Dan O'Sullivan 1917-1993

It is with regret that we record the death of Dan O'Sullivan which occurred at his residence on 29th April 1993. Dan was identified with Glenealy Forest which was a showcase for aspects of Irish forestry over the twenty years which he served there.

Dan was born in the Dingle Gaeltacht and spoke only Irish until he was twelve. During his life he retained an affection that fell short of fanaticism for his native tongue. He studied at Athenry Agricultural College and the Albert College, Glasnevin before entering Avondale in 1938. After qualifying he was appointed to Newton Barry Forest and subsequently served at Tullow and Gorey Forests before going to Glenealy in 1963.

At Glenealy he was always ready and willing to greet presidents, ministers and foreign guests: it was at Glenealy that he became well known to many in the then Forest and Wildlife Service. Dan was always courteous and welcoming to visitors, students, foresters on refresher courses, field trips and the annual forest walks. Everyone received his undivided attention and understanding. He always imparted his knowledge willingly, efficiently and authoritatively.

Dan excelled with young students. He was at his most relaxed on a one to one basis as he discussed and imparted his knowledge on silviculture, a subject in which he had an abiding interest. Glenealy Forest included an important nursery and as well as being a silviculturist, Dan was also an accomplished nurseryman and characteristically shared the technical knowledge which he patiently acquired over the years.

He always had a keen interest in the Society, being a technical councillor during the 1960s. He was the anchor man at Glenealy for the "From the Seed to Sawdust" forestry show organised by the Society in 1966.

Dan will be remembered for the tangible contribution which he made to Irish forestry in the form of prudent land use in the forest and nursery sphere and made a direct and indirect contribution to the education of students and foresters: this twin life achievement makes his contribution to forestry a very valuable one.

Dan was a devoted family man and was very proud of their achievements. One of his singular joys was to see his son Pat (the current Secretary of the Society) follow in his footsteps.

To his wife Carrie and five sons, Maurice, Pat, Barry, Donal and Ciaran, we extend our sincere sympathy.

Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam Dhilis. Ní behidh a leitheid ar ais aris. John McLoughlin