



No. 5

Tree Scribe

THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF TILHILL

MAY 1979

Bryant and May poplars Chairman applauds eighth world forestry congress declaration purchased

Tilhill's Scottish division dinner dance was held this year at St. Andrews where chairman Archie Aitkins – in addition to his cheerful comments on current company activity – had these comments on the industry at large.

'It is interesting to note that both the Eighth World Forestry Congress and the new paper on Forestry Policy in the European Community stress the concern at the prospect of serious shortfalls both in world and European timber production.

'Time does not allow a mention of all the recommendations in the Congress Declaration but I would like to bring out three important points.

'Foresters have a responsibility to give a positive lead in the environmental and land use aspects of forests. This lead should come from professional foresters.

'In using forests for recreation and tourism the economic needs of the people living in and near the forests must always be considered. And we must always stress that we are in the business of growing timber as a commercial crop.

Shrinking world forest

'The reduction of the total world forest area must be halted if we are ever going to reduce the serious gap developing between commercial demand and supply capacity. This calls for proper professional forest management in existing natural forests, better methods in harvesting and marketing, and lastly but most importantly the creation of new plantations on as large a scale as possible throughout the world.

'I welcome the document on Forestry Policy for the European Community. I am sure this is a culmination of all Dr. Fred Hummel's hard work over the years he has been in Brussels and I congratulate him on his dedication and determination to achieve a definitive and far-seeing policy capable of general acceptance.

'On particular points I welcome the initiative on research and hope it will be of a practical rather than academic nature. I welcome the proposal for a co-ordinated policy in the EEC on the disposal of thinnings and lastly I welcome the concept of an EEC Forestry Committee but sincerely hope that private forestry will have strong representation on it and that it is not composed solely of government forestry officers.'

The poplar plantations established by Bryant and May over the past twenty years on prime agricultural land in England have been purchased by a leading pension fund.

In a contract concluded on March 30 the pension fund takes possession of the 3,000 acres of plantations located in East Anglia, Bedfordshire, and Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Bryant and May, a subsidiary of Wilkinson Match, announced the closure of their match splint factory in Liverpool early in 1978 since when there has been considerable speculation as to their future plans for their extensive poplar holdings.

In the negotiations the pension fund has been advised by Jones Lang Wootton, and Tilhill. The fund's intention is for the phased reversion of the bulk of the



Ploughing in tandem: January eased her wintry grip on the land to permit Andrew Allan to part-plough on St. Catherine's, Cowal and Bute – see our centres.

Fort William pulpmill closure: 'serious situation'

Wiggins Teape announced in April that they plan to close their chemical pulpmill at Fort William. The pulpmill, opened in 1966, is integrated with a paper mill for the manufacture of fine papers. The paper mill is profitable but the company say they have been losing money on the pulpmill – £2.6 million in 1978 – and can no longer continue to operate it. The shutdown is planned to take place in nine months time.

When operating at full capacity

the pulpmill consumes 250,000 tonnes of wood a year, partly as chips but mostly in the form of small roundwood. The market is vital as an outlet for the produce from thinnings from state and private forests in north and west Scotland. From the outset the Forestry Commission have always been a major supplier.

Closure will mean the loss of 400 jobs in the mill itself and at least the same number again in

Continued on page 3

Study into the future of small diameter roundwood

The Forestry Commission have commissioned Jaakko Poyry to undertake a study into the future availability of small diameter roundwood and an assessment of the potential industrial uses of small diameter roundwood – both coniferous and broadleaved – and sawmill residues in Great Britain on a national and regional basis.

The results, covering a period

up to the mid-1990's are expected to be published in the autumn.

It is over five years since the last study was undertaken by Jaakko Poyry for the Forestry Commission. That examined forestry industry development in Britain to the period up to 1985. The Commission now feels there is a need to examine the position to 1985 and beyond.

plantations to agriculture over a ten year period. Agreement has already been reached with the Forestry Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and the local authority planners on the first phase of the reversion.

The pension fund sees this involvement in primary production as a major contribution to the national interest in terms of natural resources. Not only will a substantial area of some of the best agricultural land in England be returned to high productivity farming but their plans also include effecting extensive afforestation in Scotland which will more than compensate for the loss in timber production. There will be a considerable net gain to both home produced food and timber.

CONTENTS

Cowal and Bute: Tree Scribe looks at the new branch – centres	4/5
Thames Board Mills, Workington: exclusive update	3
David Reade on forestry, New Zealand	2
Operation Drake: the Fenning Welstead report (and your own crossword competition)	6
Bob Galloway retires and 'Trapper' Hume of Jedburgh	7
Contracts and new nurseries	8



New Zealand, with its sparse population reliant on natural resources, its fertile soil and terrain often too steep for farming, its widespread high average rainfall is something like a forester's paradise. I spent January there – part work, part pleasure – and found interesting things going on: an off-the-road logging operation; a co-ordinating body which really pulls the NZ forestry industry together; highly efficient use of Bison-Werke particle board machinery; and a lot of *Pinus radiata* – the sitka spruce of 'The Land of the Long White Cloud.'

