

SLASHER



Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

INSIDE

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



PAGE TWO

You ARE a bright lot

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RETIREMENTS

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Small, they say . . .



Clearing up the devastation caused by gales, four forest workers came upon this massive root plate in Holidays Hill Inclosure in the New Forest.

The 130-year-old Douglas Fir measured 9m — yet Eileen Tilling of New Forest FD tells us it's small in

comparison with some being dealt with by staff. The largest victim recorded so far is a 20m Douglas Fir in the Rhinefield ornamental drive. A giant . . . yet dwarfed here against the 9m specimen are Ray and Richard Stride, and Roly Bessant and Keith Sparks.

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HOWZAT . . . 378 NOT OUT!

THREE generations of one family providing TWO centuries of service to forestry.

That's the proud boast of Bob Hendrie, retired chief forester (research), who has written from Ross-on-Wye wanting to know if this is a record of unparalleled service to the Forestry Commission.

Some record. Can ANYONE beat that? If so, let's enter your name in the record books. Write to The Slasher, FC, Corstorphine, Edinburgh. Pictures welcome, too.

REMEMBER our challenge to any FC-linked families to match the Hendrie clan's two centuries of service?

The story of their long service through three generations appeared on the front page of our March issue.

Now the challenge has been answered . . . the Adams family of Shropshire claim a grand total of 288 years' service to forestry, which beats by 89 years the total sent in by Bob Hendrie, retired chief forester (research), who lives in Ross-on-Wye.

And the Adams' spokesman, Gordon Adam, FD Manager at Marches, Ludlow, Shropshire, goes further: he points out that three cousins of the Adams family each had at least three decades of work in forestry, which takes the grand total claimed to no less than 378 years. Now beat that for long service!

Mr Adam (don't be confused, he's not related to

our long-servers) tells us that Jim Adams, an FC industrial worker, son of Isaac and grandson of James, joined Marches FD in 1946.

He was then 14, and taking into account his three years with the Royal Ulster Rifles (some of it in Korea) he has added 41 years to the family's record.

As far back as September 1968, Slasher recorded the Adams' record of service: 247 years in two generations.

This is how it added up:

JAMES ADAMS, the father, began work at the age of 12 in the Forest of Dean and retired when he was 68. His five sons all went to Parkend Forestry School.

BILL started work at 14, but shortly before the outbreak of the 1914/18 War, after seven years' service in the Dean, he went to East Africa where he died.

JIMMY when he retired in 1959, was Head Forester in the New Forest, having completed 51 years from age 14.

ISAAC can claim 49 years' service. He was Head Forester at Mortimer when he retired in 1964.

CHARLIE served much of his time with the Commission in South Wales, and had completed 50 years when he retired in 1965.

HARRY started work at age 14 and served for seven years in the Dean before emigrating to East Africa. He returned to the Commission in 1941 and retired after a total of 34 years.

That all adds up to 247. Then add Jim's 41 years in Marches, PLUS the three cousins, and you have the grand total of 378.

We hope our arithmetic is correct!

Incidentally, one of the three cousins is Anthony Kear, at present head forester to the Marquis of Bath.

Now come on . . . surprise us! Is there anyone out there who can top 378? The challenge is well and truly open . . .

LIZ HAS A CARD UP HER SLEEVE — HAWAII!

Liz Gill, typist at Dornoch FD, is a card player supreme . . . she has just won the Scottish singles cribbage championship for the third year. Her previous title successes were in 1983 and 1984.

Liz, well-known in the Highlands for her cribbage expertise, is also a great ambassador for her home village of Embo.

Just two days before her cribbage victory in May, she was involved in the official opening of the newly renovated Community Centre in the village.

Liz was one of a small team of volunteers who raised £30,000 in just over two years to save their former Primary School from being sold, and to adapt it as a multi-use community centre with the emphasis on bringing youth and age together.

At the ceremony were a couple from Hawaii who had years before fallen in love with Embo and its people.

Hannah and Will Johnstone were invited over for the opening, and for Will to participate in the Scottish cribbage event (he is a former American champion and won the Scottish in 1985).

They were at the centre primarily to hand over an official twinning certificate from the Mayor of Hawaii, and Embo will now officially twin with the village of Kaunakakai on the Island of Molokai.

Liz and Donald Ward, EO in Morgannwg FD, are looking forward to visiting Hawaii as guests of the Mayor to cement the relationship and exchange gifts. Donald is the former



She's a card is Liz . . . and Prime Minister on the day her village declared UDI.

chairman of Embo Community Centre Association.

Sutherland District Council have given their blessing, to the twinning arrangement, and plans are under way to ensure next year's ceremony in Hawaii is successful. A return visit by Hawaiian representatives to Embo is also planned.

While on the Pacific Island, Liz and Donald are expected to address the Hawaiian Council

New boost for woodland grants

Widespread support has been given to the Government's plans for a new grants scheme from 1992 to support forestry managements.

The woodland management grants, announced by the Scottish Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, are part of a package of measures arising from a review of broadleaved woodland policy and will be available to owners of both broadleaved and conifer woodland who agree a five-year plan of operation with the Commission.

Mr Rifkind said: "We are sure the decision will be welcomed by both forestry and management interests. The policy introduced in 1985 has already had a significant effect on British forestry. With the changes we are well placed to continue with the important task of conserving and enhancing the value of our woodland heritage."

Andrew Christie-Miller, chairman of Timber Growers UK, welcomed the news: "These grants are sorely needed by the private sector. Our only reservation is that while the figures are appropriate for 1990, what will be the eroding effect of inflation."

The Country Landowners' Association said the grants would help landowners to manage woodlands to secure the timber, wildlife, landscape and recreational

opportunities that society demands, but a comprehensive policy review was needed rather than continuing piecemeal adjustments.

It is estimated that the annual cost of the new grants will be about £5 million once the system has built up — all found by the Commission from within existing resources.

Grants of up to £35 per ha will be paid annually in arrears, subject to satisfactory implementation of the plan.

A lump sum payment of £100 will also be available from the FC for owners who draw up management plans for the first time with the benefit of professional advice for areas eligible for woodland management grants. This assistance will not be available, however, for planting plans.

There will be two types of grant:

A — Standard management grants payable during the normal maintenance period following the initial establishment phase of the woodland — for conifer woodlands between 11 and 20 years of age and for broadleaved woodlands between 11 and 40 years.

B — Special management grants — payable for woodlands of special environmental value of any age

CONTINUED PAGE TWO

Slasher Betty!



Anyone who has ever asked Betty Cowan, Administrative Officer, Ae Management Training Centre, how long she has been in post will be familiar with the reply: "I was here before the building. They built it around me!" Never a truer word spoken in jest.

Betty joined the Commission's Education & Training Branch in 1972 and took up the post at Gubhill. The Management Training Centre at Ae Village was then still under construction and did not open until the next June.

Since then, the centre has been served by three Management Training Officers and 10 Training Officers, the one constant member of the team being Betty. Which must earn her the accolade of "best known Admin. Officer in the Commission" — for a quick calculation shows that in that period there have been more than 10,000 FC course members; 1300 private sector course members; and 3000 visitors.

