturday, September 6.

Sponsored by FC on behalf of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, it is expected that at least 50 people will enter.

There will also be a chainsaw carving event and demonstrations of harvesting techniques. The central trade stand area has been extended and a large attendance of the public is anticipated.

OBITUARIES

THE great "Strad" of the North is, alas, no more. Mr Duncan Macleod, of the Dingwall District Office and former PW officer and DO North Scotland died in hospital in June in his 80th year. He was a remarkable maker of violins but, above all, he was an exceptionally talented composer of Scottish fiddle music. He even wrote music in his hospital bed, composing a march which he entitled "The Patriarch's Farewell" to win him, for the third time, the composer's trophy and medal at this year's Angus Fiddle Festival.

MISS P. E. DAVIES (Phyllis to her colleagues and friends) has died in Aberystwyth at the age of 76. She started her Government service in 1942 in the Ministry of Food during the war years and came to the Commission in 1954 as a Clerical Officer where she was mostly involved with finance. She retired in 1974 having spent all of her career in the Conservancy office at Aberystwyth.

LAURENCE STANGER, formerly a mobile plant operative, Eastern Conservancy, died after a long illness. His work brought him in contact with many Commission workers, who will remember him as "a bit of an oddity" with a wry sense of humour. Failing eyesight led to Laurie's early retirement in 1978.

DANNY MACDONALD, a veteran of the First World War and of the Commission, died at his home on the Black Isle in North Scotland, at the age of 89. His long career in the Commission started in 1920. He served in many forests in the old North Scotland Conservancy and had charge of Inchnacardoch Forest for eleven years before moving to take over the Black Isle Forest in 1960.



It's farewell to Roger, a mainstay of research

THERE was a large turnout of NRS staff of June 20, to say a fond farewell to Mr Roger Lines — a mainstay of the Research Division — on his retirement.

In the afternoon Roger was presented with several mementoes, ranging from a stainless steel spade and a cheque towards a greenhouse for his proposed future home, to an outside medallion made from a South Coastal Lodgepole pine to commemorate his Outstanding Biological Experimentation — a happy echo of his OBE awarded in the recent Honours List.

He and his wife, Jane, who received a crystal rose bowl and stainless steel trowel, then planted a commemorative tree (Pinus peuce) in the grounds of NRS.

MAIN SPECIES

In the evening many friends from within the Research Division, the Conservancies and ITE attended a splendid, friendly and informed dinner at Bush House. Andy Neustein, Chief Research Officer (North) recounted the highlights of Roger's career which spanned some 34 years. Over this period Roger had contributed crucially to upland silvicultural research, having developed the tatter flag-method of exposure assessment, acting as a one-man atmospheric pollution advisory service, and above all, exploring the provenance variation of our main species.

In this field he established an international reputation.

With Roger's departure, provenance research will become the responsibility of Dr Alan Fletcher of the Genetics Branch, who will be fortified by three major forthcoming publications of Roger's which encapsulate the accumulated knowledge.

In his speech Roger paid tribute to illustrious predecessors, colleagues and outstationed field staff, all of whom had contributed to fruitfully to his work.

Crossword answers

Across: 1 and 4 Bark beetles; 7 Dogwood; 8 Sneds; 10 Star; 11 Even; 12 and 13 Acre grid; 14 Blasted; 16 Loki; 17 Reeds; 18 Sawlog.

Down: 2 Aromatic; 3 Kew Gardens; 4 Broadleaves; 5 Thinning; 6 Elm; 9 Skidding; 12 Amber; 15 Axe; 16 Low.

A WOOD IN MEMORY OF MORLEY PENISTAN

THE SPRING issue of "Slasher" announced the death of Morley Penistan who, after his retirement as Conservator, East England in 1974, continued his lifelong interest in conservation and ornithology through his work with the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation.

The Trust has decided to commemorate Morley's work by acquiring and managing a beautiful beech wood. This is the 54 acre Frith Wood near Painswick which is designated as an SSSI. The wood belongs to a member of a well-known Gloucestershire family, who were friends of Morley, who has offered it to the Trust on very advantageous terms.

