



FOREST ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

Editors: Michael Jones and David Cope

Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland

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Departmental personnel

Messenger: Liisa Kekäläinen

Typists, Calculators and Research Assistants: Brita Sjöstrand, Rakel Seppälä, Pirjo Saramäki, Helena Päivinen, Heikki Peltonen, Marja Parviainen, Seppo Mattila, Antero Liimatainen, Maija Kuusijärvi, Aune Kankkunen, Raili Ivanoff.

Prof. Osara's Secretary: Marja Immonen

Research Secretary: Marja Harmanen

Researchers: Hannu Vehviläinen (Power-Saw Costs), Sampsa Sivonen (Regeneration Economics), Esko Salo (Removal Measurement), Aarne Reunala (Structural Change in Forest Ownership), Dr. Matti Palo (Forecasting and Optimization Models), Pertti Mikkola (Waste Wood), Pentti Kuokkanen (Nursery Economics), Heikki Kunnas (Forestry in National Accounting), Kari Keipi (Fertilization Economics), Veli-Pekka Järveläinen (Sociology in Forestry), Michael Jones (Land Tenure), Buddhi Jha (Finnish Scholarship), Jouko Hämäläinen (Economics of Thinning), Terho Huttunen (Wood Consumption), Jan Heino (Social Benefits of Forests), Matti Heikinheimo (Standard of Living of Forest Workers), David Cope (Land-Use Economics).

Research Specialists: Prof. Lorenzo Runeberg, Prof. N.A. Osara

Head of Department: Prof. Lauri Heikinheimo

Colloquium

The next meeting will be at 2.15 p.m. on 16th November in the conference room.

Dr. Matti Palo will reflect on his year's research in the U.S.A. He returned to Finland in August after spending a year at the University of California at Berkeley studying econometrics and operations research.

Matti Palo: HOW TO PROMOTE PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION IN FORESTRY RESEARCH

Forestry has traditionally been a rural industry. Generally speaking, urban citizens have earlier been concerned with it only as employees in forest-industry mills or as consumers of forest end-products. However, in recent years, there have been more vacationers, hunters, fishermen, hikers, wildlife watchers and even forest owners among city people than there used to be. This trend is more advanced in California, for example, than in Finland. This

has important consequences for the present and future practice of forestry and for the forest industry. In particular, new constraints on this traditional sector of the economy are appearing. This implies new skills and know-how for foresters in charge of these operations.

The case above is just one example of the challenge to researchers in forestry brought by a rapidly changing society. Are we able to set our research problems in a way which enables the decision-makers to draw the maximum benefit from the funds invested in forestry research? The primary question is to study relevant problems. If the problems are obsolete, scarce resources are wasted, no matter how sophisticated the scientific methods and instruments used.

In the United States, "Research in the economics of forestry", edited by William Duerr and Henry Vaux (1953), is an early survey of problems to be studied. It can still be recommended as an introduction when designing a particular project or a research programme in this field. But because of changing conditions, this type of work should be reviewed from time to time.

What has been done on the lines sketched above in Finland? Often an impression is received that the problems are so evident that no conscious effort is needed to identify them. "Economics research in the Finnish Forest Research Institute, 1969-74", edited by Michael Jones and David Cope (*Folia Forestalia*, 87), is an attempt to promote the exchange of information about projects under study or to be initiated in the near future. This kind of exchange could be strongly intensified both on a national and on an international scale. Why not, for example, publish and distribute widely the annual research programmes of the Finnish Forest Research Institute as a whole? There are the following potential groups of recipients: (1) domestic decision-makers such as (a) politicians and (b) foresters as well as other people in charge of practical operations concerning forestry, and (2) domestic and foreign researchers. In particular, feedback from the recipients to the researchers should be encouraged.

