

The FLASHER

**FORESTRY
COMMISSION**
News & Views

Issued by
**INFORMATION
OFFICER**

No. 256

June/July, 1969

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

THE Chairman - Mr. Leslie Jenkins -
has asked if he may use our paper to

send a special 'thank-you' to all who have worked to make our many events successful.
He writes:-

"It is over three years ago that we began our preparations for our Jubilee Year. Some of us may still recall Geoffrey Forrest stating that there were only two years to go! Since then a great deal of effort has been put into detailed planning all over the country, not only for the main Exhibition near Edinburgh but also for the more local events in the Conservancies and the Research Division.

"And now the Exhibition is all over and with a few exceptions most of the open weeks are also behind us.

"While the memory of these events is still fresh in our minds I want to send my heartiest congratulations to the staff at all levels who have worked so hard to make our Jubilee an outstanding success. The main Exhibition was attended by 32,000 people, at a conservative estimate; and although I do not have figures of attendance at the open weeks and so on, I am sure they attracted at least as large a public. All of you who took part in these arrangements, whether in planning on paper or in the field, have every cause for satisfaction that you did so much with the relatively modest resources which could be put at your disposal.

"I am reluctant to single out any one group for commendation, but I cannot let the occasion pass without a special word to the staff who worked untiringly to get the show ground at the Bush site ready under the great difficulties caused by the appalling weather on the eve of the Exhibition. Fortunately the weather changed in our favour for the Exhibition itself, but the engineering and forest staff who worked without stint under these conditions averted what looked very like being a disaster.

"So to the organisers of all the magnificent exhibits and to all of you concerned with Conservancy events, I would just say again "Well done!" You have done a great deal to put the Commission on the map and I am sure that your efforts will have a lasting and happy effect on our relations with the forestry industry and with the public at large."

THE BUSH SHOW

THERE is no surer indication of success in a large-scale endeavour such as our Jubilee Exhibition at Edinburgh than to see the visitors pouring through the entrance gates in their thousands, and really enjoying themselves throughout the day.

Over the period of the three-day Exhibition, about thirty-two thousand visitors - more than a quarter of these being young people - paid to get in, in addition there were many 'Complimentary' admissions to put the figure even higher.

The credit for the Exhibition's outstanding success is due to the sheer hard work and enthusiasm of all concerned, and also to the 200 trade and non-trade exhibitors who supported the Exhibition by taking stand space. And we must not forget a special vote of

thanks to the Clerk of the Weather who arranged that, after preceding weeks of very bad weather, the skies were blue and the sun shone non-stop for the three days.

Exhibitors could not be sure whether their (often large) outlay would prove to be worthwhile but they took a chance and by all reports their confidence has been well justified. Great gratitude is also due for the great assistance given in so many ways by the Edinburgh Centre of Rural Economy.

On the financial side - so far as the Commission is concerned - all the figures have not yet been added and subtracted. But it would be safe to say that our Exhibition will prove to be the most 'economical' public relations exercise of its quality and size ever staged by a Government Department.

Highlight of the Exhibition was of course the visit of H.R.H. Princess Alexandra on the second day. Her charm and informality and real interest in everything made the event a really Royal occasion. That she enjoyed her day with us is evident from the letter printed below.

Mrs. Jenkins, wife of our Chairman, presented the many prizes for the chainsaw and axe competitions. It is worth reporting that in the chainsaw event, Forestry Commission entrants won first, second and fourth prizes, and also first prize in the axe competition. Full results are given below.

The Chairman of the 1969 Committee - Mr. Geoffrey Forrest - sends this special message to all connected with the Exhibition:-

"May I please take this opportunity of recording my sincere thanks to every single one of you who helped to make our Jubilee Exhibition such an outstanding success. Thanks are specially due to the members of the 1969 Committee who planned the whole thing and mounted the exhibits; the Commission workers who got the ground ready; the Engineers who made such amazing efforts to construct roads and to get the exhibits on to their stands; the staff who manned the entrance kiosks, sold the programmes and did so much work in the Secretary's office and, not least, all the many Stewards on duty.

"I am very proud to say that I personally have received a large number of compliments not only on the Exhibition itself, but in particular on the politeness and helpfulness of every member of the Commission staff on duty at The Bush. Thank you all very much."

THE following letter from the Lady in Waiting to Princess Alexandara was received by the Chairman:-

"Dear Mr. Jenkins,

"Princess Alexandra has asked me to write and tell you how very much she enjoyed her visit to your Golden Jubilee Exhibition. Her Royal Highness thought it was most kind of you to invite her to lunch and to then show her round so many of the stands and demonstrations. The Princess was very impressed by the organisation and very interested in everything she saw: she was only so sorry that time went so quickly and that there was rather a rush towards the end.

"Her Royal Highness is delighted with the beautiful wood carving that your wife presented to her on behalf of the Forestry Commission: this will be a wonderful reminder of such a very happy day. Princess Alexandra sends her sincere thanks to you and all members of the Forestry Commission for this gift and for inviting her to visit the Exhibition.

