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Economic Forestry Limited.
A member of Booker
Countryside.

Tree Scribe

FORESTRY UNDER REVIEW

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Managing
Director

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WOULDN'T it be great to open the newspaper one morning and read that "a massive upsurge of confidence in the future of forestry is rapidly becoming apparent following the publication of Government reports on the industry and, more particularly, the announcement of a proposed new scheme of increased incentives"?

Yet that is what greeted Ireland one morning in August. Government there had recognised the strategic importance to rural employment and imports of creating a vibrant forest industry and have taken decisive action. An OSB (Oriental Strand Board) plant is to be sited in Waterford and a similar industrial initiative is now being worked out for the western Region. Nor has the decisive thrust ignored balanced forestry. Not by a long stretch!

The target for broadleaf planting is being increased to 20% of overall planting with the added assurance that all forestry developments must adhere to the strictest environmental guidelines. Policy concludes that properly managed afforestation can stabilise rural populations and enhance the countryside. What is happening in the UK? While Ireland has the racehorse, UK has the plough-horse – a steady plodder that gets there in the end! (we hope).

It was March when the Government effectively took strategic decision-making out of the hands of the specialist Forest Authority and gave it to a Review Group of largely unspecialised civil servants. They were called upon to report on the effectiveness of incentives and the range of ownership and management options available. Many submissions have been made - over 1,000 in total, we believe, - and interviews held. TEF has played a full part.

Now, it seems, the Review Group needs specialist advice in their review of options for the ownership and management of FC woodlands. Now it seems, we shall not hear a result until some time in 1994. Meantime, would-be investors in new planting are postponing it until they see the results of the incentives review. 1994 planting has been lost.

Through all of this ponderous exercise one word has been seized upon as a sort of warcry against privatisation and the private sector. It may even be



delaying the result of the Review. "Access", they shout. "Public access is being lost". Access to a responsible public has always been encouraged by our owners and management alike. The cry is outdated and must be ineffectual.

In this respect we welcome the recent response of the Forestry Commission to "exaggerated and misleading" claims by lobbyists regarding woodlands sold into private ownership. The forest industry, small though it may be, is and must remain a serious contributor to the wealth of the nation. We cannot allow it to become a political football.

One further word. Industry seems nervous about continuity of timber supply from the private sector. TEF have increased supplies to industry this year over 1992 by almost 20% to the benefit of both client and end user. As responsible leaders at the supply end of the industry, we have shown and will continue to show enthusiasm for arrangements with industry as a main plank of the professional management of our clients' timber resources.

If a week is a long time in politics, six years is certainly far too long for any Government to take to respond to the clear calls of a world-competitive industry sidelined by ill-informed political judgements. We can do an excellent job for UK Ltd. All we need are our tools back, please!

Congratulations to ...

Paul and Catherine Nolan, Dumfries and Galloway District, on the birth of Cormac Patrick on May 8, 1993.

Tim and Morag Liddon, Yorkshire District, on the birth of Jessica Kathryn on May 22, 1993.

Andrew and Lucy Bronwin, Marches District, on the birth of Freya on June 13, 1993

Elaine and Tommy Brennan, Survey Department, on the birth of Rory on July 8, 1993

Matthew and Wendy Rivers, Highland Regional Director, on the birth of Max William on September 14, 1993

* * *

Colin Miller, Stirling District, who married Hazel on May 17, 1993

Chris Tate, Wessex District, on the occasion of his marriage to Jeanette on June 12, 1993

Rob McDougall and Dale Swales who married on July 16, 1993

* * *

Andrew Bronwin on his promotion to DM at Marches District on the departure of David Taylor

Neil Austin on his promotion to DM at Surrey and Hants District following the retirement of Fred Crozier.

Hello to ...

Dave Atkinson, Forestry Assistant, Oban District

Maxine Hay, Secretary, Inverness District

Frances McMillan, Secretary, Marketing Department

Brian Fraser, Sales, Nurseries Division

Harry Stevens, Forestry Assistant, South Wales District

George Birrall, Forestry Assistant, North West England District

Carolyn Anderson, Forestry Assistant, Stirling District

Helen Corbett, Secretary, Cheviot District

Tilhill people in the news

Long service awards



ALAN SHARPLES (left) receives a cheque from Ian Ledgard (RHS) at a luncheon to mark his 23 years' service with the company. His continuous service has been with the squad based in Hawes, North Yorkshire.