Another approach for promoting identification of relevant research problems could be to form groups of researchers to create new ideas. Such teams should preferably include dynamic people from different fields of study. The emphasis of activity should be concentrated on a restricted sub-field of forestry, without prohibitions against smashing down fences between traditional disciplines. All ideas introduced should be tentatively accepted for further analysis. The ultimate aim of this activity could be the creation of an ideas bank of potential research projects, arranged according to priority based on an orientative "benefit-cost" analysis. This kind of procedure might be a step towards a situation where specific research topics are not "owned" by any department of the Institute, but rather the role of each department is to furnish the scientific skills available for any relevant problem, whether the main part is studied inside or outside the department concerned. Consequently, project-oriented rather than departmental-oriented research should be encouraged.

Lauri Heikinheimo: Heikinheimo and his "family" - the philosophy behind the department

The editors of this newsletter have asked me to explain the philosophy behind my actions as the head of the department. A full explanation is impossible, partly because my actions are more improvised than clearly planned ahead. It is true, however, that planning takes shape from improvisation, as in the whole of Finnish society and state administration. So I can try to look at my tracks behind in the snow and peer into the hills ahead as far as the future can be seen through the mist.

The duties of the Finnish Forest Research Institute are clearly defined in the statutes: the Institute should do research for the promotion of Finland's forestry, publish the results and provide information about them in a popular form. It should also take part in international research in forestry and especially give young researchers an opportunity to do research. The duties of our department, although defined differently in the statutes, might be said to include all applications to forestry of the social sciences, including sociology, social policy, macro- and microeconomics, marketing and statistics.

Although the main official goals of the Institute may seem to be framed in national terms, international contacts are essential. My idea is that by and large there is very little national science, since methods in research are (or at least should be) international, and the application of those methods should be equally interesting to and open to scientific criticism from all quarters, no matter where the research is actually applied.

Internationalism requires a common language. For many reasons the most common international language of our department, as of the Institute as a whole, has very naturally become English, although this has nowhere been decided officially. I think we have to stick to English in the future. As a second international language, however, we should start to take up Russian. Our position between East and West makes this very necessary. Although the statutes do not specify knowledge of English, to my way of thinking the requirements for a scientist must include ability to write his results directly in an internationally recognized language so that they can be checked by an expert in that language without great difficulty. He must also be able to take part in discussions at international congresses and to speak freely and extemporaneously in his international language.

A great deal of effort has gone into trying to achieve these goals with English in our department. David Cope, Rory Harrington, Michael Jones and Buddhi Jha have greatly helped in these efforts. Since summer 1968, when David started everything off, English has become more and more our main, if not official, language. The same, although to a lesser extent, has happened with Swedish, thanks to Lorenzo Runeberg, Brita Sjöstrand and Jan Heino.

The question of language becomes complicated in the publication of research results. I have tried to put forward the opinion that the publications of the Institute should be divided into two groups:

- (1) scientific publications must be principally for scientists and published in English;
- (2) reports for practical forestry in Finland and short summaries of the scientific publications

(e.g. about 4 pages long) need to be mainly in Finnish.

At present our publications are a mixture of the two and nobody is satisfied with them.

Besides a command of English, a further requirement which is absolutely necessary for undertaking useful research in the department is a good insight into another basic subject besides forestry. This requires the highest grade in sociology, social policy, macro- or micro-economics, statistics or a related subject. We are, after all, applying economics or some other basic subject in a special sphere, forestry, but if we are not economists or sociologists as well as foresters, our work is apt to be more that of dilettantes than scientists.

The statutes require no qualifications in these basic subjects, however. The requirements of English and a basic subject outside forestry might appear, therefore, rather ambitious and difficult to achieve. To assist in this we have a recruiting system for employing new personnel. For research personnel, including calculators, we recruit mainly from the forestry students in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at the University of Helsinki. As only 1/5 - 1/4 of the applicants are accepted to study forestry, the students are already highly selected. We try to attract the best of them, first to help researchers and then, as soon as possible, to do independent research. In selecting, we put a lot of weight on school marks, especially for languages and mathematics. So far the system seems to have worked well. More recruitment from outside the forest faculty, however, seems to be recommendable.

