

Paddy White 1922 - 2011

Paddy White, who died on 27th April 2011, played a significant role in the development of Irish forestry in a career spanning forty five years. He was the last surviving member of his Avondale class.

Born in Castlebaldwin, Co. Sligo on St. Patrick's Day 1922, he entered Avondale Forestry School in 1941 following his secondary education in Summerhill College, Sligo. The forestry trainees of his period were pioneers venturing on a career which was unusual and a journey which was uncertain. The American poet, Robert Frost, put it well: "Two roads diverged in a wood and I took the road less travelled by, and that has made all the difference".



After his training at Avondale, he served as a Forester in a number of locations, including Newport, Co. Tipperary where he met and married Mary Doheny in 1950. Following periods in Ballynahinch, Co. Galway and Scarriff, Co. Clare, he was promoted to Inspector and served in Land Acquisition in Cork and Limerick. This was a period of rapid expansion – 10,000 ha per annum were being planted.

Paddy was appointed Divisional Inspector in Limerick in 1977 and served with distinction there until his retirement in 1987. His success in this post was no doubt helped by his wonderful command of the English language, his strong work ethic and his exceptional administrative skills.

Paddy was a fine Gaelic footballer and had a lifelong interest in all sports. He passed away just two weeks before he was due to officiate as President of the Forestry Golfing Society at its outing in his home club, Castletroy, where he was a former Captain and President.

Before the term "work/life balance" was invented, Paddy had put it into practice. He enjoyed family holidays in Ireland and later abroad, including Kenya, where his son Sean is a forestry consultant. He liked to go fishing in his native Co. Sligo when "the may-fly was up" and played regular, competitive golf up to six months before he passed away. He was an almost daily Mass goer and quietly contributed to charitable work – at one stage visiting prisoners in jail. His memory recall and powers of observation made him wonderful company on social occasions. He could mix easily with all strata of society and was very compassionate towards anyone who had difficulties in their personal or professional lives.

To his son Sean and his daughters, Kathleen, Bernadette, Dolores, Mary, Pauline and Olive, and to his brother Frank, we extend our deepest sympathies.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis.

Addendum

Mary White

Paddy White's wife Mary died peacefully at home on 9th October 2011.

Mary was a capable, kind and compassionate person who was held in high esteem by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

We extend our sincere sympathy to all their families.

Sean McNamara