

dire penalties against chronic slow payers – these are found even in the Institute – in practice he always showed monumental patience, and never accepted the proposition that blood is an unlikely extract of stones. The present-day strength of the Institute can be attributed in no small measure to the essential work done quietly in the background by such stalwarts as Mick Forbes.

Unpretentious and kindly, always “truth without mercy” when dealing with Institute affairs, Mick Forbes himself became literally an institution, one who will be sorely missed from future Institute events. The sympathy of every member goes to Mrs Forbes in her bereavement.

—D.K.

J. B. GRUBB

We regretfully have to record the death of Forest Ranger John Barbrook Grubb in the Wanganui Hospital on 17 August 1959 after an operation. He had not been in good health for some time.

Born in Christchurch in February 1895, John Grubb was employed in various capacities in State forests in Canterbury for over ten years before his appointment to the position of Forest Foreman, Eyrewell Forest, in June 1939. In 1940 he went overseas with one of the forestry companies. After returning to the Forest Service in 1943, he occupied various positions, ending up at Erua State Forest.

Grubb was a single man of quiet disposition, and was respected by fellow officers and workmen alike. In later years he also assumed his share of interest in local community life. He is survived by his sister.

—W.R.P.

BERNIE GUTHRIE

Bernie Guthrie died in hospital at Nelson on the morning of 3 July 1960. He was in his thirty-sixth year. Earlier, in January, he had suffered a serious illness but had made a good recovery. He returned to hospital for further minor treatment and unfortunately succumbed to post-operational pneumonia.

Guthrie started his career with the Valuation Department in 1940. After two years he applied to enter the Forest Service as a technical trainee but because of territorial military training did not take up the position until February 1944. Three months later he had enlisted in the RNZAF but the war ended soon after. At the end of 1945 he started work at Whangamata and Tairua, the beginning of his long association with the Coromandel Peninsula. In 1947 he was attached to the National Forest Survey, which was then at an early stage, and soon was in charge of work in the Coromandel unit. His knowledge of the area became intimate, for there were few areas that he did not visit himself. He was an excellent bushman

and much of the time he ranged alone between the sampling lines of his field parties. On completion of work at Coromandel he took leave from the Service and spent 18 months in Australia gaining experience in interpretation of aerial photographs and in many other aspects of Australian forestry. On his return from Australia in 1953 he was placed in charge of Tairua Forest and five years later was made District Ranger at Thames. In 1959 he was appointed Senior Ranger at Nelson. Truly an impressive record for a young man and indicative of his ability and hard work.

Strong impressions of Guthrie were his quiet modesty, his physical toughness – he was much of a stoic – and his ability to get on with people. This was his great attribute, and the writer has a vivid recollection of him at a rather disorganised search for a crashed aircraft on the Mamaku Plateau, quietly and tactfully approaching the various organisations participating in the search and persuading them all (they did not realise they were being led) to do the obvious and sensible thing. He was a keen sportsman in his youth and participated in rugby, cricket, and yachting; he knew the Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel coast intimately.

To his wife and six young children we offer our deepest sympathy.

—P. J. McK.