

Dan Scannell

1929 – 2017

On 9th September 2017 Dan Scannell, one of Ireland's best known wildlife foresters, passed away peacefully at Cork University Hospital in his 89th year.

Dan was born on 4th July 1929 to Dan and Mary (née Cahill) at Shrone, near Rathmore, Co. Kerry. The youngest of seven children, Dan received his primary education at Shrone National School and his secondary education at Millstreet where he had to cycle a round trip of 30 miles every day to attend school.



After leaving school in 1946 he went to Ballyhaise Agricultural College in Co. Cavan and from there to the Albert College, Dublin in 1947.

Dan entered the forestry college at Avondale, Co. Wicklow in 1948 to begin a career in forestry which lasted until 1973. During that period he worked as a forester in Aughrim Co. Wicklow; Bansha, Co. Tipperary; Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny; Cappamore, Co. Limerick; Dungarvan, Co. Waterford; Killeagh, Co. Cork; Nephinmore, Co. Mayo; Lough Talt; Co. Sligo and Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

His period in Kenmare was, according to Dan, the most successful as it was here that he met his wife, Noreen. He was later promoted to forestry inspector and appointed to the Clonmel District where he remained until 1973 when he was appointed as Wildlife Officer for Munster, with Co. Kilkenny added in. Living near Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork, Dan remained in the Wildlife Service until his retirement in 1994.

Dan made a major contribution to the development of the Wildlife Service and his great passion was breeding dogs. Over the years he developed his own breed of English Setters and was known to a wide range of friends throughout the country for his knowledge and expertise with dogs. He was a well-known judge in field trials and has judged in most counties of Ireland. All serious dog breeders have an ambition to breed and train a Field Trial Champion at some stage in their career. 1985 was a special year for Dan as it was the year he bred a litter of pups that attained this supreme honour. One of his dogs ended up at stud in Japan.

He enjoyed a sporting career in many counties. He played senior county football for Sligo and during this time, one of their achievements was to defeat the great Galway team of 1956, which included Tom Mc Hugh whose obituary is elsewhere in this journal. He won a medal with Tourlestrane in 1956, the first year they won the county final, and they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the success in style in 2006.

He also played football with Rathmore and Kenmare, Co. Kerry and was heavily involved with his local GAA club in Carrigtwohill.

Dan was a gentleman who committed himself fully to every project he took on – and these were many and varied as the word “No” never came easily to him. During his career in forestry and in the Wildlife Service, all those who worked with him, were impressed and inspired by the courteous and diplomatic manner in which he dealt with people.

After his retirement he continued working, returning to his first career namely forestry. During his retirement Dan and Noreen travelled extensively, especially to Australia and New Zealand. He also took up set dancing which no doubt helped to keep him young at heart.

He was a committed family man who espoused strong family values and was not a person to change for the sake of change.

To his wife Noreen, his son Donal and his daughter Lisa, we offer our sincere sympathy.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Tom Ryan