As this recruiting system has worked efficiently for the last 5 years and the personnel of the department has simultaneously grown, we now have a number of young and very capable people. Many of them are working full time with us and at the same time studying both forestry at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and one of the basic subjects in the Political Science Faculty or elsewhere. Most of them already know sufficient English to be able to reach the required ability very rapidly.

Our official function, of course, is research, which is virtually unrestricted within our very broad frame of reference. It might be tempting to ask for the highest possible efficiency from the personnel. There seem to be, however, so many requirements of profitability and productivity as well as efficiency in the world that I have come to the conclusion that we cannot expect more than modest productivity in quantitative terms (i.e. the volume of production measured by publications), but we can aim for a high standard in quality. The present volume of publications is already quite substantial. Our publication plan for 1970 contains some 1000 printed pages, of which a fair amount should be in print before the end of December.

In the same way as the U.N. definition of standard of living includes many intangible aspects, such as security, human rights, recreation, health and working conditions, our goal should also include intangible aspects, promoting what may be called social well-being. Feelings of increased well-being help to increase both volume and quality of production. We can strive to achieve maximum well-being, or the best possible standard of living in the U.N. sense, for the "society" formed by the departmental personnel and their families.

My conviction is that such a goal is best reached if the "society" follows the behaviour pattern of a reasonably happy family. That pattern might include the following:

- remove formal social ranks and titles, and instead use Christian names
- classify personnel into different categories as little as possible
- delegate work and responsibility, have many independent research workers and minimum authority
- do not stereotype work and behaviour
- provide many occasions where all members come together and discuss openly and freely both particular subjects and anything else they like. These meetings can take place in the department's coffee room or kitchen (the heart of the home), in the home or summer cottage of my family (at New Year and in the summer), Nisse Osara's estate (next Spring) or elsewhere. Here I would like to suggest the idea of including sometimes the families and homes of other members of the department, too.

I feel that we have come a long way towards achieving the goal of combining the scientific aims of the department with the aim of increasing personal and social well-being. The atmosphere in the department is, I think, a happy one. As a final suggestion, I would like to put forward an idea I have been toying with for some time. Why not invite a sociologist to carry out an investigation into the well-being of the departmental personnel? This could be a way of finding out about individual feelings in more concrete terms and might suggest new ways of improvement. At the same time, it could be a means of stimulating similar ideas in other offices and working places.

Report on English-language activities in the department

The first anniversary issue of the department newsletter provides a suitable opportunity to review the progress made during the last year in promoting the use of English in the department. The past few years have seen increasing interest in the use of English, not only for publications but also as a means of developing international contacts. Several English-speaking persons have been employed in the department for various periods, and since mid-1969 there have been two full-time English-speaking researchers who are responsible, in addition to normal research work, for initiating and supervising English-language activities as well as editing and checking publications in English.

Among the activities has been the establishment of a regular colloquium, meeting once every three weeks, with the aim of providing research personnel with the opportunity of public discussion in English (such as they might encounter at international conferences), and at the same time presenting a variety of interesting and informative topics. The first colloquium was held on 30th October, 1969, when the topical subject of a proposed reorganization of the institute was discussed. As well as dealing with topics of general interest (in December, attitudes to using English were discussed), researchers can present new research projects and give progress reports on existing projects. Periodically, outside speakers are invited to present topics. Visitors have included Dr. Antti Haapanen from the Institute's Nature Conservation Office; Prof. Thomas Corcoran, visiting Fulbright scholar, who spoke on Forestry research in the U.S.A.; Prof. W. R. Mead, head of the Department of Geography at University College London, who discussed the organization and financing of research in Britain; and Prof. P.M.A. Tigerstedt, professor of plant

genetics in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry at Helsinki University, who outlined the possibilities of tree breeding.

The newsletter was started in conjunction with the colloquia, the first being produced in the space of two hours on 29th October to announce the colloquium the following day. From small beginnings, the newsletter has been expanded and improved. The early newsletters were intended for internal circulation and for close friends of the department. Announcements of forthcoming meetings of the colloquium and other activities, new publications by members of the department, together with items of news about personnel and what they were doing provided the main content. Details of colloquia have now expanded to short articles presenting in advance the topics to be dealt with. In some cases, the opportunity has been taken to write a short English summary of a Finnish article. At the same time, the circulation of the newsletter has been extended to friends in various parts of the world as a way of providing news about the day-to-day working of the department.