The Trust needs £20,000 to complete the acquisition and invited Commission staff to contribute. The Commission also intends to make a contribution. If you would like to give your support, send your contribution to the "Morley Penistan Memorial," c/o Mrs D. Hall, Personnel Division, Forestry Commission HQ.

PRAISE FOR FC

IN ITS reports on International Year of the Forest activities the EEC's Committee on Co-ordination of Forestry Policies said: "The Forestry Commission is to be congratulated on its enthusiastic response.

"Not only has it adapted many events such as national forest open days and stands at regional fairs but adopted the FAO's IYF symbol on its press releases as well as producing a special IYF leaflet and organising a photographic competition for IYF."

BALLOON PROTEST

THE Forestry Commission have complained to the organisers of the Great Southern Balloon Race, after some balloons landed in the New Forest. The operation of any kind of flying craft, including a hot air balloon, is prohibited by Forestry Commission by-laws.

A spokesman for the Commission said the by-law exists to protect livestock and wildlife. They can panic and cause damage to themselves and their surroundings if suddenly startled by a balloon coming down, or the noise from gas burners.

CHARITY RUNNERS

THE York Conservancy Office sponsored runners in the Sport Aid "Run the World" on May 25.

Julie Wright, Phillipa Cheetham, Sue Fisher, Debby Clough and Bruce Inglis all took part and raised the magnificent sum of £175.50 for Aid for Africa. Congratulations!

UK trees are in good health

RESULTS of the most recent Forestry Commission surveys of woodlands show that Britain's trees are in good health but air pollution can never be ruled out as a contributory cause of localised damage to trees.

Published recently are "Forest Health and Air Pollution" and "Beech Health Study," both the result of surveys carried out in 1985. The survey of conifers in relation to air pollution is the second in a continuing series while the report on beech health covers the findings of an initial study to be repeated in 1986.

CONIFERS

As well as assessing the same stands of Sitka and Norway spruces and Scots pine as in 1984, a further three stands of each species were selected in North Scotland to improve the coverage there bringing the total number to 108 stands. These three species represent two-thirds of the conifers and nearly half of all the trees in British forests. Although the survey excludes trees over 45 years old, stands below this age limit account for 66 per cent of the Scots pine, 78 per cent of the Norway spruce and 94 per cent of the Sitka spruce in Britain.

For the population sampled, the results suggests strongly that the forest is in good health, although pollution can never be ruled out as a contributory cause of the small amount of poor health found. Analysis of the foliage showed that the trees were reasonably well supplied with the major nutrients. Some improvements in the figures for estimated crown density and needle life can be attributed partly to the wet summer of 1985 and partly because the stands were assessed earlier than in 1984.

The techniques for the survey and the foliage sampling are those agreed by a working party on forest damage and air pollution under the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution; communication with scientists and foresters in Europe, both east and west, is good.

BROADLEAVES

The forest decline observed on the Continent is affecting broadleaved trees as well as conifers and there has been concern about beech which, among broadleaved species in Britain, is second only to oak in its woodland area. The Commission's 1985 study of beech covered 19 woodland sites in most regions of Great Britain, and the age of the trees averaged 64 years, ranging from 31 to about 123.

The health of the beech trees was assessed by giving each tree a set of scores for each of the main symptoms described for beech decline in Germany. These symptoms are not specific to air pollution damage but, as with conifers, this sort of damage could be suspected if the decline were too severe to be explained by the normal run of pest, disease and drought problems.

Although it is hard to define this "threshold of suspicion" the scores made in the 1985 study revealed a state of beech health which ranged from very good to moderate, and which in no case was worse than the Commission's pathologists expected in relation to the weather patterns of recent years, particularly a drought in 1984 which was severe in many western districts.

Non-woodland beech were not included in the study because they are often subject to local stresses which, together with the advanced age of many such trees, commonly lead to a serious decline in health. This makes the assessment of possible air pollution effects even more difficult than in woodlands.

