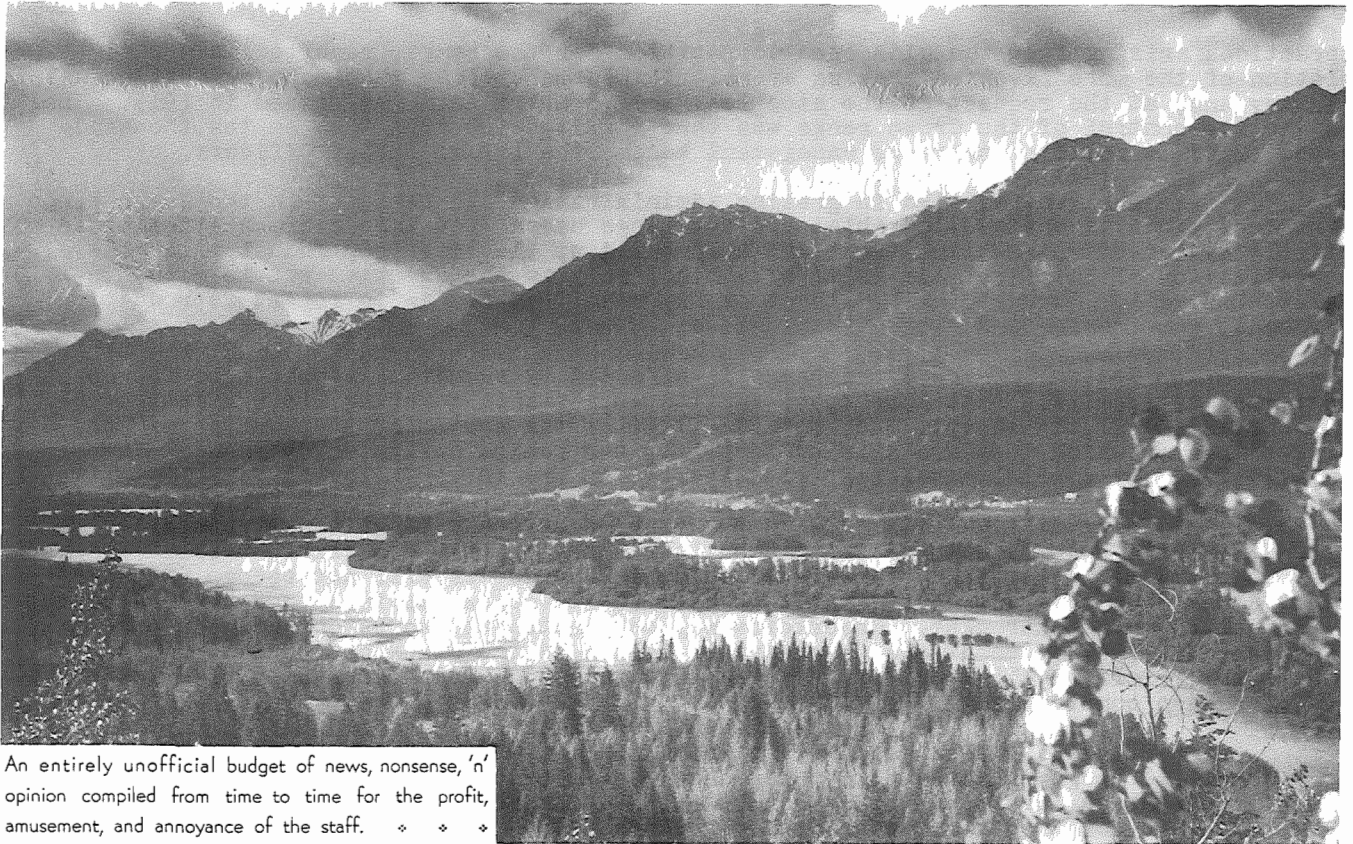


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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

NO. 109

VICTORIA, B.C.

AUGUST 1952.

GRAZING

By W.C. Pendray
Forest Agrologist.