My journeyings were confined to the North Island where most of New Zealand's commercial timber is grown and where the bigger companies are situated: New Zealand's biggest – New Zealand Forest Products – is headquartered at Kinleith, near Tokoroa; Fletcher are at Auckland; and the New Zealand Forest Service Research Institute at Rotorua is next door to the newly set up Logging Industry Research Association. Kaingaroa Logging, harvesting arm of the giant Tasman Pulp and Paper group, are operating in Kaingaroa Forest east of Lake Taupo.

Final stretch of road

Kaingaroa Logging Company – KLC – run an all but off the road logging operation where the equipment is tailored to suit the efficient harvesting and transport of timber outside of public highway haulage considerations. Logging manager Doug Widdowson last year despatched by rail and timber lorry almost a million m³ of sawlogs and roundwood for pulp. A final stretch of forest road will be completed next year which will allow them to put maximum loads on their vehicles for the forty mile journey to the Te Teko pulp mill.

324,000 tonnes of pulp timber for newsprint, 250,000 tonnes for Kraft products and the same for pulp for export, with 160,000m³ of sawlogs made up the combined throughput in 1978. Their Pacific triple units carry 167 tonnes with the sticks already sorted into sawlogs on the first trailer, long pulp on the second and short pulp on the third from the forest to the computerised weighbridge, a 60 mile round trip.

Le Tourneau stackers

In the despatch yard Le Tourneau log stackers provide a turnaround time of three minutes per trailer, often working direct from truck to railcars and can load a full rack of 24 railcars in 25 minutes.

In the forest KLC work their own woodlands – almost all *Pinus radiata* – and contractors bring in other species – *ponderosa*, *contorta* and Corsican pines and Douglas fir. With over forty year radiata some sticks come up over 3½ tonnes in a 36 ft log.

For the present most extraction is being done by felling and skidding with only four crews on cableway. But Doug Widdowson reports that the trend is firmly towards small scale cableway as timber matures on more difficult terrain.

LIRA

The Logging Industry Research Association is a new body ambitious to provide the focal point for development of harvesting and transporting techniques for this newer generation of New Zealand's forests.

It has been responsible for a stream of cost conscious studies in line with its stated objectives of evaluating new methods and equipment in use, to investigate costings within the industry with a view to effecting savings and to keep the membership and workforce

Above: Le Tourneau log stackers provide a three minute per trailer turnaround time, can load a full rack of 24 railcars in 25 minutes.

Logging Industry Research Association full time secretary Jill Peacocke shows off the well stocked library. LIRA keeps in constant touch with developments in Canada, Australia and the UK.

Bottom: as a low population country which relies heavily on natural resources NZ can afford to be uncompromising about its forests. *P. radiata* is ubiquitous.



fully informed about forestry and timber related activities world wide with the aim of improving efficiency. Its workforce consists of a director, three researchers, secretary and full time receptionist. An executive committee meets monthly drawn from the membership under the overall control of a board which meets less frequently.

In-depth recognition

Though it can claim it has the members that count – NZ Forest Service, Fletcher, Tasman Pulp and Paper, NZ Forest Products – down-the-line membership has been less complete. So though it can be seen to be doing its job to date its future is governed by the need to gain in-depth recognition, as with a small budget and staff it relies on members to provide the problems for study projects and their co-operation with equipment and information to find the solutions.

Thinner particle board

In Taupo Fletcher have sited their particle board production plant where their highly developed techniques result in particle board with a dimensional control for thickness they claim is equal to anyone else's in the world, using their Bison Mende thin board plant.

Fletcher's particle board set up at Taupo includes a six opening 3.6 x 1.8 Induma line, a single opening 7.2 x 2.4m standard Bison line and the 2.4m Bison thin board plant. Fletcher claim to have established reliable quality at 2.8mm thickness but have even attempted 1.6mm. And say that it's the quality of the roundwood log that is a big factor in this achievement.

Pagodas

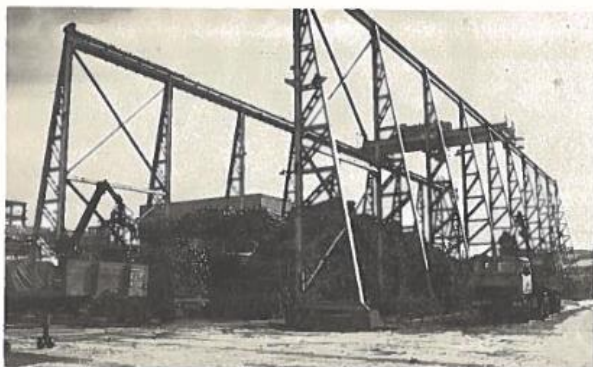
The roundwood log is of course mainly radiata. In my view it is an attractive tree seen in isolation with its pagoda-like profile. But its aesthetic appeal tends to be submerged for the viewer who perceives it crowding in on both sides of roads in much of the North Island. Oldest of the state forests in Whakarewarewa between Taupo and Rotorua, currently 4000 ha, planned to double using radiata which already makes up half the planted area.

