

Obituary

Barry Moorhouse – 1909-1996

Barry Moorhouse was born in Auckland and moved to Cambridge with his family at the age of six. His father, a retired naval officer and martinet, had a profound effect on Barry's life, affecting his appearance, dress and character. His parents were firm supporters and practising adherents of the Anglican Church in Cambridge, and Barry remained faithful to those beliefs all his life, taking an active part in Church affairs wherever domiciled.

Barry attended King's College, Auckland, where he excelled in sport and became Head Boy. He later obtained his boxing 'blue' at University, and this expertise was put to good use in later life.

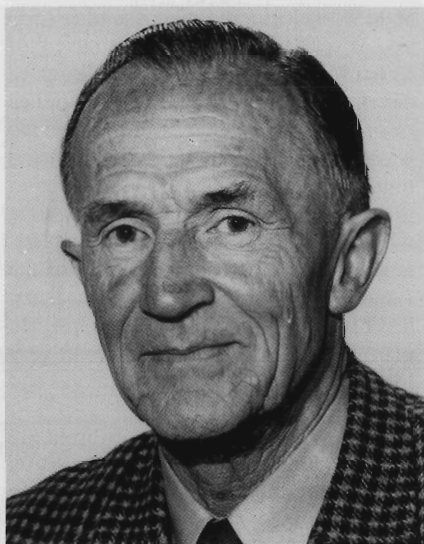
Barry decided on Forestry as a career and commenced his forestry training at Auckland University College in 1927. He eventually completed his B.For.Sc. degree at Canterbury College in 1933, following the closure of the Auckland School of Forestry, due to the economic depression.

He joined the State Forest Service as a Forest Guard, being stationed in Nelson Conservancy, where he was engaged in growth and sample plot studies in beech and rimu stands, as well as forest management work in Golden Downs State Forest. He was transferred to Head Office in Wellington in 1938 to work on management plans under C.M. Smith, and in 1939 he was transferred to the State Advances Corporation as a technical officer engaged on investigational work for the building industry, in formulating grading rules for the new *Pinus radiata* timber.

Barry decided to seek employment in the private sector and in 1943 he joined NZ Forest Products Limited as Assistant Forest and Milling Manager based at Pinedale near Putaruru. He had earlier spent two long vacations during his student days assisting Norman Hall in establishing sample plots and carrying out survival count surveys for this company's predecessor, NZ Perpetual Forests adjacent to Tokoroa.

In early 1946, after a three-month drought, disastrous fires ravaged the Central North Island forests, in particular private pine forests in the Taupo region. Extreme weather conditions and the lack of adequate protective measures resulted in a large block of 16-year-old pine stands being destroyed. This fact was the catalyst which saw the 1947 Forest and Rural Fires Act and Regulations draughted and enacted to protect state and especially privately-owned forests from fire.

Following these fires Barry was



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appointed Forestry Administrator with direct responsibility for forest protection. He spent several months in the USA studying fire protection and, coupled with his experience during the 1946 fires, was able to play an important role in draughting the legislation for the 1947 Act as well as the many amendments incorporated since then.

He became the inaugural chairman and Principal Fire Officer of the Tokoroa Rural Fire Authority from its inception in 1948 and served in that capacity for 25 years until his retirement in 1973. Large

areas of scrub land were burnt and developed into farmland on the pumice lands surrounding the company forests after the war, and the fact that no serious loss of forest, by fire, occurred is a testament to Barry's vigilant and sometimes over-protective measures. Anyone involved with the 1946 fires will realise what fire can do under extreme conditions and when so-called 'cost saving' measures are practised as regards fire protection and prevention.

Barry joined the Institute as a Student member in 1928, became an Associate Member in 1934 and advanced to Full Member in 1937. He served as a Councillor in 1938-39, Secretary/Treasurer 1940-41 and as Councillor again 1942-52 – a total of 14 years' service to the Institute – and was a member for 68 years. In recognition of his service to the Institute in particular and to the forestry industry in general he was elected an Honorary Member at the AGM in 1980.

Barry Moorhouse will be remembered by his colleagues, particularly those working with him at NZ Forest Products Limited, as a true gentleman, a good dresser, who always kept an immaculate desk and office. He was known by some of the staff as 'Roger Barry' due to his radio technique, while his minute attention to detail tended to drive his subordinates 'to drink'. At least, he always knew where to find them after 5 p.m. in an emergency.

J.A. Church

Harvesting and utilisation of logging residue*

Peter Hall**

The 1995 John Balneaves Travel Award funded a study tour to the United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States of America. The study tour focused on the latest innovations in the harvesting and utilisation of logging residues. This report summarises the findings of the tour.

Wood Fuels

The study tour highlighted the strong potential for electricity generation from

forestry residue. The Wood Fuels Into Practice Conference brought out many of the political factors which are influencing the development of alternative fuels. In the United Kingdom biomass energy projects are becoming viable due to the Non Fossil Fuels Obligation (NFFO) which allows a bio-energy plant to attract a government subsidy to allow its power to be sold into the grid at a competitive rate, even though the cost of generation is higher than that of power from other sources. In Sweden, the bio-energy developments are being driven by the decision to remove nuclear power from its generation system by the year 2010. Nuclear

* Report on Study Tour to United Kingdom, Sweden and USA.

** NZ Logging Industry Research Organisation.