

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL FORESTERS, INC.  
1500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Apt. 841  
Washington, D.C. 20005

NEWS NOTES NO. 33

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Tom Gill, our President, died suddenly on Sunday, 21 May, at Sibley Hospital, Washington, D.C.

A native of Philadelphia, he received a B.A. degree at the University of Pennsylvania in 1913, and a Master of Forestry degree from Yale University in 1915. Entering the U.S. Forest Service as a forest ranger, he served on various western national forests until the United States entered World War I. For the duration of the war he was a flyer and pursuit pilot with the rank of captain.

Returning to the U.S. Forest Service, he rose to Forest Supervisor, then was transferred to Washington, D.C., where he was in charge of that agency's education program until 1925. In that year he was appointed editor of the magazine AMERICAN FORESTS AND FOREST LIFE, published by the American Forestry Association, and in the following year went with the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation, of which he was named Executive Director in 1952, retiring in 1961.

During his career as a forest ranger, he began writing fiction for national periodicals. Several motion pictures were made from his twelve novels. In addition, he wrote numerous technical and professional articles dealing with natural resources, together with two major books, TROPICAL FORESTS OF THE CARIBBEAN and LAND HUNGER IN MEXICO.

For the past quarter-century he had been active in international forestry, which took him around the world seven times and often into remote and uncharted tropical forest areas. He helped set up the Forestry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and was chairman of FAO's Committee on Unexploited Forests and the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics.

During the U.S. military occupation of Japan, he helped write the Japanese forestry law promulgated by the Emperor. The State Department sent him to help formulate forestry policies in Formosa and the Philippines. He served on assignments on forestry and land utilization in Finland, Italy, Singapore, India and the Pacific area.

In recognition of his contributions to the conservation of natural resources, he was elected a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and was recipient of its highest award, the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal. The American Forestry Association and the Deutscher Forstverein presented him with the internationally renowned Bernard Eduard Fernow Medal.

Honorary membership was conferred on him by professional forestry societies in Mexico, Japan, and the Philippines. His citations from foreign governments

include the French Merite Agricole, the German Verdienstkreuz, and the Mexican Gold Medal for Civic Merit. In 1953, the University of the Andes, Venezuela, conferred on him an honorary doctorate, the first foreigner ever to receive the degree. The Mexican Institute of Natural Renewable Resources granted him its coveted Diploma of Honor. In 1966, at the VI World Forestry Congress in Spain, he was recipient of an honorary medal recognizing his contribution to world forestry.

He had served as President of the International Society of Tropical Foresters since 1961, and was a founder and first Executive Director of the International Union of Societies of Foresters. He had the distinction of having attended all six World Forestry Congresses, in Rome, Budapest, Helsinki, Dehra Dun, Seattle, and Madrid, and was a member of the U.S. National Committee for the VII Congress to be held in Buenos Aires in October 1972.

Dr. Gill was a member of the Army and Navy Club, the Cosmos Club and International Club, all of Washington, D.C., and the Explorers' Club of New York.

A member of the Pacific Science Association, he was active in committee work for the National Academy of Sciences. He held membership also in the Commonwealth Forestry Association and the International Society for Tropical Ecology.

A quote from one of his letters tells a great deal about the man himself and his philosophy regarding the world's natural resources:

"You ask what made it all worth spending the better part of a lifetime in tropical and international forestry? Two beliefs, I think, come nearest to an answer. First, I believe that the vast, still unrealized potential of tropical soils is destined someday to play a major role in world economy. So many millions of the earth's people depend on those forests to a degree that we of the temperate lands find hard to realize; yet they are steadily shrinking in size and deteriorating in quality. So, however little one man might do in a lifetime, it seemed a worthwhile goal to help increase their usefulness and above all to help slow down the tempo of their destruction.

"Second, is my belief in the need for closer ties among foresters everywhere - the need for a widening of professional horizons and a fuller recognition of our contribution to human living. These ends, I think, can best be achieved through international contacts - not only by world congresses, but by interchange of students and educators, and most of all, perhaps, by a Union dedicated to the advancement of foresters and forestry on a world front.

"As to the ultimate outcome, or the ultimate worth of all this - who shall say? But there is comfort in an old Arab proverb, 'The work is with us, the event with Allah'."