Realization of the value of increasing information and contacts between forest-research organizations in different countries gave the initial stimulus for another undertaking brought to fruition in August, 1970. This was the publication of a booklet describing the research and introducing the researchers of the Forest Economics Department (Folia Forestalia, 87). This has been sent to institutes throughout the world which have an interest in forest economics, and it is hoped that similar publications will be produced by other institutes.

Inevitably, the information contained in the booklet will become out of date as research projects are completed, new ones adopted and changes occur in personnel. As a means of offsetting this, it is intended to include information of this nature in the newsletter as the need arises. In this way, the newsletter will act as a supplement to the booklet (and will serve instead of the suggested periodic bulletin, which was originally planned for this purpose).

The practical basis for realizing the aim of improved international contacts lies in the expanded role of English-language activities within the department. David Cope and Michael Jones are able to give opportunities for the other members of the department to practice English conversation, both through informal discussion groups and by arranging periodic outings. Visits in 1970 included a trip to Metsäliiton Selluloosa Oy's modern pulp and paper mill at Lohja in April, and an excursion to Riihimäki glass factory in May. Recent outings in Helsinki have included visits to the International Trade Fair and the President's Palace. Informal conversation has been supplemented by exercises in the more difficult points of English grammar. A recent innovation in the newsletter has been the addition of a regular vocabulary page. Members of the department have tested their English in two occasions, in October 1969 and October 1970, by taking the ASLA exam used to assess candidates from Finland who wish to undertake regular academic work at an American university. Those who took the exam on both occasions showed remarkable improvement.

For the future, continued development of these and similar activities is envisaged. It is hoped to encourage the flow of new ideas and stimulate the introduction of fresh approaches both in research and other departmental activities. Opinions and correspondence from outside the department will be especially welcomed.

Personal information

Harmanen, Marja Kaarina (née Järvinen)

b. 17.1.1946

Family: 1967 m. Kari Harmanen

Children: Jukka, b. 1968

Qualifications: Secretary, Helsinki Secretarial College

Positions held:

1969 - 1970

Forest Research Institute
Secretary to Prof. N.A. Osara

1970 f.

Forest Research Institute
Research Secretary

Languages:

Finnish, Swedish, English, German

Recent publications

Järveläinen, Veli-Pekka. Skogsägarnas beteende (Behaviour of forest owners).
Skogsbruket, 40: 7-8, 1970.

Osara, N.A. Pohjolan metsätalous (Nordic forestry). Metsä ja Puu, no. 8, 1970.

Reunala, Aarne. Yksityismetsänomistuksen rakennemuutos (Structural change in private forest ownership). Teollisuuden Metsäviesti, no. 7, 1970.

Forthcoming lectures

Professor N.A. Osara is giving a series of lectures entitled "Problems of world forestry and forest industries, with special emphasis on developing countries", held each Thursday from 13:00 to 15:00 at Metsätalo.

Professor Heikinheimo will give a lecture at Orivesi Adult Education Centre (Folk High School) on 24th November, from 19:00 to 21:00, dealing with "Forest taxation - future prospects".

He will also be supervising a discussion on forest manpower policy at Metsätalo on 30th November, arranged by the Society of Forestry in connection with the autumn "Forest Days" to be held that week.

Michael Jones is lecturing at 19:30 on Thursday, 12th November, at the Historical Society (Svenska Klubben, Mauritzg. 6), on "The historical viewpoint in geography".

Departmental news

Professor Heikinheimo returned to work last week after two weeks in hospital for a gall-stone operation.

Professor Osara lectured at Tampere University on November 2nd on "FAO's role in resource development".

A weekly seminar for students of forest economics is being held on Tuesdays at 11 o'clock in the coffee room. About 25 students come to drink coffee and discuss "Economics" by Richard C. Lipsey and Peter O. Steiner (New York - London - Tokyo, 1966). One or two seminar papers are presented for discussion each week.