On 23 April, VAUGHAN HAMMOND, Borders Regional Director, received the Company's award for 20 years' service. The award was made by Martin Wilkinson, Operations Director, during a meeting of Borders region managers at Cheviot district office.

Vaughan joined Tilhill Forestry in September 1972 as Assistant Branch Manager at Carlisle.

Rapid promotion to Branch Manager in Oban followed, then Branch Manager Stirling and, in 1991, Borders Regional Director.

It is confidently expected that Vaughan will wring the maximum value out of his award, a character trait which has resulted in a fine contribution to the Company's success over 20 energetic years.

ARFON JONES received a long service award at a lunch organised in his honour at The Kings Head Inn, Llandovery.

Arfon joined EFG after leaving school in 1959 and has worked for both EFG and TEF in South Wales ever since.

He is currently employed as Foreman of our direct labour squad and over the years has played a full part in establishing many of the woodlands currently managed by TEF in South Wales.



Arfon Jones (left) receives his award from District Manager, Graham Heath

We believe that he could well be the longest serving member of the Company and, in addition to his day-time employment ARFON also looks after the grounds around the offices.

It is very much a family affair as Arfon's wife, Yvonne, is currently caretaker/cleaner at the Llandovery office.

A bouquet of fresh flowers was presented to Yvonne in recognition of her many years of help and support both to Arfon and the company.



Nurseries Division is pleased to report the appointment in June of BRIAN FRASER as Technical Sales representative based at Greenhills and responsible to Adrian Morgan.

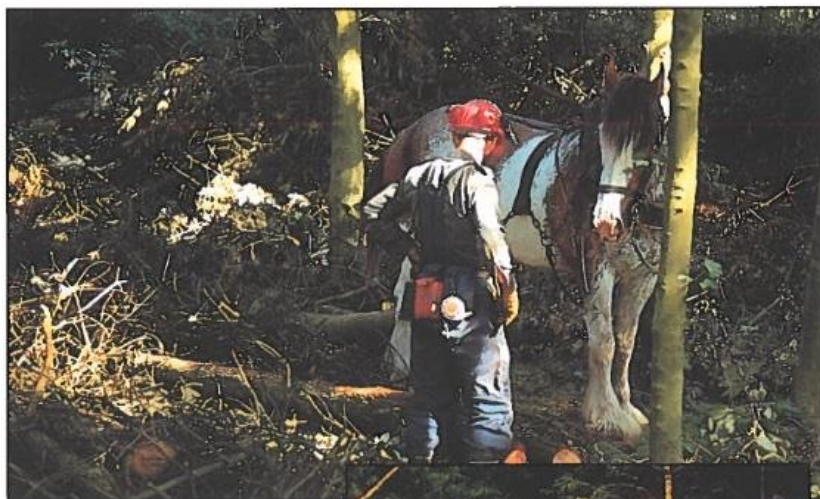
Brian comes from a tree nursery family and background.

He is skilled in nursery work and successfully carried out the operations of the family nursery in W. England.

We look forward to his energetic input into the sales of Tilhill Nurseries stock.

TEF's Dumfries and Galloway District were runners-up in the Agribusiness Division in the recent Booker Risk Management Competition. Each year, all Booker companies, large and small, can enter the competition, now in its seventh year. Charlie Fulton, District Manager, received his certificate from chairman Peter Johnson at a lunch presentation in London. It is Charlie's second success in the competition, having won a runners-up prize with TF's Solway District in 1990.

One horse power



Yorkshire District has recently been involved with an extreme variety of timber work. The District won an out-turn purchase for circa 1200 tonnes of clearfell near Tow Law in County Durham. The site was being prepared for potential opencast and was located in an area where even the timber tends to grow legs and walk. Simon Rochester, the District Forester, decided that the best way to work the site would be with a harvester to ensure that the timber was worked quickly, minimizing supervisory costs. A contractor, Richard Telfer, brought his 360° excavator with a Keto 100 harvester head and proceeded to work the timber rapidly and particularly efficiently.

