
OBITUARY

Patrick Flynn (1920-1984)



Pat Flynn was born in Mullagh, Co. Clare in 1920. He attended the Christian Brothers School in Ennistymon until 1939, travelling daily by train. In later life he regaled his friends with many hilariously funny stories of his experiences on the West Clare Railway. On leaving home in 1940 to enter Avondale Forestry School, Pat took with him a deep religious faith, a native shrewdness and a most fertile mind. At Avondale he pursued a course of studies and practical training in forestry.

On completing his training he was appointed forest foreman at Dunmanway. This was for him an important appointment because it was here he met Betty, whom he married in 1950.

In 1947 he was assigned to his first forest chargeship at Galtee, Co. Tipperary, where he remained until 1954, when he was transferred to Cong, Co. Mayo. Here he took charge of the sawmill. Pat had a particular liking for this side of the forestry enterprise and over the next five years he built up a large reservoir of knowledge of timber conversion. It was during his chargeship that the new sawmill at Cong was constructed and put into operation. It was here too that Pat's business acumen was clearly demonstrated.

In 1959 Pat left Cong to pursue a totally new discipline when he was promoted to Grade III Inspector and assigned to take charge of Work Study in the Cork Division. Work Study had been introduced in the Department only a short time previously and his main function was to implement and maintain the Incentive Bonus Scheme for forestry workers. This he did with his usual unostentatious efficiency.

He was promoted to Inspector Grade II in 1964, and in 1977 was promoted to Inspector Grade I and transferred to Dublin to take charge of the Department's Work Study Division.

In 1978 he left Work Study to become head of the Department's Timber Utilisation Division. In this post his business talent, his

diplomacy, and his ability to think on his feet were widely recognised. He was very highly regarded by the many members of the timber trade with whom he came in contact.

In November 1983, Pat went on sick leave suffering from what was at first thought to be a minor ailment but he never returned to the work he loved so well. His health deteriorated gradually and he died on Sunday, the 19th of July, 1984. That was the day Cork beat Tipperary in the Munster Hurling Championship. Pat, who took a keen interest in Gaelic Games had enquired about the result of the match minutes before he died.

Pat Flynn was always noted for his attention to personal appearance, for his innate gentleness, good humour and sincerity and in the last months of his life his great strength of character was evident as never before when he accepted the inevitable outcome of his illness with total resignation and without a hint of complaint.

His many friends in the Society and in the Department extend to his wife Betty, and to his children, Geraldine, Mary and Padraic, deepest sympathy.

The writer would wish to acknowledge the very close friendship he was privileged to have with Pat over many years.

Ar gcúig céad slán leat a Phadraic dhlis, is uaigneach sinn gan tú inniu.

Benny Moloney.