Ever since man first tamed animals, he has been faced with the problem of finding sufficient feed for his stock. Range and pasture forage is the chief source of this feed and, in general, our ability to produce livestock is dependent upon our ability to find or produce grass. In this connection, it is interesting to note that in Canada each of us eats, in the form of meat and dairy products, five tons of green grass each year. A little simple arithmetic reveals that our total annual grass requirements can only be expressed in near-astronomical figures. Further, our net population increase runs around five hundred people per day. This means that each day our annual grass requirement increases by twenty-five hundred tons.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with the Forest Service. Well, to start with, it is a fact that, in order to meet our tremendous grass requirements, we must not only develop cultivated pastures wherever suitable land is available, but we must also utilize, to best advantage, the natural forage-values which exist on lands not suitable for cultivation. In the Interior of British Columbia, we have approximately 19 million acres of such land. Of this, only 2½ million acres are open grassland, most of which is in private ownership. One million acres is alpine and sub-alpine range and on the remaining 15½ million acres, grazing values are found under open park-like stands of yellow pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and aspen. All of the alpine range and most of the forest range is Crown land. Thus, on most of the Crown range in this Province, grazing is only one of several forms of forest land use, all of which must be closely integrated if conflict is to be avoided. The management of the Crown range is, therefore, quite a natural function for the Forest Service and Section 5 of the "Forest Act" so places the responsibility for administering the "Grazing Act" and regulations under which the use of Crown range is controlled.

At this point, you may be interested in a brief history of the range livestock industry in British Columbia. It started as a result of the gold rush on the Fraser River in 1858. Hungry miners demanded meat and enterprising stockmen already settled South of the International Boundary, were prepared to meet this demand. The first cattle were moved up the Pacific coast from Oregon to Forts Langley and Yale. Shortly thereafter, drives of cattle began to move from Oregon and Washington into the Cariboo via the Okanagan trail, Kamloops, and Cache Creek.

In the early days, stock was grazed on the open grasslands only. An abundant supply of bunchgrass made possible year-'round grazing. Winter losses were often heavy under this system but these could be afforded in view of the negligible overhead and relatively low value of the stock.

As the demand for beef grew, the herds increased and the range became crowded. The most valuable grassland went into private ownership and the stockmen developed hay land on which to produce winter feed for their animals. The lower producing grasslands and the short-season forest ranges remained as Crown land. Competition for grass on the Crown range became strenuous. Although considerable heat was often generated in range disputes, the colourful and often bloody range wars which occurred in other parts of the continent were avoided by dint of much self-restraint and an effective police force.

Overgrazing, uneven distribution of stock, too early turn-out, and other

Grazing (continued)

malpractices arising from the wide open competition for the range, resulted in marked depletion of the more favoured grazing areas. It became obvious that some regulation was necessary and, at the request of the stockmen, the "Grazing Act" was passed in 1919. The first active control of the Crown range was thus instituted. From then on the thousand-and-one problems relating to range management became the lot of Forest Officers.

Our general aims in grazing administration are to maintain the Crown range in the most productive state possible; protect range users from unfair competition by an equitable system of range-allocation; and help build up the livestock industry in general. The realization of the first aim is important not only to the stockman but to many other interests as well. Overgrazing by livestock may result in damage to forest reproduction, watersheds, game range, and recreational values.

Control of the Crown range is effected by requiring stockmen to secure annual grazing permits. Last year 1,561 permits were issued covering 115,471 cattle, 4,401 horses and 27,185 sheep. Each permit specifies the number of stock which may be run, the area on which they are allowed to graze, the period during which grazing is permitted, and any special management practices which are to be followed.

Many difficulties have to be overcome before a range can be properly utilized. Trails must be cut and bridges built to open up less accessible areas. Dangerous bog holes are fenced or rendered safe, so that stock will not become mired and drawn. Stock must have adequate water and where it is scarce, springs must be cleaned out and the water piped to troughs. Reservoirs may be constructed to catch and hold the spring run-off. Drift fences are necessary to help hold the stock on the desired areas. The Forest Service and the ranchers share in this work and many hundreds of such improvements have been constructed.

Most of our ranges have, at some time or another, been badly infested with wild horses. Although many romantic tales have been written about these animals, they are mostly worthless scrubs which destroy large quantities of forage required by valuable stock. They are nothing but a headache for both the stockman and the Forest Service and constant war is waged against them. Many thousands have been destroyed since the start of grazing control as a part of our range-improvement programme.

Although considerable areas of forest range remain unused, for a number of reasons it is doubtful whether it will ever be practical to graze a very much larger area than is now used. Any increase in range livestock production will, therefore, depend largely on the intelligent management and improvement of the range already in use. The Forest Service, in co-operation with research agencies and stockmen, is, therefore, investigating the possibilities of more advanced or positive forms of range improvement such as seeding burned and logged-over areas, wild meadow improvement, and the control of undesirable range weeds and brush.

