

A. W. Duggan 1918-1980

His many friends in the Department of Fisheries and Forestry and elsewhere were deeply shocked at the sudden death of Billy Duggan in November last. Billy had retired as Secretary of the Department in July having spent most of his official career in what is now Forest and Wildlife Service.

He came to the Forestry Division of the then Department of Lands as an Executive Officer in 1942 after a short period of service with the Office of Public Works. His distinguished career was to carry him to the rank of Assistant Secretary with responsibility for Forestry and Wildlife and ultimately to Secretary of the Department of Fisheries and Forestry. In the course of that career he was closely associated not only with the very important bread and butter aspects of State forestry but with the many innovations in the field of amenity and recreation, and with the extensions of the services functions to cover wildlife and game.

To his various assignments he brought a penetrating mind, backed by sound judgement. He had the ability to lead rather than push. He could disagree without rancour and debate without heat. I cannot recollect an occasion, in an association which spanned forty years, on which he lost his temper or found it necessary to raise his voice to make a point. His many fine qualities won him the respect of all his colleagues but it was a respect that extended to affection because Billy was above all a warm approachable and friendly man with a humane approach to the problems of others.

It came as no surprise to his colleagues that he was chosen as administrative head of the newly formed Department of Fisheries and Forestry or that he continued to full that post with distinction until his retirement in July 1980.

His many friends in the Society and the Department extend to his wife Mary and his children Eileen, Clodagh, Mary and John deepest sympathy at his passing.

Harry Sullivan.