But it does grow well. State exotic forests had their beginning in 1898 when the NZ government formed a Lands and Survey department afforestation branch. In the longest established areas three harvests have already been taken.

I think that proves the point.

David Reade ■





Thames Board Mills' integrated pulp and board mill complex, the biggest in the UK, is to expand threefold, creating 250 additional jobs at the mill and an estimated 350 in the forest and transport industries.



A mobile Highland Bear crane is the specialist sawlog-handling unit. Sawlogs come from as far away as Argyllshire. In mid-April continuing bad weather had meant that, with some forests still inaccessible, stocks were lower than ideal.



Lorries with self-loaders — here unloading pulpwood — find their loads within an average 70 mile radius. As specialised vehicles they find that they are profitable on this basis, without the need for a revenue-related backhaul.

Thames Board —three times bigger by 1984

Thames Board Mills' Workington production unit is on schedule to treble its capacity by 1984 — a development of major importance to the forestry industry in the UK, and in particular to the North of England and Scotland.

In an exclusive interview with TBM Workington woodbuyer Allan Camburn, Tree Scribe explored the background to the expansion which is a shot in the arm for softwood producers in sharp contrast to the uncertainties at Fort William.

Allan Camburn sees the forestry supply chain as a team, with grower, contractor, timber merchant and processor all contributing their special talents to create prosperity for the whole. TBM's integrated pulp and board mill at Workington opened in 1967 — the largest in the UK — and was specially designed to process into Duplex carton board the increasing volume of thinnings becoming available on both sides of the Border. The complex also incorporates a high-throughput modern sawmill.

Five layers

The carton board, used in high class packaging, is made up of five layers: a chemical pulp layer on both surfaces, shiny enough to take print, and three middle layers of pulp from British grown pulpwood, giving the board bulkiness, rigidity and creasing ability, essential for compatibility with today's packaging machinery.

Tilhill have an expanding role in the supply of pulpwood and sawlogs. Harvesting and Marketing's Murray Ure reports agreement with TBM for a phased build-up of pulpwood supplies in line with the pulpmill expansion, to add to the existing substantial order of sawlogs supplied at present.

Allan Camburn disclosed to Tree Scribe the input/output picture — both at present and the projection for 1984. Pulpwood input is 1300 tonnes a week, sawlogs 1000 tonnes a week. All the pulpwood and part of the sawlogs — Workington sawmills use a profile chipper which takes off surface wood, leaving a rectangular (in section) cant — goes to the Duplex plant. The profile chipper makes available 4/500 tonnes of material per week to the Duplex plant which produces 50,000 tonnes of finished product per annum. Sawn timber output is around 500 m³ per week.

Projected increase

In 1984 the projected increased Duplex annual output requires a quadrupled pulpwood input — 5000 tonnes a week. Sawlogs input and sawn timber production are presently not planned to increase.

TBM is very conscious of the effect the expansion is having in the creation of jobs in rural areas: 'It's not just the jobs in the forest' says Allan Camburn, 'But contractors and hauliers need to gear up to be capable of supplying us by the time our capacity starts to increase fairly steeply.'

He also made a vital point on the role played by the larger forestry groups: 'Organisations like Tilhill, who are large enough to see the comprehensive picture, are able to supply the full range of the market and by marketing the various categories properly, make the best of the trees.'

With a supply area which includes the Forestry Commission's Kielder, Europe's biggest man-made forest, and the earlier plantations in Southwest Scotland all maturing fast, set against a growing world wood shortage, the reasons for TBM's new project become clear.



Fort William, a key location in the Highlands.

Fort William closure threat

Continued
from page 1

the forest in harvesting and in road haulage. In an area which is thinly populated and where jobs are scarce this is a major blow and government agencies such as the Highlands and Islands Development Board have been quick to pronounce on the seriousness of the situation.

Wiggins Teape say they have employed Finnish consultants to advise them on the future prospects for the pulpmill and that their findings are that the mill is uneconomic and that the recommended course would be to replace it with a mill using a mechanical process for pulpmaking. Wiggins Teape maintain

that they have no expertise in this field and no usage in their paper mills for mechanical pulp.

Considering that the output of Scottish forests is set to increase substantially and that world supply shortages are forecast by the turn of the century, it may be no bad thing to get the future of this processing site put right now. Since its inception the Fort William pulpmill has been subject to criticism in terms of its small size and the pulping process employed. Had it been planned to continue in operation, the time has come for it to be re-equipped and many would agree with the company that

it would be wrong to perpetuate the chemical process employed.

The question however remains whether nine months will be long enough to complete the search for a new partner or a successor who would alter the mill's operation to a profitable process. Closure of the mill would involve serious disruption to forest working and real hardship in unemployment and knock-on effects. There seems to be a strong case for state initiative to bridge any gap necessary in keeping the present mill going until its future operation is resolved and the longterm future secured.

