

SLASHER



Newspaper of the Forestry Commission

SEPTEMBER 1990

No. 348

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FOREST Shops



Salesmanship is the name of the game

— Centre pages.

Special offer

— Centre pages.

FORESTRY JOBS

The results of a Forestry Commission Forest Employment Survey, conducted during 1988 and 1989, which details job figures and patterns within the forestry industry in Great Britain, shows a total of some 41,000 jobs were provided by forestry and the associated haulage and primary processing of home-grown timber — which is an overall increase of over 4% since a similar survey in 1986.

The country breakdown of employment figures is: England — 21,025; Scotland — 15,245; Wales — 4,780.

The largest increase has been in harvesting and processing of timber which has risen by 10% — providing employment for some 2,500 more people than at the last survey. There has also been a marked increase in employment on "other forest activities" in all sectors surveyed. This includes all of the environmental activities: landscape, nature conservation, recreation and sport.

"The importance of forestry to the rural economy has never been so well illustrated as in the results of this survey," commented Gwyn Francis CB, retiring Director General. "Timber production from Britain's forests currently provides about 12% of the nation's requirement for wood and wood products, helping to reduce an import bill which in 1989 exceeded £7.3 billion. This survey shows the underlying effect of the increasing output of timber from British forests, as well as the increasing commitment to the environmental management of forests, and the expanding employment opportunities which both are providing."

Foreign cash 'welcomed'

Forestry Commission Chairman Raymond Johnstone has said he would welcome a reasonable level of foreign investment in FC forests.

Speaking to a seminar for Finnish farmers, landowners and businessmen he said conflicts between foresters and conservationists are disappearing as better understandings are reached.

Commissioned...



We did think of using this picture as a FOOT-note to the Back page, but moved it to the front as a TIE-note. It shows the Scottish Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the lead Forestry Minister, sharing a joke with Minister of State Michael Forsyth, now the new Government spokesman on Scottish agriculture, fisheries and forestry matters. Keen FC tie-spotters noted Mr Rifkind's neckwear! — Picture courtesy of the Daily Record.

B-and-B for badger cubs



Two badger cubs owe their young lives to caring FC staff plus two helpings of B-and-B... bread-and-butter pudding and bed-and-board!

David Parsons, FD Manager, South-east Wales, and Tim Yarnell, the Commission archaeologist, were visiting an ancient monument site at Trellech when they heard some strange yelping. It led them to a sorry sight — a dead sow with her three cubs, two of which were just alive, the third already dead.

Wrapped in Tim's coat (together with the fleas), the young weaklings were carried to a doctor's surgery for initial treatment, then on to David's house, to warmth in the bedroom and their B-and-B pudding!

The two cubs are now at a sanctuary which specialises in preparing them for a return to the wild.

The seminar gave details of the opportunities for investment in British forestry, and was organised by the Finnish Consulate in Edinburgh.

Mr Johnstone said: "Our forestry industry already owes much to Finnish investment. You have provided us with many of the tools of the trade and we have had major investment by Finnish companies in Wales and Scotland."

"It makes sense, therefore, for you to be interested in investing in the forests themselves."

"Some 60% of our forests are in private hands. This reflects the present Government's philosophy on private ownership, and is why the main thrust of the Government's forestry policy is directed towards encouraging private investment."

"Today, new planting is encouraged by means of the Woodland Grant Scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission and offering much higher rates of grant than in the past."

"Almost everyone wants to see more trees planted so what is very important is that the expansion of forestry on this small, heavily-populated island takes place in ways that are sympathetic to the needs of the environment — indeed Parliament has placed a specific duty on the Forestry Commission to this end."

"There have been conflicts between foresters and conservationists in recent years — some of them quite serious. But better understandings are being reached, and I hope very much that we shall soon be able to say that these conflicts are things of the past."

"Last year we were asked by the Government to sell a further 100,000 hectares of our forests by the turn of the century."

"We are not running a supermarket with goods on sale from the shelves, but we will be marketing a wide range of woodlands in an open and straightforward way, and we welcome bids from anyone who is interested. There is no ban on purchase by foreign nationals. There are no residential or other qualifications but there is one caveat. We are required to notify Ministers in the event of potentially significant aggregate sales to foreign or multi-national buyers. This was put in to meet a public concern when the disposals programme was introduced some years ago. I do not, however, see any problems being raised by a reasonable level of investment by people such as yourselves. Indeed I would welcome this."



Signing in... signing out. The new Director General, Robin Cutler, poses with his predecessor, Gwyn Francis, seen at his desk in HQ for the last time. More pictures on back page.

Ignorance says farmer

"Criticism targeted towards the Forestry Commission in Wales often stems from ignorance," said Mr H. R. M. Hughes, chairman of the Farmers Union of Wales, following a recent visit to the FC's Llanafan District, Aberystwyth.

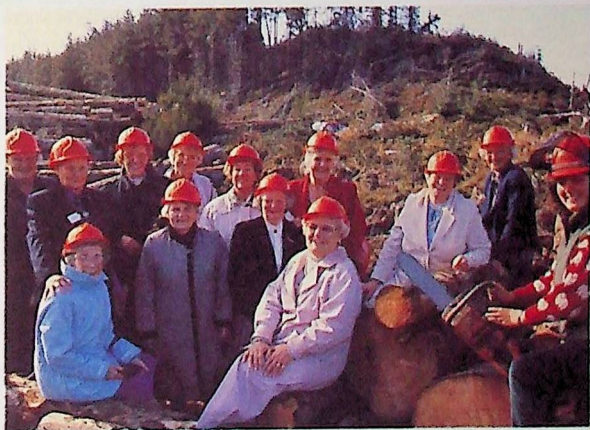
The visit was arranged by Wales Conservancy and attended by Mr Hughes and Mr Chris Gilmore, the FFW's land-use executive officer for Wales.

Mr Colin Bancroft, private forestry and environment officer for the Forestry Commission, said: "The meeting was a very constructive one. The day was spent outlining the wide scope of forest management including important issues of wildlife conservation, landscape and public access."

"The Commission feels that farm woodlands, through the Woodland Grant Scheme, play an important part in enhancing the interest and value of the farming estate, and also in achieving better landscapes in Wales."

Mr Hughes said: "Forestry and agriculture both have an important part to play in Wales and this meeting has given us a better understanding of the Commission's work. I hope this meeting has strengthened the links between us."

The Timberjills



In 1976 the Forestry Commission employed the first female forester but she certainly wasn't the first woman to work in the industry. During the second world war when timber was desperately needed for the war effort, the Women's Timber Corps was formed with the specific responsibility for forestry.

Pictured above is Sue Williams FOIV Abertay who along with FDM Syd House gave some of the 150 women who turned up at the first WTC reunion in Perth since the end of the war, a chance to look at current forestry practice on Kinnoull Hill overlooking the town.

During their time on the land each team of four women had to fell 30 trees a day and were offered 3.5d (thruppence halfpenny) for each tree felled over that. Using cross cut and steam driven chainsaws the women told FDM Syd House that only once did they ever manage to fell more than 30 and that the trouble arising from dividing thruppence halfpenny into four was decidedly not worth the extra effort.

In addition to tree felling the women were also involved in building roads, dragging the trees with the help of horses to the roadside and loading the timber onto pole wagons.

The reunion, organised by ext WTC Bonnie Macadam, was deemed a great success with few of the bad times remembered and nearly all the good, and is bound to be repeated next year.



Forester Shawn Mochan of Forest Management at Nithsdale shows off two of the collection.