As in all other forms of resource management, an accurate inventory of the range is essential. Range survey crews are working on this job each summer. From the maps and information compiled, better range management and improvement plans are worked out in co-operation with the ranchers concerned. In working out these management plans, many phases of the stock business must be considered in addition to the requirements of the range itself. Branding, breeding, lambing, immunization practices, and a host of other operations carried out on the modern ranch require special range conditions.

By now it will be obvious to the reader that, if the complexities of range and livestock management are to be solved to the benefit of all, there must be close co-operation between the Forest Service and the stockmen. This is accomplished through range livestock associations which are consulted in all matters relating to the use of their ranges. Much midnight oil is burned by Forest Officers and these associations in an effort to resolve range problems and the progress that has been made is a credit to both the Service and the stockmen. Much remains to be done, however, if the drives of beef and lambs which converge on the shipping points throughout the Cariboo, Kamloops, Nicola, and other range areas of the Interior are to keep pace with our growing demand for meat.

::: ::: :::

MALAKWA

Log cabin schools can still be found operating in B.C. In all their quaintness and historically primitive structure, the seeker will come upon them in the Cariboo, North Thompson, and Prince George areas, with surprising frequency.



Malakwa (continued)

Dig a little harder and even the North Okanagan yields a typical specimen, like the one illustrated. This is the original Elementary School at Malakwa, just off the Trans-Canada Highway, between Sicamous and Revelstoke. It was visited last June by Rex Mills, one of Public Relations' school lecturers. The Principal, Mrs. B.C. Sederberg, provided the pictures while Miss Elizabeth Owen, also of Malakwa, and niece of the beloved Rev. C.C. Owen, of Vancouver, contributed most interesting facts on its early history.

Built of jack pine logs, in 1906, its original 30-odd children were supplied with double desks. These were easily moved, and the walls vibrated with the music and joviality of all local parties until 1914, when a community hall was erected. It has also served as a home in times of shortage, and moreover provided 34 "log cabin" students to the armed services in World War II. Three generations of buildings are on the grounds. A separate one-room frame school, some 30 years old, adjoins it, while a modern wing is now under construction. Incidentally, John Mizon, a Forest Ranger for many years, was one of the builders, and his descendants still live in the valley.

::: ::: ::: :::

BIG LEAGUE MATERIAL

The Newsletter received a breathless phone-call recently from Dick Spilsbury, Forester-in-Charge of Research. Dick proudly reported the results of a mammoth struggle that took place recently between the Aleza Lake Boy's Camp Ball Team and the Village of Aleza Lake.

The result? A smashing victory on the part of the Boy's Camp to the tune of 54 to 8! It was assumed that thanks to Daylight Saving Time the game was not called on account of darkness. From what we can learn, Hank Sorenson is coach of the Boy's team and gets the credit for engineering this classic victory.

::: ::: ::: :::

THE CASE OF THE FOOT-ACCELERATOR.

Maurice Foord of the Mechanical Section has brought to the Newsletter's attention a most interesting and now amusing bit of correspondence during the year 1921 between Jim Blake, J.G. Macdonald, Alan Parlow, Norman Moore, and L.R. Andrews. The subject matter -- to use or not to use foot-accelerators on the Service vehicles most of which were, of course, Model T Fords.

On May 21, 1921, Jim Blake dispatched a memo to Operation in Victoria pointing out that he had found "extra attachments" on certain Service vehicles. Jim goes on to say that a foot-accelerator is not only unnecessary but may be a source of serious accident. He points out that Charlie Cowan, O/C Operation agreed with him.

Alan Parlow, then D.F. at Vernon, fired off a letter to Operation on June 2 saying that he had been advised by Mr. Blake that foot-accelerators "are neither desirable nor safe" and that they should be removed forthwith. He asked if Ranger Thomas of Princeton will have to remove the 1-4 gear from his car as Thomas had put this on himself at no cost to the Branch and that it appears to greatly improve the power of the vehicle. Alan wanted to know if this gear "is also included in the prohibition".

By this time J.G. Macdonald had got sufficiently steamed up over this accelerator business to bang out a letter to L.R. Andrews, the D.F. Vancouver, stating that "personally, I am in favour of foot-accelerators". He felt they were safer than the hand throttle as they automatically shut off when the foot is removed, whereas the hand throttle is fixed.