NEW STUDIES

The conifer survey will be repeated this year, with the addition of older Norway spruce plots, as will the beech study. There is an additional study on beech which is going back in time by looking at shoot growth over the past 15-40 years; this promises to be a sensitive method of detecting the past effects of stress, whether caused by natural events or by pollution. The Commission is also undertaking more fundamental studies into tree damage and air pollution, by using open-top chambers which allow an estimate of the effects of ambient air pollution.

Policy under the microscope

A CALL has been made for questioning "the fundamental purposes and objectives of forestry policy and the mechanism" to promote them.

It comes in a statement issued by "Wildlife Link," the liaison body for all the major voluntary organisations in the UK concerned with the protection of wildlife.

The statement says that despite recent progress in the Forestry Commission's broadleaves policy, the circumstances leading to new coniferous plantations continue to give rise to concern and it goes on to refer to "new and ever-intensifying pressures that are emerging which might further change the face of commercial forestry activity in the UK."

The group argue that one of the policy changes needed is to hold a fundamental, independent, review of the basis on which afforestation is financed and in particular of the taxation system as it applies to forestry.

British mills increase market share

THE 1985 Sawmill Survey shows that sawn softwood production rose to 1.4 million cubic metres representing 18 per cent of the total sawn softwood consumed in Great Britain and that British production was second only to Sweden as a source of supplies. The main reasons for this rise from 15 per cent since 1984 have been the increased output in British sawmills following the miners' strike and some reduction of sawn softwood imports in 1985.

The survey is based on a sample of sawmills undertaken by the Forestry Commission on behalf of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee. The main markets for British grown softwood are construction, pallets and packaging, mining timber and agricultural fencing and buildings.

The volume of softwood sawlogs processed in sawmills rose to 1.16 million cubic metres overbark (ob) in Scotland and to 1.62 million cubic metres (ob) in England and Wales reflecting the effects of recent investments in new sawmilling capacity.

Activity in hardwood sawmills has continued to decline with the volume of logs processed dropping to 568 thousand cubic metres (ob) in England and Wales, while in Scotland there was some recovery to reach a total of 26 thousand cubic metres (ob) following the resumption or working in the mines. Analysis of the species of hardwood sawn showed that there had been little change apart from a slight increase in the proportion of sycamore sawn.

DAVID (17) FIRES A SHOT FOR SAFETY

GUNS are for killing but one — aimed at saving the lives of trees — has just been invented.

It's the brain child of a 17-year-old schoolboy, David Whittingham, of Trent College in Nottinghamshire.

What he has done is to turn the cattle stunner gun, traditionally used in abattoirs, into a tree injector for killing highly destructive insects.

His idea took root when, on a visit to Papua New Guinea, he noticed dangers in the way the workers injected insecticide into palm oil trees.

He found that the bunging system to stop the insecticide leaking from the tree wasn't very good and while he was in New Guinea one of the workers was infected by the poison.

He believes his gun will be safer because the bullet is fired into the tree, where it breaks open and seals itself.

Gun makers are now seriously considering his invention for commercial development.

Holmes answers 'Tree Aid' action call

THE Director General, Mr George Holmes, has accepted, with pleasure, an invitation to become a Patron of "Tree Aid — A Call for Action."

This is a new project initiated by foresters and others involved in the UK forest industry as their response, as professional and concerned individuals, to the continuing human and ecological crisis in Africa.

The purpose of the project is to provide a focal point for raising funds within the UK and channelling them to support and stimulate local tree-growing initiatives in Africa.

The organisers, in an initial prospectus, point out that the images of famine in Africa are now indelibly etched on all our minds and our response for the most part has been to pour in food aid to relieve the immediate crisis.

"But the famine is not just a temporary phenomenon caused by drought; it is a symptom of deeper problems. Beneath the human tragedy is an environment that is crumbling, an environment that has been stretched beyond its limits."

"Trees play a vital role in maintaining Africa's fragile ecosystem . . . but the role is threatened or has already been lost. Under the pressure of population growth, land hunger, and increasing demands for wood and other forest projects, trees are being cut faster than they are regenerating."

The organisers say that food aid — if it arrives on time — can help solve an immediate famine crisis. But permanent solutions can only come through providing local people with the means to restore and preserve the stability of their traditional farming systems.

