

Obituaries

Seamus Mc Menamin 1912 - 2006

Seamus Mc Menamin died on the 4th of January 2006 aged 94 years. Seamus was a native of Stranorlar, Co Donegal. His pre-forestry training included study periods at Warrenstown Agriculture College and the Albert Horticultural College, Dublin. He joined the then Forestry Division, Department of Lands in 1933, entering the Forestry Training School at Emo Park, Co Laois with 10 other students. The training was largely practical with experience in nursery work and forest establishment at Emo Park and outlying forest properties such as Coolbanagher and Shaen. During this time training was discontinued at Emo Park and facilities transferred to Avondale House, Co Wicklow.



Following the completion of training in 1936. Seamus was assigned to a number of forests, namely Coothill, Cratloe, Carrick-on-Suir (where he was appointed Forester in Charge), Pettigo, and Durrow. In 1942 he was involved in the founding of the Society of Irish Foresters and remained a life long member. Also, while at Durrow, he was involved in the setting up of the State Foresters Association where he served as a Council member. While on the SFA Council he devoted a great deal of time and effort towards furthering the conditions of foresters, especially in the seeking of establishment status, which eventually happened in 1954.

In 1950 he was successful in the competition for Grade III Inspector and was appointed as Assistant District Inspector in Galway. It was during his period as Assistant District Inspector that he was associated with the establishment of many new forests throughout counties Galway and Mayo. In 1957, he was promoted to the post of District Inspector in Galway. In the 1970s, he became Divisional Inspector for the Western Region, with headquarters in Galway.

Seamus was meticulous in everything he did and set and demanded high standards. He had a particular gift for expressing in a clear and concise form his ideas on many subjects. He had an inquiring mind with a very keen interest in forestry and the people associated with it and one could not but be amazed by his memory for place names, dates and people. He will be best remembered for his dedication to work and his kindness and consideration for others.

He enjoyed good health throughout his long retirement and his love of walking kept him active to the end. His wife Brid, whom he married in 1939, pre-deceased him by two years. He was very much a family man, and to his children Maura, Sean and Brian, we offer our deepest sympathies.

Brendan J. Collins