

## OBITUARY

### DAN MCGLYNN 1910 – 1992

Dan McGlynn died in June 1992 at the age of 82. He was born near Lifford, Co Donegal and was one of a group of six trainees to enter Emo Park in November, 1932 under the instructor, Head-Forester Paddy Barry. This was the beginning of a long and very successful career in forestry until his retirement on the 1st March 1975.

Having completed his training at Emo, Dan was transferred to Dundrum Forest in 1934 as forest foreman. The following year saw the re-opening of Avondale House as a Forestry School and he was appointed Housemaster, but this posting lasted only a year until his transfer to Enniscorthy as Forester-in-Charge of Bree, Curracloe and Forth Forests. In June 1941, following an open competition, he was promoted to the grade of Assistant Junior Forestry Inspector. Two years later he became a Junior Forestry Inspector and was seconded to the Ministry of Supply, based in Galway to carry out an inventory of woodland resources in the western region. In 1944 he was back in Enniscorthy again as a District Inspector where he remained until August 1953 when he was appointed Divisional Inspector based in Bray. He was promoted to Senior Forestry Inspector in July 1964 and to Assistant Chief Forestry Inspector in November 1973. For a few years after retirement he



acted in a consultative capacity for a sawmilling group and then devoted his time to social work which continued until shortly before his death.

Dan McGlynn played a very active and formative role in the development of modern forestry. A keen silviculturist he was always interested in cost effective methods of establishment and thinning but was adamant that these should not be at the expense of quality.

As one of the first foresters to become involved in work study, he was quick to realise its advantages in terms of standardisation of forest operations and cost control. He was chairman of the Standards Committee for more than a decade and will be remembered for his tremendous capacity for organisation, his sound judgement and his

ability to arrive at a consensus on contentious issues.

His antipathy towards uneconomic undertakings often led him to express his displeasure in public at what passed for a national land use policy. He was highly critical of land reclamation for agriculture; a practice he considered to be not in the best national interest. He was less than enamoured of the large scale afforestation of blanket peat and often cautioned against it. Yet as research helped to resolve many of the problems of peatland afforestation he was foremost among senior management to seek out advice on new techniques. He warmly welcomed the involvement of private landowners in forestry both as a means of gaining access to better quality land for afforestation and as an opportunity to redress the imbalance of a large public ownership.

Dan was a very sociable person; he was good company and greatly enjoyed a game of cards. In latter

years he liked to reminisce about the missed opportunities for a realistic land use policy or recall amusing incidents such as the instructions issued to trainees on entry to Emo Park in 1932. Each was required to provide himself with two suits; one for work and one for Sundays. No mention was made of a bicycle and this resulted in a three mile walk to Coolbanagher for eight o'clock each morning.

The Society of Irish Foresters will remember him as one of its staunchest supporters. He was a founder member of the Society and during his term as president he introduced the annual symposium which still remains a highlight of Society activities. Until his declining health in recent years he was a regular attendee and contributor at meetings. To his daughter Mary and sons Eamon and Colm we wish to extend our sympathy.

P. M. Joyce