

FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



An entirely unofficial budget of news, nonsense, 'n' opinion compiled from time to time for the profit, amusement, and annoyance of the staff. ♦ ♦ ♦

NO. 69

VICTORIA, B. C. AUGUST, 1948.

08581.

Never let it be said that we are attempting to clothe Alan Edward Parlow, District Forester at Kamloops, in an aura of mystery. However, when a journal of the calibre of the Newsletter, with its tremendous research facilities, fails to unearth the exact birthplace of said Alan Edward Parlow, the fact does remain that there is a mystery!

According to one of our very best "usually well-informed sources," Alan Parlow first saw the light of day somewhere in Ontario—"probably Iroquois or Toronto." However we do know with the utmost certainty (as he, himself, vouched for it on his application form nearly three decades ago) that the date was April 4, 1887.

At 23 years of age, Alan was working as a Forest Assistant on the Pennsylvania Railway. This, according to the records, is the first indication we have that he was "forest conscious." From that time on, however, there has never been any doubt.

In 1910, Alan joined the Ontario Forest Branch as a Ranger and during the summers of 1911 and '12, he busied himself as a Forest Assistant on Reconnaissance Surveys for the Dominion Forest Branch while attending the University of Toronto during the remainder of the year.

In 1913, he received his degree of Bachelor of the Science of Forestry from the University of Toronto. While continuing to work for the Dominion Forest Service in the summer months Alan went on with his studies until later in that same year when he received the appointment of Forest Supervisor (Dominion).

Early the following year, Private Parlow, A. E., was on his way Overseas. By 1917, after three and one-half years in the infantry and being wounded in 1915, Parlow, A. E. had risen to the rank of Acting Major, and was holding the position of Staff Captain employed in timber locating and buying for the Directorate of Forestry, B. E. F., in France.



Alan Edward Parlow.

Demobilized in 1919, Mr. Alan Parlow was appointed as Supervisor of the Dominion Forest Branch in what was then the Railway Belt in British Columbia. By December 1 of that year, and after an exchange of terse telegrams, A. E. Parlow was listed as Assistant Forester, Kamloops, and thus entered "the fold." From then on it is a well-known story woven through the years during the organization and reorganization of the young B. C. Forest Branch.

Exactly three months after his appointment at Kamloops, Alan was transferred as District Forester with his headquarters at Vernon.

By 1925, the framework of the present Forest Service was beginning to take shape. This called for the reorganization and consolidation of the Vernon, Nelson, and Cranbrook Districts and resulted in his becoming Assistant District Forester of the new Southern Interior District.

One year later Alan Parlow received his first appointment to a Coast District when he became Assistant D. F. Vancouver. He held this position until 1930 when he replaced R. E. "Bob" Allen as District Forester, Prince Rupert.

In 1938, he replaced C. J. Haddon as Chief of the Kamloops District when the latter moved to Vancouver as D. F.

In July, 1940, Alan enlisted in the Active Service Force, raised and commanded No. 6 Company, Canadian Forestry Corps, and proceeded Overseas for the second time in twenty-five years.

Upon discharge from the Army as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1944, Alan returned to the Forest Service and resumed his duties as District Forester, Kamloops, in which capacity he has continued until the present day.

With twenty-nine years service to his credit, Alan Parlow is another of that diminishing group of men who have done so much toward the conceiving and ultimate formation of the B. C. Forest Service as it is to-day.

LIQUIDATING LOOPERS

Recently the Invermere District, vital center of our Christmas tree industry, has been attacked by a plague of false Hemlock Loopers, scientists, entomologists, foresters, and working-men of the Forest Service. The learned men who knew what made loopers loop, converged on the 17,000 acres that had been attacked, called in a helicopter, and supervised the spraying of the area with D.D.T.

It may be worth noting that although foresters, Victoria Office staff and loopers were drenched with D.D.T., a spray that is fatal to pests, only the loopers succumbed.

One looper was killed by a different D.D.T.--"Double Distorted Torso." This unhappy looper fell down Asst. Chief Forester R. C. (Bob) St. Clair's neck and after Bob had out-looped the looper for a few seconds, it died of a broken back.