Another old beast of the farms that has seen better days, and is now at rest in Ae.



A few of the relics at Ae... can you add to them?

Any old relics?



Any old farming machinery lying about that is no use to you? Or any photos of horse-drawn or ancient tractors pulling a plough?

Slasher readers are asked to help to build up a unique Plough Competition.

Already there's quite a collection at a permanent display site on the Ae Valley picnic site in Dumfries-shire.

Nithsdale FD Manager Val Shipp would like to see even more.

He told Slasher that anyone who has visited the Ae management complex in the past few years will have been aware that the Plough Collection has been moved, arranged, rearranged and generally in a state of limbo.

He has now found the collection a permanent home at the picnic site.

Val added: "The ploughs were moved only a few weeks ago, and already we have had members of the public calling at the office to ask more about them. We intend to clean and paint them in situ, and will be compiling an interpretation board with explanatory notes and pictures on each machine."

Amazing

"This is where the readers of the 'Slasher' come in. I am very keen to take on more ploughs, cultivators, etc., and especially a few of the machines that pulled these amazing contraptions. An old steam tractor would be ideal."

"If you know of any such machine rusting in a yard or in the middle of a forest somewhere, we will be delighted to take it off your hands."

"Also, any old photos of horse-drawn or ancient tractors pulling ploughs would be welcome. These could be copied and returned to the owner within a few weeks."

If you think you can help, contact either Val or Tony Ward at: Nithsdale FD, Ae Village, Dumfries DG1 1QB, tel. 0387 86 247.

Butterfly walk

A guided walk around Wyre Forest looking at the forest's many butterflies was led by Peter Hobson, Conservation Ranger.

Wyre Forest, designated as a Forest Nature Reserve by the Commission, is a working forest and has been used to produce timber for over 1000 years.

Bridge builders

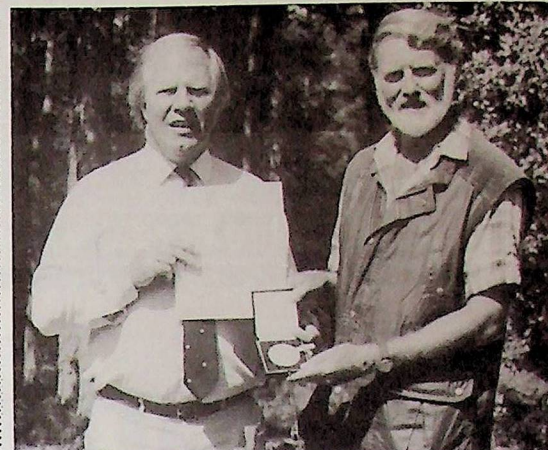
Staff in the Borders celebrated the completion of a new bridge linking Scotland and England across the Kershope Burn which divides Kershope and New-castleton forests.

The bridge is an important development in the new cross-Border link for walkers, horse riders and cyclists which will run from Kielder Water to New-castleton Village. The route will open later this year as part of the revamp of the Border Forest Park, which takes in all the Border forests with Kielder FD in the lead role.

Miles Wenner, DFM at Borders, congratulated all who had been involved in the work which was completed in a record two months from inception in terrible winter conditions.

Here and there

Kiddens award



The Kiddens Plantation in Somerset and South Devon FD has taken second prize in the Royal Forestry Society's 1990 Duke of Cornwall Award which aims to show how commercial woodlands are managed in sympathy with the landscape and for wildlife conservation.

This year it was confined to England's south-west region and, considering the gale damage earlier in the year, the judges were pleased with the entries.

Of the Kiddens Plantation, they said: "The commercial forestry purpose of these woods is fundamental and all managers demonstrated their appreciation of potential losses (such as revenues foregone and higher unit costs) due to conservation practices. But these were demonstrated to be remarkably, and acceptably, low."

"The conservation planning at the forest was both impressive and practical. Apart from planned retentions for raptor nest sites, we were particularly impressed by the carefully designed butterfly habitat management under high voltage power lines which was also used as a special educational walk."

Above, FDM Jim Hunt (left) and Conservation Head Ranger Robin Khan display the certificate and medallion, which were presented by Baroness Trumpington.

Video-scope

A new recruitment video aimed at attracting college and university forestry students to a career with the Forestry Commission has just been completed. Copies of the 18-minute video, "An Opening in the Forest," have been sent to each Conservancy to use as support material at careers talks.

It illustrates the wide range of opportunities within the Commission and contains interviews with people involved in research, landscape architecture, district management, harvesting, recreation and conservation work among others. Locations filmed include the New Forest, Tentsmuir, Nithsdale and Dunottar and Countesswells woods in N(S). Extra copies of the video are available on short-term loan from Photographic branch, HQ.

Deacon Mark

Mark Howarth, previously FOI in West England, has been ordained by the Bishop of Huntingdon and will serve his title in the parishes of St Andrew, Cherry Hinton and All Saints, Teversham.

Teddy bear goes



Alan Smart, usually acting as harvesting forester at Cornwall and North Devon Forest District, donned unusual protective clothing when he went to manage the Teddy Bears' picnic at which scores of children (including some grown up youngsters) gathered for biscuits, crisps and lemonade.

Father Bear and his picnic was the magnet used to attract locals and visitors to the delightful Cardinham woods in mid August. Mountain bike hire, conducted walks, children's trailer mounted play area provided interest for everyone and delicious roast venison butties and other fare fortified the inner man, woman and child; Cornish bears apparently being vegetarian. Readers are invited to take their holiday next year on 14th August and sample Cornish hospitality!

TUS DIARY

By Kenny Murray

A funny old world — and word

DEMOCRACY — it's a funny old word isn't it? I was recently reading of an instance of "democracy" in big business and I couldn't help but compare the scenario with that of the trades unions.

The decision by British Steel to close Ravenscraig sparked off a massive protest by the people of Scotland against the loss of a profitable and efficient part of the country's diminishing heavy industry sector.

In order to put the reasonable case for the retention of Ravenscraig to the British Steel Board, those in the vanguard of the movement to keep the steel plant open decided to nominate Sir Kenneth Alexander for a seat on the board.

The AGM came, with the political and social battles still raging. Sir Kenneth's name went forward and was backed by 18 million votes. The board defeated him with 653 million votes.

Where was the outrage throughout the press? Where were the calls for the voting system to be examined?

Compare the foregoing with Trades Union Congress. Elected representatives are given mandates by their union conferences and they cast votes on policies on behalf of members. Then the media cliché club come into their own.

"Power in the hands of irrelevant old men" ... "Ron Todd's battalions" ... "the appalling spectacle of one million votes in one person's hand" — but a few of the headlines that herald Congress.

It seems to me to be appalling dual standards (or more realistically, spite) that when big business (the City) requires monitoring it is left to self-regulation, whereas unions require legislation. This legislation is meant to "give the unions back to the members."

The sad fact is that since postal balloting for places on national executives began only 20 per cent or so of members have been participating.

I only wish that this problem exercised the Employment Secretary's mind instead of further unnecessary legislation.

○ ○ ○

Headquarters Office Notice 129, issued recently, included a paragraph on the importance of correctly addressing items of outgoing mail from the Banana. It ended, "this plea comes from FD office staff who have to open numerous suspicious packages which often turn out to be sent from HQ!"

Bang goes departmental security! If a package looks suspicious don't open it — even if you think it's a sloppily wrapped print-out.