It was only fitting, therefore, when the time came to cut the tape at Ae Management Training Centre, that the honour should fall to Betty. Why was it necessary to cut the tape? Well that's an opening for a further article, Mike Green, Management Training Officer, tells Slasher. We await further word . . .

Above, Betty is seen in full swing (at a safe working distance) by Training Officers, Vince Thurkettle (left) and Ian Robinson.

It's all happening!

**THE THINGS YOU CAN GET
UP TO... ON LAND OR WATER**

'SCUSE the pun... but "EVENT-FULL" is the only word for it, so far as FC staff are concerned.

Events galore have involved our staff in a wide assortment of ways... from canoeing to raft races, from drama on stage to carriage driving... and of course the annual round of agricultural shows up and down the country (see our Royal Highland Show report elsewhere in this issue).

Let's start with Cowal FD, where a hardy brigade made quite a splash in June.

There, the District Forester H and M, Jim Lyon, organised a charity relay race between Forest Management section and Harvesting and Marketing across Loch Eck and back to the Coylet Inn.

The winning team was deemed to be the first to down a pint of beer on returning to shore.

Technically speaking, with a professional beer-drinker on the final leg, H&M won. However objections were raised by FM crew after the outrageous attempt of H&M captain, Jim Lyon himself, to prevent the FM team from reaching their pint. The official adjudicator refused to uphold the objection: the law of the jungle prevails, he ruled!

All money raised on the day is going to Tree Aid, the registered charity launched in 1986 by foresters and others connected with the wood industry to relieve the poverty and promote the welfare of persons overseas by preserving and improving their agricultural environment particularly through tree planting.

Next, we'll stay on the water to report on the goings-on down the Ouse in North England, also early in June.

Our correspondent writes: North England Conservancy staff are by now old hands at rafting. The intrepid mariners have entered rafts in the RNLI race down the Ouse for some years now with varying results: twice first in their class; and at the other extreme a dramatic sinking even before the race began while attempting to repel boarders — always a problem on these occasions!

1990's crew was made of sterner stuff though and the raft was built to withstand even the most practical of opponents. So it was with stout hearts that our crew took their places on Conifer II and negotiated flying eggs, buckets of water and — worst of all — fire pumps on their way to the starting line.

The start was messy to say the least. Most of the crews were either trying to avoid being drenched or engaged in open warfare between the crews of the 'fun raft' class.

Our crew managed to make it past this small scale re-enactment of the defeat of the armada, and despite being soaking wet were only a few minutes behind the leaders as they negotiated the first of York's many bridges.

The first ten minutes sorted out the men from the boys with three rafts sinking almost as soon as they left their moorings. Conifer II, captained by its builder, Michael Douch, set a steady pace. Leaving the fun class to fight it out, they headed resolutely for the finish line,

although frequently swamped by the wash from passing motor-cruisers.

The weather was not on our heroes' side either. In the true tradition of the British summer, the heavens opened, leaving them very cold and very wet!

Despite all that, our team managed to negotiate the two-mile course to finish a respectable third in the mechanical raft class, taking 45 minutes to complete the course.

Never ones to duck a challenge, the team are already planning next year's craft.

So a warning — if you're thinking of taking part next year or you own a motor yacht, beware! Conifer III will be out for REVENGE!!

Now it's back to Cowal FD and their varied efforts on the boards...

An unknown, jocular (we hope!) scribe sends in this contribution:—

Glasgow's year of culture stretched over the Clyde when almost all the cast of the local Benmore drama club production was made up of people connected to the forest industry.

The play, a farce written by Kenneth Horne and named Trial and Error, was the Drama Company's 25th production, but one of their least successful. The *Dunoon Observer* summed up the play by reporting that the cast got the applause they deserved. The drama club committee later resigned!

Taking part were Mike Bentley (FOIV); Claire Lumley (AO, Cowal office); Pat McGranaghan, book-keeper, and wife of local timber contractor; Sandra MacPhail, wife of a one-time local timber haulier; Mike Lewis, timber contractor; and Roy Reece, insurance agent.

A week later, Area Land Agent, Kevin Firth based in Cowal office, had more success with his singing / dancing role in the local Choral Club's production of "My Fair Lady" which was deservedly well received.

Still on our travels, and it's back across the Border again, this time to Kielder, who always manage to keep their name in the news... and why not.

This time, they have taken to carriage driving and John Ogilvie, Management Officer of Kielder FD, records their first event in this medium...

He writes: Around twenty teams entered the event, organised by Northumberland Carriage Driving Club.

Major national events are often held in the grounds of stately homes such as Floors Castle and Lowther Park. When the Northumberland club visited Kielder, however, they were very enthusiastic about the setting and standard of the course, and immediately made plans for this trial event.

A major three-day event normally consists of three sections: dressage, marathon and obstacle. The Kielder event consisted of the marathon and obstacle course only.

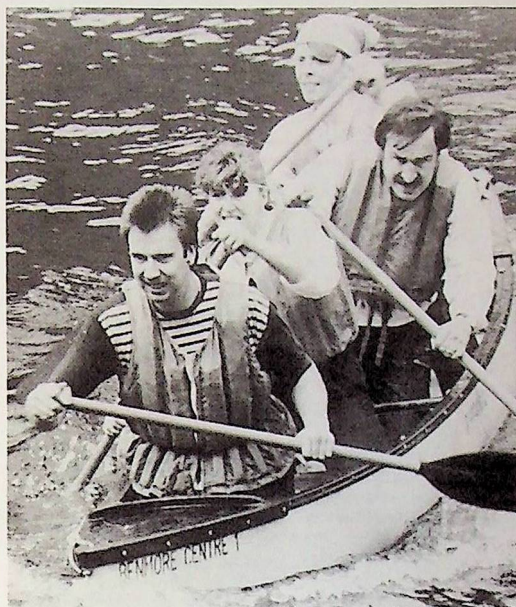
The marathon — described as "Man and horse against the elements" — carriages are pulled over a testing seven-mile course, incurring penalty points for going either too fast or too slow. The teams had to negotiate a series of man-made and natural hazards.

In the obstacle course, the driver tests his skill and his horse's obedience and suppleness against the designer's challenging, twisting course.

The picture of the Kielder event in this page is by Ranger Dick Graham.



The Cowal crews gather by a lovely setting, ready for the fray.



Determined faces... racing for shore and that pint!

Deserting the sinking ship? No... it's thirst that's driving them towards the drink that marks the Cowal victors.



Three girls in a boat... Janice Campbell (Dalby Workshops), Susan Campbell and Julia Wright (Conservancy Office), together with the appropriately named Douch (Michael, that is), the intrepid captain. And all four kept on a string, as you can see!



A view from the bridge... one of the Kielder carriages negotiates a tricky section.

LYNNE IS A B-Z-Z-Z-Y BEE FOR CHARITY



Salaries Section at HQ are about to re-launch the Give As You Earn scheme, with leaflets distributed to all staff.

The buzz is that the organisers are putting in an extra effort to persuade staff to adopt a simple method of putting by the spare lolly to help charities.