Tree Scribe ■



The '68 windblow struck hard on the west coast, and the Cowal peninsula suffered as badly as anywhere. This patch on Glenkin shows the big age step where new planting makes the contrast with 40/50 year crop.



This forty year sitka has straight stems but obviously thinning has been delayed by the previous owner. Careful treatment is needed now to reduce susceptibility to windthrow.



Sitka planted in 1935 has a top mean height averaging 24m. Some damage is evident from careless skidding during extraction in the past.

Cowal and Bute

Institutional purchase is basis for new branch

The Gourock ferry provides the traveller with an unexpected and dramatically quick topographical transition from Lowlands to Highlands across the Firth of Clyde. It's a transition too from the heavy industry of the Greenock docks and shipbuilding yards to the rural quiet of the Cowal peninsula which nudges the Isle of Bute into the sound.

That's Derek Paul's new patch. The new Cowal and Bute branch manager has more excuse than most to claim sea miles for a private yacht. With a house on the waterfront and good access by sea to many of his managed estates he would find it a valuable additional transport option.

The 300 square miles Cowal and Bute landmass is heavily committed to forestry. Some 40,000 hectares are Forestry Commission owned of which 21,000 ha are afforested, 9,000 hectares privately. Tilhill manage 2,000 ha, part purchased recently by a pension fund, providing a solid base from which to expand and administer locally.

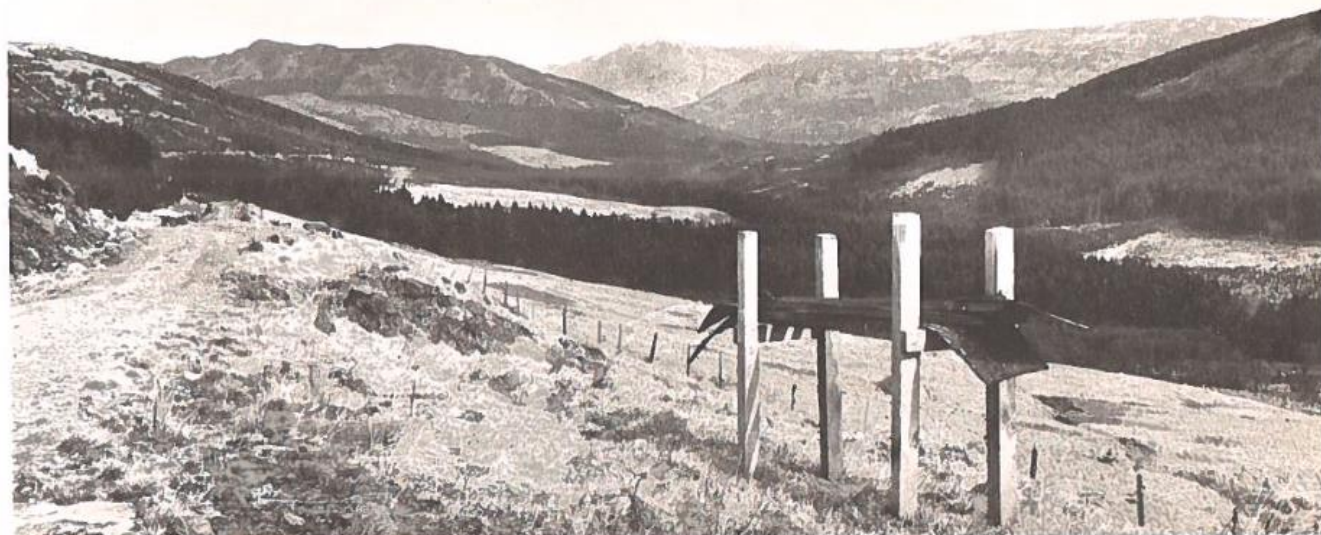
On Bute and on the mainland, estates such as Ardcyline, Ardgaddan Barr and Feorlean were handed over as going concerns by the Argyll branch. New acquisitions include Glenkin, Allt Mhor and St. Catherine's.

Glenkin and Allt Mhor were originally part of a forest holding created earlier in the century by Bryant and May when a plan to grow aspen for match production gave way to growing conifers commercially.

Derek Paul says that the estates have great potential and is obviously keen to put an up-to-date management plan into operation to maximise production with a systematic programme of thinning, felling and restocking.

Glenkin, the larger block of 425 ha, has spruce and larch in the 30-50 years age class with a younger section up to 10 years old. Allt Mhor is all 49 and 50 years old stock while St. Catherine's was bare land under sheep until this season.

Broadly speaking Derek Paul's management objective is to smooth the production flow until the age-class representation in the holding is brought into better balance. If no middle age crops were purchased to plug the production gap Derek Paul's main intention is to get maximum performance from the young trees and to encourage the mature woodland to put on maximum final growth. Realistic policies of fertilising and thinning will be pursued, together with a felling and restocking programme in the older stands.