"May I also thank you for all your kindness to me: it was a wonderful day and I very much enjoyed it.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Mary Fitzalan Howard

Lady in Waiting

Other congratulatory letters have been received by the Chairman from: the Lord Lieutenant of Midlothian, the President of H.T.M.A.S., the President of the R.F.S., the

Chairman of the T.G.O., The Chairman of the T.T.F., The Secretary of the National Trust for Scotland, the Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, Mr. Jeffrey Agate, - Past President of H.T.M.A.E.W., Sir William Mount, Mr. Cyril Hart, Mr. J. B. Dawson and Mr. H. A. Turner - lately Secretary to the Commission.

Chainsaw Competition Results

1st	J. Potts (F.C.) of Wark, near Hexham	-	Time 4.37 minutes
2nd	R. Cox (F.C.) of New Forest, Hants.	-	" 4.90 "
3rd	L. Vidler of Canonbie, Dumfriesshire	-	" 5.05 "
4th	E. Robinson (F.C.) of Consett, Co. Durham	-	" 5.05 "

Axe Competition Results

1st	R. Cox (F.C.) of Wark, near Hexham	-	" 1 minute 15 seconds
2nd	D. Parker of Ringwood, Hants.	-	" 1 " 18.9 "
3rd	P. Hills of Newton St. Cyres, Devon	-	" 1 " 25.6 "

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

IT would be impossible to give adequate coverage to all the imaginative and interesting Jubilee exhibits and events - of any one of which a professional exhibitions expert would have been proud. We trust then that we may be forgiven by the many neglected for covering only three of these. The first is included for its originality, the second as it led the way in our celebrations, and the third for its intimate and yet historic associations.

GOLF BRAVO THREE FOXTROT CHARLIE

THE Commission had its own amateur short wave transmitting station at Bush Exhibition. This was organised and run by the three licenced amateurs in the Commission - RALPH HODGSON (G3TBT) from the New, ALAN LIGHTLY (G3VFL) from Bristol and BILL LINDSAY-SMITH (G3WNI) from Oswestry with JACK WILSON (GM6XI) a retired chartered accountant in Edinburgh who was local contact man.

The G.P.O. issued the appropriate special call sign GB3FC (which tickled the fancy of some stations contacted) for the period of the Exhibition. A special commemorative card was designed by former F.C. draughtsman JOHN MICHAEL and the Commissioners gave the idea their blessing.

Organising the station from four widely spaced locations would not have been easy had letters - four way - or even telephone calls been used. So the four enthusiasts arranged schedules and met every Saturday morning on 3.790 Megahertz/second at 0700 hours GMT. All four were in the net so cross talk, discussion, arrangements as to aerials, licence, equipment, accommodation and travelling were quickly and easily arranged. Jack Wilson was a vital link as he was on site and could give the others full local information; none of them knowing the Bush Estate. It was his valuable recommendation and information that lead to the decision not to include VHF but keep only to the high frequencies:- 160, 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres.

Ralph Hodgson and Bill Lindsay-Smith erected the stations - principally the aerials on the Monday afternoon of exhibition week, with Ralph Hodgson doing the tree climbing. Two convenient trees, a beech and a lime, enabled two multiband trap dipoles to be erected some 45 feet above ground and at right angles to each other to give omni-directional cover; the battery hen house roof was used as a third support. They also had a 264 ft. dipole out for 160 metres and aerial coverage was quite adequate.

The equipment ran to a Heathkit HW 100 transceiver built from a kit by Ralph Hodgson and running 180 watts input power. A KW Vespa II transmitter (220 watts power) on loan from KW Electronics - for which we are very grateful - and Bill Lindsay-Smith's own KW 201 SSB receiver.

On the first morning of the exhibition there was a total radio fade out; solar flare probably and the bands went dead for an hour from 0948 GMT.

From Tuesday to Saturday 17.00 GMT when the power was cut off, 230 stations were worked of which 110 were in the British Isles the remainder covering all continents except Antarctica. The following are worth mentioning:- U.S.A. - Atlanta Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, Connecticut, Brooklyn, Tennessee, N. Carolina; Canada - Montreal and Quebec; Japan; Rome; Portugal; Greece; Cyprus; Israel; Angola W. Africa; Southern Peru; Singapore; Johannesburg, Telaviv; Libya; Sharjah Trucial Oman; and a rare one, HMS Edurance cruising in the Arctic circle, at that time 8° N 13° E, to pick up the transpolar walkers and their dogs.

All European countries were worked. Moscow was quiet for a while but was eventually worked on CW as were two Polish Stations. Estonia, Bulgaria, Zagreb, Lithuania Tiraspol on CW, were interesting contacts.

As stations were worked they were displayed by coloured pins on a world map for all to see. Sometimes people were standing four deep round the tent listening to the contact. There were many ex-patriots who listened with nostalgia to the pipes as the Black Watch Pipe Band tuned up outside the tent. It is not often that so much interest is shown in an amateur radio station and much of the operator's time was spent talking to visitors explaining the equipment, amateur radio and technicalities.

AROS PARK OPENING

WHAT may have been the Commission's first official celebration took place on the Island of Mull on Wednesday, 7th May, when PROVOST R. MACLEOD of TOBERMORY, a well known broadcaster of Scottish dance music, officially opened Aros Park which comprises about 100 acres of policy woods and a loch, and was part of a larger area acquired by the Commission in 1953. Here we have made the public welcome in one area which was much used by the people of Tobermory when the land was in private ownership. Certain works, such as the clearing of paths and the construction of a simple car park, have been carried out to add to the public's enjoyment.

