

FOREST HISTORY IN CELLULOID

FILM ABOUT CULBIN

THE DEPARTMENT HAS PRODUCED a film which graphically describes the formation of Culbin Forest, which is situated in north Scotland, on the shores of the Moray Firth. As many readers will have learned from the booklet about this forest, published in the Britain's Forest series, Culbin has a long and colourful, and in some ways exciting, story. The historians tell us that in 1694 the flourishing Barony of Culbin, which comprised some sixteen farms as well as the home of the laird, was buried by drifting sand, blown inland during a storm or storms of great violence. Through the years the Culbin sands remained a menace to the rich agricultural land in the vicinity, and although certain landowners attempted to stabilise them by tree planting it was left to the Forestry Commission to undertake large-scale afforestation and so finally subdue the sands and establish upon them a flourishing forest some 6,000 acres in extent.

The film, entitled "The Culbin Story", was shown to the Commissioners in March. It is in colour and shows in detail the method of fixing the sands by thatching with brushwood before the planting of the young trees, and also puts emphasis on the economic value of Culbin as a timber producing area, now and in the years to come. A forest fire is reconstructed with quite amazing realism.

FIRE PROTECTION?

THE FORESTER, two Foremen and two Gangers at Kerry Forest, in Montgomeryshire, North Wales, are all non-smokers.

This film certainly deserves a wide showing. Some little while may elapse before it is ready for general presentation, however, for some cutting and further editing may be necessary. Meanwhile, congratulations are due to Messrs. I.A. ANDERSON and MARQUIS, the Official Photographer and his assistant, for their painstaking work in producing a film which will unquestionably bring a great deal of credit to the Department.

* * DEATH OF A FORMER HEAD FORESTER

PASSING OF MR. T. LEWIS

THE DEATH OCCURRED RECENTLY, in the Gloucester Royal Hospital, of Mr. T. LEWIS, formerly Head Forester at Tintern, in the South Wales Conservancy. Tom Lewis, as he was known to all, served at Tintern from 1929 until his retirement in 1948, when he completed 50 years unbroken service with the Office of Woods and the Forestry Commission. He commenced his career in 1898 as a workman. The whole of his time was spent in the Dean and Tintern forests, and it is of special interest that he was one of the first class of students to attend the Dean Forester Training School in 1904.

Mr. Lewis leaves a widow and daughter, and two sons both of whom are serving with the Department as Foresters. They are Mr. T.H. LEWIS, of Myndd Ddu, South Wales, and Mr. C. LEWIS, of Gardiner, South West England. The family has, in fact, a record of 141 years unbroken service with the Office of Woods and the Forestry Commission. The late MR. JAMES JOHNSON, the great grandfather, on the mother's side, of Messrs. T.H. and C. Lewis was employed by the Office of Woods from 1838 until he died in 1898, and his father, Mr. BEN JOHNSON, was employed by the Office of Woods from 1811 and was the first tenant of Russell's Lodge in the Forest of Dean.

The funeral from Clearwell Church was attended by Mr. W.D. RUSSELL, Conservator, South Wales, and Mr. J.Q. WILLIAMSON, Deputy Surveyor, the Dean, and retired and serving Foresters from the Dean and Tintern.

* * THE NINE BUZZARDS

COURTING EN MASSE?

FOREMAN A.G. JOHN, of Chepstow, South Wales, tells us that late in March he had the "good fortune", as he puts it, to see a flock of nine buzzards, circling and wheeling over Chepstow Park at about 500 feet. "I could clearly hear their distinctive mowing calls," says Mr. John. "Am I right in assuming that this spectacle was, in effect, 'courting en masse'? I have never before seen so many of this species of bird in the air at the same time."

The ornithologists among us may have something to say.

* * SKELETON IN THE FOREST

3,000 YEARS OLD FIND AT
FRISTON

A SKELETON, believed to be about 3,000 years old, was recently found by workers in Friston Forest, South East England. Forester G.E. HOLTER says his men were erecting fencing when the bones were

unearthed. As soon as he saw them he felt sure they were human and therefore reported the find to the police and to local archaeologists. The remains were duly inspected and arrangements made by the Police for a coroner's inspection.

While on the subject of finds we should record that other recent discoveries on Commission property include a coin found in the Research Nursery at the Forest Research Station, near Farnham, Surrey. This is in excellent condition and appears to be a great minted at Calais in the reign of Henry VII (1485-1509).

A bronze sword was uncovered by an excavator while removing gravel from the burn at the confluence of the Lewis Burn and North Tyne at Kielder Forests. This is a typical specimen of the late Bronze Age, dating from 1,000 - 450 B.C., and probably from the middle or latter part of that period.

* * NEW ROLE FOR FOREST OFFICER JUDGE AT BEAUTY CONTEST

A COMBINED whist drive, dance and beauty contest was held at Bonchester Bridge, Roxburghshire, a short time ago, in aid of the summer outing for local children. The success of the evening seems to have been due largely to the efforts of Forestry Commission personnel, including staff and workers from the nearby Wauchope Forest. Foreman R.M. EDWARD (who was M.C.) served on the organising committee with Nursery Workers Mrs. KEMP and Mrs. ABDULLAH. The Forester's wife, Mrs. F. McNICOL, presented the prizes and Divisional Officer W.N. GIBSON judged the beauty contest. He was presented with a fine tartan scarf as a reward. He also carried off first prize for whist.