Glenkin panorama: fire-risk — at its most acute between February and May — demands carefully sited fire beaters.



Mrs. Ailsa Bone has come to live in Dunoon after establishing herself with Tillhill at Jedburgh as office manageress, so there's a useful depth of experience in the same post in the new branch.



Assistant branch manager Colin Blyth spends much of his time on practical work and supervising contract squads: Hamish MacDonald is a full time sub-contractor who heads a four man multipurpose squad; the Strathie Bros. team from Drymen, Lochlomondside settled in Bute four years ago and undertake year-round harvesting work there.

Allt Mhor provides the first major coupe, with a clearfell scheduled for the early 1980's followed by a fencing and replanting programme. On steep terrain it's a yarding exercise combined with a road extension to facilitate extraction.

Planting is under way on St. Catherine's where ploughing started in January by Andrew Allan, who is one of Tillhill's ploughing contractors in Scotland and was completed by mid-March with cross-drain furrows drawn early in April. Planting is mainly sitka but with hybrid larch, Douglas fir and *Nothofagus procera* where conditions are suitable.

A road is to be pushed through the centre of the property from the shore of Loch Fyne to the upper margin of the tree line at around 1000 ft by John Erskine who has made fine forest roads elsewhere for the company in Argyll and South Scotland. But if this severe winter has delayed work, the Cowal peninsula is not in quite as bad a position as further north where weather conditions and very late snow have held back planting even more.

Tree Scribe ■



Derek Paul, manager for the new Cowal and Bute branch after 25 years on forestry projects in the Pacific area including Fiji, put in a stint as assistant branch manager at Gifford to revise on techniques in a somewhat colder and less predictable climate. He sees forestry as a partnership with nature. Roe and red deer need to be contained of course but he is enthusiastic about the steady build up of other flora and fauna in the forest. A small valley of scrub will be left as a wild life haven and will provide a source of interest to children who stay at the Old Glenkin Farmhouse donated to the Strathclyde Regional Council as an outdoor centre.

An old drovers' path runs from the Glenkin forest road to Loch Striven, offering a good upland route from Loch Striven to the Holy Loch.



This stand on Glenkin is developing into high value.



This P.70 sitka is sturdy enough in close up but the crop is held back by a scrub overstorey. Clearance or frill girdling of the scrub will release the crop.



Allt Mhor: the first major coupe. On steep terrain it's a yarding exercise.



Heat and pressure have convoluted this sandstone into schist which still retains its sedimentary layers — fine for forest roadmaking.



The Welstead report

Dear Tilhill,

It is now two weeks since I arrived at the main camp at Caledonia Bay. The set up here is in fact very civilized and not unlike, in outward appearance, a M.A.S.H. unit.

During my first week I got my Admin. week out of the way. This involved cooking for the whole camp (60 people) and running the bar at night. The setting of the bar under coconut palms is superb but the sand flies, mosquitos and warm beer leave something to be desired. But since all our drinking water tastes of chlorine any other drink is very welcome.

Army "Compo" rations provide most of the diet for us but we add to this fresh bread, which we bake daily, and fresh coconuts, bananas and plantains.

I am fortunate to have been able to spend some time at camp because I now feel a bit more comfortable in the heat. Our highest recorded temperature (by the runway) was 135°F but normal daytime figures are nearer 100°F and these fall to maybe 70°F at night. We are well into the dry season now and rain falls only occasionally. Even so the air is very humid and it is a full-time occupation to keep yourself and your belongings dry.

Beasties and creepy-crawlies abound. Last week we caught several large spiders whose identity is as yet obscure, scorpions have been found on bunks and in boots and a 4½ foot boa ventured into camp last night.

By far the most annoying animals are the biting insects which for the most part means sand flies, mosquitos and ants. One or two people have suffered very badly from these and feel quite ill. The best advice is not to scratch at all since this act merely increases the irritation and slows healing.

My second week is devoted to archeology at Fort St. Andrew which is across the bay from base camp. This is the largest and most important site in South America at present and despite the tedium of the clearing and digging operations it is very exciting. Today we found some pikes, a spur, hinges, buttons and numerous nails and clay pots. Because of the fort's largely wooden construction nails and post holes are valuable clues to the location of buildings of palisades.

We are largely here at the invitation of the Panamanian Government to evacuate this site, and that of Acla. All the other projects hang on this major operation. I shall spend about five weeks on archaeology but some of this time will be devoted to small reconnaissance parties of three or four going off to investigate other sites or routes inland.

My first real break from base starts next week when I leave as part of a six man patrol to spend six days on jungle survival. This will involve total "living off the land" practises and we will carry no food with us.

After that week my programme continues with a fortnight at the walkway. This has newly been finished and already several totally new species have been found whose existence was formerly unknown. The trees are flowering now and one of our major tasks will be to study pollination of the main canopy trees. This phase will be my best opportunity to learn from the botanists and entomologists and I am really looking forward to its start.