Within the first couple of days he left his machine on site for about 1½ hours only to discover on his return that the lights had been stolen! He thus decided the best alternative was to work the machine 24 hours per day on shift work and so the production leapt to 100 tonnes per day.

At one of Yorkshire District's managed estates on Teesside where a large petrochemicals company has a significant woodland holding, a smaller, low-key harvesting operation was required.

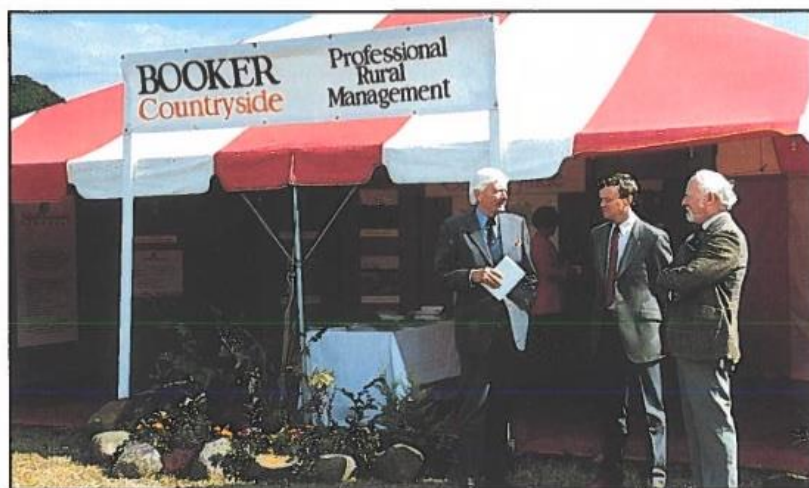
Some of these woodlands are particularly sensitive in terms of flora and fauna and some of the others consist of old mine workings where the terrain is particularly confused and not well suited to machine working.

The District decided that horse extraction would be an alternative and, with the agreement of the client, set up an experimental operation.

The area worked was a delayed first thinning and Clydie, a four-year-old gelding, was employed to extract the timber. Clydie was more familiar with pulling water bowsers around the streets of Manchester to water hanging baskets but very soon became accustomed to the woodland environment. It was the first time that Sue Day and Clydie had carried out any timber work, but soon were ably demonstrating the potential and advantages of horse extraction. Production was limited to 5% of the above harvester, but, then, the capital and running costs were also significantly lower! Clydie left the site undamaged and was able to work the particularly difficult terrain. Indeed, some of the trees are now growing better following a light application of nitrogen fertiliser.



... or 150 horse power?



BC at the fair!

A superb presentation by Booker Countryside at the Game Fair in Longniddry, near Edinburgh, was masterminded by Tim Kirk. The quality of enquiry for both Booker Farming and TEF was encouraging. Some of the most influential landowners in the country visited the BC marquee and several recognised the unique facility of our united professional input covering the main aspects of countryside activity. The Press agreed to interview Lord Barber and some of the BC team in a 15-minute slot, but the measure of their interest was that they stayed for over an hour!

Pictured at the stand – Lord Barber, John Hurst (Booker Farming) and Len Yull (TEF).

Simon Jeffreys, of Woodland House in Bottesford, Notts, is keen to set the ball, or rather, the logs rolling by importing a fully-trained, but unemployed, workforce from far-off Thailand

3000 timber working elephants going cheap!

On holiday in Thailand this summer, Suzanne and I visited an elephant training school in the northern part of the country – amongst other, more typical activities.

It transpired that there are currently at least 3000 unemployed, fully-trained timber working elephants following the imposition of Thailand's drastic, but necessary, policy of not logging in their natural forests.