With some justification Macdonald points out that a man only has two feet anyway and even though there are three foot pedals to work he couldn't "see how he can use all three at once", with only two feet. He goes on to hint strongly that he will continue to use a foot throttle on his vehicle anyway!

To J.G.'s assistance came Norman Moore, D.F. Cranbrook, who, on June 10, advised the Chief Forester that "my own view of the matter is that every car should be equipped with a foot feed". Mr. Moore felt that "it is unreasonable to suppose that any man is going to use three foot leversat the same time". Another good lesson in biology.

There the matter seems to have rested -- apparently on a foot-accelerator. What the final outcome was the files don't appear to indicate. The moral could be that hind-sight is remarkably easy particularly when it may be suggested that foot-accelerators, like talking pictures, seem to be here to stay.

::: ::: ::: :::

THE WINNAH!!

Our envious congratulations go to Mrs. G.G. English, wife of Gordie English of the Radio Section in Victoria, on her winning of \$1,010.00 by correctly naming the "Famous Canadian" referred to on a commercial radio station "give-away" programme. July 15 was the lucky day and William George Barker the Famous Canadian.

How about a small loan, Gordie? Or didn't you get any of it.

::: ::: ::: :::

NEWSLETTER

4.

A GOOD JOB.

The Forest Service has always been fortunate in having in its ranks those who could be classed as "grand old men". They weren't always old and, as a matter of fact, object strongly to the use of the adjective when it refers to themselves. However, they have been with the Service for so long and devoted so much of their lives to so many different types of jobs with the Service that the more youthful elements now dominating our ranks tend to consider them as patriarchs.

This group of "wise men" has rapidly diminished since 1946, but there are still a few numbered amongst the active strength of the Service and one of these is Charles (Charlie) Earl Southworth, Camp Foreman of the Lawson Lake Reforestation Camp. Charlie has more "firsts" and "mosts" in his record with the planting operations than anyone else with the possible exception of the McWilliams-Bamford-Whiting Triumverate who run the whole reforestation show.



Charlie figures that up until April of this year he has supervised the planting of 10,607, 850 seedlings, felled 187,270 snags over an area of 22,941 acres, and built over 90 miles of road. All this has taken a long time and yet it is only the latter part of Charlie's career with the Service.

Charles Southworth was born in Cumberland, Wisconsin, but completed his schooling in Ontario. After leaving the halls of learning, Charlie tried his hand as an equipment salesman and was one of the last to try to sell the old General Motors' "Baby Grand" automobile immediately subsequent to World War I. When sales resistance to Baby Grands became too tough, Charlie landed in B.C., in 1922, and did a bit of timber cruising around Harrison Lake, was a setter with various logging concerns, and in 1934 got a job with the Service as a Patrolman at Skagit River.

From thenceforth, Charlie was everything from a Sub-Foreman with the old Y.M.F.T.P. to an Assistant Ranger at Port Hardy and a Camp Foreman on the earliest A.S.W. reforestation projects. Once he

hit the reforestation business he was in it to stay.

"This is a rewarding type of work," says Charlie. "It is really wonderful to see the results of all our labours in those days coming to something now. You get a feeling that when you're one you've left something real and worthwhile for the future".

We think Charlie is right. He has helped and will continue to help in a big job in which the whole Service can take pride.

*** **

DAWN JOSEPHS -- WE'RE PROUD OF YOU!

In the past the Service has been known to shelter in its ranks some pretty famous people. However, not many of them were both pretty and famous. We now have an outstanding contender for this double-barrelled achievement -- Miss Dawn Josephs, Junior Draughtsman in "Gil" Gilchrist's Management Draughting office in Victoria.



It isn't so much Dawn's draughting that has made her famous but rather the fact that she was a member of the Canadian Olympic Track and Field Team which recently competed at Helsinki, Finland, and was one of the few Canadians to qualify into the final rounds. Dawn's qualifying broad jump was 17 feet 6.23 inches, which seems to us like an awfully long way to jump either up, down, or horizontal!

Along with the rest of Canada, we congratulate you Dawn, and hope you will forgive us if we appear to take a little special pride in your achievements.

*** **

HATCHED

LYONS - To Chester, of Parks and Recreation, and Sylvia Lyons, a DAUGHTER, Susan Jean, on July 31, 1952, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Victoria.

*** **

CROWE - To A.B. (Bert), of Engineering Services, and Rossalea Crowe, a DAUGHTER, Pamela Louise, on July 29, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria.