Mr Holmes wishes them well in their efforts to inspire interest and support for "Tree Aid."

1000 TREES FOR RHONDDA

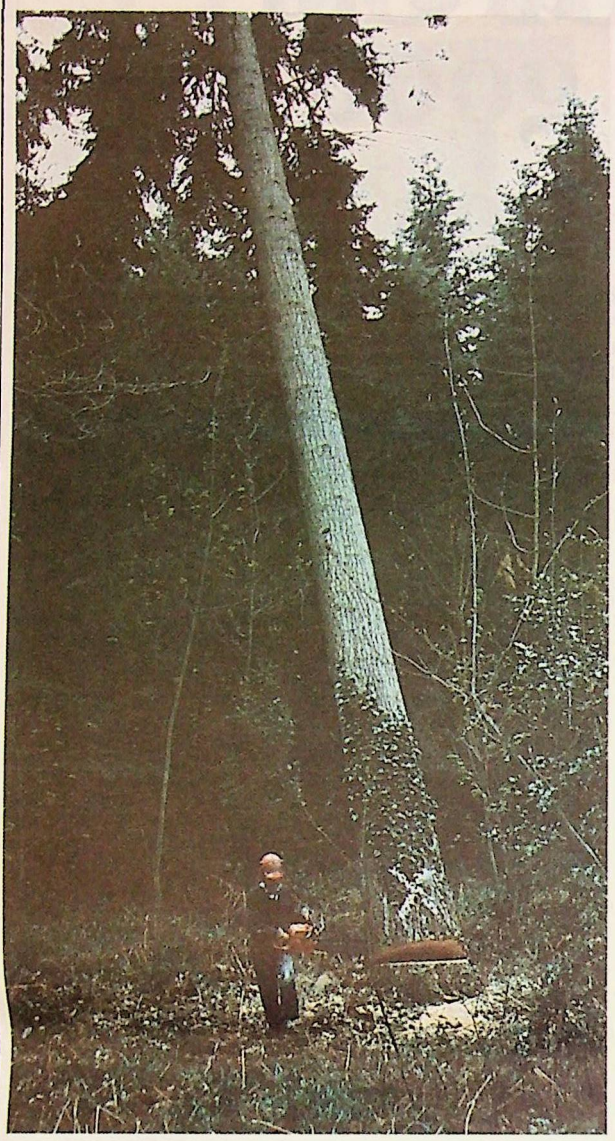
OVER a thousand trees will appear somewhere in the Rhondda later this year. The Forestry Commission has offered Rhondda Council 25 copper beeches and 100 oak transplants for planting at sites of the Council's choice.

The Council have now met with the Forestry Commission to decide upon locations for the plantings.

REPORT

The Highland Regional Council's Planning Committee has accepted a COSLA report on the future of forestry. COSLA policy is required as there has been much debate on the subject. Councillor James Munro said he would not like to see agricultural land being used for tree plantation.

Ship of the line



AND OUR COLOURS ARE NAILED TO THE MAST

IN APRIL this year, Commission was contacted by Timber Supplies Ltd., of Peterborough, and asked if they could supply three trees to provide three ship's main masts of 60′. in length with a 24″ butt diameter and a 15″ top diameter. The masts were to be used to convert the two-masted Spanish schooner, the "Pascual Flores," back to its original three-masted state.

The "Pascual Flores" was built towards the end of the First World War and once had the reputation of being the fastest schooner in the western Mediterranean. In more recent times it had a starring role in the "Onedin Line."