Although the spraying with the aid of a helicopter was successful as a measure to preserve the young fir in the Invermere District, it was not accomplished without difficulties. Many of these were unforeseen as it was the first time a helicopter had been used to spray forest timber in Canada. Heat caused convection currents from the ground that dispersed the spray and carried it upward. Rain washed the D.D.T. off the trees and a very moderate amount of wind made accurate pattern spraying impossible. The only suitable spraying weather was from 4:00 a.m. to 9 or 10:00 a.m. and usually a couple of hours in the evening. Also, Invermere's high altitude and consequent thin air made control of the machine difficult. Flying low over timber and fighting downdrafts with a helicopter that responded slowly was dangerous work for the pilots.

Jack Payne, who was looking after our interests in the project, had the crew awake, fed, and on the job even before the loopers had risen. Starting work before a caterpillar's breakfast time and working until half-past starvation is nothing new to our field men. As it was necessary to spray the extensive area before the loopers went into the pupa stage, all willingly made use of every suitable spraying minute.

Hydrogen-filled balloons were used as markers to indicate ends of flying strips and advanced 60 feet after each strip had been sprayed. Thus the area was accurately and effectively covered.

The spray mixture, one pound D.D.T., one quart of solvent, and three quarts of diesel oil, was shipped to the area in drums and pumped by one of our tank trucks (Adv.-Operations Division) to the spray tanks of the helicopter. There was no time lost in this "Bug Blitz." After a seven minute interval of spraying, the machine landed in a clearing and was serviced, loaded with spray and away again in less than three minutes.

The Invermere outbreak is the first known epidemic of false Hemlock Loopers (*Nepytia Canosaria*) to Hector Richmond, George R. Hopping and Bill Mathers, Dominion Government entomologists, who were advising on the effectiveness of the spray. Others with a nodding knowledge of entomology called them loopers. How a hungry little transient caterpillar gets a name like "*Nepytia Canosaria*" is a mystery, unless it is by falling down an Asst. Chief Forester's neck.

The Economics Division and all who had a part in the counter attack on the loopers deserve a lot of credit for the way in which they overcame many difficulties in what was a successful experiment. Young Christmas trees that mean revenue to the residents in the vicinity have been protected from complete destruction. The scenic beauty of Invermere that is so well known to tourists has been preserved and once again the B. C. Forest Service has been first in providing valuable knowledge toward forest conservation in Canada.

To become scientific in insects prolific
Is why in a college we learn Entomology
So emerging a scholar we tighten our collar
Whenever we pity a dying *Nepytia*.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICT

SCHOOL FOR LOOKOUTMEN

In May, the Vancouver Forest District initiated a School for training Lookoutmen at the Forest Ranger School, Green Timbers Forestry Station, and results of this training have already justified such action.

Under the able direction and instruction of Jim Pedley, the men were given very thorough and practical instruction along the following lines:

1. The Lookoutman's part in Forest Protection. (A general outline of the Protection organization and where the lookoutmen fit into the protection plans.)
2. Qualifications and duties of the lookoutman.
3. Map reading. (Locating topographical features on the ground from maps. Contour-reading was stressed.)
4. The Compass. (Explanation and use of Forest Service compass.) Included short Field period during which practice bearings were taken.)
5. Care and operation of fire finders. (Osborne finder and alidade. Positioning base map. Orienting from surveyed points on photo maps and by Polaris. Detailed instruction in setting up and taking horizontal and vertical shots.)

VANCOUVER DISTRICT--(Cont'd.)

6. Care and operation of weather recording instruments. (Hygrothermograph, humidity-guides, sling psychrometers, anemometers, rain gauges, etc.)
7. Telephone line maintenance. (General maintenance and trouble shooting.) Magneto Telephones.
8. Reports. (Use of forms. Why needed. Relation to final fire reports and research. Weather records in relation to closures.)
9. Notes on observing. (Legitimate smokes. False smokes. Smokes against varied backgrounds.)
10. Radio. Care and operation. (Mr. Playfair. Setting up. Connecting batteries. Correct operation.)
11. Observation from lookout tower. (Field day. Included half an hour's instruction on tower for each man. Taking shots on smokes seen. Reporting by telephone. Included instruction in operation of radios.)
12. Eyesight tests. General study of week's work.
13. Review of course. Break up.