*** **

MATCHED.

On the afternoon of Saturday, August 9, 1952, John E. Foxgord of Forest Accounts in Victoria and Miss Norma MacMillan of Trail, B.C., were married at the Knox United Church in the latter city.

After a honeymoon at San Francisco, the Foxgords will return to Victoria to live.

At 5 P.M. on August 6, Dr. C.D. Orchard, Deputy Minister and Chief Forester presented John with two Kenwood blankets on behalf of his many friends in the Service and expressed their sincere wishes that John and Norma will enjoy a long and happy life together.

*** **

PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICTGood Luck Marc.

The evening of June 27 in the Wardroom of H.M.C.S. Chatham, the Forest Service staff in Prince Rupert bid farewell to Marc Gormely and family. The celebration was a surprise, but only because Marc had not read the evening paper, as it had a large splash telling of the farewell party to be held. The new D.F., Percy Young, helpfully reorganized his trip through the District to arrive Friday afternoon and not Saturday in order to attend the party.

The Gormely's were out for dinner that evening and when they returned to their home, presumably to get ready to go to a show, they were confronted with the "mail up" group from the office with their wives -- and so it began!

Pat Gormely was presented with a corsage of yellow roses, and after a toast to the future good fortune for Pat and Marc, the group went to the Wardroom where the remainder of the staff were congregated -- elbows already bent. Good music, good company, and well-oiled elbows were the equipment for a very fine show. Bev. Boulton engineered the works, while Carl Smith, Tom Ashcroft, and other individuals kept it oiled. Bertha Boulton, Olive Antilla, Ella Bruce, Bea MacDonald, Eric Rivett, Mabel Bancroft, Marg. Smith served the delicious fuel. Everything made for smooth sailing, if you can call a hilarious evening smooth.



"That's a Good One!"

L-R. Mabel Bancroft, Margaret Smith, Bertha Boulton
and Ella Bruce

Prince Rupert District (continued)

Anne Dumas copped a prize for the elimination dance and Rita Starr's private boss' legs caught the ladies' eyes so he won first prize in the male legs contest, 'tho Carl Smith was sure he'd won. Other games and who won are too hazy to recollect. John Bruce got the evidence in black and white -- a few samples are shown.

The big presentation came after the buffet supper. The camera, pen desk set with engraved plaque in the shape of a fir tree and the very long list of particularly interested well-wishers had Marc speechless for a moment, but he soon got his breath and expressed his sincere thanks for the comradeship shown and co-operation given during his stay in the Prince Rupert District, and in the Service, which were so nicely indicated in the form of the party and tokens.



Marc Lost His Breath

L-R. Pat Gormely, Marc (himself), Mrs. C.L. Botham, The Ike Martins, and Hugh Bancroft (complete with cup of tea)

The following was sent in by Marc to convey to all his personal feelings:

3525 W. 4th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.,
July 18th, 1952.

To the staff of the Prince Rupert Forest District and to my many friends in the Forest Service.

Please accept my very best thanks for your very kind presentation of an engraved desk set and a very fine Ensign Selfix Camera on the occasion of my recent resignation from the Service.

I shall treasure these items for the memories of your friendships and goodwill, and I wish you all the very best of good fortune in the years to come.

With kindest regards from Pat and

Yours sincerely,

"Marc Gormely"

On Monday evening, June 30th, a party was given at the home of Bertha Boulton for Pat Gormely by the ladies. We have no idea what went on, but from all reports, it was most successful.

::: ::: :::

Our Welcome to Percy Young.

The Prince Rupert Forest District, which is not used to changes, has experienced an earthquake this year. Percy Young is welcomed as our new guiding master and with his knowledge of Victoria, the District should benefit manifold.

::: ::: :::

Prince Rupert District (continued)Staff Changes.

From the Personnel Directory you may have noticed that Marvin Kullander is no longer Assistant District Forester, but up to his neck in fires as a Ranger on Babine Lake. Bev. Boulton has left his desk in the Management Office and is now at the Assistant D.F.'s desk in the Operation Office. Walter Leasing arrived from Victoria to look after Public Working Circles. Ed Hlady is party chief on the Headquarters Cruising Crew. Hugh Bancroft is back in Prince Rupert, from the Ocean Falls Ranger job, and is one in the shuffle of ten people using eight desks squeezed into the Operation Office. Thor Strimbold joined Herb Couling as Ranger Supervisor.

