

his cheerful personality, even when under great stress, and the ability to impart his highly developed knowledge of economic principles to people in all walks of life. A wide knowledge of basic forestry principles enabled him to direct forest industry projects ranging from establishment to pulpmill evaluation.

Of particular satisfaction to him was his extensive clientele of Maori land owners for whom he prepared forest lease agreements, attended innumerable meetings on innumerable maraes in order to obtain for them a fair deal which was both commercially sound and understandable. Various overseas assignments as a consultant drew heavily on his impeccable knowledge of forest economics and ability to translate these principles into a language understandable by any audience.

His act is a hard one to follow.

Keith Chandler

Jack Harrison-Smith

Jack Harrison-Smith died in Tauranga on April 28, 1988 after a mercifully short illness. Born at Auckland in 1909, he was christened John Louis and educated at King's College. The infant State Forest Service then recruited him as a technical trainee, and this novitiate served him well throughout his long and illustrious career.

Jack transferred to Works Department in 1938 to manage sand dune stabilization and reclamation along the north-west coast of Northland. He was first based at Te Kopuru and later at Ninety Mile Beach. He planted these areas in marram, seeded them with yellow lupin and established sizeable plantations around Dargaville, Waipapakauri and Ngatake. Despite some fire incursions the more northern plantations survived to be included within Aupouri Forest. This was demanding and pioneering work and in "The Top-dressers" of 1940 Janic Gulen lauds Jack's "brain child". During the war he was retained by the New Zealand Navy to find suitable kauri for the building of their Fairmiles and similar ships. He located most of this wood in Compartment 8, Omahuta State Forest.

Whakatane Boardmills employed Jack in 1945, and he was soon in charge of their supply source and logging village at Matahina Forest. Thus he became the third of the genuine forestry characters managing plantations along Kaingaroa Forest's border. Jack Bryce at Matea and Vivian Fail at Tauhara were virtually caretakers, but Jack Harrison-Smith was running a fully operational forest

with exotic and indigenous logging. The neatness, efficiency and economy of his management was most impressive, and in nothing more so than the handling of Matahina Rural Fire District, probably the most hazardous in the region.

At this time the Harrison-Smith name for original work and inventive genius became known. The benign climate and untreated state of Matahina stands provided a prime target for the *Sirex noctilio* post-war epidemic. Jack recognized this as no more than a highly desirable heavy thinning, but it left him with a great deal of valuable and well-grown wood, in difficult thinning country, and at the mercy of insects and fungi. He met the problem with wooden logging chutes and delivered bolts of the infected wood to roadsides from all readily accessible stands. His improvement of living conditions in Matahina village was continuous and included his own variations of ducted heating and water and power reticulation.

In 1961 he decided to quit the backblocks, and set up as a forestry consultant in Tauranga. As a result of this decision and his qualification as a pilot, his name, long familiar to NZIF members, became known throughout the land with his Harrison-Smith flame throwers – a godsend at that time – his tree poison injector, his spot seed planter, his logging protector, etc., and his aerial photos in the NZ Herald, Soil & Water and other magazines.

Quite apart from his forestry exper-

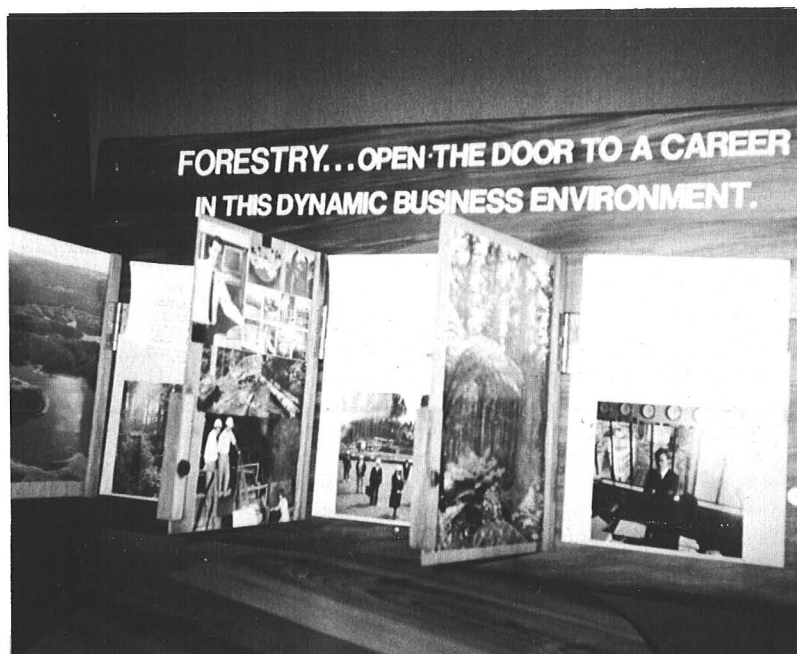
tise, Jack excelled in the elements of air and water. Flying became a great joy to both Jack and his wife, and he used this method of surveillance extensively in his consultancy practice, becoming an above-average pilot. Water had always fascinated him, and when not fashioning forestry gear in his workshop, he was producing waterwheels and turbines for use in New Zealand and the Pacific. Both Fiji and New Caledonia have found his fail-safe equipment invaluable. To advance projects of this nature, in 1985 he published a succinct little book, "Practical Water Power", in which he explains the theory and practice in layman's terms. Yet another very successful venture was his production of low-powered marine jet units for small craft. Any relevant mechanical problem was a challenge to Jack and his final invention was a small electrically powered treadmill to afford gentle walking exercise to a bronchitis sufferer.

Surprisingly for a man so gentle, courteous and dedicated to the job in hand, Jack was devoid of fear and enjoyed supreme self-confidence. To drive with him on an icy road was hair-raising to say the least.

Jack Harrison-Smith was an active member of this Institute for many years, he graced our forestry scene and we will miss him. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife, Helen, and their children, Louis and Mary, and their four grandchildren.

W. Girling-Butcher

Curt Gleason Award winner



Stefan Kincheff's winning entry for the Curt Gleason Memorial Award.