MR. MAXWELL, Conservator N(S) welcomed the Provost and the invited guests. In his address he said that the decision of the Commission to re-open the park to the public was an earnest of our interest in the Island of Mull and its people. He hoped that the islanders and visitors alike would enjoy the pleasures of the park and that it would in particular provide a place of instruction and recreation for the young people of Tobermory. After the opening ceremony and the planting of a commemorative tree by the Provost, the party of guests and Commission officials walked through the park to Tobermory where they were entertained to tea at the Mishnish Hotel. 'PIBROCH' MACKENZIE, the handyman at Mull Forest, played a tune on his fiddle which he had composed for the occasion and called "Aros Park." Provost 'Bobby' MacLeod accompanied the composer on the accordion.

THE CHURCHILL WOOD

AT a pleasing ceremony in Bedgebury Forest on the 28th June Mr. Winston Churchill renamed "Spring Wood" "The Churchill Wood" in memory of his illustrious grandfather Sir Winston Churchill. Before inviting Mr. Churchill to re-name the woodland Mr. C. A. J. Barrington - Conservator SE(E) - re-counted how Lady Spencer Churchill had welcomed and consented to this project and had herself chosen the name of "The Churchill Wood". Prior to unveiling the new name plate Mr. Churchill said that his grand-mother was most disappointed that her recent injury prevented her from being personally present and that both he and she were very pleased that the re-named woodland would be open for public enjoyment. After the re-naming ceremony Mr. Barrington presented Mr. Churchill with a black-thorn walking stick with carvings by Forester B. R. Leemans, Bramshill Forest SE(E) and Mrs. Churchill with a copy of Mrs. George Stewart's Forestry Cookery Book published to celebrate the Jubilee. After a short walk through The Churchill Wood to the National Pinetum Sir George Taylor, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and Chairman of the National Pinetum Committees, asked Mr. Churchill to plant a tree - fittingly Chamaecyparis lawsonia churchillia and in doing so said some handsome things about the work of the Commission in general and that at the Pinetum in particular; these words were seconded by Mr. Churchill as he planted the tree. Our Chairman Mr. Leslie Jenkins - carrying out his umpteenth duty in connection with our country-wide Jubilee celebrations - thanked our guest for performing the two ceremonies which were rightly in the county Sir Winston had loved so much and over which the Battle of Britain had been fought and asked him to relay to Lady Spencer Churchill both the Commission's thanks for her permission to dedicate a woodland to her late husband and the wishes of all of us that she make a rapid

recovery from her injuries. The party, which included many local dignitaries - amongst them the Chairman of the Kent County Council, people well known in forestry circles, and local Commission staff moved off to a marquee in the Pinetum for tea, and to watch demonstrations of forest operations and to walk the Jubilee Forest Trail.

RECIPES

THE Recipe Book which was compiled as a contribution to the celebration of

Jubilee Year was on sale at the Exhibition at Bush at the beginning of June. Any surplus from the sale of the book is to be given to the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund. A copy was presented to Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra by Mrs. Stewart on behalf of all Forestry Commission wives.

Mrs. Stewart would like to express her thanks to all those whose contributions and enthusiasm have helped to make the book a success. Most of all she would like to put on record her thanks to Mrs. Ella Neustein whose talented illustrations gave the book an extra selling quality. If you have not already got your copy, please order one as soon as possible, either from your Conservancy office, or direct from Mrs. Stewart, Laverockbrae, Balmore, Terrance, Glasgow, price 12/6, plus 1/8 postage.

THEY ALSO SERVE

MANY members of the Commission and their wives will remember with gratitude the

welcome refreshment amenity provided in the Kellogg Hall at the Bush by a number of volunteers. Mr. Brian Holtam CRO(N) writes:

"Many friends and colleagues, and their wives, who were able to visit the Jubilee Exhibition in Edinburgh have sent me kind messages of appreciation, expressing their thanks for the peace, refreshment and opportunity to meet friends in the charming and quietly gay atmosphere which our wives provided quite spontaneously, at the Kellogg Hall. I have tried to convey the true spirit of all such messages to our wives, who want me to say how very much they enjoyed being able to take part in the Jubilee arrangements.

"They decided not to charge for the refreshments, but to collect voluntary subscriptions which they would send to the Forestry Commission Benevolent Fund. Those who enjoyed their friendly hospitality and who subscribed so generously to the collection will be pleased to learn that, on behalf of the team of twenty women who arranged the Kellogg Hall refreshments, a cheque for £45 has been sent to Mr. Cormack of the Forestry Commission for the Benevolent Fund."

Ladies Bountiful indeed, to whom our most sincere thanks are due.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

THE following announcement was made from No. 10 Downing Street on

23rd June, 1969:

"The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. P. F. R. BEARDS, at present an Assistant Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, to be a member of the Forestry Commission as Commissioner for Administration and Finance in succession to Mr. M. COMPTON, who retired on 30th June."