In 30 years, Thailand has lost half of its forest cover and much of the remainder is over-exploited and seriously depleted in terms of diversity and growing stock. We did not see a single timber tree of any quality during our travels about Thailand and four days' trekking in the northern hill tribe areas, except for a magnificent grove of 150-year-old teak in a temple compound. The consequences of such forest loss are difficult to grasp – in 1992 it is estimated that 7.9 billion tons of soil were lost to erosion.

Sadly, the Forest Department cannot afford to buy fodder for the unemployed elephants. There is insufficient forest cover to allow free range grazing due to many remaining areas being declared National Parks, and cattle producers objecting to competition from elephants.

Alternative employment for the



elephants and owner drivers is limited, but some are turning to the tourist trade for rides, circuses or illicit logging at home or in neighbouring countries. Otherwise, the prospect is for destruction of the elephants.

When one realises that the working life of an elephant is some 60 years, this seems an unfortunate end, to say the least.

Elephant training begins at three years, with light work starting at about 11 to 15.

The animals move on to hard work between the ages of 16 and 38 when they are considered mature. At 39 to 50, maximum ability is attainable, but with a gradual decline in the work output.

The last 10 years see a further decline until retirement.

With rising enthusiasm for horse extraction in Britain, here is a chance to become market leaders in elephant extraction – given sufficient fodder and 150 litres of water a day!

OBITUARY

CHARLIE SCOTT

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Charlie Scott on 23rd April, 1993, after a long illness.

Charlie joined Tilhill in March, 1972, as a lorry driver at Greenhills Nursery. He progressed to Nursery supervisor in 1982 and shortly afterwards was promoted to Assistant Nursery Manager where his unceasing energy, dedication and humour were welcomed by everyone who knew him.

Despite his dedication to his work, Charlie found time to follow his other interests - speedway racing and his dog.

There were not many weekends when he could not be found walking his dog around the nursery - checking the stock as he went!

Charlie is survived by his wife, Margaret, daughters Jacqueline and Sarah, and son, Paul.

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK: On September 1, the Aberdeen District Office moved from Tillycorthie Nursery to new premises at Bank House, Udney Station, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 0QJ.

Top scholar

JONATHAN WALKER, a Forester at Fort William, recently received the Prince Charles Medallion Trophy from the Royal Bath & West of England Society.

The award is given to the scholar, who in the opinion of the society, made the most use of their scholarship in 1992.

In his letter of commendation, the society's chief executive, Brigadier Simon Firth congratulated Jonathan on his "excellent contribution."

The Royal Bath & West of England Society was set up "For the encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, Manufactures and Commerce."



OPENING TIME:
(from left) – Sir
Raymond
Johnstone
(Chairman
Forestry
Commission)
Ewan and Enid
Sutherland
Rt. Hon. Ian Lang
Secretary of State
for Scotland
Hilary and Roland
Parke

A winning combination

Britain's largest Community Woodland at Balkelo Hill near Dundee was formally opened by the Scottish Secretary Ian Lang on September 7.

For the two families responsible for its creation, the Sutherlands and Parkes, Balkelo represented the third major woodland development in less than two years.

From the beginning the partnership has worked closely with the Forestry Operations team from Perth and Angus District based at Forfar in Angus.

A 45Ha Native Woodland Scheme their first venture was followed by a 30Ha Community Woodland. The experience and knowledge

gained on these led to the purchase and development of over 115Ha at Balkelo.

Not content to stand still and now fully aware of the opportunities such projects represent, the partnership is actively seeking their next.

TEF has provided the technical input, sourced high quality plant stock through Tilhill Nurseries and managed the site developments using skilled sub contractor resources.

An excellent relationship based on trust has led to good business by negotiation, a winning combination and we look forward to more of the same.

From left: Roger Lewis (DM Wessex), Brian Shaw (DDM), BC Board members James Douglas, Professor Chris Baines, Lord Barber, Malcolm McAllister (MD Booker Farming), John Campbell, Bob Shaw (MD TEF): front Peter Johnson (C.Exec. Booker Countryside). Ian Ledgard, Regional Director, took the photograph.



Booker
Countryside
Board visits
glorious
Devon

On a beautifully sunny day in June, BC directors travelled to Devon to visit the Tavistock Woodlands, owned by Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) and managed through our Wessex district.