The Dean and Professor

The men showed a keen interest in all phases of the course and impressed those responsible for its introduction and conduct with the fact that such a course would pay dividends. The majority of the students were young men and as such there seemed to be doubt as to whether this type could take lookout life. We are happy to report that they took to the job like veteran trappers take to trapping and we can safely boast of having the most efficient staff of lookoutmen this District has ever had.

We find that the men are active in the maintenance of their equipment and that the lookouts are in first-class condition with the men being on the alert at all times in regard to their chief duty.

We are 100 per cent sold on the idea of training our temporary staff in this manner and it is our intention to make it an annual practice. We are also 100 per cent sold on the efficient manner in which our Ranger School is conducted and cannot praise too highly the untiring effort that Doug Greggor and Jim Pedley put into their job.

The following is a list of the men attending the School:

A. G. Scutz	J. S. Campsie	W. H. Anderson
C. W. Egg	T. Daniels	R. C. Speer
W. M. Campbell	T. V. Brown	L. J. Kay
J. E. Burdes	S. Borden	T. L. Stinson
A. M. Gilmour	W. J. Skinner	W. Roy
J. St. Clair	G. T. McIntyre	

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WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to three new members of the Vancouver Forest Staff--Miss Esther A. Bully, machine operator, Miss Grace L. Wilder, Jr. Clerk, and Miss Helen R. Robinson, Typist.

We welcome back, Miss Gloria Holden, former billing machine operator, who left us last fall in order to return to school, but who is coming back for the summer months to help us out. Welcome back Gloria!

We also welcome back Mrs. Susan Mitchell (nee Dobson) former Secretary to Mr. Haddon, who has returned on a temporary basis in order to help out in the Scaling Division.

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Good Luck Elaine!

Miss Elaine Lewis, our cheerful P.B.X. Operator, left the Service to be married to Mr. Cecil Rumball, Fireman in the Vancouver Fire Department, on June 19. We wish both of them every happiness in their married life. Miss Doris Hutchison, former Jr. Clerk, is now in a most capable manner filling the position vacated by Miss Lewis.

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The Vancouver Staff was sincerely sorry to hear of the accident of Miss Jenny Stobbart, our senior billing machine operator, from which she suffered a knee fracture. We are happy, however, that she is rapidly recovering and hope to see her back with us in the very near future.

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We say goodbye to Mrs. Colleen Mortell, who has been with us for the past year as billing machine operator and who is now leaving the Service in order that she and her husband may make their home in Alberta.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICT--(Cont'd.)

We of the Vancouver Forest District are proud of our men who so gallantly went forth, after working hours, to help stem the mighty Fraser as it threatened to overflow its banks during the recent flood disaster. They may have turned up grumpy and sleepy the next morning but, just as we all love "Grumpy and Sleepy" of the Seven Dwarfs, we graciously accepted their dispositions. Four of the doughty dyke fighters are forced to admit that their efforts were prompted partly by a desire to insure their comfort at some future date. After all--they did work on the dykes at Essondale.

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It looks like for once the tables were turned and the "Love Bird" swallowed the Raven, for our fine feathered gal is wearing a shiner, and it's not on her eye. Miss Raven Amos became engaged to Mr. T. S. "Kit" Scott on May 21 and thus another career girl is lost to the business world.

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Why?

Mr. Larry Cuthbertson, one of our few eligible batchelors, has been busily redeccorating his apartment and has received many offers of help from the gals. Could it be with an eye to the future, ladies?

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Bob Murray Retires

Bob Murray, Supervisor in the Vancouver District was honored on the occasion of his retirement from the Service by a luncheon held at the Stanley Park Pavilion on July 2, and attended by fifty members of the Service and other friends.

Bob joined the Service twenty-eight years ago as Assistant Ranger at Squamish. Since that time he has been stationed at Pender Harbor, Victoria, Duncan, and was supervisor of Vancouver Island with his headquarters at Nanaimo for some time. In recent years, Bob has been supervising from the Head Office of the District in the Marine Building.

Mr. Murray came to Canada from his native Scotland in 1910 and during the First Great War served Overseas with the 29th Battalion

At the very successful luncheon, Mr. R. C. St. Clair, Assistant Chief Forester, presented Bob with an embossed travelling bag on behalf of his many friends in the Service.