Mr. P. F. R. Beards, who is 52, was educated at Marlborough and Queen's College, Oxford, where he gained First Class Honours in Modern History. He joined the War Office as Assistant Principal in 1938. He served in the Army from 1940 to 1944, attaining the rank of Major. On return he served from 1945 to 1948 as Assistant Private Secretary to Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Clement Attlee and later as Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for War from 1951 to 1954. He attended the Imperial Defence College in 1961 and became an Assistant Under Secretary of State in 1964. From 1962 to 1964 Mr. Beards was Assistant Director of War Department Lands at the War Office and, on his promotion in 1964, became Director of Civil Establishments, Army Department, Ministry of Defence, which office he has held to the present time. Mr. Beards lives at Ashted, Surrey, is married with one son and one daughter; his hobbies are archeology, fishing and gardening.

Mr. Maurice Compton came to the Commission in 1965, taking over the responsibilities previously borne by Mr. Turner. Mr. Compton was the first Commissioner for Administration and Finance, a post created in place of that of Secretary by the 1965 re-organisation. Mr. Compton came to us from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food where he had been Chief Finance Officer.

At a Commissioner's Board Meeting on 25th June Mr. Compton was presented with a book token by his colleagues with which he would, he said, buy some long-wanted volumes on his favourite interest - Art. On 27th June Mr. Compton was entertained to a farewell luncheon at the Savage Club by his London and Basingstoke based staff; these included Messrs. J.Q. Williamson, J.E.V. Summers, T. McGeorge, M. Shapcott, G. Taylor, A. Damerall and D.B. Rooke.

We wish him a long and pleasant retirement.

ON Tuesday, 3rd June 1969,
Miss OLIVE HARMAN, Personal

Assistant to the Director, Research, at Alice Holt Lodge, celebrated her 65th birthday and retired with the Commission after almost 40 years of service.

Commencing her career in Woking SE(E) as a "shy young lady" - then known as Division 4 - in December 1929, Miss Harman was later transferred as a Shorthand Typist to the office of the Assistant Commissioner for England and Wales in London. Shortly after the outbreak of war, Miss Harman joined the Home Timber Production Department in Bristol and was promoted to Clerical Officer. On returning to the Forestry Commission in July 1948, she was posted to Alice Holt Lodge where, for over 20 years, she has loyally acted as personal assistant to a succession of Chief Research Officers and Directors of Research.

On the 3rd June, there were three separate ceremonies: at 11.0 a.m., Miss Harman was asked to plant a commemorative Ama-na-gawa (a flowering cherry) in the grounds of Alice Holt Lodge; just before lunch, a small group of close friends and colleagues drank a toast and, after lunch, the Director of Research, Mr. GEORGE HOLMES, presented Olive with a fruit bowl of Edinburgh Crystal and a cheque - contributors including the former Director, Mr. J. R. THOM, who sent greetings from Guyana, and a former Chief Auditor, Mr. J. BUTCHER (who had been responsible for recruiting Miss Harman in 1929). Miss Harman's response included anecdotes of her long career - such as having to kill rats in a hotel kitchen which the Commission (in war-time) was busily trying to convert into an efficient office! As she spoke she was surrounded by many greeting cards, bouquets, flowers and an autograph book; she thanked past and present Research staff for their kindness over the years.

Miss Harman will continue to live in Farnham, Surrey, and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

MRS. A. N. CURRY, District Office
Clerk at Kielder NE(E) was

recently forced to retire on health grounds.

"Invaluable" and "indefatigable" must have been the most often used words to describe the help and endeavour given over 19 years service by Mrs. Curry. In this time she looked after 15 District Officers in the Border or Kielder and Bellingham Districts. The excellence of her work was also appreciated by the staff associated with the area and by residents in the North Tyne Valley.

She has been active in the work of the Parish Church, a producer with the local drama club, is Archivist of the Bellingham and District Local History Society, and has been one of the keenest members of the Kielder Gardening Society. The garden at her cottage by the castle has delighted many visitors to Kielder who will share our concern and sadness that she has now retired. Many of a wide circle of well-wishers entertained her recently when she was presented with flowers and V.H.F. radio as a mark of their good-will and esteem.

WALTER WATSON, Administration and
Finance Officer, at the New
Surveyorship office for the past eighteen years retired on 31st March. In making a presentation in the Verderers Hall of a wrist watch, subscribed by colleagues throughout the Commission, Mr. DALLAS MITHEN, the Deputy Surveyor, drew attention to Walter's career

from joining the office of the Lord Chancellor in 1933 to joining the Commission at Cambridge in 1946 and coming to the New Forest in 1951.

Walter had many interests outside his official duties, and it is of note to recall that he still holds an air pilot's licence (one subscription received was from a pre-war flying pupil); he served during the war with the Royal Air Force on flying duties with Coastal and Transport Commands and later with the Judge Advocate's Department on legal duties, and was commended for his services. His love of and interest in the New Forest, particularly its intricate legal aspects and history, is well known. With more leisure time he now intends to see more of the Forest from the ground and whenever invited to do so, to give talks on these subjects on which he is an acknowledged authority.

In 1968 he was awarded the M.B.E. for his services to the Commission.

A colleague has truly said that he was a father to the office staff and his period of office will be long remembered as a very happy one.