Roger Lewis and Brian Shaw organised a tour of the property, an outstanding woodland extending to 436 hectares in four main blocks chiefly on the Cornish side of the River Tamar.

For six centuries the woodlands formed part of the Tavistock Abbey estate but, following the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII, they were granted to the Russell family in 1540 and passed to the 5th Baron Russell (Marquis of Tavistock). The forest areas were acquired over 30 years ago by the 6th Earl of Bradford and subsequently by NILGOSC. The woodlands are 70% conifer with Douglas Fir the main species.

The Board inspected thinning programmes, ancient semi-natural oak woodland and proposals for special management grant, incorporating public access.

Booker staff donate to woodland scheme

A Booker Woodland has been planted by Tilhill Economic Forestry on land owned by Robin Neilson at the Catton Estate, near Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.

Many of the trees were paid for by individual donations from personnel from various Booker Companies and our warm thanks are extended to those who contributed.

The tree planting forms part of a co-ordinated scheme contributing to the establishment of a new National Forest in Middle England. It will form a demonstration plot to be used by the National Forest Development Team and Tilhill Economic Forestry to demonstrate tree establishment.

The area of the Booker Woodland is one hectare (2.5 acres) and it stands on flat ground previously in agriculture, between a minor county road to the east and the River Trent to the west. The soil is a stoney, well drained, coarse loam derived from river-terrace drift. There are good views from the woodland of the varied urban, industrial and agricultural landscapes typical of the area.

Booker personnel nominated their preferred tree species from a list of indigenous broadleaves, including oak, ash, lime, beech, Field maple and Wild cherry. In addition, groups of Corsican pine and Hybrid larch were planted as a conifer 'nurse' species to draw on the slower-growing broadleaves and one of the new vigorous varieties cultivated in Belgium of poplar, was planted at wide spacing nearest the River Trent.

Woody shrub species including hazel, hawthorn, rowan and whitebeam were planted in drifts at the plantation edge to give warmth to the bottom of the wood, to provide interest and colour at different times of year and food for insects and birdlife.

A wide pathway has been left unplanted beside the river and the inter-row space has already been colonised by a rich ground flora.

The ground vegetation will be retained but will be cut back after flowering and seeding to prevent smothering of the young trees as the vegetation dies back in the autumn. Some weed control will be



The photograph shows the ceremonial planting of an oak on the site with (left to right) – Susan Bell (Director of the National Forest Development Team), Robin Neilson (owner of the Catton Estate), Richard Sochacki (local Tilhill Economic Forestry District Manager), Lord Barber of Tewkesbury (Chairman of Booker Countryside).

necessary to establish the trees and this will be confined to use of selective herbicides applied at the base of each tree. Amongst other small mammals, rabbits are present and so each tree has been fitted with an individual guard. These are of two types, the traditional spiral guard and small tree shelters which act as miniature greenhouses and boost early growth.

The planting was conducted under the Forestry Authority's Woodland Grant Scheme which pays a grant as a contribution towards establishment costs. The planting also qualified for Better Land Supplement, this is a payment as part compensation for taking the land out of agriculture. In addition annual payments will be received by the owner to replace farm income foregone.

These payments are made under the Ministry of Agriculture's Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.

Booker personnel may visit the Booker Woodland during daylight hours and car parking is available on the east side of the county road just north of the wood. A location plan is shown opposite/below.

Further information is available from:
Richard Sochacki, MA, MIC, For.
District Manager - East Midlands
Tilhill Economic Forestry
Woodland House
Normanton
Bottesford
Notts. NG13 0EQ
Telephone: (0949) 43600

Rounders proves a hit!



A "friendly" game of rounders was organised by Stuart Blackhall (shown here about to strike) with 15 enthusiasts from Head Office.

The lack of fitness was alarming and the risk existed of more fatalities than were seen in the office "Ghost Walk" held the previous fortnight.

David Hadden's team crushed Martin Wilkinson's collection of misfits with superior tactics, skill and commitment; assisted by some inept fielding from the losers.