At the end of the three months we will all spend 2/3 weeks sailing before taking Eye of the Wind through the canal to Panama.

That approximately outlines the programme ahead but anything can, and probably will, change it to some extent.

Our biggest social event, apart of course from my birthday which has been celebrated in unforgettable style, was a "Gala Day" involving ourselves, the Cuna Indians and the Guardia Nacional. Really it was a glorified PR exercise but it involved dancing, games, drinking and a lot of fun. Somehow I managed to organise a set for some Scottish dancing in reply to the Cuna's native dances. (We do at least have a piper). Highlight of the afternoon's events was a boat race in dugout canoes. Needless to say we lost. However, all of this is being filmed and the BBC have agreed to screen it so you will have a chance to see and hear all the fun and sights.

Letter writing and the diary have to compete for the short time between eating and getting to sleep so I shall have to stop now if I'm to be up again at 5.30 a.m.

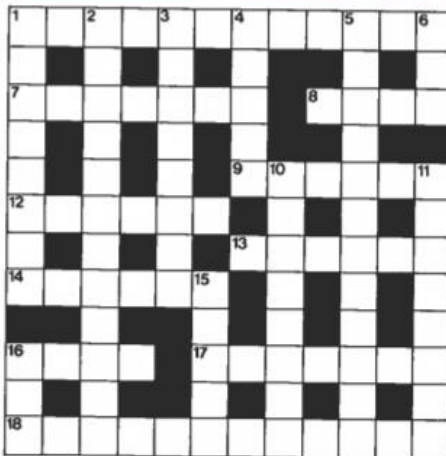
Regards to you all.

Fenning

The Scientific Exploration Society, made up of servicemen, scientists and explorers, has been planning and reconnoitring a series of expeditions in South America, Panama, the Galapagos Islands and Papua/New Guinea to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's world circumnavigation.

'Eye of the Wind' a 150 ton brigantine, was chartered to make a 20th century navigation crewed by 24 young explorers, carrying out the expeditions en route. 216 youngsters were chosen from 38,000 applicants to join Operation Drake, providing fresh crews for each of nine successive exploration phases with interconnecting themes.

Scottish division Central branch assistant manager Fenning Welstead was among those chosen - Tilhill, with other companies, are backing the project, in their case with £500.



ACROSS

- 1 Prolifely plural bread and butter trees (5,7)
- 7 A reject car from Ravenhills wellknown in Anglia? (7)
- 8&9 It's under your nose! (4,6)
- 12 Rock begun by two eggs - really! (6)
- 13 Make a ghost from the Inland Revenue thaw, if you can (6)
- 14 Put the monarch in a niche to make plantations more diverse (6)
- 16 Not the island lass to buy your lodgepole pine seed from! (4)
- 17 First prize at the show made by a dandelion (or a missing tea-set) (7)
- 18 Sure thought (we have a lot more than one, actually!) (8,4)

DOWN

- 1 To get a bit of hardwood, ask Rose outside the YMCA (8)
- 2 - OK! (7,5)
- 3 Take one cardinal from a mortician and he goes quite balmy! (8)
- 4 The second part of a bird cherry looks like our secretary's gone transatlantic (5)
- 5 What all deck officers and EEC species of plants should be! (12)
- 6 What Marjory Daw does to a saw? (3)
- 10 Carl is leaving for the Solway now (8)
- 11 Short-lived insects, these, but what do you expect from a mere heap? (8)
- 15 She keeps a controlled dropletsprayer in her birch grove (5)
- 16 Excised side branches or an awkward sea (3)

Our forester's crossword was contributed by a staff member who, for his own reasons, wishes to remain anonymous.

The first correct entry received after June 1 will get a £5 book token. Send your entries to David Reade, 30 Estelle Road, London NW3.



Among abounding creepy crawlies were boa constrictors: Fenning reports that his group later killed a 12-ft boa for the pot. The large lump in its middle turned out to be an undigested puma cub.

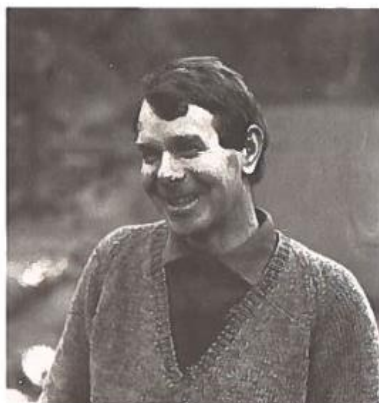
Early in April, Jedburgh-based contractor Bobby 'Trapper' Hume was experiencing a certain division in his loyalties as a result of winter extending into what is sometimes known as spring. Harvesting and Marketing division in the person of Graham Drennan-Smith had persuaded him to take on a mixed hardwood felling/extraction contract on a parcel of standing timber on Lothians Estate at Crailing, three miles from Jedburgh. But planting was imminent and Borders branch manager Bryson Middleton was waiting in the wings to move him with his squad on to the hillsides.

