

OBITUARY

James Patrick Bonisch



It is with deep regret that we record that Jim Bonisch, Conservator of Forests, Westland, and President of the Local Section of the Institute, died suddenly at Auckland on 13 May 1973 at the untimely age of 57 years. The son of a sawmilling family, he was born and educated at Westport. On leaving school he followed in his father's footsteps, working in the sawmilling industry before joining the Forest Service at Reefton in 1938. As a young man he was on active service for the full period. He returned to take up a vigorous and effective career, dedicated to the progress of forestry and forest industry. In 1955 he became Timber Sales Officer in Wellington holding this position for four years when he was appointed Officer-in-charge of Kaingaroa Forest. In 1961 he was promoted to the position of Conservator, Hokitika, and had much to do with the beginnings of effective rimu management and exotic forest establishment, and with the restructuring and rationalization of the local wood-using industry.

Jim Bonisch had a phenomenal memory and an outstanding capacity to know, understand and like people. As a fine tribute, over a thousand mourners, from all parts of New Zealand, attended his funeral. Those who knew him will remember him as a good and godly man who lived his life to the full and died without an enemy. Forestry, and the Institute, have lost a staunch supporter and a loyal friend.

We extend out sincere sympathy to his wife Estelle and his daughter Pauline.

A.W.W.