The same office notice, in criticising the amount of rubbish stored on top of cabinets, saw the introduction of a new officialese phrase. So from now on don't use "untidy" or "not conducive to the aesthetics of a working office when 'higgledy-piggledy' will do. It really describes what it's trying to say, don't you think?"

SAFETY UPDATE

THE FUAG campaign continues.

The story so far:

1. Various Ministers: "We have no plans to privatise the Forestry Commission."
2. Prime Minister: "... we must examine it in more detail for future policy."
3. Adam Smith Institute say they're moving back to Scotland and one of their first tasks will be to write a paper on forestry — again.
4. Michael Forsyth (sympathiser of AS Institute and member of "No Turning Back Group" of Conservative MPs) resigns as Scottish Conservative Party chairman and is simultaneously promoted by the Prime Minister, consequently acquiring the forestry portfolio.
5. Prime Minister says she will continue to seek his advice on matters of policy.
6. Malcolm Rifkind says there will be no policy changes within Mr Forsyth's areas of responsibility before the next election.
7. Watch this space!

In the last issue I mentioned briefly that uniforms were making a comeback. Environment Branch, who have been working on some ideas, were none too pleased, accusing me of gutter journalism and wanting a Right of Privacy Bill introduced immediately. Anyway, once I explained why I had written as I did, the pouts disappeared and the "dahlings" showed me mock-ups of their designs.

I can say no more at present because I gave my word to the House of Burnside and to Peter Ford — Glenbranter, Aberfoyle, Paris and Corstorphine — that their haute-couture secrets were safe. I have, however, been promised a sneak preview before they appear on the catwalk round the side of Chapelhall Workshops.

I also received this letter from Tom Jenkins, a retired Chief Forester from Mold, North Wales.

"Dear Kenny, I refer to the last issue of the 'Slasher'. I think you might well have it wrong about uniforms, particularly the old Mark 1 uniform, foresters, for the use of. Heavy Bedford cord breeches with leather strappings, lined I believe with emery cloth which permanently disabled the more gently reared of our number. Heavy rough khaki jacket, thigh length, and chamberpot-like khaki hat. The outfit could hold ten gallons of water without flinching, but foresters frequently spent nights on the mountain being unable to carry it home after a day's rain. It would be ideal for computer-watching, and can be seen by uniform lovers in Tussauds where the elegant Savile Row-clad figure of a forester (weren't we all) is kneeling before Lord Robinson, known in those far-distant days as Roi, this being short for King. The hat is held in a position available to the Chairman at any time. — T. L. Jenkins (A retired one-time wearer of the motley)."

LETTERS

Leg work

Sir,

I refer to your item in the Slasher for March 1990 entitled "Leg Work," a method of measuring the height of trees. I think you ought to know that the "Tween Legs" method was introduced by Jack Leefe to students at the Forest of Dean Forester Training School in the autumn of 1951. The 1951 to 1953 course received practical demonstrations of this method not very long after Jack Leefe joined the school as an instructor.

Local inhabitants of the Forest of Dean were surprised to see apparently headless students wandering around the football pitch and wondered if Rag Week had arrived a little early! — Jack Davies, Dean School, 1951-1953.

SIGNED . . .
ASHAMED!

Morgannwg FD has a vigorous campaign against illegal dumping of rubbish, which is proving quite successful. It also brings its lighter moments, as shown in this reply to a letter sent out by Donald Ward, Officer Manager.

Dear Sir,

The first I knew about this was when I received your letter. As far as I knew, the rubbish had gone out to the Refuse Collection.

When I asked my husband about it, he said he'd missed the ash cart and he dumped it down there. I was furious, because he knows how I feel about dumping rubbish. I felt so ashamed of something I hadn't done, and I made him go down and remove our rubbish which was one black bag full (but there's lots of other people's rubbish there).

I do apologise. This time it will go out to the Ash Cart!

Echo of '41

Sir,

Having recently returned from a scarifying course where the merits of scarifying and mounding were discussed at length, I had to smile when I read the Compartment Notes for Compartment 34 Mynydd Ydu Forest April 1941 . . . "The mounded areas are generally good but cut off drains are wanted in several places. The drier slopes are much slower and there is even some check. The direct planted patches are also slow. Many of these slopes would have been better mounded and none should have been direct planted." — B. L. Jones FO111, S/E Wales (Brecon).

Lost touch

I retired in 1969 and live in Alford, Aberdeenshire, and have lost touch with all my contemporary foresters. I was in the 1927-29 class at the Beaufort training school and as I am 84 in December I would like to hear about or from any still alive also John McEwan my first forester who had reached 100 years when I last heard of him.

I am far from the hub of forestry matters here in Alford but I still long for contact with some of the forgotten pioneers of the FC.

S. DOUGLAS

No. 25 Hamewith Court
Alford.

ARCHERY . . . ANGLING . . . GOLF . . . RUNNING

Sporting types
picture parade

THE sporting types have certainly been in the lime-light these past few months.

And here are the pictures to prove it . . . the Pastime Picture Parade, you might say.

Archery to Angling . . . Cricket and

Golf . . . Fell-running to Orienteering. It's all been happening in Forest Districts up and down the country.

And first on target in the drive to help the sporting types is Perthshire FD, who have given the go-ahead to introduce archery to Ladywell Plantation near Dunkeld.

Our picture shows District Forester

Malcolm Wield handing over the FC's official permission to Bill Lawson of Ladywell Field Archery club to establish the target area.

THE requirements for field archery are special, with well thinned, mature, open woodland necessary for safety and high visibility.

"The care and skill which has been given to Ladywell by successions of past foresters has meant that we are able to find the ideal site for the club," said Malcolm.

'Test' win

CRICKET comes next. Bats, balls and balls are now being stowed away for the winter, but not before the lads of FC boast of their great "Test" success against the North England Timber Trade, held at Ponteland.

As we reported in our July issue, the FC eleven quickly took control with an opening partnership of 72 after Trade had been dismissed for 133, and eventually FC won easily by seven wickets.

The FC team pictured in this page are: back row — Bill Garth, Mark Hartnet (his 58 included one six and 11 fours), Basil Carter, Ian Laidlaw and Stephen Stables; front row — John Amor, Norman Trollope, Mark Pritchard (captain), Wally Grice, Geoff Neesam (an unbeaten 42) and Bobby Elliott.

Next in our list are our golfers . . . and 26 came to the FORE at Blairmore and Strone Golf Club early in August to compete in the fourth annual Cowal open championship.

Winner was Carson McCartney (centre in picture at front); second was Jim Kirby (left) and third Arthur Jenkins (right). They were pictured by Kevin Firth, ALA.

Still with golf . . . and Sandy Lyle took time off from the Open at St Andrews to open the new forest trail in Tentsmuir Forest, Fife.

Pictured with Sandy is Richard Watling, marketing director of George Ballantine and Son Ltd., who were persuaded by Syd House, FDM Abertay, to donate over £3000 towards the trail.

Sandy was part of an international guest list for a fun-packed Hawaiian beach party and barbecue laid on by the whisky company on Tentsmuir Beach for their customers and staff.

About 150,000 people use the facilities in Tentsmuir each year. Sponsorship from Ballantines will allow Abertay FD to develop their facilities to a far greater extent than previously planned.

Finally to orienteers in this sporting round-up, and a new scenic course has been provided by the FC on the outskirts of Elgin, Morayshire. It replaces a Forest Wayfaring Course at Torrieston which has proved so popular since it opened in the 1970s that the routes between control posts are now well-worn footpaths.

