Obituary

(continued)

and stamina and this, coupled with a keen and thrusting intellect, made it inevitable that he would venture into new areas of experience.

After he left the Public Service Vernon began to blossom.

His purchase of a small Auster aircraft opened up new areas of freedom and a logical technical discipline which he relished.

Soon after, in the 1970s, around the time of his 50th birthday – when many of his contemporaries were no doubt slowing down a little – Vernon was "just starting" and he played the major role as a practical entrepreneur in the development of Chilean log exports.

A reserved and private person, Vernon possessed much sensitivity, and came to a deep admiration and respect for the humble rural people of Chile, with whom his work brought him in contact. He learned Spanish quickly (after ordering raw eggs for breakfast at least twice) and trained the workers in the new areas of log cargo handling. Their productivity then (twice that of NZ ports) on their first-ever loading of a log ship and today bears testament to the quality of his work.

He was a tireless and patient teacher and from the first visit to Chile he earned deep respect from the workers and leading figures in forestry there.

In his recent work with the Maori people in the the Bay of Plenty, he earned the same measure of respect for his qualities of patience, integrity and technical knowledge.

Recently he spent time on an Asian Development Bank assignment in Burma, which involved him in a study of Asian logging methods, ranging from the use of water buffalo and elephant through to the maintenance of a large and modern logging fleet. The delicate politics and complex technicalities of the infrastructure he tackled in this assignment were ably handled with his usual calm and logic.

Forestry in New Zealand and overseas is richer from Vernon's life. His many marks in that area of endeavour will never be erased. His accident raised a flash of headlines soon forgotten but his proud family and those who knew him will miss and remember him as a strong, fair head of the family and an able caring adventurer among the trees of the world.

W. J. Gimblett

NEW INFORMATION

Part of Series in Forest Resources

"Mathematical Programming for Natural Resources Management" by Dennis P. Dykstra. McGraw Hill, 1984 xvi + 318 pages.
"Forest Management" by Lawrence S. Davis and K. Norman Johnson. McGraw Hill, 1987 vii + 790 pages.

Both these books are published as part of the McGraw Hill Series in Forest Resources. There is, however, a considerable amount of overlap in the material presented, much of which can also be found in general operational research (or management science) texts. The publishers would have served their readers', the authors', and their own interests much better if that observation had been duly made, drawn to the attention of both sets of authors and the opportunity seized to economize on their length, and rationalize their content. Dykstra's book, because it was the earlier, because it is concisely and well written, and because it is not so exorbitantly priced at $NZ112, is less open to criticism. Davis and Johnson's includes only two references to the title of Dykstra's book and a three-line footnote about the content. I found this lack of coordination and its likely impact on the latter's price of $142 disconcerting. Nevertheless, both books have several redeeming features and I have made parts of them essential reading for both undergraduate and post-graduate courses in forest management.

There is also much that should commend both books to members of the forestry profession in New Zealand, though not without some qualifications. The contents of Dykstra's book should be compulsory reading for all those natural resource managers grappling with "Rogernomics", as the text is concerned with techniques for best allocating scarce resources. It is aimed, moreover, at a wide range of managers – timber production, wildlife, recreation, water and soil, land use, fisheries and even to forest products manufacturing. Emphasis is given to linear programming concepts and applications, but there is coverage also of dynamic and integer programming, and to multiple objective and network techniques.

Some will be aghast that there is nothing included on simulation, since that technique and the use of scenario-modelling is so prevalent here in New Zealand. The author explains his reasons for excluding it from consideration, and in view of the book's specific title he is, in my opinion, quite justified. On the other hand, there is no denying that simulation has a place in the manager's tool kit, particularly for detailed validation of so-called "optimal" solutions and for sensitivity analysis: it is a pity, therefore, that those aspects and the appropriateness of simulation in addressing them, was not given coverage. I also felt that the sequence of later chapters, though not without logic, may not be altogether helpful to the novice. There was a need, moreover, for a rounding-off chapter to contrast the advantages and limitations of individual techniques and to demonstrate how a combination of them can sometimes be remarkably beneficial in certain circumstances. It would have been helpful also if the implications of adopting mathematical programming approaches to problem-solving on the structure, organization and operation of forest management information systems had been examined.

BOOK REVIEWS

Dykstra's written expression makes for easy reading. The book is well organized, flows well, contains clearly enunciated principles and philosophy, and is full of examples that will have a wide appeal. The standard of editing is excellent and I detected no glaring errors. Unfortunately my copy of the book did not have the accompanying "Solutions Manual". If there is to be further printing, readers would probably gain much from having specimen answers included at the end of the main text.

I did not get the same level of enjoyment when delving into "Forest Management" by L. S. Davis and K. N. Johnson. The book is ponderously written, somewhat disjointed, lacking in clarity of thought and not sufficiently comprehensive. It is, moreover, concerned entirely with the North American scene, in fact with USA alone, for Canada rarely rates even a passing reference. The aim was to update the 1966 version of "Forest Management: regulation and valuation" by K. P. Davis, father of L. S. Davis. It has, accordingly, been called the Third Edition, but that seems to have acted as an uneasy con-

straint that will confuse readers, particularly undergraduates.