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FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

We welcome to this District, Miss Esther Bernhardt, who recently replaced Miss Holt as our file clerk when the latter left the service to be married. While on this subject, we note that an Operations stenographer is closely guarding a "sparkler" and, if we remember correctly, the Operations Office

appeared brighter when last visited. As we seem to be in a welcoming mood, we would like to include Miss Mary Bondar who will be with Operations for the summer months and also, all those in the Fort George District who are taking part in the summer field work. Our fire situation this year is truly showing their worth.

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MARRIAGE FOR BILL McCABE!

Although we are as yet without statistical details as to time and place, we are keen to report the coming marriage of Ranger Bill McCabe. Our very warmest congratulations to you Bill and our best wishes for happiness to you both.

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BACK ON THE JOB.

We are glad to report that both our "casualties," Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Middlemiss, have returned from their respective bouts in hospital and are back on the job again. Both are looking well and when your special Newsletter correspondent interviewed Mr. Robinson recently, the only reply he was permitted to quote was, "Look--no tonsils."

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Mr. St. Clair making presentation to Bob Murray.

NEWSLETTER

FORT GEORGE DISTRICT--(Cont'd.)

ATTENTION: JOHN COLLINS.

At time of writing, the Prince George Office is exerting every effort to form a softball team and already a practice has been called. This should be of special interest to John Collins, who came through in a pinch for us last year. We trust that we will be well organized in the near future and hope that John will have his pitching arm well oiled in case he makes an appearance here this year and we again need to call on him.

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A "297," which we received in the mail the other day from one of the Northern Rangers, is set forth below, and we quote:

"Wood you pleese send me a dickshunery? i have nun hear. i knead it two look up the speling an the meaning of sum werds that i am not shoor of. My corespondence tel me i shood hav wun."

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Finally, we take the liberty of recalling an excerpt from a Patrolman's diary:

A.M. "Taking car out of the Forest Service Garage."

P.M. "Took car to garage for repairs."
"Spent balance of afternoon repairing garage doors."

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THE EXODUS

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, great changes have been witnessed in the locations of various Victoria Offices. A goodly portion of the month of June was spent in moving the Operations, Public Relations, Reforestation, and Parks Divisions from their former locations, in either the Parliament Buildings or Campbell Building, into a new "temporary" building situated at 557 Superior Street, directly behind the main Buildings.

For the information of those who still don't know who is where, we present the following directory:

<u>Operations</u>	- Room 237	- GENERAL OFFICE (Stringer, Donahy)
	231-2	- Forester i/c and Ass't. Forester (Bassett, McKee)
	228	- Fire Research and Planning (Johnston, Owen, Lucas)
	234-5	- Mechanical & Structural Engineers (Spouse, Crowe, Taylor)
	230	- Draughting Room (Gower)
	233	- Chief Radio Engineer (Playfair)
<u>Reforestation</u>	- Room 221	- GENERAL OFFICE (Bamford, Whiting, Wharf)
	220	- Forester i/c (McWilliams)
<u>Public Relations & Education</u>	- Room 225	- GENERAL OFFICE
	223	- Forester i/c (Druce)
	224	- P.R.O.'s (Monk, Johnson)
	218	- Library (Miss Hughes)
<u>Parks</u>	- Room 227	- GENERAL OFFICE
	226	- Forester i/c (Oldham)
	230	- Ass't. Foresters (Lyons, Trew)

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HATCHED AND MATCHED

Henderson--To Elliot, of the Scaling Division, Vancouver, and Nell Henderson, a DAUGHTER, Susan Gertrude, on June 12, 1948, at the Vancouver General Hospital.

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Pendray--To "Wilf," of the Grazing Staff, Kamloops, and Mrs. Pendray, a SON, John Charles, on Sunday, July 11, 1948, at Kamloops.

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On June 14, 1948, Robin (Bob) Long, of the Accounts Division, Victoria, and Miss Agnes Richards were married at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Long visited the Mainland on their honeymoon and will reside in Victoria.

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NEWSLETTER

THE WELCOME MAT

The well-worn old rug is hurriedly extended once more to welcome John Moore, F. C. Betts, Foster Ambery and Ernie Charlton to our Accounts Division; Maurice Foord, to Operations; Doug Chorlton, to Radio; Seymour Park, Tom Rhodes and Audrey Gray, to Parks; and Isabel Chisholm and Tegid Jones to Public Relations.

The Newsletter hopes you will all enjoy your work with the Service and we just cannot resist pointing out that Seymour Park, over whom the Parks Division have expended much sweat and tears has finally moved right into the office! Vancouver Board of Trade please note!