What's more it saves you a little... for each £1 you promise actually costs you only 75p at standard rate of tax (and less if you are lucky enough to be paying a higher rate!).

Lynne Stafford is keeping an eye on things... give her a buzz. And she stresses she doesn't want to sting you. Honest!

Once you have made your choice of charity (and your choice is confidential), deductions are made from salary until further notice.

Under the scheme, staff can give up to £600 each year spread among eight charities — and the



FC have four particularly in mine. They are Tree Aid, TUC Aid, Dr Barnardo's and the Civil Service Benevolent Fund. The choice is yours.

The scheme is not open to pensioners, but they can opt to contribute to charities of their choice by covenant.

The bee leaflets contain application forms enabling staff to join, or to amend existing contributions.

If you want more info, apply to Salaries Section who will be only too happy to help you.

GRANTS

FROM PAGE ONE

above 10 years. In return, the owner must agree to take specified action to maintain and enhance the woodland's special character. Woodlands in this category will be those which in the Commission's view are of special value for nature conservation, landscape, public recreation or a combination of these by virtue of their nature, location or use.

A supplementary grant will be paid for woodlands of less than 10 hectares because of the higher management costs involved.

Woodlands currently in receipt of grants from other public bodies will not be eligible for the new grants except for those established under the Farm Woodland Scheme. The annual payments to farmers under that scheme are compensation for agricultural income forgone, and are not provided for the purpose of defraying maintenance expenditure.

Measures to control grey squirrels are included in the approved management plan.

ON STAGE AT COWAL



Dramatic stuff at Cowal, where (dare we say it!) "wooden" performances caused a mass resignation. Or so we are told...

STIMULATING CHANGE, SAYS MEDAL WINNER

Get out and travel with Fellowship



Two pictures by Mark that help to illustrate his European travels... a wooden road bridge in Switzerland and timberjack extraction in French Jura.



Here's something perhaps you didn't know . . .

Give the chop to wooden chopsticks! That's the message that has gone out in the latest drive to curb the loss of the world's forests.

For did you know that, according to an environmental group in Japan, the amount of wood used in one year to make "waribashi" (chopsticks) is equivalent to the volume of wood used to build an average of about 11,000 houses?

While manufacturers argue that scrap wood is mainly used, the environmental campaigners retort that as wood chopsticks become increasingly popular, trees up to 30 to 50 centimetres in diameter are used, for logs are easier to transport than messy scrap.

Mrs W. F. Maloney, of the private forestry and environment section of the FC office in Dumfries, tells us that a member of staff recently received a newspaper cutting from a friend in Japan which underlines the seriousness of the position.

The Japan Environmental Exchange (JEE), a volunteer campaigning group, have targeted restaurants in the Kyoto area.

They claim that about 10 billion disposable chopsticks were imported to Japan last year from Malaysia, Korea, China and even from the USA.

Wise

JEE say: "In modern Japanese society, lighters, shavers, pens and even umbrellas, cameras and bicycles have become disposable. It would be wise to halt this process and think more carefully about the consequences of every little thing we do."

They are asking restaurants to provide customers with re-usable chopsticks; in addition volunteers will visit various establishments to talk about conservation problems.

So next time you are in an Oriental restaurant, remember that you, too, can do your bit by refusing to use wooden chopsticks . . .

BOB MILLER BOWS OUT

AN old favourite from HQ retired in May. Bob Miller, renowned for his catch phrase, "Do you know how much this costs?" bid farewell to colleagues at a special lunch. His retirement gifts included a colour TV, Sony Walkman, reversible jacket and sweater.

He had been with the FC for 15 years in which time he worked in Secretariat, Finance and finally Office Services, where he built up the reputation of being able to recite prices for items of furniture and stationery without referring to books.

Bob said that he was looking forward to retirement and he intended to spend more time pursuing his favourite hobbies which include golf, listening to jazz, "and enjoying the odd whisky."



TWO men o' the forests, one from the Forest of Dean, the other district manager at Dolgellau, urge colleagues to apply for Travelling Fellowships from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

"A short sabbatical can be a refreshing and stimulating change," says Mark Yorke, FD Manager at Dolgellau, who won one of 108 fellowships awarded last year, along with fellow FC officer David Mackie.

David went on to study natural regeneration of hardwoods in France, ending his study this summer; Mark also went to France, and to Switzerland, Bavaria, with one day in Austria. His chosen subject: "Regeneration and Management of Uneven-aged Coniferous Forests in Central Europe and its Relevance to Great Britain."

Mark told Slasher: "I can thoroughly recommend applying for a Fellowship when the opportunity next arises."

"A short 'sabbatical' — fellowships last for approximately eight weeks — with a specific and relevant project to study can be a refreshing and stimulating change to one's everyday routine, not that there is much routine in an FDM's job, thank goodness!"

"The main purpose of my project was to consider the practicality and cost-effectiveness of an alternative to our routine practice of clear felling and restocking. While there are a number of factors such as site conditions and wind hazard and financial objectives that constrain any alternatives to this practice, there is increasing evidence that the public, National Parks and even Ministers are enquiring whether or not there is an alternative to clear felling — particularly in those parts of our coniferous forests which form a significant feature in the environment."

Disliked

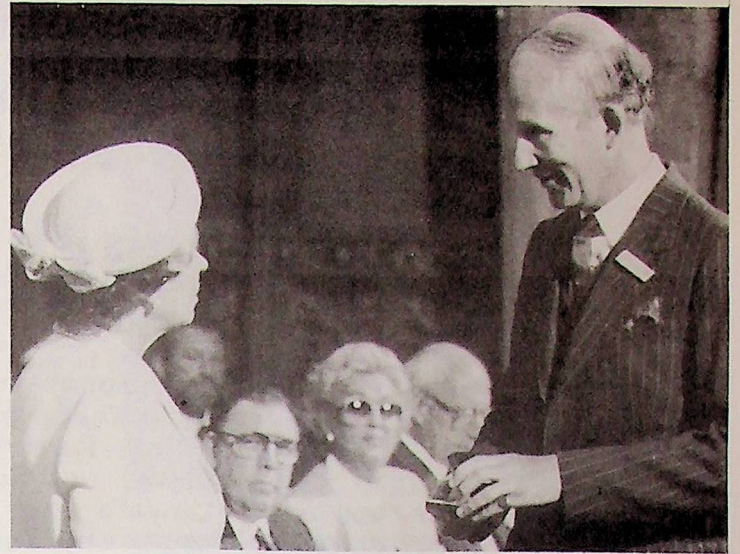
"There is also, I suggest, a need to 'sell' to the public, the intrinsic attraction and commercial and environmental value of well-grown 'large' conifers within an uneven-aged stand structure."

"The public dislike change, and we are all aware of their dislike of the creation of new forests on open land. However, the wheel has turned full circle and now they are expressing dislike of the felling of these same forests. While this may be the only practical alternative in much of Britain, there are, I suggest, sites where the 'perpetual' and stable forest environment that continues to produce high quality timber, is of value in the environment."

"My study in Europe was largely concentrated on the management of Selection forest, and while many aspects of European practice are not relevant to British conditions, there is, I suggest, scope for an adaption of the Selection system to suit some British conditions."