Arrangements have been made for the ISTF to continue, at least for the next year, under the leadership of Dr. Charles C. Larson, Dean of the School of Environmental and Resource Management and Director of International Forestry, State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York 13210. The office will be moved prior to 1 July, and all further ISTF communications should be addressed c/o Dr. Larson, at the above address.

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Work is going steadily ahead for the VII World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, 4-18 October 1972. Registration will begin on Tuesday, 3 October, at 9 a.m., at the Congress Headquarters. The enrollment fee is payable in Buenos Aires at the time of registration: Member, \$30 (U.S. or equivalent in Argentine currency); Associate Member, \$10. The printed Proceedings of the Congress can be ordered for \$35.

We have been informed that there is no necessity to register for the Congress before arrival. However, if you prefer advance registration or wish more complete information regarding all phases of the Congress, your request should be addressed to: Presidente del Comité Ejecutivo, Séptimo Congreso Forestal Mundial, Pueyrredon 2446, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Hotel reservations are to be made through: Delfino Turismo S.R.L. & Eurotur S.R.L., Agente Oficial de Viaje, VII Congreso Forestal Mundial, San Martín 427, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The approximate average hotel prices in \$U.S. (or Argentine equivalent) are: Luxury Class - single \$24, double \$30; First Class - single \$22, dbl.\$27; Tourist Class - single \$6-10, dbl.\$10-15. All are subject to 27% tax and do not include meals. (We are told that meals will average between \$5-10 per day, including tips.)

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Arrangements for a meeting of tropical foresters attending the Congress had been made by Tom Gill, and he was eagerly anticipating the opportunity of getting together with old and new friends and ISTF members. Expectations are that the meeting will be held as planned, with possibly Dr. Larson or a member of the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics serving as Chairman.

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One of Tom Gill's dreams recently came to fruition - the opportunity for attendance at the Congress of outstanding students of forestry from countries all over the world. He had worked diligently during the past year to make possible the participation of several young men from the USA and urged the Organizing Committee in Buenos Aires to encourage the attendance of students from other parts of the world. Through correspondence with Program Chairman Cozzo, arrangements have been completed for a meeting of the students in attendance, with the aim of securing, from their point of view, an assessment of the Congress

and suggestions for the improvement of future Congresses.

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The time and place for the meetings of both tropical foresters and students will appear in the VII World Forestry Congress schedule.

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The First Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry met in Rome, Italy, 8-13 May 1972. There was an overwhelming consensus among the 50 participating nations giving high priority to work by FAO in forestry institutions and services, forestry education and forest tree improvement. A strong attempt was made to describe the overriding forestry problem of production vs. environment and to seek more ways to strengthen research in tropical forestry.

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A College of Forestry has been recently established on the campus of the University of Sao Paulo, Piracicaba, Brazil - so writes ISTF member, Professor Walter de Paula Lima. Three main courses of study will be offered, (1) Silviculture, (2) Wood Technology, and (3) Natural Resources (including inventory, economics, protection and recreation). Fifteen major wood industries in Brazil are supporting a non-profit Institute of Forest Research, supplementing the College. Semi-annually, the Institute publishes a journal recording results of experimental projects.

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#### Publications

FOREST ENVIRONMENTS IN TROPICAL LIFE ZONES: A PILOT STUDY, by L. T. Holdridge (ISTF member). This pilot system within the framework of the Holdridge system for classifying world life zones examines the extent to which a forest ecological approach can contribute to a better understanding of tropical environments, and in particular to the quantitative prediction of those undercanopy features affecting practical undertakings in heavily forested areas. Various chapters deal with background of the study; field research; climates of the sites; site descriptions and data; organization and consolidation of ground observations; analyses of aerial photography. It may be ordered from Pergamon Press, Headington Hill Hall, Oxford, OX3 0BW, England. Price - 30 pounds.

TREE FLORA OF MALAYA: A MANUAL FOR FORESTERS, edited by T. C. Whitmore, is the first comprehensive account of the trees of Malaya to be published in the last 40 years. All the plant families with at least some tree species are described (excepting Dipterocarpaceae, which are covered in a companion volume by C. F. Symington). Published by Longman, Malaysia, as Malayan Forest Records 26.

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