FD Manager Douglas Clark said, "The new course is in an attractive wooded area of just over 400 acres and provides some spectacular views of the surrounding countryside plus the Moray Firth and the mountains of Ross-shire and Sutherland."

There are three routes: 2.3 kilometres; medium of 4 kilometres; and one of 5 kilometres.

Planning and development was aided by members of the Moravian Orienteering club.

● If you have any sporting links, and any successes to boast of, let us at Slasher know. Pictures are always welcome.

A second orienteering course has been established in Northants FD — at Salcey Forest Nature Reserve. The first opened last year at Wakerley Great Wood.

About 800 visitors turned out to test the Salcey course on the first day.

It was designed by District Forester Rodney Newborough and local Forester Giles Drake-Brockman, with the help of Paul Brighton, from Nene Valley Orienteering club. Two of the suggested courses are suitable for wheelchairs, and Northants FD say that wheelchair drivers interviewed to date have given it the thumbs up, so perhaps other forests could consider providing similar challenges.



District Forester Malcolm Wield and the archers of Perthshire.



Members of Headquarters and M(S) fly-fishing teams at the annual competition, fished this year on Loch Ruskie in Perthshire. Eighteen fish were caught by weighing-in time,

with Headquarters contributing 13 to claim the honours. The largest single fish was a 2¾ lb rainbow trout landed by principal photographer Douglas Green.



The successful "Test" cricketers of North England.



Sandy Lyle opens the Tentsmuir Trail.



Golfers three in the Cowal Championship.

Double win for
'King of Forest'

IT was a double success for a fell runner at Whinlatter in the Lake District when Keith Anderson won the "King of the Forest" trophy by coming in first in two events within 48 hours.

Normally, 50 to 60 competitors in each race, but this year saw a huge increase. The Lord's Seat event was contested by 116; and 132 turned out for the Grisedale Grind.

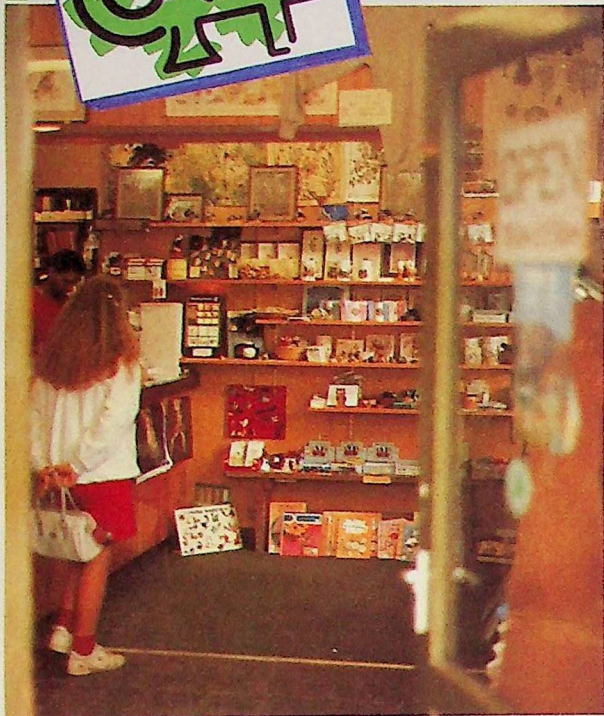
1. Anderson set a record for the Lord's Seat race (31 mins. 10 secs. for the nearly 6-mile route), aided by a new path made by the FC over a wet peat bog section, designed to help walkers reach this fell top without eroding a valuable section of peat bog. The "Grisedale Grind" (no relation to Grizedale Forest) field included Mike, Scott, District Officer for North Lakes (who throws down the gauntlet to any other DO who thinks they can beat his time!) This is turning out to be a classic fell race, with a 1600 ft. climb (1.5 miles) and back again. Keith's time was 28 mins. 26 secs.

Still at Whinlatter, and the picture below shows some of the younger visitors who took part in a new venture at the Visitor Centre, the Fox Trot, which is already proving very popular, and about which you can find out more in our centre spread (together with lots more about North Lakes activities).





SELLING...that's the name of forest game



TALKING SHOP . . . and this interior of the shop at the Whinlatter Visitor Centre is but one example of the growing chain of Forest Shops the length and breadth of Britain. Counter strategy, you might say.

A chain of 17 Forest Shops is now operating up and down the country — and four more outlets are in the offing. Which demonstrates the forward thinking of the Forestry Commission in selling its image to the public.

About one million visitors pass through our shops each year — an impressive statistic which would be even more impressive if you included all those who use the shops that operate on forest holiday sites.

And of course the money that is generated helps to keep the Commission accounts very healthy indeed. Products considered range from “pocket-money” items to luxury items such as wooden-faced watches.

FC pencils, wooden pens, FC logo-shaped rubbers, a model Landrover, badger hats, a newspaper . . . all are there for the customer.

And various shops have produced their own range of specials, which has prompted us to open a new Mail Order project for Slasher readers — with the first offer detailed below.

A Forest Shop is not just a retail outlet but part of the whole forest experience. Staff have to advise visitors about suitable walks, how long it takes to go round a forest drive, types of wildlife seen, where the toilets are and so on.

This supplements information available at the Visitor Centres which may include displays, audio-visual presentations,

How to woo a million visitors

leaflets, guided walks and a variety of events.

A concerted effort has been made to make sure the visitors knows that it is the Forestry Commission that provides this service. In the past it has often been wrongly attributed to the National Trust, the local authority or some other body!

Information division's design branch has produced a range of special price tags and paper bags. Each bag lists all our shops to encourage people to visit other Centres. Forest Shops signs and carrier bags are also in the pipeline.

Trade fair

Last winter saw the first Forest Shops meeting for managers and staff, when the opportunity to discuss problems and exchange experiences was vigorously pursued.

A mini-Trade Fair was arranged to demonstrate the type of products we should be selling.

Now, nearly one year later and close to the second Forest Shops meeting, things have been moving quite fast. Some shops have been altered, some have new shelving, and there has been a significant change towards more forest-related stock.

At Whinlatter Visitor Centre in North Lakes FD, for instance, big improvements are planned later this year, including a much bigger (and therefore better) shop.

An information counter, classroom and cafe — in chalet-style to match the Alpine setting — are also in the pipeline.

Charcoal

Individual shops have their own “specials” on offer — including mugs, keyrings, car stickers, boxes of fudge and sweatshirts (as you can see in one of our pictures).

One shop sells pen-holders made from wood harvested from their forest; another sells charcoal made in their woods; yet another sells briquettes made from brash left behind after harvesting operations.

Yes . . . the future looks interesting and challenging for Forest Shops with further developments planned both in the fabric of the buildings and in the range of FC products.

Selling is the name of the game . . .

Our first special offer

First item in Slasher's new Mail Order Section is this range of sweatshirts available from Whinlatter Visitor Centre in North Lakes FD.

The togs come in various sizes — Small (chest size 38"/97 cm), Medium (40"/101 cm), Large (44"/112 cm), and Extra Large (46"/117 cm) and Extra, Extra Large (48"/122 cm). There are some children's sizes from chest sizes 24" to 32" in steps of 2". Colours are bottle green, navy blue, red, grey and yellow. The material is 50% cotton / 50% polyester and Mike Pearson at the Centre says users have found they wash well without shrinking.

He would be happy to take mail orders in time for Christmas!

Cost is £15.45 (including postage), but please allow 28 days for delivery.