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Softball

The Forest Service is doing its bit towards making the big Civil Service Softball League a success. Although neither of our teams seem to be in the first division, they are, nevertheless, amongst the more sincere teams in the league..

Men's Section "A" (as of June 23)

	P.	W.	L.	Pct.
King's Printers	3	3	0	1.000
Liquor Con. Reds	1	1	0	1.000
Health & Welfare	3	2	1	.667
FOREST SERVICE	2	1	1	.500
Finance	2	0	2	.000
Education	1	0	1	.000

Ladies (as of July 9)

Vital Stats..	5	4	1	.800
Education	5	4	1	.800
Lands	3	2	1	.667
Motor Vehicle "B"	4	2	2	.500
Pub. Works	3	1	2	.333
FOREST SERVICE	4	1	3	.250
Motor Vehicle "A"	5	0	5	.000

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PLIMBER INDEED!

The British are building their homes out of a new material called "plimber" the name of which is derived by eliding the words "plastic timber," which is what it is. Meanwhile most of the houses in this country are being built nowadays of a new material called "grumber."

"Grumber," an elision of the words "green lumber," achieves some novel effects in doors and windows that won't open when they are closed, or close if they are open. Another remarkable innovation is the "dwuprint" or housing blueprint for dwarfs for whom most of the present day residences seem to be going up.

The shining new achievement, however, is the financing plan known as "mortuptcy," which combines the principal features of the mortgage with the principal features of Bankruptcy. American inventive genius marches on!

(Excerpt from Weekly Letter of the
Western Lumber Manufacturers' Assoc.)

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Aint it the Truth!

Gordon Abernethy, of the Victoria Management Office, submits the following as a reasonable summing up of things in general:

Businessmen complain of the pusillanimity, plausibility, prevarication, perversity, and pettifogging philandering of the civil servants concerning problems which are crying out for pertinacious pugnacity, perseverance, push, and performance in pursuit. (Ranger School grads please study.)

Now that you mention it Gordon, we can see what you mean.

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NEWSLETTER

THE FLOODS

The old saying that a pessimist is a person who at some time was the business partner of an optimist, may be true. However, during the recent floods there was little sign of either. Everyone in the stricken areas was too busy as they worked with a calm determination.

Under competent naval and military control, the evacuation of the flooded areas was carried out without loss of human life. Forest Service personnel helped wherever possible and some of our launches were put to useful flood duty.

The dykes in many cases behaved not unlike our fire guards. Often the weaker defences held while the larger and more spectacular proved to be the weak points. An example of this was the strong railroad grade fill that formed the main Hatzic dyke. This broke, causing heavy, unexpected loss to the farmers in the vicinity. On the one side was the fertile Hatzic prairie with its endless rows of berries, farm crops, and neat houses, many of them built only a few months ago. On the other side of the dyke, the swirling Fraser raced by, at least 20 feet above the level of the low land. In less than an hour the 300 foot-wide dyke break had widened to approximately 1000 feet, as the wall of water swept through. Railroad rails twisted like haywire and houses, trees, and dead cattle churned over in the deluge that swept inland, tearing houses from their foundations and smashing down large barns. Within a few hours the whole area was flooded with only the roof-tops protruding above the water.

This same situation was general throughout the lower Fraser Valley, where we were lucky enough to have no serious fire outbreaks on the tinder-dry, isolated, mountains.



The break in the main Hatzic railroad-grade dyke is shown in left centre of this picture.



What happens when a dyke breaks is typified by the condition of this new home shown above.



We haven't got much room left, but it just happens to be enough to permit the Newsletter to publish the two photographs shown above. On the left is the float entered in the Dominion Day Celebrations at Duncan. This very effective display was prepared by Ranger Percy Sweatman and Jack Long, Superintendent of the Duncan Nursery, with the assistance of the Public Relations Division who supplied the banners.

On the right is a photograph of a revised edition of the Protection Exhibit, circulated through some of the Fall Fairs in the Nelson District last year, as it appeared at the May 24th Celebrations held at New Denver. Ranger Ray Tippie, who borrowed the exhibit from P. R. & E. for the occasion, reported that "it is surprising how few people realized the extent of Lookout coverage in this and adjoining Districts."

