

have seemed hackneyed from another pen, endeared him to the farmer, nurseryman, farm-forester and forest professionals alike.

The problems besetting the Institute during his period as President called for a robust but urbane and civilised statement of the profession's belief that, as "conservationists in the strict sense", to quote his presidential address of 1979, foresters ought to be heard throughout the land on issues of land use. This was particularly necessary during an era when farming interests were stridently against forest establishment. He returned to this issue in 1980 and also to that of the environmentalists "proclaiming their new-found gospel from the housetops with such enthusiasm that the media and politicians have been conned".

It is of note that for both these concerns and for indigenous forest management he was able to illustrate the worth of his views in practice.

He was honoured in 1984 with an OBE. In 1994, a week after the NZ Farm Forestry Association publicly praised his services to farm forestry, he was awarded the most senior science award in New Zealand, the Kirk Horn Flask, at the Institute's AGM in Nelson.

His later years were dominated by his non-stipendiary involvement with St Luke's Anglican Church in Rotorua. After being ordained as a priest in 1978 he preached, as well as maintaining his interest in choir singing.

At the service for his internment, the forestry mourners were far outnumbered by his congregation who assembled for a final farewell to their popular priest. It must have given considerable comfort to Shirley and the family to see the depth of community sense of loss on that day, and the membership of the Institute joins in extending our condolences.

P.F. Olsen

Stephen Mark O'Dea

Stephen (Steve) O'Dea died as a result of an accident at Cave Creek near Punakaiki, in the Paparoa National Park, on April 28, 1995.

Steve worked for the Forest Research Institute during 1987 and 1988 where he was a liked and respected member of the Harvest Planning group.

Prior to working at FRI Steve had completed his Bachelor of Forest Science degree at the University of Canterbury, and had worked for the New Zealand Forest Service on Stewart Island and the West Coast. He was a former member of the New Zealand Institute of Forestry.

In late 1988, Steve joined the Depart-

John Wendelken (1923-1995)

John, or as he was also known to colleagues, Wendy or Wendeljohn, was as committed to the outdoors in his professional life as he was in his family life. Indeed, it no doubt seemed to his family over the years that the two were difficult to distinguish, for he was a man of enthusiasm, boundless energy and commitment to whatever he undertook, which led to frequent absence in the field, or to additional hours in the office.

We do not know what led John into forestry, but we surmise that it may have been a link with Jack Holloway through the Otago Ski Club or the Alpine Club prior to the war; whatever it was, John took a science degree at Otago during 1948-50, and spent summer vacations with the Forest Service on National Forest Survey in Western Southland.

Notes prepared for delivery by J. S. Holloway at W. J. Wendelken's funeral service, August 7, 1995.

After graduation, John and Peggy-Ann spent the following year at Kings Camp in the depths of Golden Downs forest, a place now thought to be so unacceptable as to have had all traces removed; but of such experiences were the character of men and women of his generation built.

John returned to Britain in 1952 with Peggy-Ann to take a forestry degree at Edinburgh. He did extremely well and carried off several prizes.

On return to New Zealand in 1954 he was posted to Eyrewell, where as a small boy I have my first recollections of him, playing with the children in the dammed-up water race under a hot Canterbury sun and driving a Mark I Zephyr, at that time the epitome of modern automobiles. John threw himself into plantation forestry with the gusto that was to characterise his career, and later published a paper in the NZ Journal of Forestry on the challenges of managing a plantation forest in that dry and windy environment.

ment of Conservation as a Conservation Officer in Fox Glacier, where he eventually reached the position of Field Centre Manager. In March 1995 he transferred to Punakaiki to take up a position as Field Centre Manager.

Steve was loved and respected by many, and his death is a shock to all who knew him. He is survived by his parents, brother, and his eight-year-old-son, Sam.

Philip Wilcox

But his first love was the hills, and he soon joined Jack Holloway, and with Mike Wraight, John Morris and Peter Wardle, as a founding member of the Forest and Range Experiment Station, or FRES, with which he was to stay for seven years. John participated fully in the annual catchment condition and trend surveys: the Harper Avoca, the Waimakariri, and the Hokitika – and doubtless more, contributing to the development of an understanding of the ecology of mountainlands and of their management, when this was a field at the leading edge of applied science.

John was always an enthusiast for trees and was convinced that the future of the high country lay in their widespread use. He personally established and tended trials of different species on many sites – while this is not today universally regarded favourably, lessons were learnt and experience gained. That this was clear to John's heart is obvious from what was probably his last major piece of writing – a submission to the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the Review of the Land Act, in which John argued strenuously that whatever form the future administration of these lands took, it had to recognise the desirability and inevitability of increased forest cover.

From 1963 to 1975 John was Principal Forester, and later Assistant Director of Forest Management Division, in Head Office, and here he probably did his best work. Initially in charge of management planning, sample plots, yield tables and the arcane forestry technology which is fundamental to sustainable harvest, John assumed responsibility for silviculture, planning nurseries, organising seed supply and overseeing tending policy. During this period he finally terminated the practice of poison thinning. It was a time of tremendous change and expansion in plantation forestry. John played an important role in the 1969 Forestry Development Conference – again not a politically correct concept for 1995, but one which led to a massive increase in investment in plantation forestry, which placed enormous demands on the few head office policy and coordination staff, and which is now bearing considerable fruit.