Last year was the 25th anniversary of the granting of Fellowships, and Mark attended a luncheon at Guildhall this May, when he was presented with his medallion by the Queen.

• Mark is offering his help or advice to prospective applicants for Fellowships or to give a talk on his experiences and project to any interested group. You can contact him at District Office, Arran Road, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 1LW.



Mark Yorke at Guildhall on May 11, when he received his Churchill Fellowship medallion from the Queen at an event to mark the scheme's silver jubilee.

TUS DIARY

By Kenny Murray

A vital question

Early in July, a senior officer in the Commission asked me "what the Unions had to bother about just now," what with the Government's refusal to accept any recommendation from the Agriculture Select Committee particularly the one proposing separation of Authority and Enterprise.

He went on to suggest that, with all this controversy out of the way and the issue of privatisation being pushed out of sight the Unions would be pretty quiet.

My senior friend had not legislated for the Prime Minister's recent penchant for making policy statements on the hoof.

The very next day during Prime Minister's questions in the Commons, Michael Jopling (he of the infamous "sell the FC as one lot" 1986 Economist article) said: "If the Prime Minister can find time today to give further thought to future policies, will she ask herself why it should be necessary for the Forestry Commission to own £1 billion of real estate in land and growing timber? Is it not a good candidate for privatisation?"

The Prime Minister: I am well aware that my right hon friend has consistently taken that view. I think there is something in what he says, but we must consider it in more detail for future policy.

So has privatisation gone away? Not a bit of it. The line constantly peddled in parliamentary answers and debates is that "the Government have no plans to privatise the Forestry Commission." There may indeed be no concrete plans as yet but the Prime Minister's answer on July 3 certainly reveals an intent.

With political parties now beginning to formulate their manifestoes for the General Election, it is vital that every MP is asked the question: "Do you believe that the Forestry Commission should be privatised?" Their response should be made public.

The Forestry Unions Action Group has made contact with some MPs and the public campaign is under way. Recent events must surely prove to those who have questioned the wisdom of a public and parliamentary campaign of the need to give full support to what CPSA, GMB, NUCPS and TGWU are doing to support their members' and the Commission's work and worth.

The other side of the sell-off coin is, of course, the acquisition of land. The Commission, since 1985, has acquired only 7402 ha. The Government target for FC planting is 4-5000 ha a year so you can see that in five years the Commission has acquired land which amounts to 1 1/2 years planting.

I know that the non-availability of land has been a major factor in these poor figures. I also know that Foresters have got authority to go "knocking on doors" if they see or hear of the possibility of land becoming available.

To augment this doorstep policy, the Commission have come up with a real humdinger. In Mid Scotland — and I believe North Scotland are considering similar action — they have offered the position of acquisitions officer to a recently retired FDM on a part-time contract basis! Doing what was previously done by serving Forest Officers before the complement cutters went to work.

The contract for an initial 12-month period may be extended. Payment is at £10 an hour for a 20-hour week, working from home, with all expenses paid.

It beggars belief that the Commission have decided to take this course of action. If we are really in the business of going out and acquiring land why don't we use existing staff or promote people into these posts?

There is nothing in the contract to suggest that such appointees must observe the confidentiality which exists within the FC on acquisitions and disposals. There is nothing in the contract which stipulates that they must not operate for any other company in a conflicting capacity.

I am not suggesting that such appointees would be in any way dishonest; I am merely stating that these are

Save Your Forests



A detail from the Action Group's campaigning leaflet.

Some of the artwork is a candidate for the BP Strategy Unions Action Group Art Awards

important reasons why contracts are drawn up. Otherwise why don't we just have a handshake and a contact name for submitting claims!

The point of my argument is not the tightening up of the contract; but to ensure that this vital facet of FC activity is carried out in-house, by creating the posts we need.

I suppose we all want a form of Annual Staff Reporting that is "open." In other words the Reportee sees precisely what their superior thinks of them regarding promotability as well as performance. The Commission have consistently refused to adopt open reporting even though some other departments have volunteered to trial the concept.

So we all thought that one's full ASR was confidential between the Reportee, Reporting and Countersigning Officers and Grade Managers (or A&FO). We will be proven wrong.

Henceforth, if you wish a transfer or if you apply for a vacancy, the head of Division or Conservator plus the A&FO will have the right to see your full report.

What interest they should have in a document that has been properly processed and which has convinced a promotion board, is anyone's guess. But then I am sure you will all feel better about getting a job having gone through two selection procedures. I feel strongly about this issue particularly in view of the attitude of management towards the sound career development arguments that were put forward by the Unions. They see it as a management choosing their own teams!

I hear there is a Working Party in existence looking at the possibility of uniforms for FC staff who have regular contact with the public. The Foresters have no sooner got rid of their uniform when someone comes up with this loopy idea.

I may be totally wrong — some people have told me they would not mind wearing a smart "bank style" uniform. What do you think?

DUKE PRAISES BOOK ON HEBRIDES

Dr Morton Boyd, the FC's nature conservation consultant, has received a special accolade from the Duke of Edinburgh in a new book* on the natural history of the Hebrides.

The Duke says in a foreword: "There is no doubt at all about the enthusiasm of the Boyd family for the Hebrides, and it shows in every line of this splendid book . . . I believe that it will become a 'bench

mark' for all those who are interested in the natural history of the islands in the future."

Rich in fossils, the Hebrides are as famous for the still living flora and fauna and "the isles on the edge of the world" continue to be a naturalists' paradise, attracting over 50,000 people each year.

The book, in the Collins New Naturalist series, is written by Morton and his son Ian (whose

life-long hobby, developed into scientific research on seals) and is the conclusion of many years' extensive investigation. Morton told "Slasher": "There are chapters on forestry and woodlands in the Hebrides and I have integrated the place of trees in what is a comprehensive natural history of the islands."

* £12.95 in paperback, £30 in hardback.

Not just a merry-go-round

To continue the Page Two theme ... it's all happening! Not only is Lynne Stafford a b-z-z-z-e-e-bee ... FC staff generally have been buzzing around merrily all summer as the

traditional events come around yet again. The Royal Highland Show, the Suffolk show, Cowal's open day, the HQ sports day. You name it ... it's ACTION galore up and down the country. We have

space for only a few of the highlights, but many more activities go unsung. Yet all keep the Forestry Commission well and truly in the public eye. And that's what it is all about ...

Royal Highland highlights

Abertay FD owe themselves a pat on the back for their organisation of Scotland's largest agricultural show, the Royal Highland, at Ingliston near Edinburgh.

Despite damp and windy weather, attendance was up on previous years. The Forestry Commission alone recorded a record 4800 visitors to their display over the four days — a 30 per cent increase on last year's figures.

In addition to the WGS and FWS displays, Abertay FD MS) mounted a display on the Changing Forest. "Creating Woodland Habitat." It showed that forest management is a static process and that as early forests mature the cycle of harvesting and planting provides an opportunity for planned improvements to the ecology and diversity of the woodland.

Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State at the Scottish Office presented Dr Phil Ratcliffe (Principal Wildlife and Conservation Research Officer) with the Balfour-Browne deer trophy for 1990 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to deer management, conservation and research.

The citation for the award notes that through his studies on red deer, major improvements have been made to their management in Scottish forests.

Phil has developed a scientific basis for the estimation of deer numbers allowing a more rational approach to deer management and a clearer understanding of the interaction between deer and the environment. The result of this work includes the publication of a scientific Bulletin and the development of a Red Deer Management training package, initially for FC Rangers, but possibly later available for private sector trainees.

Raymond Johnstone, FC Chairman, was on hand at the show to congratulate Phil and to thank Lord Sanderson for his help in presenting the trophy.

Other VIP visitors were the Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, and Baroness Trumpington, Minister of State for MAFF.

Cowal FD supplied the weekend entertainment with a demonstration of tree surgery and tree climbing by Forest Officers Tony Rees and Mike Bentley and on the Sunday, Forest Craftsman Jimmy Gilles pulled in the crowds with his excellent wood carving.

Forestry in Scotland this year amalgamated into one tent, housing the ICF, RFS, TGLK, ICF, the Forestry Safety Council, the Scottish Forestry Trust and the forestry colleges.

Suffolk success

At last year's Suffolk Show, the FC stand provided a showcase for campsite warden Joe Seichter's chainsaw sculpting and won a "Highly Commended" certificate. This year the Forestry Commission went further with the award of "The Perpetual Challenge Rose Bowl" for the best working demonstration arranged in connection with the exhibitor's everyday business.

This major award was made possible by a unique partnership with Halsewood-based contractors "Logmasters", who provided machinery and expertise, as well as a good deal of time and energy to the Commission's stand.

The Suffolk Show, unlike many county shows in the past few years, has retained its essential rural character. It was with this in mind that only machinery that was pertinent and affordable to landowners and farmers was demonstrated. The use of forwarders or front-end loaders was avoided because such machinery makes it beyond the bounds for most visitors to the show.

Logmasters were asked to supply the small-scale machinery.

Almost 90,000 people came to the

two-day show and, judging by the very few trailers left in the FC Caravan at the end, most must have visited the Commission stand!

As well as the ubiquitous children filling plastic carrier bags with anything going free, dozens of "serious" inquiries were made by members of the public, resulting in lots more work for the District PW team! There were notably less inquiries in the nature of "I have this tree ..."

The problem now, of course, is how to top this success next year. If any readers have (useful) ideas, Steve Scott, District Forester (Op) Suffolk FD, would like to hear from you. As many FC teams attend county shows each year, there must be a lot of good ideas generated — perhaps they could be pooled, says Steve.

Across at Aberystwyth Agriculture Show, Stephen Williams, FD III, was presented with a rosette for the trade stand competition.

Staff served 100 gallons of tea and coffee in an hourly lunch interval and enjoyed a static display of Welsh Forestry Harvests and a browse among the

Cowal conquers

More than 100 people, including residents of Elys Lodge home for adults with special needs, senior citizens from Struan Lodge, Ashgrove and Bethania House together with children from Woodside School and Dunoon Grammar School special unit attended a forest open day held by Cowal FD in Glenbranter.

Events included a demonstration of fire felling and demonstration of forest mechanical equipment including forwarders, cable cranes and all-terrain vehicles used for conservation.

Commission staff explained methods of forest management and uses of the vehicles, and allowed children and adults to inspect the machinery at close hand.

All demonstrations were organised close to the forest roadside to enable the less mobile to get a good view without having to leave their vehicles.

The men showed less prowess and were ceremoniously knocked out in the first round stand competition!

The HQ bowling team (above right): Cathy Conway, Christine McLean, Rod Madden and Colin Spillane were also there to show that sports day fun is not just confined to the youngsters!!!! From football to cricket ... and the well-



Phil Ratcliffe receives his award from Lord Sanderson.



Raymond Johnstone presents the John Kennedy Trophy to a Buccleuch Estates representative.



Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish Secretary, with Hugh Ilder, Mid Scotland FFAO at the Highland.



Ma... there's someone sitting in my seat. The black bear has gone as Chairman Raymond Johnstone introduces Roger Bradley to the Chairman Raymond Johnstone.



Highland Show ... and Baroness Trumpington is introduced to Commissioner Roger Bradley by the Chairman Raymond Johnstone.



Roadside close-up of one of the many Cowal FD attractions on their open day ... and right) time for a break for Cowal's visitors.



Well worth it: The day took a great deal of organising due to the special needs of a lot of people but it was well worth the time and effort. We hope to hold a similar open day next year.



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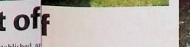
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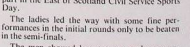
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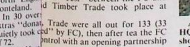
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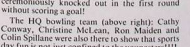
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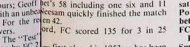
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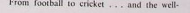
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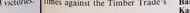
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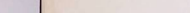
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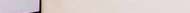
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You ARE a bright lot, aren't you!

Masterminds of the forests were hailed in the last issue of Slasher ... now we proudly present more masterminds, this time to the world of academia.

And topping the list is Steve Penny, currently in Newton Stewart SSS, who has gained his degree of Master of Forestry Engineering.

But he had to go to Canada to win it ... for no university or college offers such a course in this country.

Steve graduated at the University of New Brunswick in May ... and later he paid tribute to Roger Hay, Director of Engineering, and to FC staff in HQ and at Lochgilbligh office who all gave him "valuable support."

Steve told Slasher: "As a discipline in its own right, Forest Engineering is a combination of training in forestry, engineering and management. No university or college yet offers such a course in this country."

And the accolade of student of the year has gone to Kate Bloskley, who was at York office for 12 years before moving to MGS Conservancy last August.

Her release is seen as a bit of a chore to most FC staff but not to Kate, who was nominated student of the year after passing with merit her BTEC course in Surveying and Land Use and for an outstanding contribution to the course.

Kate completed the two-year course at Leeds College of Building last July, and is seen receiving her prize from the college principal at Leeds Town Hall last month.

Still with our learned ones ... and Inverness College has been successful in "winning" its forestry course to an advanced level.

The Scottish Vocational Education Council (SCVET) has approved plans for the award of a Higher National Diploma (forestry) and students who enter the college this autumn will be the first to be enrolled on this course.

Until now the course at Inverness has led to the award of the Scottish National Certificate in Forest Management.

The new HND course has two significant advantages over the previous year of pre-college practical work and college work, and the holder of the new HND (forestry) will normally gain exemption from the first and second years of Aberdeen University's honours degree in forestry.

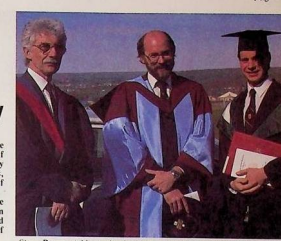
The best — NOT the worst

Entries are being sought from Civil Service departments for a competition to find the best example of service to the public. A bottle of champagne is the prize.

The publication, *Management Matters*, had expected many more entries than they have received so far — so have extended the closing date till August 10.

The competition was launched in response to the Sunday Times' article of a magazine of champagne for the worst example of departmental administration, reported Sir Robin Butler.