Julian Ohlsen describes his weekend of

Executive **From brain teasers to paddling in the canal!** *stretching*

THE Press Gang has changed somewhat in recent years. No longer do you have to give furtive glances when drinking at the local. Yet a glass bottomed flagon may have given me some warning of the menacing memo that arrived in my "IN" tray recently.

My presence was requested by Her Majesty, in the form of the Territorial Army "Executive Stretch" Weekend at the 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment Training Centre in Edinburgh.

I must admit to being slightly wary of committing myself to a weekend of night manoeuvres, brain teasers, obstacle courses and the Scottish autumnal weather.

Twenty-five organisations had been invited to send two recruits each to attend the exercise.

The objective of the event was not only to physically and mentally stretch the "victims", but in the main to promote the T.A. It was hoped that the weekend would demonstrate the benefits of potential employees who are members of the T.A. and allow industry to understand the nature of the annual leave that is required by members of the Territorial Army.

The forty to fifty "executives" were split into five syndicates, the members of which were to become close friends and companions over the long weekend.

Each group consisted of a wide variety of executives or budding executives and included Solicitors, Kwik-Fit fitters, civil servants and foresters. Each syndicate was accompanied by a regular T.A. Captain to act as a guardian.

Everybody was equipped with full army issue of pack, mess kit, waterproofs and combat jacket. We looked quite the part; in fact I was awaiting a shout of "shoulders back, Lovely boy" or "sing Lofty, sing".

My first mistake was to mention during our instruction and induction period, that yes, I could read a map. Thus, I found myself leading the Dark Blue Syndicate on our first task of night navigation over eight miles of the very dark Pentland Hills.

The march had a meandering course from check-point to check-point where brain teasers were collected and had to be solved by the end of the march. These quizzes were both obscure and tricky: Would you know where to "weigh a pie", or "find the word water from HKJLATO" at 2 am?

By the end of the operation we found ourselves at our campsite for the "night". By the time we had completed the march sleep was rationed from 3.30am to 6.30am, when Day 2 began with a series of seven military tasks.

Highlights of the second day were the abseiling, the live firing range with the most modern fire power, the practical task of moving a trailer around an obstacle course and the opportunity of a flight around the training hills in a Puma helicopter; a "first" for many of us.

That evening we had another night operation with a paddle along the Falkirk Canal. The 200m of the Falkirk tunnel was an interesting lesson in feeling your way and keeping a boat straight, while in pitch darkness!

The second night under canvas allowed a little more sleep before the helicopter flew us to the training centre and the final exercises on the Sunday morning.

Some of the operations on the Saturday had been timed and marked for technical expertise. The latest exercises, in order to find the "winning executives" were ten rounds from a hand pistol at a target, once the whole syndicate had clambered over the timed obstacle course carrying two ammunition boxes. At the end of it all, our syndicate came second by a mere one point of sweating, bruising and yet enjoyable endeavour.

No, I shall not be signing up to join the T.A., but I did find the whole weekend an experience to savour. The team work of the Army was well demonstrated, and I certainly enjoyed the mental and physical problems that were presented in such cunning fashion.

To any future "executives", go for it...

Received from a client's agent

"The sale of 6 acres of larch to the Skanadale Community of the Many Faces of God is due for completion on 7th June.

They use the area for collecting firewood and exercising their elephant, so a sale of this crop and land seems the easiest solution. The monks are a law unto themselves anyway".



Ronnie Rose demonstrates the benefits of good forest design

Staff trip to Eskdalemuir

OLD Sauchie Admin. staff recently enjoyed a visit to Eskdalemuir District. They had been forewarned of several inches of rainwater, so wellies and anoraks were the fashions of the day!