Other Forest Shop managers can get bulk quantities from Mike's supplier and he will be happy to pass on details.

Have YOU a special offer for readers?

If there are any more good selling items in other Forest Shops, or on FD sales counters, please let the Editor know. The criteria for inclusion in this new column in “Slasher” are:

A. The item must promote the image of forestry (FC logo, tree symbol, etc.).

B. It must be available in sufficient quantity to meet mail order demands.

C. The cost centre must be able to cope with the administration and accounting for mail order.

D. Sample or photograph must be supplied.

E. Include coupon based on our example at right.

• The decision of which items will be included in the column will be made by the Editor and the Recreation Officer at HQ.



SPECIAL OFFER

Please send (state number) sweatshirts to the address below. I enclose cheque / money order (£15.45 per item, including postage). Total (payable to Forestry Commission).

SIZE(S)

COLOUR(S)

NAME

ADDRESS (in block letters)

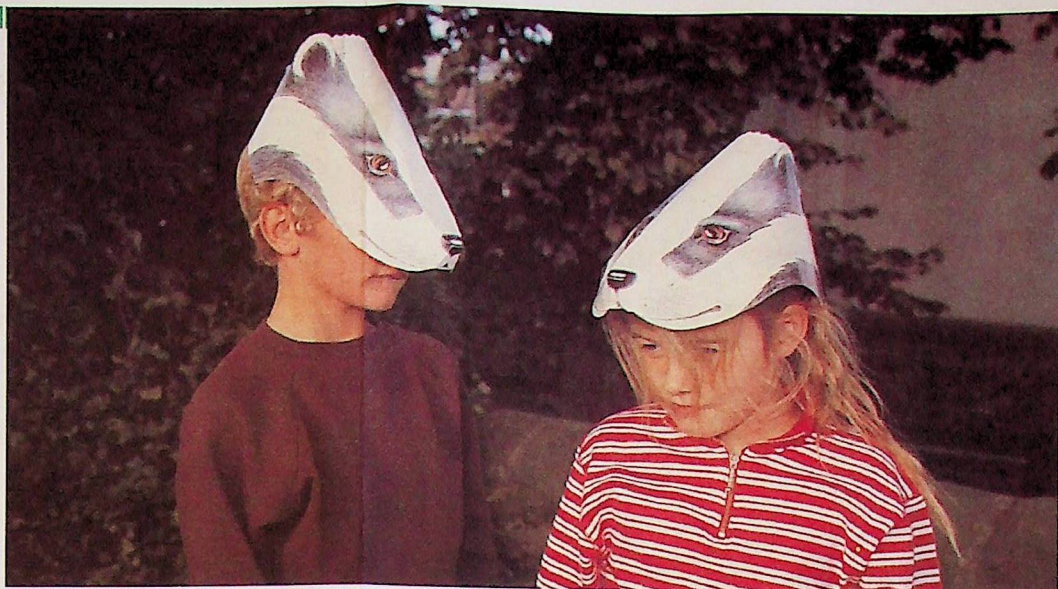
(Postcode) (Tel.)

Send order to M. Pearson, Whinlatter Visitor Centre, Forestry Commission, North Lakes FD, Braithwaite, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5TW. Mark envelope “Sweatshirt.”

A MODEL SELLER . . .



This scale model Landrover in full FC livery is almost ready to go into production — providing yet another star attraction for our Forest Shops. Another new “souvenir” for sale on the list of Headquarters productions is a full-colour “newspaper” entitled “Welcome To My Forest” which features David Bellamy taking his guests on a guided tour of the forest. It costs 20p plus 20p postage from PID or Alice Holt, Publication Officer, and bulk supplies are being ordered by Forest Districts. It will go on sale in Visitor Centres, forest shops and by mail order to teachers and pupils (for whom it was really written).



Two cheerful youngsters at Edinburgh Zoo pose as models for a day to show off the new FC Badger hats.

The brain-child of Bob Jones, it has been made exclusive to the Commission under the trade name of Habit-Hats and is the fore-runner of a full set of forest animals and birds.

A press-out, card hat (price 60p), it is now available in multiples of 250 from Mrs L. Dyson, PF&E section,

North England Conservancy, 1a Grosvenor Terrace, York YO3 7BD. Quantities of less than 250 must be handled through participating Forest Shops.

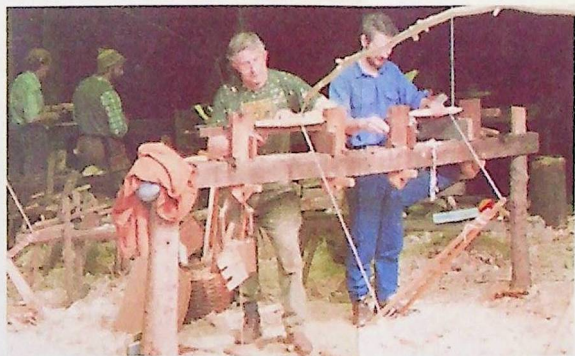
A Commission official told Slasher: "Our hat provides the young at heart with lots of fun, tells them about Brock and our Forest Nature Reserves, and is something extra special to remind them of their visit."

A hat-trick, you might say . . .

SELLING IS THE NAME OF THE GAME HERE, TOO . . .



Peter Quelch gets down to it . . . adzing a chair seat, while Eric Rodgers (front) turns chair spindles on a pole lathe.



Emrys Owen showing how it is really done . . . producing rustic furniture at the Royal Welsh Show.

How to pull the crowds

Salesmanship does not always mean the power to persuade customers to buy a certain product . . . it also means selling an image to the general public.

And more and more often these days, Forestry Commission staff are doing just that in their many and varied ways.

Richard Broadhurst at HQ recently put out a paper with 101 ideas for recreation development; a Welsh craftsman fascinated the crowds at the Royal Welsh Show; open days at various Centres bring in the crowds; and novel ideas such as the Fox Trot trail at Whinlatter, North Lakes FD, help to educate the young ones — tomorrow's customers, after all.

On Richard Broadhurst's recent list of 101 ideas, No. 69 was a "Forest Bodgeers Workplace (the type of setting within which Mike Abbott could operate)." How many Slasher readers know of anything about chair bodgeers or who Mike Abbott is?

Last June, Peter Quelch, FDM Loch Awe, was given a place on one of Mike Abbott's courses by his wife Linda as a 40th birthday present. Mike runs the courses in a small woodland near Farnborough, Bath, with tools and work-benches under canvas shelters slung between the trees.

This course was in Advanced Chairmaking although he does several other courses in basic chairmaking and in green woodwork techniques. There were eight students, and by chance another FC man Eric Rogers from Thetford, whom Peter had met when based briefly in Cambridge as Recreation Officer.

Peter told Slasher, "The course assumed knowledge of basic techniques and we straightaway felled some coppice wych elm. Later, this was split, shaved, steam bent, drilled and fitted as the arm of a Windsor chair; wide elm boards (dry) were sawn up and adzed hollow as chair seats; beech and ash logs were split, shaved and turned by pole lathe into chair spindles and legs. Finally, a country Windsor chair was assembled on the last day.

Interested? Then contact Mike Abbott at Living Wood Training, 159 Cotswold Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol BS3 4PH. You never know . . . what you learn could help to encourage more custom for the FC!

Just as Llanrwst Craftsman Emrys Owen has demonstrated with his techniques in making rustic furniture.

Helped by his wife, Emrys drew the crowds a-plenty at the Royal Welsh Show in the FC's "Living with woodlands" theme in their enclosure. It was visited by the Commission's chairman, Raymond Johnstone, where he was welcomed by Conservator John Morgan.