Arthur Cadman writes:-

"For 18 years Walter Watson has been a tower of strength in the New Forest Surveyorship: a friend and wise counsellor to all with whom he came in contact.

"Unruffled by administrative adversities, he approached all problems with a rare combination of good humour, common sense and sound legal knowledge: in fact his knowledge of the complexity of New Forest law, custom and tradition was second to none.

"During his long period in office he saw many changes and those who had the privilege to work closely with him - and they include three Deputy Surveyors - will remember always just how much his unobtrusive influence and wisdom affected the course of events.

"During my 34 years of service with the Forestry Commission, I have worked closely with ten different Chief Clerks (to use the former title for the work he did). None performed this difficult task with greater ability, efficiency and humanity. Throughout the nine years that we worked together, Walter eased the burden on my shoulders appreciably, and his keen sense of humour saved the day on many an otherwise dour occasion.

"He will be missed greatly, not only by his many colleagues, but also by very many members of the public who benefited from his knowledge and patience".

CONGRATULATIONS

BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST 1969

THE list contained the following awards, within the Commission:-

B.E.M. H.D.R. Largent,
Forest Production Worker,
Thetford, E(E)

D. More
Warden,
David Marshall Lodge,
Aberfoyle, Wilts.

Another award of Forestry interest was:-

O.B.E. T. Y. Gibson - Member
of H.G.T.A.C. and S(S) R.A.C.
Chairman of Windblow Action Group.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Mr. J.G.GREVATT
(H.Q. London) recently passed the qualifying examination for membership of the British Computer Society, thereby achieving professional status in the computing world. Mr. Grevatt's first introduction to computers was as recent as 1967, when he was appointed leader of the computer team in O. & M. Branch.

LONG SERVICE

CERTIFICATES for Long Service given by Royal Norfolk Agricultural Society were presented to the following in the Grand Ring at the Royal Norfolk Show on 26th June.

Mr. F. Turner,	Warrener	45 years service
Mr. B. Levitt,	Ganger	41 " "
Mr. T. Ashley	"	40 " "
Mr. L. Page	"	40 " "
Mr. J. Randall	"	45 " "

Mr. Page is at Fakenham Forest, all other recipients at Thetford.

MEMORIAL TRUST PRESENTATION

PROVOST Iain W.T.D. McHardy presented a Winston Churchill Medallion to

Mr. N. P. DANBY, Achindunie, Alness, in the Council Chamber, Invergordon on Saturday, 3rd May.

Mr. Danby was awarded a Churchill Travelling Fellowship in 1967 under the category of "Forestry". He was then working as a Research Forester in Ross-shire, Sutherland and Caithness and went to North America for four months to investigate particular aspects of forestry in coastal North West America of similar latitudes and climate to ours, to see various types of tree growing in their natural habitat, and the layout and management of State Forest Parks. He visited Coastal forests of Alaska and British Columbia and also made quick visits to Expo 67, the Yukon, Washington, Oregon, California, New Orleans, Washington D.C. and New York.

While in America he undertook to collect some research lots of seed for the International Union of Forest Research Organisations and as a result he spent a week last summer at Horshalm in Denmark at their invitation.

PROMOTIONS

To Assistant Conservator (Estate):

T.S.L. Findlay	S(S)
S.A. Simmonds	SE(E)
G.O. Williams	S(W)
J.F. Wilson	NW(E)

To Chief Executive Officer:

L.W. Bowman	HQ(B)
M.A.E. Gubby	On loan N.E.D.O.

To Chief Forester:

Wilson J.F.	E(S)
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To Technical Works Grade I (Area Civil Engineer):

Morgan J.F.	NE(E)
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To Technical Works Grade III (T):

K.J. Logan	N(S)
W.J. McCallum	W(S)
J. Thomson	HQ (O/S)

OBITUARIES

LORD TANNERMAN OF KILDONAN, president of the Scottish Liberal Party, eminent Gaelic leader, and former Scottish Rugby Internationalist died in May. He was 67. He was for 15 years a Forestry Commissioner. He was elected Rector of Aberdeen University

in 1957 and made an LL.D. of the university two years later. He was a former chairman of the National Forest Parks Committee, Scotland.

A.H.M. ROSS died at his home on 27th April. A memorial service for him was held at Crichton Church, near Pathhead, Midlothian, on 7th May at which the Commission was represented by Mr. G. Stewart, Conservator W(S). Archie Ross took his forestry degree at Oxford before the 1914-18 war in which he served in the Royal Engineers. From 1921-24 he served in the Indian Forest Service and joined the Commission in 1925. After the second world war he was Conservator NW(E) and Director for Scotland from 1953 until his retirement in March 1957. Thereafter he interested himself considerably in private forestry and the affairs of S.W.O.A. He was appointed O.B.E. in 1953 and C.B.E. in 1957.

Many present senior members of the Commission served under and owe much to him. We extend our condolences to his widow and daughter.

ALEXANDER GORDON BOWIE, Forester at Bin Forest E(S) died on the 16th June, 1969 after a long and painful illness from which in his latter few weeks he must have been glad to be free.

