

## Obituary

**Christy A McCormack**

*1914-2004*



Christy McCormack who died on the 20 January was a native of Mullingar. He was in his ninetieth year and held an interest in forestry up to the end.

He took a degree in forestry at University College Dublin, qualifying in 1937 from a class of three. Joe O'Carroll, one of the famous O'Carroll brothers who were pioneer foresters in the early fifties and sixties, was a classmate. He spent forty years in various posts with the then Forest Service, ending his career as Assistant Chief Inspector.

It was policy in those days to transfer foresters, sometimes at will, all over the country. Looking back on it now it seems probable that it was a carry-over from the colonial civil service days. It took little account of social or family needs. Christy served first in Wicklow and then in Gort, Co Galway, where he met and married Lilly Broderick. They moved to Sligo, on to Dublin, then to Cork, back to Dublin, Cork again and finally in the 1970s to Dublin where he ended his forestry career.

I met Christy when I took up my first inspector post in Cork in 1960. We quickly became friends as he took me under his wing as a fledgling forester. I found him a shy and deeply private man but he also had a very good sense of humour. Many foresters under his control had reason to be grateful for the gentle way he handled their personal problems.

The staid office routine of 50s and 60s was not conducive to socialising. Against the advice of the senior staff I approached Christy with the suggestion that we should hold a Christmas party and invite all staff in the region. He readily agreed and took part in the organisation with gusto. The era of the forestry social function was born. Many a good social night followed which he and Lilly thoroughly enjoyed. We ran those events for a number of years; even after he was promoted and went to Dublin, he and Lilly continued to travel to events throughout the country.

Christy was first and foremost a family man. Enjoyment for him came with the ease in which he interacted with the staff, their wives and families. He had the luck to have a long life, a happy marriage, four lovely successful children and good health to the end.

To his wife Lilly, daughters Mary, Ann, Colette and son Brian we extend our sincere sympathy.

*Go ndeanfaid Dia trocaire ar a anam*

*ESF*