A revival of local wood industries and craftsmanship was just one feature of the theme, which was a celebration of 70 years (1920-1990) of the Commission's operations in Wales.

The arena display was developed by Bryan Pulford and won the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's Silver Award, while Roy Jones's popular "Young Foresters' Quiz" won the Bronze Award.

The Gold went to the chainsaw safety demonstration, jointly organised by the Commission's Education and Training Branch and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

All of which helps to SELL our image. Nice work, Wales!

Which takes us back to Whinlatter and their wondrous ways in attracting the public. Their open day in August, for instance, "A Day in the Woods," drew 4500 people — all but overwhelming the facilities and staff.

The badger sett that was a wow at the Glasgow Garden Festival has found a permanent home there, and a new trail named the Fox-Trot has complemented the amazingly successful Rabbit Run — a new concept in forest trail-blazing.

Many youngsters come back time and time again and comments ranged from "fantastic" to "brilliant."

Which all goes to show that salesmanship pays its dividends . . .

We can learn from the French

Our July edition featured the success of two FC staff who won Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships.

Mark Yorke, of Dolgellau, gave his impressions of his study in Europe, and now David Mackie, of Dean and Three Counties, recalls his time in France.

David, who is an FO 111, made two visits to forests there in different seasons.

He writes: "A change in the attitude of the public leading to a new awareness of the countryside in recent years has led the FC to reintroduce in lowland Britain the system of growing oak or beech by encouraging young trees to grow among older trees or — to give its technical term — natural regeneration.

Regeneration

"On the Continent they have used the natural regeneration method of forming a new crop for hundreds of years. The forests of Normandy and the Loire Valley have similar climate and soils to lowland Britain, so it was to these forests I went.

"I was able to make two trips and so see the forests at different seasons."

In September 1989, I was able to observe the soil cultivation in anticipation of a good acorn crop. Beside encouraging the acorns to grow, many tons were collected, some of which were exported to Britain. I also saw the weeding and cleaning of the many hectares of young oak seedlings from previous seed years.

"I visited mainly the forests of the Office National des Forêts and made some useful contact with my French counterparts, which I followed up on my second visit in May 1990. I was then able to see the results of the ground cultivation — hundreds of young seedlings springing up.

Disorder

"The rack system that has been developed in recent years allows foresters to make some order out of nature's disorder and they can move easier through the mass of young trees to inspect, weed and clean as necessary.

"In Northern and Central France they remove the overstorey of seed trees within a timespan of 10 to 12 years of the first opening of the canopy.

"In the Forest of Dean where I am stationed a different system will be practised. We do not remove mature trees so quickly and natural regeneration will be encouraged in smaller areas throughout the crop.

Preserve

"In the ancient forests of Fontainebleau and Rambouillet near Paris, I saw a system similar to Dean Forest where they try to keep the old woodland appearance and still grow a young crop among them. I am sure by learning from the French system, we can preserve into the next century the old hardwood forests in lowland Britain, and be able to create some for the century after.

"On my visits to various forests I was often asked to discuss conifer establishment as this is a facet of forestry that the Commission has developed further than the French. These exchanges between foresters at all levels are bound to benefit us all. For my part, I was very grateful to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for presenting me with a chance to study French forestry."

WITS' CORNER



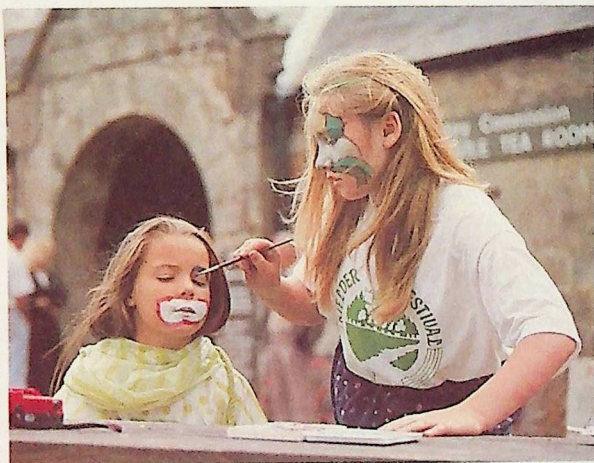
Unknown forester flying his kite in Perthshire FD.

And that witty caption gives us at Slasher an opportunity to fly a kite . . . with so many wits (wits, we said) around in the Forestry Commission, let's have a competition to find the brightest picture and caption. There's a £25 prize for the winner, and £5 for any others published. The Editor will be sole judge, so send your entries to Picture Wits, The Editor,

Slasher, Forestry Commission HQ, Corstorphine, Edinburgh. We would hope to publish a selection in the next issue — entries please before December 1.

● The effort above was sent in by Malcolm Wield, District Forester, FM&E, to whom our thanks.

KIELDER KAPERS



EVER on the ball, Kielder FD was again the place to be when their annual "yomp" and Folk Festival drew the crowds as usual. Lots o' folk music, fell running (won by Simon Hicks), the yomp for various classes, face-painting (above), the fiddle and Northumbrian pipes . . . all combined to make it yet another day to remember down Kielder way. District manager, Bob MacIntosh and his team were well satisfied with the complete event — and are looking forward to another success next year.

● The more serious side of life was underlined at Kielder when Alan Mattingley, director of the Ramblers' Association and incoming president of the Council for National Parks, visited the district. He inspected Kielder's "kind-to-watercourses" system; the Kielderhead Bothy (highly commended in last year's Ford Awards for Conservation) and was impressed by the back-packing sites developed within the forest as part of the Border Forest Park recreational portfolio.



By horse

TWENTY miles of forest track in Thetford Forest Park is being made available by the Commission to provide safe and pleasant routes for carriage drives.

All routes are being waymarked and will form three loops around Santon Downham in North-west Suffolk.

The opening of this new carriage trail, the only one of its kind in FC woodland, was marked by an inaugural drive on Sunday September 23.

Leading off was Watton businessman, Noel Abel, who is famous in equine circles for his interest in heavy horses. He drove a pair of his immaculately turned-out matching bay Shire geldings, Henry and Albert, harnessed to an authentic 16-seater charabanc, originally used on the promenade at Scarborough in the Edwardian era.

He was followed by international driving judge Sallie Walrond, Area Commissioner, British Driving Society, in a Benetton cross-country vehicle with her 19-year-old pony Razali in harness.

. . . and by bike

A GUIDED cycle ride on Sunday September 9 explored the forests around Ludlow.

District Forester Jeremy Gissop lead the ride starting from Castle Square, Ludlow, and the route covered up to 12 miles mainly along roads and tracks running through the forest.

Jeremy Gissop says, "Our cycle rides have always proved very popular and offer a different way of discovering the variety of timber and wildlife in the forests near Ludlow."

Some of the terrain was highly but a leisurely pace was promised with plenty of "breathers."

Child's play

A children's play structure, in the shape of a large animal made of wood poles, has been constructed in Boughton Brake, the FC's community woodland near Boughton and New Ollerton in the Midlands.

Local sculptor Chris Campbell designed it, and built it with the help of schoolchildren.

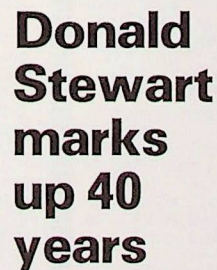
Busy Days

Never an idle moment . . .

Headline from the issue of the highlighting Jennings' life.