Winners of the beauty contest were: Mrs. SCOTT (recently married); Miss SUSAN CAIRN; and Miss JEAN MABON (nursery worker).

Other news from South Scotland is that the Conservancy's annual dinner and dance was held recently in the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries. Divisional Officer M.J. PENISTAN efficiently discharged his duties as M.C. The card dance was won by Mr. and Mrs. PETER BROWN, of Craigieburn Forest, and the elimination waltz by Mr. JAMES LAIDLAW and Miss ANNA MARCHBANKS.

* * THE PRIZE CANARIES AND A WORD ABOUT BUDGERIGARS Foreman Drysdale!

AT A RECENT SHOW at Newton Stewart, Foreman NEIL DRYSDALE, Kilsture Forest, South Scotland, won three first prizes for Norwich canaries, and two third awards for Border canaries. Well done,

This reference to bird fancying, by the way, prompts us to ask if any readers can give information as to the talking habits of budgerigars, or describe any tricks which these mischievous little birds have proved capable of performing. Budgerigars seem more and more popular as pets these days, and some of their antics are truly amazing. We have knowledge of one little chap who, on request, rings a tiny bell and performs a rhythmic dance upon his perch; but perhaps this is common. Where talking is concerned it is legendary that one budgerigar was known to recite the Lord's Prayer from beginning to end.

* * SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED WERE YOU AT THE DEAN?

EDUCATION OFFICER J.F. GOODWIN, of the Dean Forester Training School, seeks our help in obtaining certain photographs. He wants to get hold of Dean School class photographs for the years 1924, 1925 and 1926 and, if these are forthcoming, the School will have a complete series of class photographs from 1906 to the present time.

Can any readers help? There would be no need permanently to part with an original, for Mr. Goodwin would have it copied.

Incidentally, in the photographs already held appear certain students who are unnamed. "I would welcome help from any ex-students in this matter of identification," writes Mr. Goodwin. "If they are passing through the Dean at any time, and can look in and view our collection of photographs, so much the better, and we shall be very pleased to see them".

* * THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW PROGRAMME SUPPORT THIS YEAR FOR FEWER SHOWS in addition to the indoor display:

DUE TO THE NEED for economy the agricultural show programme will this year cover fewer shows than usual. Here is the list, the asterisk denoting those shows at which there is to be an outdoor exhibit

May 21 - 23, Shropshire and West Midland, Shrewsbury; May 28 - 31, Bath and West,* Nottingham; June 10 - 12, Three Counties*, Worcester; June 17 - 20, Royal Highland*, Kelso; June 18 - 21, Royal Counties, Guildford; June 25 - 26, Royal Norfolk, Loddon; July 1 - 4, Royal*, Newton Abbot; July 8 - 10, Great Yorkshire*, Harrogate; July 23 - 25, Royal Welsh*, Caernarvon.

Forester E.J.D. WILKINSON, of South East England, will be in charge of the show unit for the second year, and will be assisted by Ex-School Ganger R.Kemp, of the Dean.

* * TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

SALUTE TO THE VETERANS

Thames House on 3rd April.

THE INFORESTA TABLE TENNIS CLUB held an open tournament in March and April which attracted much interest and a good number of entries. More than 50 games were played, the finals taking place at

Congratulations go to Mr. PAUL BROOK, who won the men's singles, Miss JESSIE MOSS - Ladies' singles, and Mr. A.D. Palmer - veterans' singles.

Messrs. PAUL BROOK and MAURICE GUBBY carried off the men's doubles, Miss JESSIE MOSS and Miss JEAN MARSHALL the ladies' doubles, and Miss JESSIE MOSS and Mr. REG. BEAGLEY the mixed doubles.

In the ladies' handicap event the winner was Miss BETTY LANDIMORE, and Mr. Paul Brook was the winner of the men's handicap.

Miniature gold cups and book tokens were presented by the Chairman of the Social Club, Mr. E.R. Lewis.

The Veterans' event attracted much interest, and onlookers were amazed at the degree of skill and agility displayed by some of the players.

* * CYCLING TO WORK

WE WOULD ASK to whom now goes the doubtful privilege of the longest daily journey, to and from his or her place of employment, and who uses the most unusual form of transport? One of our colleagues cycles a total of 16½ miles a day in order to do his job at Headquarters.

* * PRIVILEGE FOR A FOREMAN

FOREMAN H. ELLIOTT, of East England, helped line the route from Sandringham to Wolverton Station on the occasion of the funeral of his Majesty King George VI. This privilege came to him as a member of the Norfolk Yeomanry (T.A.).

* * TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters

District Officer R. MACDONALD from Gwydyr School to Bennere School. Head Forester J.J. SMITH from King's, E.(E), to Santon Downham, E.(E). Foresters R. BULTITUDE from Stanway, S.W.(E), to Hartland, S.W.(E); F.B. JONES from Swanton, E.(E), to King's; R. MEECH from New Forest to Ferndown, New; J.W. MIDDLETON from Ferndown to New Forest; R.P.C. WOOLARD from Shouldham, E.(E), to Swanton.

Foremen J. COOPER from Bedgebury, S.E.(E), to Abinger, S.E.(E); W. MURRAY from Dalbeattie, S.(E), to Greskine, S.(S); P.H. PLARCE from Wareham, S.W.(E), to Severnake, S.W.(E).

Assistant Engineer W.S. HAYNES from D.(E) to Chester, N.W.(E). Executive Officer Miss E. Cramer from H.Q. to D.(E).

Newcomers are District Officer T.S. PRYCE to E.(E). Clerical Officers J.P.C. HUGHES to D.(S); Miss M. VERMIL to S.E.(E); Miss P.J. HISCOCK to New; W.A. SMITH to Research; Miss C.A. CHAPMAN to Dean; Miss G.M. COOKE to E.(E); B.T.D. WARD to H.Q.

* * WE LAUGH AT OURSELVES

A NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST WRITES: "In a handout about a grant scheme for woodland thinning the Forestry Commission talks about an operation which 'is silviculturally necessary to improve the woods'. Well, after all, if agriculture, horticulture and floriculture, why not silviculture? Verbiculturally speaking, the word is doubtless justified. But I still don't like it."

On due reflection, neither do we - at least not when offered for consumption by the man in the street. We hereby undertake not to offend again.

* * BUCKETS OF BLOOD

A SENSATIONALIST might say that a macabre sight was seen at Glentress Forester Training School not long ago, one to which might have been applied what is possibly the most famous word Bernard Shaw ever put in his plays. But there was a simple explanation for the rows of bodies seen being drained of blood, namely the presence at the School of a unit of the Blood Transfusion Service, making its periodical visit. There is always an excellent response from the staff and students to the call for donors, and of the 85 pints of blood collected on this occasion of the unit's visit to the locality, almost half came from the School, the remainder being supplied by the local inhabitants.

* * DIALOGUE, AGAIN

THE CUP THAT CHEERS

he says tea is "brewed" in the south; "mashed" in Yorkshire and Lancashire (and probably elsewhere - Ed.); and "masked" in Scotland.

* * WARNING TO TRESPASSERS

FOR SNAKES' SAKE!

risk, for *Corylus avellana* abounds here in company with ordinary English snakes." The wood was henceforth given a wide berth.

The foregoing is taken from the correspondence columns of *The Field*. If it were our practice to discourage visitors we could imagine our Foresters having fun and games in the forest with such comparatively common names as *Larix lentolepis* or *Acer pseudoplatanus*: and one can well imagine the back-pedalling there would be if circumstances permitted the use of *Hylastes ater* or *Ceratostomella ulmi*.

* * FORESTER WEDS

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Forester CHARLES THORNE, of the Forest Research Station, and Miss LORIS MYLAND, formerly a typist at Alice Holt, who have wed. Best wishes, also, to Clerical Officer LIONEL TYTHICOTT, of the South Wales Conservancy Office, who has married Miss BERYL POPE, of Cardiff.

* * FOR FOOTBALL FANS

WITH THE APPROACH of the Cup Final the following notes may interest readers who are football fans. In 1903 Bury scored the biggest-ever F.A. Cup Final victory by beating Derby County 6 - 0. This pales into insignificance, however, when one considers that in 1883, in the first round of the Scottish Cup, Dundee Harp beat Aberdeen Hevers 35-0.

Believe it or not, a team of the same eleven players can be arranged 39,916,000 ways. Football was first played 500 years B.C.; the Greeks played a game called "Harpaston", the "ball" being an inflated animal bladder. Before 1879 referees had no whistles, and shouted their decisions. The cry "Keep it on the island", intended to bring a flush of shame to the face of the defender who wastes time by ballooning the ball off-field, originated at Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire, where the ground was situated on a small island in the Great Ouse.

We came across these interesting items in the programme of Third Division Aldershot, and commend the club on some bright and interesting reading.

* * DEATH OF A GANGER

WE REGRET to have to record the death, which took place suddenly, of Ganger A. SADLER, of Tintern, South Wales. Mr. Sadler, who was 66, had been employed by the Department since 1943.

* * CORRECTION

IN OUR MARCH ISSUE we stated that Forester F.H. GUTHRIE had been transferred from Greystoke N.W.(E) to Helmsley, N.E.(E), whereas we should have said the transfer was to Kershope, N.W.(E).

In the same issue, in connection with the Plashetts road, we referred to a communication from Clerk of Works E. Bassett. This should have been Clerk of Works T. BASSEY.

	READERS, PLEASE NOTE. THERE HAS OF LATE BEEN A FALLING-OFF IN THE	
	NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SLASHER	
	CORRESPONDENT AND SEE THAT THE POSITION IS REMEDIED.	