The Operation Office misses Olga Zabudney, who is away on two months sick leave. Mrs. Isobel Emerson (stenographer in Operation), Mrs. Joan Axford (Junior clerk Operation) and Miss Joan Larson (stenographer) are filling the gaps and handling the much-increased work-load.

In the main office Miss Joyce Strand (stenographer), Miss Pat Gurvich (stenographer Management), Miss Lydia Ponich (clerk typist, file and mail), Miss Margaret Mackney (clerk, ledger) have joined our ever-increasing staff.

::: :::

The latest news on additions and subtractions is:

Marriages:

Daryl J. Morris, Assistant Ranger of RD #9 in June.

Mrs. A.M. Bishop (nee Aussie Holkestad) in June.

Births:

D'Arcy, a SON, to Bob and Helene Corregan, July 3.

::: :::

NELSON DISTRICT

Looking back over the recent issues we find that the Nelson District has been unreported since the March edition.

The District Office has seen several changes in that period, for instance:

Weddings:

Helen Krystek became Mrs. Francis Doyle on May 31, and after a short Honeyday or Holimoon has resumed typing contracts, thank goodness!!!

Ignatia Lannigan has left for Steep Rock, Ontario, to take up a full-time job of housewife as Mrs. Ernie Grams.

Jerry Cone and Lucille LaPointe were married July 19, and Jerry, disbelieving the myth that two can live as cheaply as one, has left for greener (\$\$\$\$) pastures with the Shell Oil Co. in Calgary.

::: :::

Resignations:

Terry Whitelock, the Draughting office philosopher, has switched to the mythical Celgar Corporation.

Anita Stasyn, Operation steno, has returned to housewifery. Dorothy (Sparky) Sparkes has left the Service and is unreported.

::: :::

Transfers:

Ian Cameron and Harold Holmberg to Vancouver. The remaining two members of this curling rink are awaiting orders. Jack Payne back home to Nelson to take charge of Management, from Kamloops via Prince Rupert. Maurice Isenor from Cranbrook Ranger District to head office, Operation. Al Paulson from Kamloops to Nelson Grazing Division. Larry Parlow from Victoria to Nelson to set up our Public Working Circles. Assistant Rangers Verigin, Perrier, and Perdue back home from Prince Rupert and Prince George.

::: :::

Additions:

Rose Paulson from Kamloops Operation to Nelson Operation. June Holmberg, from school to Operation office. Kay McIntyre, to Operation office. Kay is a former Management steno. Peggy Porteous, a welcome addition to the Billing Department. Fred Sutherland, a recent addition to the growing ranks of the "FITs". Plus the following new Assistant Rangers: Jack Kennedy to Kettle Valley; Len Bertram to Cranbrook East; Owen Brown to Canal Flats; and Reg Hambling to Golden. Evelyn Linns and Barbara Perdue to take over our filing.

::: :::

Births:

To Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bishop, a SON, Paul, in March. FLASH!! Paul has just finished cutting his first tooth on Bill's compass.

::: :::

Nelson District (continued)

Ranger Meeting.

We had a very successful Ranger Meeting but this was way back in April and the only thing worth reporting at this date is that it wound up with a stag banquet followed by a very successful dance. This was our first dance and was so successful that it is sure to be repeated when next the boys gather together.

::: :::

Ranger District Items.

Fred Hesketh, the lord of Ranger District 17, has sent in the following poem submitted by Lookoutman Ray Monesmith of Casey Lookout:

KEEP THE FOREST GREEN.

The lookout sits in his watch tower
High on a mountain peak,
As he views the matchless splendour
No mortal tongue could speak.
He thinks of the teeming thousands
Who trample the plain below
And the careless use of fire
By the few who often know
Know of the awful danger
Of a camp fire left alone,
Of a cigarette cast burning
In a litter dry as bone;
But when they lift their faces
And behold the guarded peak
They reconsider their actions
And a safer practice seek,
For they know that the Forest Service
Is quick to discover the crime
And the heavy hand of the Mounted Police
Will reach them in due time.
Then Hail to the Forest Lookout
The friend of the Sylvan scene
And help him to raise this banner:
KEEP THE FOREST GREEN.

::: :::

VANCOUVER DISTRICT

HATCHED.

First off, we wish to extend our congratulations to Ranger and Mrs. Reaney on the arrival of an addition to their household. Jocelyn was born on March 8, at the West Coast General Hospital. As we gather that, in feminine circles, the weight is an important item, the baby girl weighed 8 lbs. 4 ozs. We are sorry Dick, that this thrilling news was overlooked in previous issues.