Having used the Second Edition as a text for university courses, I was eager to sample this major updating and revision. It consists of four parts: (1) Production of Timber from the Forest; (2) Decision Analysis in Forest Management; (3) Valuation; and (4) Forest Management. The sequence of presentation of successive chapters and themes within them is not easy to follow; main issues and basic principles are not made prominent and so, although I am using it as an undergraduate text, readings from it have to be specifically directed and interpreted. The authors themselves concede that the book cannot be read and digested easily. In my view, this is a consequence of misdirected presentation. Nevertheless, there is much valuable information to be gleaned from the book, but one has to work very hard to winnow out the wheat from the chaff. It is, therefore, more likely to be used as a reference for graduates with a few years' working experience behind them, while students will have to be made aware of various errors and doubtful opinions contained within the book.

Despite the length of the text, there are major omissions. In Part I, for example, the long-winded account of growth and yield modelling is out of place in a book purporting to be on forest management; even so, no reference is made to assortment outturn predictions and, hence, to quality as well as quantity of production. This has major adverse repercussions later in Part 3, where much is made of the advantages of log-based tree and stand valuation, and in Part 4 on the output reports from harvest scheduling models. In this latter context, I have always had reservations in accepting that Model 1 and Model 2 formulations are the basis for a complete classification of wood supply modelling, because a whole gamut of other issues important to plantation forestry is ignored. The omission of such major topics as monitoring, control, managing people, management information systems (including financial data), data base management and spreadsheet applications, from a modern textbook on forest management is to be strongly deplored.

The lack of a clear perception of main issues, of basic principles and of broad philosophies is not going to endear the text to students, who hate having to wade through masses of trivia before coming to grips with vital elements. The authors frequently refer to the inclusion of non-monetary considerations, but my impression is that they are simply addenda which are not fully integrated within the main themes. Interpretation of model outputs and sensitivity analysis are treated skimpily, although that aspect could have benefited from joint consideration of non-monetary and primary factors.

Of real concern is the aptness of the book's title. My preference would be for something along the lines of "Aspects of planning and harvest scheduling in US forestry". The book, as it stands, seems to fall between too many stools, and it ought not to try to be all things to all people. Consequently, for example, some explanations on growth and yield modelling would rest much more comfortably within a textbook on forest mensuration, financial analysis within forest economics or accounting, and mathematical programming basics within a management science text or even just a reference to Dykstra's book. Management is concerned simply with using such tools, and should concentrate on integrating the basic building blocks, all of which would have coverage elsewhere.

Management is more than just timber harvest scheduling, the theme that dominates this text. Presentation of too much detail on this topic, however, hides the wood among the trees. Use of American units of measure and neglect of standard IUFRO symbolism will also detract from the international utility of the book. Despite these drawbacks, it is still one that professional foresters should acquire. It contains, for example, a major updating of forest valuation practice in USA (of considerable interest to those curious to analyse the long-awaited valuation figure for the NZ Forestry Corporation). Other updating has not been so successful, however: for example, there is a good section at the end of the book on the allowable cut effect, but there is no prior definition of and discussion on allowable cut *per se*, as had occurred in the earlier edition. I hope that the publishers will consider a major revision of this book soon, so that it can be made shorter overall, more concise and more penetrating over a wider range of management perspective, while at the same time more reasonably priced. Then I would feel happier about asking students to buy it.

A. G. D. Whyte

'Heritage – the Parks of the People'

Heritage – The Parks of the People, by David Thom. Published by Lansdowne Press, Auckland.

It is fitting that the National Parks Centennial Year should be celebrated by this major publication and it is fitting that David Thom should be the one to write it. Helped by a team of dedicated researchers, he has produced a magnificent volume. It is comprehensive, authoritative, thoughtful, historically fascinating and superbly illustrated. In this latter respect it is the coffee table book par excellence, but the quality and interest of the text and the breadth of the subject matter covered puts it into a quite different category.

David Thom's approach is both descriptive and historical with the emphasis on the latter. The historical sections deal not just with the creation and development of national parks in New Zealand but encompass also something of the pre-history of the land and its vegetation. He describes the early history of European occupation and settlement, and the policies and practices of land development in as much as these affected later options for conservation and preservation. The chapter headings give a good idea of the scope; amongst them, Settlement and Development 1840-1870; Utilitarian Conservation 1870-1887; the Gift; Destroying the Forests, Saving the Birds 1888-1900; Tourism and Scenery 1901-1920; Animals and Erosion 1920-1940; Aims and Allies 1940-1953; Unified Administration 1953-1964; and the Environmental Era, Controversy and New Ideas 1965-1987. One of the main "New Ideas" was that scientific value was as important a