He would have been 60 in October; he joined the Forestry Commission at the Bin Forest when it was started and he "just a loon of 16" as he once described himself. At the age of 24 he was made a ganger and in 1946 after a stint with the H.T.P.D. he came back to the F.C. as a Foreman being promoted to Assistant Forester in 1955 and Forester 10 years later.

These bare facts convey little but they were warmly dothed by his abiding cheerfulness and ready quip, his great interest in his work, his detailed memory and knowledge of every aspect of the Forest and its creation, and his fishing skill. The latter was a constant love to him and with the River Deveron not far away he spent every moment he could on its banks.

He bore his painful illness with great fortitude and invariably presented a cheerful, hopeful front to his visitors. He was a humble man and astonishingly grateful for his career and those rights which so many of us take for granted. All who knew him regret his passing at a time when he would have been able to enjoy the leisure he had so deservedly earned. Mr. Bowie did not spare himself in the Commission's service.

The sympathy of all his colleagues will be extended to his wife, his two surviving children, and his four grandchildren.

WE very much regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. F. C. ATKINS Conservancy Mechanical Engineer W(S), on the 18th May, as a result of a heart attack.

PLEASE count me among the many who mourn the passing of J.T.L. FITZHERBERT, or "Fitz" as we knew him (writes Dennis Healey, formerly our Principal Information Officer).

"I first met Fitz more than 20 years ago in a pub in Inverness, and, this being soon after my appointment with the Commission, only a few minutes were to pass before he was telling me how the Commission's public relations should be handled. This was no presumption on his part - he meant every word and spoke a great deal of commonsense, motivated by a fervent belief that the Commission should be "put on the map". Indeed, Fitz was a natural publicist in his own right and I often used to think that in the role of "copy-taster" (an assessor of news values) on a national newspaper he might have secured a bigger income than he did as a forester. Others will join me in recalling his piece de resistance of not so many years ago when he wished to highlight the subject of fire danger in South Wales. A trite statement was not good enough for Fitz! In effect, in forthright fashion he launched a "care in courtship" campaign, inferring that the courting customs of Welsh lads and lassies amidst the Commission's trees might well be responsible for some fires - this on the assumption that many indulged in the lighting and smoking of the recuperative cigarette. You can imagine how, with variations, the Press lapped that one up!

"Over many years I was to be associated with Fitz in numerous publicity and public relations ventures. The quality of his work was quite outstanding for he was a "stickler" for tying up loose ends, thus removing any danger of anxiety neurosis on the part of the PIO at Headquarters.

"But Fitz was a wonderful chap to know socially as well as in the pursuit of official duties. It could be said that he was responsible, perhaps not so unwittingly, for the coining of a phrase used in the Healey family. This arose from Fitz and I staying in a certain Welsh village during the period of the Royal Welsh Show a number of years ago. We left the show ground in one of Fitz's incredible cars - this a large and ancient Daimler which I contended had once been a hearse. Although a stocky man and before illness powerfully built, Fitz was nevertheless short in height, with the result that he drove this particular vehicle with two cushions at his back and his feet on brake and clutch pedals to which he had affixed wooden blocks. Having dined at our hotel, Fitz had some reports to write but, concerned for my well-being, suggested I should hot things up a bit by going to the weekly dance in the village hall. When at the pay desk I produced my two-shilling piece to two ladies, one grabbed me by the hand and the other, with a resounding slap, pressed an indelible ink stamp on its back, just below the wrist, leaving on the skin the words "Village Hall Dance" (or something of that order), followed by the date. The purpose of this was to discourage gate-crashers. The point is, that scrub as I might, I could not remove the words for several days and had to return home with this "hall-mark" for all - including my wife - to see. Followed the expected inquisition and the solemn pronouncement by my wife (to be repeated at intervals as circumstances demanded, though never with acrimony, I am glad to say): "I don't care what sort of a fool you make of yourself, as long as you don't let the children know!"

"So much for one or two anecdotes about Fitz. Unhappily, the fact remains that the Commission has lost a most able and loyal officer; and I, and many others, have lost a good friend."

CORRESPONDENCE

TRAPPING OF FOXES

FROM Chief Forester R.S. JENNINGS
of Crychan Forest S(W).

"Concerning your report of the record of fox destruction in Scotland. Trapper DONALD JONES at this forest has snared 80 foxes from period February 1st until May 31st. 56 were adults, 24 cubs. Of this number 40 adults were collected by the Ministry of Agriculture for research into diet. Mr. Jones is somewhat puzzled as to how anyone traps on one day a week. Are the snares set in early morning and visited at midnight? How else does the forester comply with the legal requirement that traps and snares are visited daily? Compared with Forester Duncan Hamilton's achievement of one fox per week over 18 months you will see that Donald Jones has caught 4.8 per week over 17 weeks."

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

FROM Mr. D. G. GOWLER, Costings
Section, H.Q.(L):-

"As you may know, I wrote an article about the Loch Ness Monster in the last issue of the Journal of the Forestry Commission (no.35). I am at the moment doing research and collecting information to incorporate into a book I intend to write upon this subject. Owing to the interest shown in the "monster" by the Commission and the number of Commission workers who have actually come into contact with it, I am sure that much valuable evidence can be gleaned from forestry workers.