Why not submit yours?

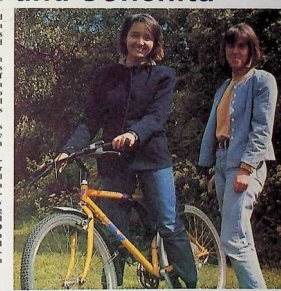


Steve Penny at his graduation with two of his examiners, Dr R. A. Douglas (centre) and Professor I. Melville.



Student of the Year, Kate, receives her award.

Scots welcome to Mariana and Conchita



As many FC staff head off or return from the sunny climes of Southern Europe, these two Spanish forestry students have arrived in Scotland to work with the Forestry Commission as part of the European Community's COMET programme.

The Community Action Programme in Education and Training for Technology (COMET) provides support for the placement of students, new graduates and lecturers to gain experience of work in companies in other European countries in an effort to stimulate technology transfer between member states.

Both Mariana Orti Moris and Maria Concepcion Alta Tuells (Conchita) have been involved in landscaping since they started with the Commission in March.

Mariana is in Edinburgh working on Glen Urquhart Forest, and Conchita is in Perth working on Tentsmuir Forest in Abertay.

The two foresters from the Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros de Montes, Madrid, have greatly enjoyed their experience and have fallen in love with Scotland and the Scottish people, but not the weather.

This is particularly understandable on Conchita's part: she spent March and April cycling around Tentsmuir Forest. Not quite the same climate as her native Majorca!

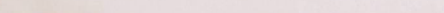
Their stay with us ends in December.



Hold-up in play for a serious woman's talk on tactics? Or do they know what to do with that half? Another view of the sporting girls of HQ at the sports day ... the day they outshine the men.



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Fifty years for Tommy



Two of the rapidly dwindling band who can mark up FIFTY years of service have retired.

They are Tommy Cameron, workshop manager at Torlundy, Fort William, and Jimmy Farquharson (pictured below).

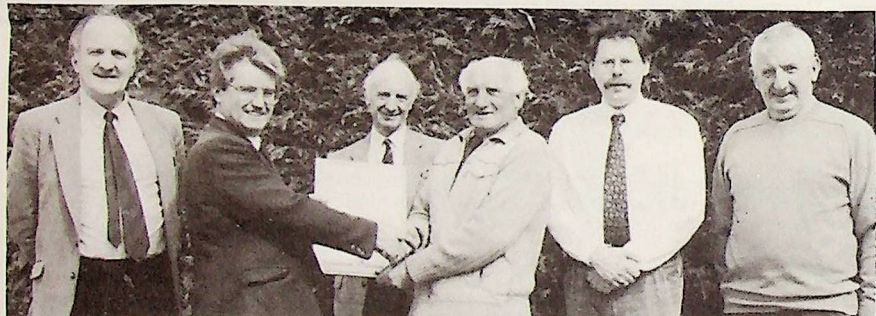
Tommy joined the Commission in 1939 as a forest worker in Inchnadarroch Forest. During the war years he was assigned to Home Grown Timber Production Dept.,

before returning to the Commission as a ploughing tractor driver. In the early 50s he became a mechanical engineer and was appointed as workshop manager in 1975.

To mark his retirement, Tommy received a video recorder, a gift from friends and colleagues, at a dance in Fort William.

Our picture shows Tommy receiving the recorder from Jim Mair, CME N(S), with Tommy's wife holding the bouquet.

... and for Jimmy, too



HAVING notched up 50 years of service, Jimmy Farquharson, leading ganger in harvesting, has retired from Moray Forest District. Colleagues and friends gathered to present Jimmy with a radio and a cheque. Mr J. Atterson, Conservator N(S), is seen presenting his long-service certificate as some of other staff look on.

Boko calls it a day

Workmates of Thetford FD said farewell to Laurence Steel who has retired after 42 years.

"Boko" as he is known to all, in the true Norfolk tradition, is the son of a Commission forester, still hale and hearty at 82 years old.

He started on Thetford Forest as a 15-year-old lad in 1948, and has done every job, with a special aptitude for nursery work. He was ganger in the JPP Nursery and on Central Beat when he had to retire through ill health.

Boko received a cheque with which he is going to buy a green-house, and later his long-service certificate was presented by the FDM and DF FM.

South Downs FD said farewell to Mrs June Adams, who had 32 years with the Commission, first as clerk, then as administrative officer.

Two past FD managers, Alan Catchpole and Peter Awberry, joined present manager Jack Nicholson to thank June for her work in looking after the Commission's interests across Hampshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight.

June received a cheque from colleagues.

Her husband, Jim, retired from the FC a few years ago but still



Boko Steel with former colleagues.

works part-time under contract at the Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Other retirements...

Dave Taylor, Senior Storeman, Blairadam, retired on July 25, after over 32 years.

Forest Craftsman Dave McGibbon (31 years). He started in Rannoch with a smallholding at Dall in 1958 and in 1973, moved farther west to an agricultural lease at Camghouran which Dave still intends to run. A cheque from colleagues was presented by his ex-

Chief Forester, Tavish Macmillan, who himself recently retired. Mrs McGibbon received a bouquet.

Bruce Milne, of Inver Workshop (24 years). He started as a mobile mechanic in the former East Scotland Conservancy working in Aberdeenshire. He was promoted to vehicle inspector in 1976 and held that post both in East Scotland and Mid-Scotland after amalgamation.

Although he had requested "nae fuss," an informal presentation was made of a wallet of money.

A BUSY YEAR FOR HQ RETIRED FOLK

Edinburgh HQ branch of the Retirement Association lead the way this month in keeping us in touch with their activities.

Sadly, there are no other contributions to hand from other areas, despite our call in recent issues for information.

But if HQ pensioners are anything to go by, FC pensioners are certainly keeping active.

Our Edinburgh correspondent, Nancy MacKenzie, tells us that during the past year there have been coffee-and-chat get-togethers, a guided walk down the Royal Mile, a sail down the Forth in the Gardyloo, the local refuse boat, Christmas Lunch at the zoo, a theatre visit, and a day out at Dunkeld.

It's all go for HQ branch...

Nancy adds of the Dunkeld coach outing: "After a brief stop at the Square with time to see the renovated houses and to visit the Cathedral, we drove on to the Hermitage car park where we were met by the National Trust Ranger, and Malcolm Weald and Peter White of the FC."

"Having heard the history of the Hermitage, we were taken in minibuses for a drive through Craigvinean Forest with interesting and instructive comments from Malcolm and Peter. Thence back to Dunkeld with time for coffee before returning to Edinburgh."

"Our thanks go to the NT ranger and Malcolm and Peter for a very enjoyable day out."

At the branch's annual meeting, officials elected were: Chairman, Bill Sutherland; vice-chairman, Mike Locke; secretary, Lilian Adamson; social convener, Mary Lowry; Slasher rep., Nancy MacKenzie; and treasurer, Harry Crawford, of 32 Broomhall Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 7PF.

Other events planned by the committee are:

Monday, August 13 — Coffee at Botanic Garden. Cars leave HQ 10 am, or meet Aboretum Road entrance 10.15 am.