The east Borders situation mirrors the '79 planting season for the rest of the forestry industry in Scotland. The winter brought snow too deep for early season lowland planting to take place, and by April when upland work should be under way, no young trees to speak of were in, anywhere.

From the felling contract the bulk of the 300 tonnes of timber could go to Jock Law's mill at Lilliesleaf or Albert Ross at Coldstream, or, conceivably as exports to England – south to Andy Scott at Wooperton, Northumberland.

Ground very soft from the heavy wet weather, with a sharply inclined escarpment bearing the timber were factors directing Trapper's thoughts to the question of a crane to lift the logs and carry them the halfmile to the hard standing.

Trapper



Bobby 'Trapper' Hume

A tempting solution – with a little more depth in Oxnam Water which flows swiftly along into the Teviot – was to skid downhill and float out the logs past the old tumbledown church at Crailing and the

tiny 18th century graveyard. But a crane was more likely, particularly as a figure not unconnected with £1100 had been quoted to sub-contract the extraction component.

Leaving Trapper to work out the details of extraction I asked him if he preferred planting to logging as a way of winning a living in forestry. He answered by suggesting that he was looking forward to taking up the short handled spade and planting bag for Bryson, over at Phaup.

Trapper began what is now a 17 year association with Tilhill as a member of a silvicultural squad, actually staying in a flat which Tilhill now occupy as offices. Bryson conducts business in what was Trapper's living room.

He moved out when he married – Margaret, his wife, is from Edinburgh but was brought up in Chiswick, London – and worked as a timber contractor in the early 70s but still for Tilhill.

Trapper got his soubriquet back before myxomatosis hurt the market for rabbit meat, in the days when tenant farmers paid their rent with the lease of the rabbit catching concession.

Ironically enough Trapper always used a gun and also now will only grudgingly admit to an interest in shooting, even for his own pot: 'The timber work simply doesn't leave time' he says.

Tree Scribe

Bob Galloway retires



Bob Galloway no doubt drew wry amusement from the competition to speak at his farewell party at Frensham Ponds Hotel on March 28. For among the generous praise from chairman Archie Aitkins, his colleague and successor David Eyton-Jones and divisional director Bob Gray the key-line was his keen sense of honour, highlighted by the last to speak.

Bob Gray said that you could not stand for long in Bob Galloway's office before that infectious laugh would ring out – after bubbling briefly in a suppressed way – and Bob's continuous good spirits were a source of inspiration to the team he led.

Previously David Eyton-Jones, Bob Galloway's contract manager for the past nine years, spoke with feeling of the dauntless way in which Bob Galloway tackled projects and problems, and of his tenacity in insisting on the right landscaping formula,

backed by a comprehensive knowledge of the flora to do the job and where to procure them.

His colleagues presented him with an inscribed tankard and a gold propelling pencil.

Chairman Archie Aitkins, presenting Bob Galloway with a cheque and decanter, goblets and silver tray, said he interviewed him in a hotel in Edinburgh nearly twenty years ago and the two men had discussed the long-term potential in building up a landscaping division.

Bob started work at Tilford in 1962, in charge of the Tree Advisory section and within two years was engaged in building up a contract landscaping service which was soon finding business country wide.

Landscaping as an activity has developed as a responsibility of the other Scottish and Southern division branches in addition to Bob Galloway's headquarters based team, situated in an area of rich potential.

It is an illustration of the man that he was, excitedly telling at his farewell party about a new and major contract he had set up on the Isle of Wight (see Contracts on page 8) which demonstrates he's retiring when he's right on the top.

As he said: 'The only concession I make to advancing years is to wear my glasses.'

Tree Scribe



Peter Sloan, NDF, FI For, has been appointed general manager of the Scottish division with headquarters at Stirling where he has spent the past three years as western and northern area manager.

Peter Sloan joined Tilhill in 1965 and spent the first eleven years at Carlisle as branch manager for Solway.

Top level promotions

Steven Macpherson B Sc (For), MI For has been appointed divisional director of the Harvesting and Marketing division with headquarters at Church Stretton. He succeeds Noel Gore who has left the company.

Steven Macpherson joined Tilhill in 1970 and has served in the Scottish division, first as Lothians branch manager, then as Borders branch manager and latterly as eastern area manager.



Andrew Mackay has joined the Southern Division as area manager in charge of the Marches and Anglia branches with special responsibility for management of the extensive poplar plantations formerly owned by Bryant and May.

After graduating from Oxford he joined Bryant and May Forestry in 1953 taking charge of their estates in East Anglia. When promoted to silvicultural

Nurseries division director John White and new Harvesting and Marketing division director Steven Macpherson have been appointed to the board of Tilhill Forestry Advisory Ltd.

list in the early 1960s his task was to overcome the technical problems associated with poplar cultivation on a large scale and to introduce new disease-resistant varieties. The excellence of the present day poplar stands are a tribute to his endeavours in this field and to his unique knowledge of poplar growing. In 1974 he became managing director and chief forester of Bryant and May Forestry.