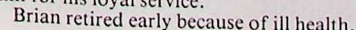
Ode to disaster

Merry Messenger



Good Evans!
Not
a day
lost

Thanks for a Jones boy



FORESTRY PEOPLE... FORESTRY PEOPLE... FORESTRY PEOPLE... FORESTRY PEOPLE... FORES

The Conservator . . . Not so quiet, Sandy!

A Conservator's "requests" are not normally to be disobeyed but on July 18, despite a plea from Sandy Morrison himself for a quiet affair, staff in Mid Scotland Conservancy would not allow his retirement to pass unmarked.

At an informal party organised and prepared by M(S) social committee, Sandy Morrison was presented with a cheque from staff and colleagues by his personal secretary, Margaret Morgan.

Sandy served 36 years with the Forestry Commission. A graduate of Aberdeen University, he joined us in 1954 as an Assistant District Officer in North Scotland.

On promotion to District Officer he held several posts in North Scotland before moving to West Scotland as Assistant Conservator. Two years as Conservator East Scotland was followed by a move to Headquarters as Land Use and Planning Officer.

In 1985, however, the call of the Conservancy proved too much and he returned to oversee Mid Scotland for his final five years.

Graham Hamilton is the new Conservator M(S).

. . . and three top foresters

David and Keith take their leave

THREE well-known senior foresters, two in Scotland, the other in the Lake District, have bid their farewells to the Commission.

They are David Hawkes (South Lakes FC Chief Forester), who had more than 40 years' service; Keith Hobson (Cowal FD District Forester, H&M), who served 39 years; and Ian Reid (Aberfoyle District Forester, FM and Environment) who served 30 years.

DAVID HAWKES retired in May and friends and colleagues gathered in Grizedale Visitor Centre to present him with garden furniture and DIY equipment. His wife, Mary, received a bouquet and crystal vase.

David started as a junior in the New Forest in 1947. After National Service and Lynford Hall Forester Training School, he was posted to North-west England where he worked at a number of forests before being posted to Grizedale in 1960.

Promotion to Chief Forester took him to Carrick S(S) in 1975 but 1982 saw a posting back to Grizedale. Here his responsibilities included the development of the extensive recreational facilities where he can take a special pride in the Visitor Centre and the tremendously popular Adventure Playground which he created with the sculptor Andy Frost.

David is spending his retirement at his home overlooking Esthwaite Water.

A LUNCH was held on Friday, August 10 to wish Keith Hobson many years of "relaxed" retirement in Carlisle.

After completion of his forestry training at the Dean Forestry Training School, Keith served in the former North-west England Conservancy, becoming Head Forester in charge of Bowland Forest and then Emmerdale where he was involved with the major changes in the landscaping of the forest.

On promotion to Chief Forester he came to what was then West Scotland Conservancy to take charge of Benmore Forest, later part of Cowal FD. Keith went on to become District Forester, H&M.

FDM Angus Murray presented Keith with a gift of garden furniture from friends and colleagues, and forest craftsman, Jimmy Gillies handed Keith a unique carving which bore a close resemblance to the man of the moment — right down to the pint tankard!

IAN REID retired because of ill-health. Throughout his 30 years in Mid Scotland, Ian served in the forests of Knapdale, St Fillans, Glenbranter and had two tours of duty in Aberfoyle. He also spent several years as the Conservancy Ploughing Forester and in this role became well-known and respected by colleagues and staff of the original West Scotland Conservancy.

At a gathering of friends and colleagues in the David Marshall Lodge, the FDM Kevin Wilkinson presented Ian with several gifts including an ornamental wall clock and a set of engraved whisky glasses.

Ian and his wife Ann plan to continue to live in the Aberfoyle area.



Conservator Sandy Morrison with his secretary Margaret Morgan on his last day.



David Hawkes and his wife, Mary, at the door of their home.



Jimmy Gillies presenting Keith Hobson with the miniature carving of the man himself.



Ian Reid with clock and Kevin Wilkinson, FDM.

VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

A large group of Alice Holt Retirement Association members joined in a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament in July, followed by a cruise from Westminster Pier to Kew Gardens.

Sincere thanks to our Social Secretary, Betty Page, for the considerable time, effort and attention to detail which brought about a happy and successful day.

On Monday, September 3 at the quarterly social meeting in the conference room at Alice Holt, an illustrated talk was given by Dr Julian Evans (CRO, South) on "Tree Aid in Ethiopia."

The group now plan to visit the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke on Saturday, October 13, to see a matinee performance of Alan Ayckbourne's play "How the Other Half Lives."

Double send-off to a deer friend



AFTER 49 years service as a shepherd, forest worker and senior ranger, Peter Kelly took his leave of colleagues at the Clatteringshaws complex in Castle Douglas FD.

Conservator Gordon Cowie presented Peter's long service certificate and paid tribute to his role in the Red Deer range and his popularity with visitors on guided tours.

All this was a far cry from the days when, as a young lad straight from school and with a dog bought for £10, he became a Forestry Commission shepherd.

He looked after sheep stocks on the land awaiting planting then, when the land was planted, went on to forest management duties. He later became a trapper then Forest Ranger.

As a forest worker holder, his stock-rearing knowledge was put to good use when the Red Deer range was being formed.

The herd now numbers 70 adults — and each one is known to Peter, a fact that never ceases to amaze the many hundreds who join in the twice-weekly tours of the range.

Friends and colleagues from all over South Scotland gathered at the Ken Bridge Hotel in the evening when Peter was presented with an inscribed crook and a cheque by his old friend Ian Watret.

Friend or not, Ian let slip some of the secrets Peter thought were hidden for ever — and that was the start of an evening of marvellous reminiscing.

As the evening wore on, the shots got



Peter Kelly with colleagues (top picture); with Conservator Gordon Cowie and his service certificate; and (below) with his old friend Ian Watret and the gift of an inscribed crook.



more difficult . . . the fish bigger. A game-dealer would have required two lorries to carry away the deer shot in the bar that night . . .

Cheerful Allan ends his days of research

ALLAN ("DODGER") GREEN, Area Research Officer at Newton, was given a hearty send-off by his research workers, office staff and colleagues (active and retired) from Research Division and N(S) Conservancy at a buffet and dance in Elgin in August.

In his cheerful totally committed 36 years of service, nearly all of it in Scotland, Allan has not lost a whit of his Romford accent or his youthful enthusiasm.

His best recollections were seeing shelterbelts he had planted growing to maturity in windswept Hebrides.

A correspondent tells us Allan's gift for plant culture and deep knowledge of the famous experiments in the Lon Mor and Teindland will be greatly missed.

He was presented with a garden seat, table and plant propagator, and his wife Marjorie received a floral bouquet and crystal. They are seen here on their new furniture.



80 years of the two Geordies



TWO stalwarts of the Civil Engineering branch in Northumberland, Bill Wilkinson and Alan Riley, have retired, each with 40 years' service.

Bill was road foreman with Bellingham Engineers. Initially employed on FM duties, Bill transferred to Engineering Branch and his service included work on drilling rigs, bridge construction, road construction and latterly road maintenance.

Alan began in the nursery at Widehaugh before moving to Kielder Village. He worked on H&M and FM duties until his transfer, followed by work on excavators and quarry plant.

Friends and colleagues presented Bill and Alan with a watch and binoculars respectively, and above, R. H. Hay, Director Engineering, presented them with their long-service certificates.

JOHN SAYS FAREWELL

JOHN MELLON has retired from Ayrshire and Arran FD after 37 years' service.

