Donal G. Raymond

It is sad to record the untimely death of Don Raymond, Principal Logging Officer, Kaingaroa Forest.

At his funeral, the Rev. J. Greenaway expressed the deep feelings of the very large number of forestry folk who came to honour Don. "A giant tree has fallen, and a hush spread through the forest." It is indeed a measure of the man that all work ceased in Kaingaroa Forest as a mark of both sorrow and esteem.

Don was a big man in every way—big in his sympathy with other people; vigorous in everything he did. He kept a garden in which everything seemed to grow larger than life, and where weeds were ruthlessly eradicated. His love for his wife and family—he was more like a brother to his youngsters—was an inspiration to those who knew him, and it was returned in full measure. He was an active member of the Lions Club, an enthusiastic rock hound, a keen fisherman. Very gregarious, he was as polite and gentle to his meanest subordinate as to the highest in the land, and any gathering would welcome him.

Don joined the N.Z. Forest Service as a Trainee at Rotoehu in 1950, and took to the life with relish. He then moved through Southland and Nelson Conservancies, and in 1955 was transferred to Kaingaroa Forest as one of the original logging staff for supplies to the new Kawerau plant of Tasman Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. Among his logging gangs were French Canadians brought over to supplement local and largely untried men. Many of these men, still working in Kaingaroa, remember with affection Don's respect and understanding as they settled into their new environment.

In 1960 he was posted to the Reefton Ranger School, and in 1963 he became Officer in Charge. He won the admiration and affection of the young men who passed through the school for his keen personal interest in them as individuals, and for his unstinting efforts on their behalf both on and off the job.

In 1965 he returned to Kaingaroa as logging officer in charge of thinning gangs. He shepherded the gangs through a period of labour unrest, retaining the respect of all parties throughout the dispute, and during this period doubled production.

The Forest Service, and the forestry profession, is greatly the poorer for his passing. As Jim Greenaway said: "Let the trees of the forest gather round and shelter and sustain his family." Our sincere sympathy goes to his mother, his wife Marie, and his children Michael, Jonathan and Juliet.  

R.B.