Through all this John is remembered for his pleasant and cheerful manner; his wit; and his unfailing support for and encouragement of junior staff, who remember his willingness when travelling to spend the time required to communicate to field staff his commitment and vision.

About 1975 John sought new pastures, and joined Ian Baumgart, who had taken

over the role of Commissioner for the Environment with a mandate to increase his office's profile and effectiveness. For nearly ten years they formed an effective team – Ian with overall responsibility, but focusing on international issues, and John managing the largest part of the business, the audit of projects under Environmental Protection and Enhancement Procedures (EP and EP). Here too he made his mark as a direct, no-nonsense operator, keen to get to the heart of any issue, and without a great tolerance level for bureaucracy and flannel. One significant role he had during this period which has had enduring consequences was his chairmanship of the interdepartmental Biological Resources Centre, which developed the current system of ecological regions and districts, the first update in the field since Cockayne at least 50 years before. The Protected Natural Areas programme and the concepts of representative protection are now reflected in the provisions of the Resource Management Act, and have been carried forward by the Department of Conservation.

Although his staff remember him as effective and supportive, his approach went out of fashion, and for the last two years of his career John rejoined NZ Forest Service and wrestled with the huge issues of the day, including that of indigenous forest management. In the end, of course, that proved too big not just for John, but for the Service as a whole.

Forestry Consultant

Retirement in 1985 meant only a change in direction of John's interest in trees and the environment, not a cessation of it. He became a self-employed forestry consultant whose contribution can be found in many areas. I will mention only one – he was, over the past four years, a key member of the working party responsible for formulating the Wellington Town Belt management plan. Indeed, he was to have been present the day before his death at the launch of the first planting project prescribed by the plan.

John was a rugged individualist; a man for whom trees, forests and the environment were his life. He earned and kept the respect of those with whom he worked, and he was a man of principle. Like all foresters, he leaves significant reminders of his work. John would have been proud of his contribution to the greening of his city, but doubtless even more so of his contribution to the development of long-term, sustainable management of his beloved mountains, and his role in the creation of the plantation forests on which we now depend so greatly for our economic welfare, and therefore our ability to pro-

Daniel Bernard Corkery (1923-1995)

Dan Corkery died suddenly, by heart failure, at Mosgiel on April 12, 1995 – two years and two months after his wife, Mavis. He had spent all his working life, from the age of 15, in the Forest Service, and nearly all of it in Southland, where he came from. His interest in forestry continued after his retirement in 1983 to his dying day – a very physical interest of planting, pruning and thinning and selling the fruits of his (and his family's) labours in a small family plantation near Invercargill.

He was buried, deliberately, in a radiata pine coffin.

Dan was a long-time member of the Institute, but he may not have been very widely known amongst its members, nor indeed in the Forest Service itself, as, apart from 10 years at Erua (where he met his wife) and National Park (1945-55), all his working career was spent in Southland, where, from 1955 until his retirement, he was District Ranger, Eastern District.

An Institution

But there it was a different matter; he was in many ways an institution. Eastern District was an indigenous cruising district moving somewhat shakily into plantation forestry. It did not have the mana of gung ho Dunedin, the ancient wisdoms (and over-staffing) of Tapanui, or the national forestry interest in the Western

Southland beech management project. He was its first District Ranger and also its last.

Its staff positions tended to be lowly graded and many of its officers were very young and inexperienced. There were ample opportunities for mistakes to be made, from inexperience or excess of zeal, and it was in these situations that Dan was at his best, allowing responsibility, while at the same time carrying the can if things went wrong, always encouraging, always humorous, always patient and never blaming, never judgmental. Those who worked under him (and they were many) will remember that time with affection and gratitude.

Cruising Ranger

Most of his career was as a cruising ranger, an area of work where an almost puritanical zeal for discomfort reigned, at least amongst Conservators, who could see no reason why the motor car and electricity should be allowed to change the conditions in which they had themselves been nurtured. It was a life of living in bush camps on monotonous food, and only coming out at infrequent intervals. Dan himself relished the story of a fellow ranger who was only granted leave to attend his own wedding on condition that he was back in camp by nightfall. Mick O'Neill, one of his first trainees, recalls his gargantuan appetite and inexhaustible good humour whenever the unending gray drizzle of the Catlins bush began to solidify.

In some ways it was a negative life – on the one hand sawmillers who kept up continual pressure for more wood and lower stumpages, and on the other, farmers with an insatiable appetite for land. Any forester of that time had by necessity a very defensive attitude towards "his" forest, and Dan's was tested to the limits when 7000 acres of Eastern Southland cutover bush were taken for the Tahakopa farm settlement. Hugo Hinds, Conservator at the time and more pragmatic, said: "Dan, use it or lose it", and thus began Dan's interest in plantations, which he pursued with characteristic zeal and originality, to the despair at times of those who favoured plans and set procedures.

But always his abiding priority was his family, and it was for their stability that Dan did not seek promotion or leave Invercargill, and in many ways he added those who worked under him or alongside him to that family, in a way rare then as now. To him, people always came first.

That, and his constant enthusiasm and good humour, is how we remember him.
John Purey-Cust



Dan Corkery

tect and conserve our natural environments.

J.S. Holloway