He was involved for several years in establishing mixed plantations at Kilgrammie. During the 1970's the chainsaw came into use and John was employed felling roadlines before a felling squad was started. He then worked in the Carrick squad until retirement.

At a small gathering of friends and workmates, John was presented with an engraved brass carriage clock and a Japanese azalea for his garden.

DG talks his way out

WHEN Gwyn Francis said his farewells as Director General on Friday, 14th September he tried hard — but failed — to set a new record for the longest retirement speech in forestry!

Fortunately his 42 minute oration did not deter a group of HQ staff joining in a buffet lunch that day to hear laudatory speeches from

Chairman Raymond Johnstone, David Foot, Commissioner Ops. and Gwyn's wife Audrey. Successor as DG, Robin Cutler had a brief walk-on part — to receive his FC tie! Mrs Francis meanwhile continued her unsuccessful campaign for a re-design of the tie...

The day had been planned for some weeks with a small group headed by David Foot making

preparations. Anne Stohner, the DG's secretary provided the "inside information," and John Wallace organised the collection of contributions and the nosh at lunchtime and later at a VIP dinner.

The Playfair Library in Edinburgh University's Old Quad was the majestic setting for dinner when more than 100 people paid tribute to Gwyn and heard speeches from Kevin Lyden, Chairman of the Forest Industry Committee of Great

Britain, FC Chairman, and Sandy Brownlie, President of UK Softwood Sawmillers' Association.

Gwyn Francis began his career in forestry when he joined the Commission in Llandrindod Wells on demob from National Service with the Royal Engineers. He had graduated from Bangor with a B.Sc. in forestry and an honours in botany.

Two years after joining the Commission he was transferred into the Gwydyr Forester training school and spent nine years there, becoming the school's Principal. Many foresters in Britain — and others overseas — owe much to his approach to education. Indeed a series of cards from every forest district in Wales contained the names of FC staff with some of them appending the course number when they and Gwyn first met!

He transferred to Ruthin district and on promotion to Assistant Conservator moved to Cardiff in 1969. Four years later he 'came in from the cold' to a Headquarters job in harvesting and marketing division in London, later transferred to Edinburgh. He was promoted to take charge of that Division in 1976 and became Commissioner Operations in 1983 and DG in 1986.

Gwyn received many gifts from staff and friends in the forest industry and in his speeches he said both he and his wife had been touched by the obvious thought which had gone into the choices.

From the staff of Wales Conservancy came an oak side table, presented by Conservator John Morgan constructed from a windblown tree; cash contributions from other staff and many private sector donations were pooled to buy a Caithness glass 'Mastermind' bowl carrying an etching of a Scots pine, a painting of Gwyn and Audrey's home in Edinburgh by Ella Neustein, wife of N(E) Conservator, and Gwyn's hobby of bird watching will be enhanced by a 60x magnification telescope. There was glassware and a decanter, a turned oak platter (made by former Conservator Mick Dinning) and a wooden platter made of several British grown woods, a sometimes irreverent photo album and many other gifts signifying the esteem in which our former boss was held both by staff and colleagues in the forest industry. A putter for Audrey Francis signified her own new hobby!



Frank Oberle, Canadian Federal Minister for Forestry, led a group of ten Government officials and London High Commission staff on a visit to HQ and Northern Research Station. At HQ they met retiring Gwyn Francis and his successor, Robin Cutler, before Commissioner Roger Bradley escorted them to NRS (pictured above).



Chairman Raymond Johnstone hands over a high powered telescope with which Gwyn Francis intends to enjoy his hobby of birdwatching and, below, "This Is Your Life" album.



It's shirt-sleeve order for all when Gwyn Francis officially switched on the new Gravel Hill workshop.

Royal visitor on Mull



A SPECIAL visitor to the Forestry Commission stand at the annual Children's Highland Games at Duart Castle on the Island of Mull was the Princess Royal.

The Mull FD usually helped the games by providing cabers etc., but at the request of the "Save the Children Fund" became more involved this year, setting up a display on the theme of woodlands for wildlife backed up by quizzes to

raise money for the charity. This included an electronic bird game, a woodland river scene and live salmon.

Princess Anne was surprised when she was told that staff had a taken annual leave for the day for the charity event which raised £400.

Photo shows District Forester John Weir introducing HRH to student Dugald Allan, Len MacRae FDM looks on.

Industry is starved of vital resources

The forestry industry in Britain is in a state of crisis and is contracting, and despite Government claims that it is doing all it can to help the industry, this is not being matched by its actions.

Mr Andrew Christie-Miller, chairman of Timber Growers UK, the private woodland owners organisation, said that Government opinion over forestry was split into two camps.

Those who wanted to support the industry at a modest cost, and those who regarded any kind of grant as an added burden for the taxpayer, whilst adding to the "wealth of landowners."

Mr Christie-Miller said in a hard-hitting speech at the Institute of Chartered Foresters 1990 study tour dinner at Southampton University that the total grant to private woodlands was £9.7 million in 1988 / 89 (£3.15 an acre) and £1.38 billion to UK agriculture (equal to £30.06 an acre).

Overseas

"These figures should also be compared with the £150 million of aid which is given by the Government to overseas forestry projects."

"We are therefore taking up very little of the state's money, and in view of the potential environmental and economic benefits that could be achieved by the continued expansion of forestry, we are being starved of the resources we need."

He said the industry's major

concerns centred on two issues — first, the planting figures for 1989-90: "are the worst for well over 20 years"; and second, the management grant scheme announced by the Government was not enough.

"We call on the government to stop its piecemeal approach to the private forestry sector," he added.

Max quits Lorne for London

Max Hyslop has left Lorne FD, based at Oban, to become forester for the East of London Community forest project.

During Max's five years with the Commission he has been involved in all aspects of forestry from harvesting and marketing timber to planting young trees, arranging draining and fencing operations and wildlife conservation.

Max's (29), said: "I look forward to the challenge of developing the urban forestry initiative. More and more people are becoming aware of the uses and benefits of forests and I'm pleased to be in the forefront of this important environmental development."

Engineers in talks

About 140 delegates, including five from Sweden and 12 from Ireland, attended a symposium organised by FEG, a specialist group within the I Agr E for Forest Engineers.

It was held in Cumbria at Newton Rigg College, the only such centre in the UK which dedicates half of its resources to forestry.

The gathering was organised by a sub-committee of FC members of the institute, R. M. Hay, G. Freedman and J. Christie and was chaired by John Matthews, former director of AFRC Engineering and a Fellow of the Ergonomic Society.

Speakers included Brian Roebuck, harvesting officer with the FC; Grant Smith, of G. R. Smith Engineers Ltd; Jim Brown, Scanforest Ltd; and Colin Campbell presented Denis Welstead's paper on "Safety."

The symposium's main topic was "har-

vester heads on excavators" and in the morning a new purpose-built thinnings harvester was launched. This was developed from a Smalley Excavator and a Tapio Grapple Harvester.

A competition was held to give it a name, and the winner was "Axecavator."

The machine, it was suggested, can almost do what a purpose-built machine can do, and at half the price does it a lot cheaper.

Geoff Freedman, secretary of the specialist group who organised the symposium, told Slasher that he thought "the savings are so significant that a large part of the industry will change."

He added that the symposium was a great success, and already a follow-up is planned for next year, same time, same place.

Mr Freedman praised the work of Margaret Shearer, director of Engineering PS, for her help in organising the meeting.