Thursday, September 13 — Cultural outing — details later.

Friday, October 12 — To Crieff Pottery / crystal / distillery. Cars leave HQ 10 am.

Friday, December 14 — Zoo lunch 12 for 12.30 (provisional).

Wednesday, January 16 — Playhouse Theatre 2.30 pm. Tickets £9. Show: "42nd Street."

Wednesday, February 13 — Coffee, Gallery of Modern Art. Cars leave HQ 10 am, or meet gallery 10.15 am.

Friday, April 12 — AGM, coffee, 10.30 am, at HQ.

"Come along to all our events... give the committee your support," says Nancy.

Roy settles in Wales



Enjoying retirement in Wales is Roy Hughes, former Recreation and Range Manager for the New Forest, who had over 40 years' service with the Commission.

His earlier posts were as a Civil Engineer at Bristol, then at Kendal in 1957 and on to Basingstoke in 1960, then Lyndhurst in 1966. Ten years later he took over as Conservancy Recreational Planning Officer.

Roy's farewell party was attended by many friends and colleagues. The Official Verderer, Lord Manners, and his predecessor, Sir Dudley Forwood, added their contributions to tributes paid by Conservator Norman Dannatt and Deputy Surveyor David Perry. Gifts included a remote-control slide projector and crystal wine glasses.

Roy and his wife Joan are to make their home in Wales.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Never an idle moment...

JACK JENNINGS has now been retired for nearly 20 years... but has never been one to let the grass grow under his feet.

In his time since retirement in 1971, he has been involved in odd forestry jobs; looking after school grounds; helping his local butcher to make sausages; secretary to the Parochial Council; helping a local farmer; serving on a river drainage board and on the Parish Council; organist at the local church.

Now he has challenged other pensioners to come out from their shells and to tell us, through Slasher, all the things they have been up to.

And if you can out-do Jack in all the various tasks he has undertaken, we'd be pleased to hear from you... just write to Editor, Slasher, Forestry Commission, Corstorphine, Edinburgh. Pictures would be welcome, too.

Meantime, here is a shortened version of Jack's letter to the editor, which he has aptly titled, "Never an idle moment."

He begins with a quotation from Songs for Children, "In works of labour, or of skill, I would be busy too," and goes on to recall:—

"A forester about to retire called on me recently. His greatest concern appeared to be how he could usefully occupy himself in the future."

"What do you do with yourself all day?" he asked me. "How do you spend your time... I don't know what I shall do with myself."

"I told him not to worry. I was bothered with similar thoughts nearly twenty years ago; since then I have hardly found the time to cultivate my garden properly."

"Few men having passed through the first flush of youth will find that at age 60 they will be much in demand unless they happen to be financial wizards but they will soon discover that they will have opportunities to put to good use talents and skills that they possess but have almost forgotten. But it would be as well to recognise straight away that when called upon to exercise these talents it will inevitably be in an honorary capacity."

He adds that, apart from some odd jobs, "the only work I was paid for was five years at a school in Hereford maintaining the grounds and sports equipment for the Education Authority... Oh yes! and on some Saturdays I gave the butcher a hand in his shop and assisted in the making of his sausages."

"Honorary jobs rolled in like wildfire."

The secretaryship of the Parochial Church Council was handed to me when the previous scribe was taken ill. I learned shortly afterwards that he had been trying to rid himself of this job for a long time. However this helped me to get to know my neighbours, one of them being a farmer who hearing of my previous occupation called over my drive one day... 'Hey Jack', he shouted. 'Give us a hand to point a few stakes, will you?'

"I soon found myself driving his Massey Harris when he was making silage and he enjoys my company when taking stock to market in his vehicle. Now and again I shut up his ducks and collect the eggs when he is away for the day."

"This gent voted me on to the Drainage Board of the rivers Lugg and Lower Wye which I found interesting as it involved examining land in the catchment area between Leominster and Chepstow. On the death of his close colleague I was presented with another secretarial post with the Commoners of Hampton Bishop, local agricultural characters who have for centuries had moving and grazing rights on some sixty acres of privately-owned river meadows. Their record book (which I maintain as to numbers of animals on the common and charges) dates back to 1880. Studying some of their old documents and ancient maps prior to the hearing of a long-standing dispute on ownership heard by the Commons Commissioner at the Shire Hall in Hereford I found fascinating."

"When the vicar learned that I possessed a modest musical talent he appointed me organist at the local church, an occupation I have just relinquished after fifteen years in exchange for putting together the parish magazine."

"So, to anyone about to retire I would advise... keep active and busy, do anything that you are able to do. It isn't undignified to be seen in a pair of dungarees laying a length of hedge or wheeling a barrow full of rubbish along the road from your neighbour's garden."

As I write, my farming friend has just 'phoned. "Can you give us a hand to drench my lambs?" he says... he thinks that because I spent ten years in the Forest of Dean and some thirty in Wales I ought to know something about sheep!"

"If you prospective wrinkly senior citizens enjoy your retirement as much as I have you will be very happy. If you enjoy good health, in the words of Isaac Walton in 'The Complete Angler'... Look to it and value it next to a good conscience, it is a blessing that money cannot buy."

"Nothing to do in your spare time... you could have fooled me...!"

JACK JENNINGS.

Rectory Road, Hampton Bishop, Herefordshire.

(CF retired 1971).

P.S. Let's know what some of you other pensioners have been up to.

Yes... keep it in perspective, lads!

Dear Editor,

Was Kenny Murray (TUC) serious re Slasher's apparently (?) sexist trend? Presumably he was? In that case he would be shocked by the totally naked frog appearing, by no coincidence, on Page 3 of the issue. Doubtless by now the Editor will have been inundated with letters from members of TUS (Tadpoles' Unisex Society), ensuring no repeats occur.

In these days of female Forest Workers, Forest Officers, etc., equality is quite rightly here to stay — but let's keep it in perspective.

No more bromide in your hot milk, mate!

Dave McLeod,

Castle Douglas FD, King Street,
Castle Douglas DG7 1AA.

MOTTO FOR THE FUTURE.

Dear Editor,

Many things may have changed and many things have been said since the Commission was set up in 1919.

However, one statement, written by E. P. Stebbing in his book:

"Commercial forestry in Britain — its decline and revival," published in that same year, is as true now as it was then. He wrote, "It is an indisputable fact that the air on

wooded and mountain sides has certain healthful properties which exert their full influence on the jaded human being worn out with work, high living and the incessant excitement of modern life."

This statement should, perhaps, be the motto of all our forest walks... it is, after all, timeless!

Steve Penny,
Newton Stewart FD.

Holy smoke! What's going on here . . .



The dirty scene . . . in action at the Wyre Forest charcoal project.



Curator of Bewdley Museum, bearded Charles Fogg, with Peter Hobson and the clothes of the period.



Peter at extreme right, with the wigwam that was his temporary "home" partially obscured by the smoke.

THE WOOD OF FRIENDSHIP



Village nature park

Steve Roderick, director of Central Scotland Countryside Trust has been showing off the extent of the successes of the Trust's efforts in tree planting and the "greening" of the industrial wastelands of Lanarkshire.