'Bad weather baptism' for new nurseries rig



Roger Denham manoeuvres the new rig at the nurseries yard at Greenhills: 'She handles well' he says, 'first class.'

Tilhill's nurseries division's new Scania longhaul rig has come through the 'bad weather baptism' of its first journeys from Surrey to Scotland.

Transport manager Roger Denham drove to Argyll and Bute on her maiden trip when it was so cold, he says, the salt on the roads couldn't thaw the ice.

On these first winter journeys north the temperatures were too low to move the plants unprotected, without the risk of damage by frost. So the refrigerated containers, which are normally used in the late spring and early summer for transporting plants from the cold store, had their roles reversed and were used to insulate the load and keep the plants from freezing.

Tailor-made unit

The six wheel Scania lorry has a 26½ feet long flat platform

which can be used either with a custom-built frame and tilt cover or to carry a tailor-made refrigerated unit. The 18 feet four wheel trailer it tows can also be used in either way, increasing the carrying capacity by two-thirds. When the lorry and trailer are fitted with their refrigerated units the total carrying capacity is up to 300,000 plants; used with only the frame and tilts the capacity is up to 500,000 plants per load. A major advantage of the new tilt system is that with roll up side and rear panels access can easily be got to any part of the load. Under the old system a major operation of sheeting and unsheeting tarpaulins was involved.

Tachograph in cab

The Scania is equipped with a bunk to facilitate double driver operation and a tachograph in the cab records all the vehicle's movements - speed, distance, stop-time - improving on the old handwritten log.

The lorry which the new rig replaces had no trailer and the previous refrigerated unit was too short to take advantage of the whole of the lorry's flat bed. In the new design the former refrigerated unit was converted to fit the new trailer and a new unit tailored for the new Scania.

All loads are composed of standard size crates which are palletised to facilitate loading by forklift and the cold units are also fitted with Joe-loaders - jacks on rails so that the pallets can be pushed to the end of the cargo area.

Tree Scribe ■



The new trailer is so well balanced that three good men can roll her on a flat surface with comparative ease. In the foreground is nursery director John White, centre is Roger Denham and (with the heavy bit) nursery manager Peter Gatfield.

CONTRACTS

Scottish division

Borders branch, £13,000 contract from Tyne & Wear District, tree planting at Scotswood bridge. Northern branch £4,000 contract from Moray District Council. Tree and shrub planting, Linn of Freuchey.

Central Landscape branch, £20,000 contract from Scottish Development Department. Tree planting on M90, Bridge of Earn.

Central Landscape branch, awarded £33,000 contract from B. Clouston & Partners from Scottish Development Agency. Tree and shrub planting, grassing, footpaths and car park; at Cowdenbeath.

Central Landscape branch, £15,500 contract from Stirling District Council, for soiling and grassing recreation area, St. Ninian's.

East Yorkshire branch, £15,000 contract from Tyne & Wear District Council, tree and shrub planting at Doxford Park.

East Yorkshire branch, £13,000 contract from Smiths Gore from British Gas, fencing and planting on gas pipeline.

East Yorkshire branch, £6,600 contract from MK Shand on British Gas pipeline Northallerton to Bishop Auckland.

Solway branch, £23,000 contract from Glaxo, tree planting at their new Annan factory.

Solway branch, £7,000 fencing and planting contracts from Greater Manchester Council.

Southern Division

Housing estate for Woking Borough Council £17,000 Old Peoples Home at Croydon £5,000

Planting at Earley by-pass, Reading for Berkshire County Council £10,000

A new school at Basingstoke for Hampshire County Council £5,000

Terminal for British Gas in Hampshire £6,000

Flats at Ash, Surrey £7,000



Forklift operator Anne Ayres of Farnham with a load of sitka at the start of its journey to Carlisle.

Amenity area for Kingston Borough Council £5,000 Maintenance of the Automobile Association grounds at Basingstoke £6,000

Tree surgery for Department of the Environment in the Isle of Wight £19,056

The new Dept of the Environment contract on the Isle of Wight involves careful dismantling and felling of approximately 120 trees within Appuldurcombe House grounds.

Each tree is to be taken down entirely in one metre sections from top to base because of archeological remains thought to be below ground.

Since many of the trees are huge and trunk sections heavy a crane will be required to lower them without damage.

The work is being carried out under the overall supervision of Geoffrey Turner.



Linda Lawrence is assistant to office manager Linda Baigent and back in commerce again after a long break to start a family.

Wedding bells

Charlie Fulton, forester at Lothians Branch was married to Miss Meg Ross on April 12, 1979. The ceremony and reception were held at Melville Castle Hotel, Lasswade. Meg is a P.E. teacher at Lasswade High School.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Anthony Hunt with Central branch southern division who recently completed his third year for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Scheme. Andy joined us last August to do two years practical forestry training before going to Newton Rigg for the ONDCourse, and his interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's award now spans nearly four years. He has successfully completed both Bronze and Silver years before achieving his Gold award.