"I hope, therefore, that I may use the medium of "The Slasher" to appeal to any Commission staff who have had any dealings whatsoever with the "monster" to get in touch with me. I would like to assure anyone who wants to that the whole thing will be treated in the strictest confidence, and, if they wish it, their names will not be used in the book.

"The basic difficulty facing anyone collecting information on this subject is that many witnesses to occurrences in Loch Ness refuse to come forward for the fear of being made fools of. I hope that as a Forestry Commission worker who has dealt very sympathetically with the subject, and in view of my assurance of dealing with contacts in confidence, I may be able to tempt some people to write to me who would normally have kept their experiences to themselves."

"Mr. Pennistan, who lamented the superseding of "forest" by "unit" in a recent issue of "The Slasher", is out of date. The current word is "complex". Even this, however, will shortly become obsolete. The present official encouragement to amalgamate complexes will inevitably lead to the general use of my own modest contribution to arboricultural planning jargon, the "consilvestration".

"Whilst on the subject of words, never "think" - always "study in depth", never "talk" - always "consult across the board.""

FORESTRY IN JAPAN

THE Director-General recently received the following letter from Sir Henry

Beresford-Pierse:

"I have just come back from Korea and Japan and as it seems I am the first British forester to visit Japan - for a long time at any rate - I thought I should write a note to you. I spent about half a day looking at logging and a training centre and later on about 5 days in the centre part of Japan. But as there was a lot of travelling and I also saw some forest industries, there was all too little time to see much of their forests. However I did go to the Japanese Alps from where they collect seed of larch for Britain, so they tell me. The seed is collected commercially and the foresters I was with did not know precisely where collections were made. One thing was noticeable however, that no plantations, young or old, at high or low elevation, I saw showed the poor crooked form that we get in some of our plantations; the form was universally good. The limited information I could get about the sites from which seed for us is collected is as follows:-

Location	- Asama and Alps
Elevation	- 1,000 - 1,800 m
Latitude	- 30° 20'
Temperature	Winter - 17°C - minimum Summer - 28°C - average

At Kiso Fukushima near the Japanese Alps I saw a good nursery growing mainly larch - highly mechanised. There were also some interesting provenance plots of larch about 40 years old. They varied of course in growth, but the form of the best was excellent. Yield is low, however, the best being about 7 m³ m.a.i. But then the plots were at about 1,000 m. elevation. They had 2 or 3 plots of European larch from central Europe looking very poor and they obviously had not got the right provenance - if such exists. They have just made a cross with J.L. and had a few lines of seedlings, but it is of course too soon to say what they will be like. They are exceedingly interested in larch as they still plant a lot in spite of low yield. So I promised I would ask you if you would make a present of a small consignment of our best strains of E.L. perhaps one or two provenances, and of first cross H.L. and perhaps second cross as well. I am afraid it is too late this season, but could you send seed in the autumn? No doubt all details of the various provenances would be sent.

"I could spend unfortunately only a little time in one of the Japanese tree breeding stations and at their main research station in Tokyo and could make no assessment of how advanced they were; I did not see or hear of anything outstanding. My general impression of their forestry is that they are conservative as to choice of species, depending mainly on J.L. and Cryptomeria - I am talking only of central Japan which is all that I saw. They do not seem even to have tried N. American species. In logging they are advanced with highly developed cable ways, one that I saw in the training centre having a remote radio controlled carriage. They are having to become as mechanised as possible in all forestry work because in spite of their huge population of some 100 million the forest and mountain areas are rapidly becoming depopulated."

The seed samples requested by Sir Henry have been despatched. They were:

- E.L. Indent No. 67(4118)10 Farigaig Compt. 32 N. Scotland
Almost plus stand.
- E.L. Indent No. 68(NT2) Seed Orchard.
Drumtochty Forest, Polycross, planted 1953.
- H.L. Indent No. 68(NT10) Seed Orchard F₁
Newton Nursery, Polycross, planted 1958.
- H.L. Indent no. 68(413) General collection F₂
Culbin Forest; East Scotland.

Countie's Show:

"On behalf of the President and Council of this Society permit me to express to you the most sincere and grateful thanks for the kind help and assistance you have so willingly given during the course of the Society's Show last week.

"From the majority of comments received it would appear that our Show retained its high position, which is due in no minor measure, to the support given to the Society by its Judges, Stewards, Officials, Organisers, Contractors and all who have in any way rendered assistance in staging and organising the event.

"The fact that the overall attendance at the gate rose from 55,010 when we were honoured by Her Majesty the Queen, to this year's paying attendance of 56,286 ensures the financial success of our Show and we can look forward to our next Show on the 16th, 17th, 18th June 1970 with renewed vigour.

"Would you please convey our thanks to your staff who provided the interesting Forestry exhibit at our Show last week".

POETS CORNER

MR. R. J. JENNINGS ripostes:-

Jack's Reply

"Abhorring verse by lesser men
"He'd bury his opponents' pen
"Eight lines of pique ... the Muse had gone
"Small wonder then his names' ANON."

ODE TO A BARD - Mr. H. B. PAINTER

My dear Mr. Jennings, sir, when do you get
The time to be such a prolific poet?
Us lesser men seem to have jobs to do
That hinder the writing of verse. How do you
Find the time, sir?

