

maintain the respect of the largest preservation-orientated society in New Zealand and at the same time of a professional body that many environmentalists regarded as little more than vandals. In this as in many other ways he was unique.

In retirement he became a good historical researcher and a fluent author. His two major works were *Molesworth, the Story of New Zealand's Largest Pastoral Run*, and *Hold this Land*, a history of soil conservation in New Zealand. This is the definitive work on the subject, though inevitably it is a little history of Lance McCaskill himself. He wrote for the Forest Service the handbook for the Hanmer Forest Walks, and for Lands Department several major reports as a result of his surveys of scenic reserves. It is a great pity he did not write his own memoirs although probably many of them would have been too libellous for publication; he had the vanity to do so but on the other hand he had the humility to consider there were always other things of greater importance.

Like Dame Nellie Melba, Lance was a bit of a prima donna and like Dame Nellie made many a final "last" appearance. I well remember one of these when, as he often did, he was leading a party of visitors through the Waimakariri Basin to Arthur's Pass. In a masterly fashion he described the land, the countryside, the people who lived there, and its history. As we approached Arthur's Pass, he regaled us with all the details of his famous fight with officialdom to save the Arthur's Pass tarns. His blue eyes crackled with undiminished intelligence and vigour; undiminished also was his delight in recalling past battles. We ourselves shared his delight. His stories were scurrilous but the whole performance was pure vintage McCaskill and we loved him for it. When he died he left a host of friends from all walks of life, from the North Cape to Stewart Island.

A. P. THOMSON

Max McKee (1914-1985)

Max was brought up at Methven and, in spite of the treeless nature of that environment, he chose forestry as a career and went to the Canterbury School of Forestry towards the end of the depression. The School closed before he was able to complete his degree, but, encouraged by Frank Hutchinson, he and Edith went off to Missoula, Montana, to complete his studies.

Before returning to New Zealand in 1939, again on Frank Hutchinson's advice, he went to the Pacific Northwest and gained

logging experience with some of the well-known American companies there. His whole experience in North America was to be the basis of the rest of his working life and he maintained and extended many of the contacts he had made there.

When Max returned to New Zealand, he worked at Ashley Forest and Invercargill for the N.Z. Forest Service before going to their Wellington Head Office. I first met Max and Edith in late 1944 in Southland when I was a young trainee with the Forest Service gaining field experience. In their typical style they were encouraging and hospitable, often asking us to visit their home and enjoy a change from forestry camp life.

I worked with Max in 1948 in Wellington while he was preparing for his move to Rotorua to become a logging specialist. It was from that position that he developed modern logging in New Zealand as we know it today. He built on the experience and contacts gained in America to introduce logging planning, roading layout, logging, loading and trucking equipment, much of which is still in use today.

I was associated with him again in the early 1950s at Kaingaroa Forest during the planning stages of the Tasman Project. He was deeply involved in the logging side of this project and in the mid-1950s left the Forest Service to set up and manage the Kaingaroa Logging Company. He had to see that the roads and rail-head were ready and a log stock-pile assembled when the Tasman mills were ready to commence. They started from scratch at Murapara and it was typical of Max and Edith that they left the facilities of Rotorua to live amongst their staff in the new town they developed at Murapara. A complete infrastructure was built there and that has assured the continuing log supply for the mills.

A forester at heart, Max saw the need for the company to have its own forest base. He set about the establishment of Tarawera Forest, a joint venture with Maori landowners and the Crown at the back door of Kawerau. His personal style soon established his mana with the Maoris and a highly successful project has resulted. They moved to live by the sea at Whakatane where Max could be closer to the administrative problems of logging and forestry at Kawerau. He retired to Tauranga five or six years ago.

Max always strove to encourage people in the forestry profession and to improve the standing of various aspects of forestry in the community. He was an early member of the N.Z. Institute

of Foresters and I can hardly remember an annual conference or field-day at which Max and Edith were not present. He saw the need for a Loggers Association which would foster the interests of loggers and get them together to improve their knowledge. He helped set up the N.Z. Loggers Association.

The forest owners of New Zealand, those outside the Forest Service, saw the need for an association to represent their collective interests. Max was one of the early executive members of the N.Z. Forest Owners Association.

Following the 1969 Forestry Development Conference, there was an obvious need for logging research to prepare for the big growth in logging towards the turn of the century. Max was a member of the working party which saw to the planning and setting up of the Logging Industry Research Association. His patience and diplomacy helped smooth some very stormy meetings in its formative days and he became that Association's first Deputy Chairman of the Board. Max has contributed much to forestry and logging in New Zealand.

We will always remember his interest in horse racing. He and Edith loved a punt and their ears were never far away from racing reports. They enjoyed life together.

To Edith and the family go our sympathy and our memory of Max, his life and work.

TONY GRAYBURN

John Falconer Reilly (1920-1984)

John Falconer Reilly died of a coronary on 4 October 1984. John was one of those members of the Institute of Forestry who had a varied career and was interested in everything.

After a distinguished school career he obtained a scholarship to study accountancy at Victoria University, from which he graduated in time for the war and the Royal New Zealand Navy where he instructed in radar.

At the end of hostilities, he returned to study, passing out top in New Zealand in cost accountancy, and joined the Forest Service as an Accountant, spending time at Waipa Sawmill.

In 1952 he changed employment to the Matakana Milling and Export Corporation where in 1969 he became the General Manager. In this time he was closely involved with the developing Japanese log trade, and, with his wife Madeline studied the language with some success.