Kari Keipi has been collecting statistical data on Finland for an investigation on the economic problems of low-grade wood and timber-waste utilization being carried out in Oslo by .A. Anatolij, an associate professor at Leningrad College of Forestry.

Professor Heikinheimo will be adding to his knowledge of languages by doing a crash course in Russian during the first two weeks of December.

Congratulations to Antero Liimatainen on his recent engagement.

"Little" Christmas

The Institute's "Little" Christmas celebration will be held again this year at Lepolampi. The date is Friday, 4th December and the cost 21 marks.

Newsletter heading

Thanks are due to Maija Kuusijärvi who drew the newsletter heading. The emblem was designed by J. Anthony Knipe. The editors' interpretation, for those who feel they need one, is that the design suggests both the shape of a spruce tree and an economic graph.

Results of the English test

At long last we can publish the results of the English test, held on October 2nd. Comparison with the 1969 results indicates remarkable improvement, which suggests that perhaps there is some benefit from speaking English at work.

	1970	1969
Matti Heikinheimo	B-	C
Marja Immonen	B+	-
Raili Ivanoff	B	-
Aune Kankkunen	C+	-
Helena Päivinen	B+	-
Pirjo Saramäki	B	-
Brita Sjöstrand	C+	D+
Kari Keipi	A-	C
Aarne Reunala	A-	B

A grade of B is considered passing for full-time academic work by the ASLA scholarship programme while a C is required for part-time study and research work.

The pine tree

The pine is one of the most majestic of all trees. It is so superbly stately - so unbending to the breeze. It raises its royal head aloft - soaring heavenwards, heedless of all around; while the silvery floating clouds gently kiss its lofty boughs, as they fleet rapidly hither and thither in their endless chase round this world. Deep and dark are the leaves, strong and unresisting, but even they have tender points, and the young shoots are deliciously green and sweet scented. Look at its solid stem - so straight that every maiden passing by sighs as she attempts to imitate its superb carriage, and those very stems are coloured by a wondrous pinky hue oftentimes, so pink, in fact, we pause to wonder if it be painted by Nature's brush, or is merely a whim of sunset playing upon the sturdy bark.

(Mrs. Alec Tweedie, "Through Finland in Carts", London 1897)

Vocabulary page

Installment no. 2 is ready for your efforts but perhaps some explanation should be given first (it was forgotten last time). First go quickly through the sentences trying to pick out the correct words from the alternatives. Try to guess from the context words you are uncertain about. If you are still uncertain, use the dictionary to look up the English definitions of unclear and unknown words and then, if that doesn't help, look up the Finnish word. As a final step Mike and Dave can attempt to elucidate the remaining dark points. In this way it may be possible to learn new words and how to use them.

1. The sad reckless children refused to stop screaming chewing.
terrified smiling
2. With a growl of pain, the boy dropped the hot fence iron.
snarl stove
3. Tolerantly Nimblely, they clung to the last shred filament of hope.
Tenaciously strip
4. Being unable to carry out carry about his scheme, the boy left off abandoned the whole endeavor.
carry over dropped out
5. A shivering whispering winter wind swept across along the snow-covered prairie.
biting through
6. A heavy breeze foam thoroughly drenched the hikers in the pond canyon.
mist hedge
7. As the thick fog dew crept into the hollow, the hunters shrugged huddled closer to their
haze stumbled
fire.
8. The hideous shabby old lady is lame mild as a result of her fall.
frail hasty
9. Bitterly she broke down broke off their engagement and leapt dashed out of the house.
broke away prowed
10. Reindeer stare sneak across the fells searching groping for lichens.
wander devouring

BONUS (these are easier than last time)

- A. There flock herd of sheep vanished succumbed to a deathly healthy dose of poisonous atmosphere perfume.
covey expired lethal gas
 - B. The granular ground path paused snaked along a destructing decomposing ledge just below the
gravel circled crumbling
- lip
pinnacle of the canyon.
ridge