The time-sheets, the mail, fire rating and such,
Then progress reports don't seem to leave much
Of a chance to relax or to think or compose
Either poems or arboricultural prose.
When do you, sir?

After sorting the papers which seem to descend
On the desk every morning, one has to pretend
To have read and digested the things they dictate.
Is it then that you sit down and start to create
A poem, sir?

After making up budgets and estimates too,
Calculations and head-scratching all the day through
Is your mind in a state to manipulate words
All in rhyme about spring-time and woodlands and birds?
Amazing, sir!

Can you forecast your volume production per acre
By species, for five years, and put it on paper,
Then work out and justify labour requirements,
Allowing for wastage and normal retirements
All in Rhyme, sir?

So rarely it is that I get half a chance
With the Slasher or Journal for more than a glance
But I really do wonder, Sir, why I should find
So many articles all under-signed
By you, sir!

It is quite plain to see, Sir, you have a great gift
Either for writing or maybe to shift
The pen-pushing bit on to mortals like me
While you cast your mind back for some memory
To record, sir.

I pray you'll forgive me expressing my thought,
But at this time of night, sir, I really ought
To lay down my pen as the writing grows fainter.
With respect and apologies, from H. B. Painter.
Carry on, sir!

NO ABSENCE RECORDS - CHALLENGES

IN OUR January/February Slasher edition, Mr. Keenleyside claimed 15 years completed service without absence. Mr. J. M. Auld, Area Civil Engineer E(S) claims 22 years with perfect attendance i.e. 1947 - 1969.

Now Mr. D. A. AITKEN, E.O., E(S) claims perfect attendance since 1947. i.e. all his service in the Commission since commencing on 20th January, 1947 less a period for National Service.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OUTSIDE COURSES

AN Autumn Forestry Course at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, organised jointly by the Royal Forestry Society and the Timber Growers' Organisation, will take place from October 27th-30th, 1969 as previously announced (Slasher January/February 1969).

This residential course, designed for Woodland Owners, Land Agents and Head Foresters, has the theme "Modern Estate Forestry: the Thinnings Problem".

Please will anyone wishing to receive details apply to:

S. Kenyon-Slaney, Chyknell, Bridgnorth, Salop.

WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

THE F.A.C. Council has chosen the Argentine's capital of Buenos Aires as the site for the seventh World Forestry Congress in 1972. Greece, Turkey and the Soviet Union also offered to be hosts.

The World Forestry Congress has been held six times at irregular intervals since 1926. It is open to forestry specialists from all nations and gives them a unique opportunity to discuss their problems with representatives of international organisations and private concerns dealing with forestry.

Former congresses were held in Rome, Budapest, Helsinki, Dehra Dun, Seattle and Madrid.

PRESS NOTICES

The following of general interest were issued during the month.

CLOSING OF FORESTRY COMMISSION FORESTER TRAINING SCHOOLS - ISSUED 16/6/69

The Gwydyr Forester Training School at Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, North Wales, will be closed in July this year.

Since it opened in 1947, this school has trained over 500 men for careers as managers of both the Commission's forests and also in privately owned woodlands throughout the English speaking world.

As part of its programme for transferring its responsibility for further education for forestry to the public education system, the Forestry Commission has now to close this school. By 1972 the other two Forester Training Schools, one in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire and the other at Faskally in Perthshire, will also be closed.

A decision on where future forester training is to take place is still to be announced by the Education Departments; in the meantime the Commission will continue to turn out about 35 trained men each year for employment in its own woodlands and on privately owned estates.

TRANSPORT OF WINDBLOW TIMBER IN SCOTLAND

FOLLOWING a recommendation by the Windblow Action Group, the Forestry Commission has agreed, that, except in the special case of the Bowaters U.K. Paper Co.Ltd., scheme (Press Notice 25/10/68 refers), allowances for transport of small roundwood to the other specified markets and of sawlogs will be extended until 31st December 1969. The allowance for the Bowaters scheme will continue until 30th November 1969 pending any recommendation the Windblow Action Group may make in this respect.

The Commission has also agreed that the transport allowance for sawlogs moving South from the windblow area should be reduced as from 1st October 1969 from the current rate to that applicable before 1st August 1968 (Press Notice 13/8/68 refers and shows both scales). The Commission will consider sympathetically any cases where a merchant from the South has already entered into a contract to purchase windblown material on root and can show good reason for being unable to complete the contract before the end of September.

SOUVENIR TIES

FOLLOWING a fairly large number of queries as to where one may obtain supplies of the Souvenir Tie, manufactured by a private firm for sale during our Jubilee Year, here is the address you must write to direct:

The Signet Tie Company
32 Clarendon Crescent
Linlithgow
West Lothian.

Please enclose a postal order for 12/6d. for tie (which includes postage), made out to the Signet Tie Company.

It should be noted that this is only a souvenir tie, and is in no way intended to replace the official Forestry Commission tie.

TAIL PIECE

THE following conversation was overheard in a Fort William Newsagent's shop by Mr. A. MacLeman, the Chief Forester at Leanachan Forest, N(S):-

CUSTOMER: "Can I please have the "Farmer's Journal"."

NEWSAGENT: "Sorry, we don't stock this paper now. There's no demand for it since the Forestry took over most of the land around here."