::: :::

MATCHED.

During the evening of July 5, Mr. Ray Ranta, Assistant Ranger stationed at Port Moody, and Miss Audrey Lybeck were married at St. Barnabas Anglican Church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Elstead. Congratulations, Ray, and our best wishes to you both.

::: :::

WELCOME.

This month the "Welcome Mat" is rolled out for Ann Penney, clerk-typist, and Barbara Petty, stenographer. Both girls are in our Accounts section, and we hope that they will enjoy their work with us.

We also hope that Miss Herdis Holkestad, from the Prince Rupert Office, who is spending a month with us while mastering the intricacies of a Burroughs Billing machine, is appreciating the fine weather. (No need for a raincoat in Vancouver, Herdis!)

::: :::

SO LONG.

On August 1, in the General Office, a large group of old friends and Forest Service associates gathered to say, "All the best and good luck", to Jack Fetherstonhaugh, Inspector of Licensed Scalpers, who retired from the Service after more than 29 years of employment. Jack intends to develop some property located in the Lower Fraser Valley, eventually catering to the Tourist Industry. We all hope this business venture will be a big success -- at least it will certainly keep Jack busy! Mr. Fetherstonhaugh was presented with a leather suitcase.

THE FINAL WORD FROM AN OLD WAR HORSE.

By J.A. Fetherstonhaugh

One cannot suddenly break off from an organization such as the British Columbia Forest Service after years of service without many feelings of regret. The work naturally becomes a very large part of one's life. The work is pleasant, (with the exception of the Ranger's job of fire-fighting), and the members of the Forest Service have built up an enviable record for their honesty, integrity, and co-operative spirit.

Vancouver District (continued)The Final Word from an Old War Horse. (continued)

The compensating factor in my own case is the new feeling of freedom, (especially on a morning when one wishes to sleep in for an extra hour) and the freedom to do some of the things that I have always wanted to do but could not because of the call of duty.

Looking back over the 29 years, I can see many changes, not only in the Department itself but also in the Timber Industries as a whole. In 1923, the Vancouver office was located in the Robson Street end of the Court House Building and had only a staff of about 10 inside workers, less than 30 scalers, and a mere handful of Rangers. Today it has an inside staff of approximately 100, occupying nearly the whole of the sixth floor of the Marine Building, and with basement offices of considerable size as well. Modern office equipment has been added which take the place of many more employees. The scaling staff now numbers about 80 members and the Ranger staff approximately 84. In addition there is the ranger school, forest nursery and a cruising staff, as well as the part-time employees -- suppression crews, patrolmen, tree-planters, and so forth.

In the early twenties there were still a few of the old skid road logging operations about, using horses, ground yarding donkey engines, or even the odd ox team. Most of the operations, however, were railroad shows, with some using ground-yarding equipment but most being changed over to high lead.

The original stands of timber have disappeared from many areas during those 29 years. In 1923, fine old-growth fir and cedar stands were being logged in the Capilano Valley, the Coquitlam watershed, and all along the slopes east to beyond Mission. Today the old-growth stands are pretty well confined to central Vancouver Island and Harrison Lake, with a few stands in less-accessible areas along the Coast. The hand loggers who operated all along the coast in 1923 have now almost entirely disappeared.

Over those years great advances have been made in protecting the forests from fire. Not so many years ago more timber was destroyed by fire than was logged each year, but today through cleaner logging, better organization, more up-to-date equipment, and larger staff, the hazard from fire has been reduced considerably. Reforestation, which was commenced not so many years ago, has aided considerably in reducing the forest fire hazard by keeping the landscape green and thereby retaining moisture. In many areas natural reproduction has been very rapid and today many stands of second growth are being logged.

When the high lead was first used, and until a few years ago, a scene of desolation and waste was left behind. There was little demand for the poorer grades and it was not profitable to log the smaller timber. Hemlock was wanted only for pulp or box lumber. Today almost everything on the ground is used. Small portable mills follow up the logging in many cases and cut everything suitable for manufacture into lumber; the balance is then recovered for pulp either in cordwood form or as short logs. Even the hardwoods are now used in many areas for the manufacture of furniture or as pulp.

