

OBITUARY

Patrick Hackett

It was with great regret that we learned of the recent death of our esteemed member and colleague Pat Hackett. It seemed only a very short time since he had, as was his custom over the years, attended the Annual Study Tour — on this occasion in Co. Donegal in September last. Pat was one of our 'emigrant' foresters who although spending his entire professional career on the other side of the 'Channel' always maintained an interest and a contact with his colleagues on the Irish scene.

A native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly, he qualified from U.C.D. in 1944. In the difficult times then obtaining in forestry in this country he perforce went abroad and took up an appointment with T. W. Dalglish & Son, Forestry Consultants, Kilmarnock, Scotland.

I had the privilege of working under him with that firm during the late '40s. I am indebted to him for all that I learned from him of the art of forest management. He was a hard task-master, but a fair one. His greatest quality in those immediate post-war days of restriction and hardship was a strongly developed sense of humanity and justice in his dealings with his sub-ordinates. He earned the well merited respect of both his superiors and his fellow-workers. The esteem in which he was held by his employers was reflected in his appointment as a partner in the firm, with responsibility for operations in South Scotland based in Dumfries.

Pat's association with Dalglish & Son continued for many years. His impact on forestry in the private sector of South Scotland is generously and unambiguously acknowledged by those who knew him and worked with him. In latter years he moved to the then newly emerging force in the private sector in Great Britain, Economic Forestry Group. This involved a move from Scotland which he loved (and where he had wooed and wed his charming wife Betty) to the Welsh Valleys in Llandovery in Dyfed. Here his duties happily enabled him to strengthen his contacts with his colleagues in Ireland. Many will recall his visits to this country as purchasing agent for Economic Forestry.

His positive contribution to commercial forestry development will live after him and will be an ever renewable memorial to his work. Forestry in Scotland and Wales will be the poorer for his demise, but will have been enriched by his endeavours. We in Ireland will miss his visits and his stimulating contributions to discussions and debates on his favourite subject — forestry. To his wife Betty and to his family, we extend our sincere sympathy. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam".

L.C.