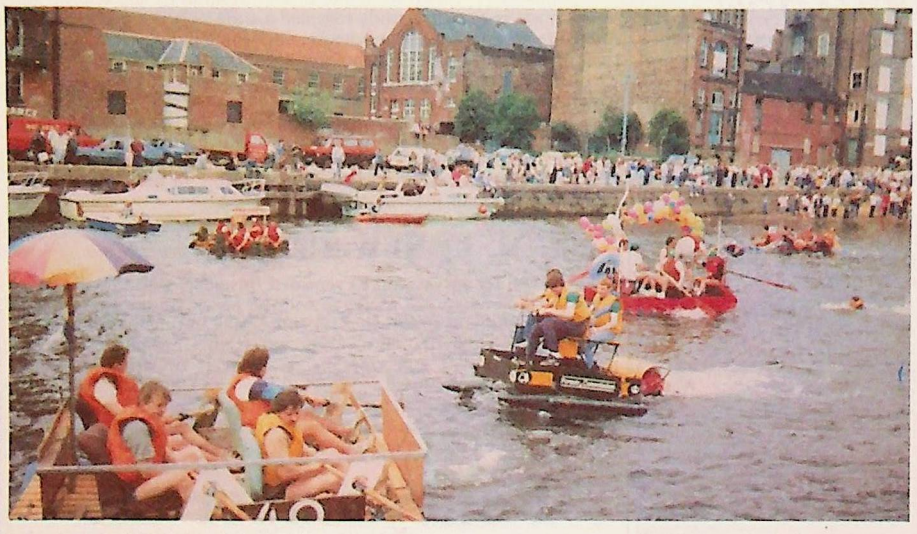
The vessel is now the subject of extensive renovation by "Nova," a registered charity, their ultimate intention being to use it for sail training young people, particularly those unemployed or disadvantaged.

Suitable trees are rare within the UK but were located in The Forest of Dean. One of the trees came from a current felling operation and the other two were located in Parkhill enclosure near Parkend.

May 7 was set for the date of inspecting and felling the trees. The felling and extraction was carried out by a highly experienced Commission gang comprising Roy Sladen felling, Gerry Davis assisting and Phillip Adams extracting with a Timberjack 380 tractor. Each of the masts weighed about six tonnes and were up to 70′ long.



Ship of the line



AND IT'S PONGY DOWN ON THE RIVER

THEY really were oozing — well a bit pongy anyway — on the River Ouse at York on June 7.

• • •

They were the three male employees of the Commission who took part in the annual RNLI raft race on the river.

• • •

It's traditional to bombard the contestants and the Commission's three entrants — Norman Trollope, Bruce Inglis and Martin Finlayson — had to run the gauntlet, showered by eggs, flour, water and almost every other conceivable throwable object.

• • •

The boys weren't in fancy dress and they had decided to enter the Mechanical Section. And they did well. The paddled their way. to victory to win the Mechanical Class and were presented with the RNLI shield.

• • •

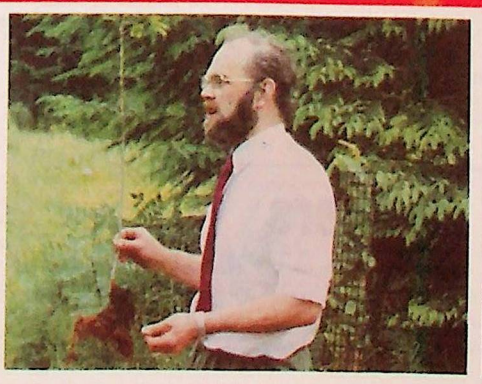
The lads raised £45 from their sponsors.

Not a patch on Derek

"NOW, as I was saying . . ." Shirt-sleeved Derek Patch giving a talk on ideal planting stock during the "tree type and shelters" demonstration which formed part of the open days on June 24 and 25 at the Westonbirt Arboretum.

They were a great success with 328 arboriculturalists, urban foresters, contractors and students, and many others attending.

A series of demonstrations were held aimed at assisting all those involved with selecting, establishing and maintaining trees in an arboricultural context. Subjects convered included Dutch elm disease, improved establishment, inventories, tree surgery, public access and education.



Talks at high-level

SIR Derek Barber, chairman of the Countryside Commission, had talks at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh with Mr Frans Andriessen, vice-president of the European Commission, who has responsibility for agricultural and forestry policy.

They discussed proposals from reducing agricultural surpluses and at the same time protecting the contryside.

Printed by **DUNFERMLINE PRESS** (A. Romanes & Son, Ltd.). Tel. 0383 728201.