In the manufacturing end too, great advances have been made. More accurate and up-to-date machinery is being used in the mills so that lumber can be sawn to exact sizes instead of the oversizes that used to be necessary. Slabs which were sent to the burner are now recovered for pulp, lath, and handles. Since the advent of the sawdust burner, most of the sawdust is used for heating and, in one instance at one of the shingle mills, even cedar sawdust is being made into "presto logs" for fuel. In many of the shingle mills even the spalts are being manufactured into fish net floats and cores for reels of paper. In the pulp mills, too, wood alcohol and a considerable amount of pulp which was lost in the washing process is now being recovered.

If the present trend continues, it looks as though, ere long, the forester's dream of complete recovery in the woods and 100 per cent utilization in the manufacturing plants may be realized. Then the fire hazard would be cut to a minimum and loss due to insect activity would be considerably reduced.

... ..

WE REDISCOVER MT. SEYMOUR PARK.

Several members of the Parks Division have been working in our District lately, and your correspondent was both surprised and pleased to receive the following unsolicited contribution from one of the boys.

"Well, what have the Parks boys been doing this week?" Frank Williams asked us yesterday as we came into the Marine Building. There was possibly just a trace of irony in the question or maybe we were simply over-sensitive. Anyway, we gave him both barrels. No, we had not been swimming, fishing or personally testing the recreational attractions in any idyllic setting. We had just finished three miserable, disappointing days.

Our job had been to reconnoitre the possibility of a trail system through the back country of Mount Seymour Park. The Park encompasses a wildly-rugged area between the Indian Arm and Seymour Creek. The peaks rise to almost 5,000 feet and there are rocky ridges, thickly-timbered slopes, and small mountain lakes. If you are in tip-top physical condition and you have mountaineering blood in your veins -- and the sun shines from a blue, bluesky -- then this is God's country! Now we of the Parks Division had those personal prerequisites, but unfortunately Nature did not co-operate. To be precise, it rained!

On the way in we were nicely deceived. The mist which had shrouded the mountains lifted as we crossed the Second Pump Peak, and the sun shone brightly.

10.

Vancouver District (continued)

We Rediscover Mt. Seymour Park (continued)

We crossed a great big basin still full of winter snow, (this in mid-July) fought our way along bushy sidehills, up and down ridges and, just as darkness came, reached the Vicor or Bishop Lakes where we camped.

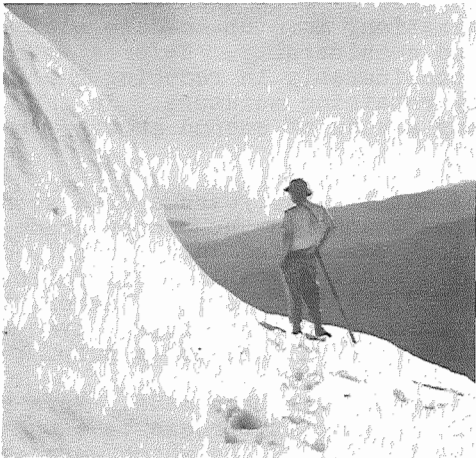
So far we had found what we considered to be a practical route for the skyline part of our proposed trail. From our Bishop Lakes camp we hoped to head back by a valley route so that our final trail location would allow a circle trip through the park.

It was a muddy sunset that night and the stars which followed had a watery look. In the morning the rain was coming down hard. Under our fly was the only dry place and after cooking breakfast in the downpour we repaired again to our sleeping bags. That afternoon the rain continued but towards evening it ceased. The following morning there was again that familiar drumming of the rain drops on the fly. A thick mist swirled around us.

By 2:00 P.M. we broke camp as we knew we were licked. We had figured on a short trip with light packs and we had only 3 days food supply. After a day and a half of wasted time, there was nothing left for us to do except to go back. The second leg of the trip would have to be done another time.

In rain and fog for 6 hours we battled our way through water-soaked brush, up long, tiring, steep slopes and down through jungly scrub timber. Finally back at the Administration Building Ole and Kay Johansen were ministering angels to us.

Ah, to be in Parks Division -- what a life!



Summer snow on Mt. Seymour.
Looking towards Lions Gate
& English Bay. Dusty Rhodes
in foreground.



2nd Pump Peak.
Dusty Rhodes in
foreground.

... ..

THE MASTHEAD STORY

The Masthead on this issue shows the Columbia Valley south of Golden. This photograph was taken by Assistant Ranger Ron Webster of Deer Park and submitted for the use of the Newsletter.

... ..