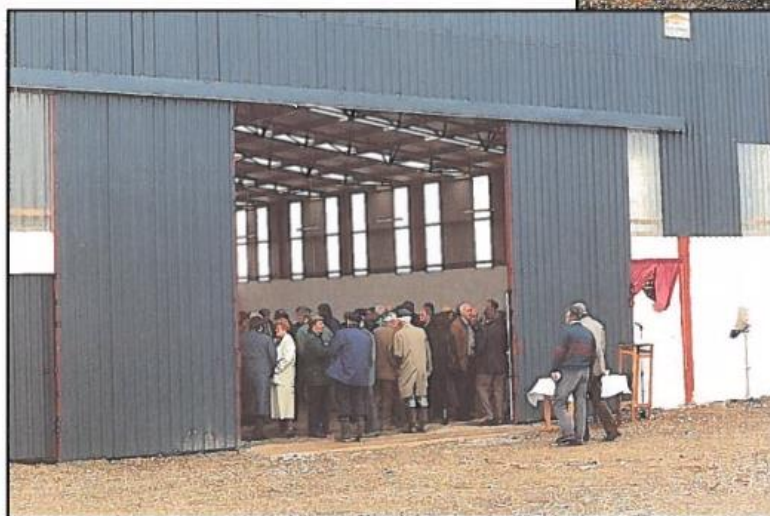
First stop was the Eskdalemuir District office at Moffat, and an informative tour of the Survey Department. The troops, joined now by admin staff from Moffat, Alnwick, Jedburgh and Dumfries and Galloway Districts, reboarded the bus bound for the Acland Centre at Burncleuch. Vaughan Hammond, Regional Director Borders, made the introduction, followed by a talk by Martin Craig, Eskdalemuir District Manager, about forestry management in the area. Then Ronnie Rose, Senior Wildlife Manager, gave an interesting insight into the necessity of good forest design for wildlife management in order to control the ecological balance of nature.

After lunch (courtesy of Mrs Rose), on to the Nature Trail through the Eskdalemuir Forest. The walk started with a steep climb through part of the plantation (admin staff physical fitness needs looked at!), and ended with a competition to guess in M³, the volume of a group of trees (won by the newest member of TEF staff, Helen Corbett, who joined Cheviot District less than a week before!). Last stop was a Moffat hotel for high tea, then a well-earned rest on the bus back to Stirling.

Thanks to all who made the day such a terrific success. Now we know SOME of what happens out there!



Open day in Co. Wexford



Top right: Mr Liam Hyland, Minister for Forestry and Rural Development, addresses the audience in his opening speech.

Right: The Minister performs the opening ceremony assisted by Ms Carmel Murray, a senior executive of the Irish Forest service.

Above: Visitors through the new grading shed at Ballymurn.



ABOUT 100 guests and 30 staff and contract workers were present at Ballymurn on October 6 for the formal opening of the nursery by Mr Liam Hyland, TD, Minister for Forestry and Rural Development. The event also marked the opening of the new grading facilities provided with financial assistance by the Irish Government.

In his welcoming speech, Peter Johnson, Chairman of TEF and chief executive of Booker Countryside, paid tribute to the encouragement given by the Government for new forestry in the form of improved grants now proposed. He urged the need to bear the future commercial viability of new woodlands in mind, since it was on species with real commercial value that proper establishment and maintenance of productive forests would be based, producing the raw material for the growth

of downstream industry and related employment.

In reply, the Minister stated his pleasure at being asked to formally open the excellent nurseries facilities at Ballymurn. He traced the development of forestry from 200Ha. of new planting by the private sector in the mid-80s to a figure closer to 10,000Ha. presently. The Government was committed to an annual programme of new planting on both public and private sectors, totalling 30,000Ha. of which the bulk would be conifer, but with a greater emphasis than hitherto on broadleaved planting.

Mr Hyland acknowledged the greater sophistication in creating quality produce and emphasised that, under the Forestry measures of the EC Operational Programme for Rural Development, grant assistance is available for investment in innovative techniques. These could

include new methods of propagation, high technology projects for a variety of uses and new irrigation systems designed to improve plant yields and the quality of stock.

The Minister concluded by stating that any industry must have a basis of quality raw material and the forestry industry was no exception.

The guests attending included two Government ministers, some Government officers, several local dignitaries and many producers and customers in Irish forestry.

We congratulate Gerry Murphy and his able team for making it a memorable day. Despite previous hours of rain and some pumping of water, they managed to persuade the elements to remain dry throughout the proceedings. We look forward to profitable years ahead.