Community woodlands, road-side trees and trees in the gardens

of council estates are just some of the visible signs in towns and villages like Brierch and Bonkle.

In just five short years, Steve and his team of 35 people have organised the planting and care of two and a half million trees, 50 kilometres of new hedge and 50,000 bulbs.

The trust's chairman is former Forestry Commissioner, Capt. Derrick Forbes, and its members include seven council nominees, with additional funding from the Countryside Commission for Scotland.

The first of a series of Village Nature Parks, on the edge of the Dykehead end of Shotts, near the Trust's headquarters, has been welcomed by residents and community leaders, voluntary groups and individuals are rallying to the cause.

"Local people are encouraged to take an active role throughout," said Steve. "And we are seeing some valuable commitment, often unexpected. Someone now phones the Fire Brigade whenever one of our woodlands is set alight!"

Commissioners re-appointed

Mr Ian Dewar Coutts and Mr Charles Richard Woosnam have been re-appointed part-time Forestry Commissioners, for three years and two years, respectively.

Mr Coutts of Attleborough, Norfolk, is an accountant with an involvement in local government covering 25 years, including six as leader of Norfolk County Council.

Mr Woosnam, of Bülth Wells, Powys, is now a consultant to a land agency practice, having been a senior partner for 25 years.

In a project inspired by an American visitor, these schoolchildren helped to plant out trees to mark Friendship Wood, so named to commemorate the many contacts which have been made since the Lockerbie air disaster.

During and since the air disaster, the area has had many American visitors, including a retired forester, Mr Frank Lockyear, of ReTree International, Oregon.

Franks spends his retiral travelling the world, persuading Governments to create forests. His successes include Korea, Third World and Eastern European countries.

He was intent on planting a forest with local residents and American Scouts in Lockerbie, so local authorities sought FC co-operation and 120 children from Lockerbie Primary School had a super day out planting trees on the specially prepared site next to the Black Esk picnic area.

Educating the public takes its many forms . . . reconstruction of an old craft, urban or community forestry, friendship forests.

These are but a few of the examples used by the Forestry Commission to keep Britain in the picture.

Down in Wyre Forest, for instance, charcoal burning was revived in a trial for an educational programme to be launched in September.

There, Conservation Ranger Peter Hobson donned clothes from another era to get in the mood . . . and lived in a wigwam for a spell!

This temporary abode illustrated a typical charcoal burners' camp of wigwam-type huts.

Peter explained the reasons behind the programme: "It was recognised that the Commission and Bewdley Museum have established some pretty good educational resources in the Wyre Forest area. We have a classroom and the museum get a good input from local schools so we agreed to establish a joint education programme with activities relevant to the new national curriculum. For example, school parties will be able to come out to the forest on a hunt for "mini-beasts" or to see another charcoal burn planned for construction in September."

Profit, too

A charcoal "clamp" was built from six tons of oak wood covered in earth. The wood came from the small branches of the trees canopy, known in the old days as cord wood. The burn had to be watched continuously for 72 hours to prevent it from simply turning into a huge bonfire.

On this occasion the charcoal burners were pleasantly surprised with the substantial amount of charcoal they produced. To help to pay for the project it is being sold for £2.50 a kilogram by the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre and Bewdley Museum.

Peter joined in the "clamp" watching dressed in charcoal burner's attire of muffer, flat hat, waist-coat, rough trousers and good strong boots.

In North-east England, the South Tyne and Wear / North-east Durham Community Forest project was launched as part of the national programme of "Forests for the Community."

The programme — a joint initiative between the FC and the Countryside Commission — aims to develop 12 projects in the coming years.

The South Tyne and Wear / North-East Durham project (STAWNE) is one of three lead schemes (along with South Staffordshire and East London) initially running for three years and producing a comprehensive "plan of action," to lead into the next century.

Five in link

Joining the two Commissions on this project are five North-east local authorities.

Community forests will be multi-purposed forests designed, developed and managed to provide for people's leisure needs, nature conservation and timber production. Located on the edge of cities and large conurbations they will:

- Strongly influence the environmental quality of green belts and the development planning of major cities.
- Provide a permanent, high quality environment, responsive to the needs of urban communities.
- Improve areas around forest edges, such as housing estates, and create more appealing urban locations for industry and commerce.
- Provide thriving havens for wildlife with diverse tree cover and landscapes.
- Filter the atmosphere of cities, absorbing pollution and "greenhouse gases," while releasing oxygen.

A partnership of all sections of society will be forged to work together to plan and implement the STAWNE project.

Here and there

All my own work!



A labour of love lasting (on and off) for four years has come to an end for John Beattie, CME North England . . . and he's pictured here with the finished product.

It took John an estimated 500 hours to build his "JBA Falcon" from a kirk based on Ford running gear and powered by a Rover V8 engine.

He told Slasher: "I wanted to build a traditional British sports car of the 50's and getting my hands on the period fittings was difficult and expensive. Some of my friends must have thought I'd given up," he added in explanation of the lengthy delay before it finally took to the roads.

But he explains the delay was also caused by the fact that he had two house moves and three new jobs in that four years. Many of our readers may recognise the car as a Leopard which featured in a recent ITV series, "The Chancer."

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

DONALD MACARTHUR, secretary of the UK Softwood Sawmillers' Association, received the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

He has been secretary of the association, formerly known as the Home Timber Merchants' Association of Scotland, for 20 years and was assistant secretary for eight years.

OBEs were also awarded to Professor Charles Gimmingham, a member of the Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee, and N(S) RAC; and to Malcolm McSwan, chairman of Central Scotland Woodlands Ltd.

Fantastic, Colin

COLIN SAUNDERS of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, ran this year's London marathon in a creditable 3 hr. 50 min. — and raised £220 for Tree Aid.

Colin would like to thank everyone for their sponsorship and support.

"The day was terrific," he says, "and the support from both spectators and fellow runners was fantastic. I'll not forget the day for a long time to come."



WOODEN HEAD . . .

IT had to happen! A training programme for students included a visit to an annual Conservancy timber auction which involved about 80,000 cubic metres. Suggested one bemused student: "It must be difficult to arrange to have all that timber at the hotel for the auction . . ."

Collapse of lecturer . . .

Congratulations!

A postscript to the report in the May issue of "Slasher" about the launch of Thetford Forest Park by former England football star Trevor Brooking.

In a radio interview afterwards, the local MP Mrs Gillian Sheppard (South-west Norfolk) said: "I'm absolutely thrilled with what I see. The Forestry Commission deserve every congratulation."

"All this kind of work — interpretation centres and so on — began in Scotland and has spread throughout Britain, wherever the Commission is established. I'm absolutely delighted with what they have been able to achieve in this very, very beautiful part of Norfolk."

In-convenience

A certain Landscape Technician, who must remain anonymous due to the delicacy of the situation, was heard shouting for help in the ladies' toilet. Apparently on going to answer a call of nature, she found that a tube of super glue in her back pocket had leaked . . . and her jeans were stuck fast to her body. Gentle hands came to her aid to prise the hapless girl free.