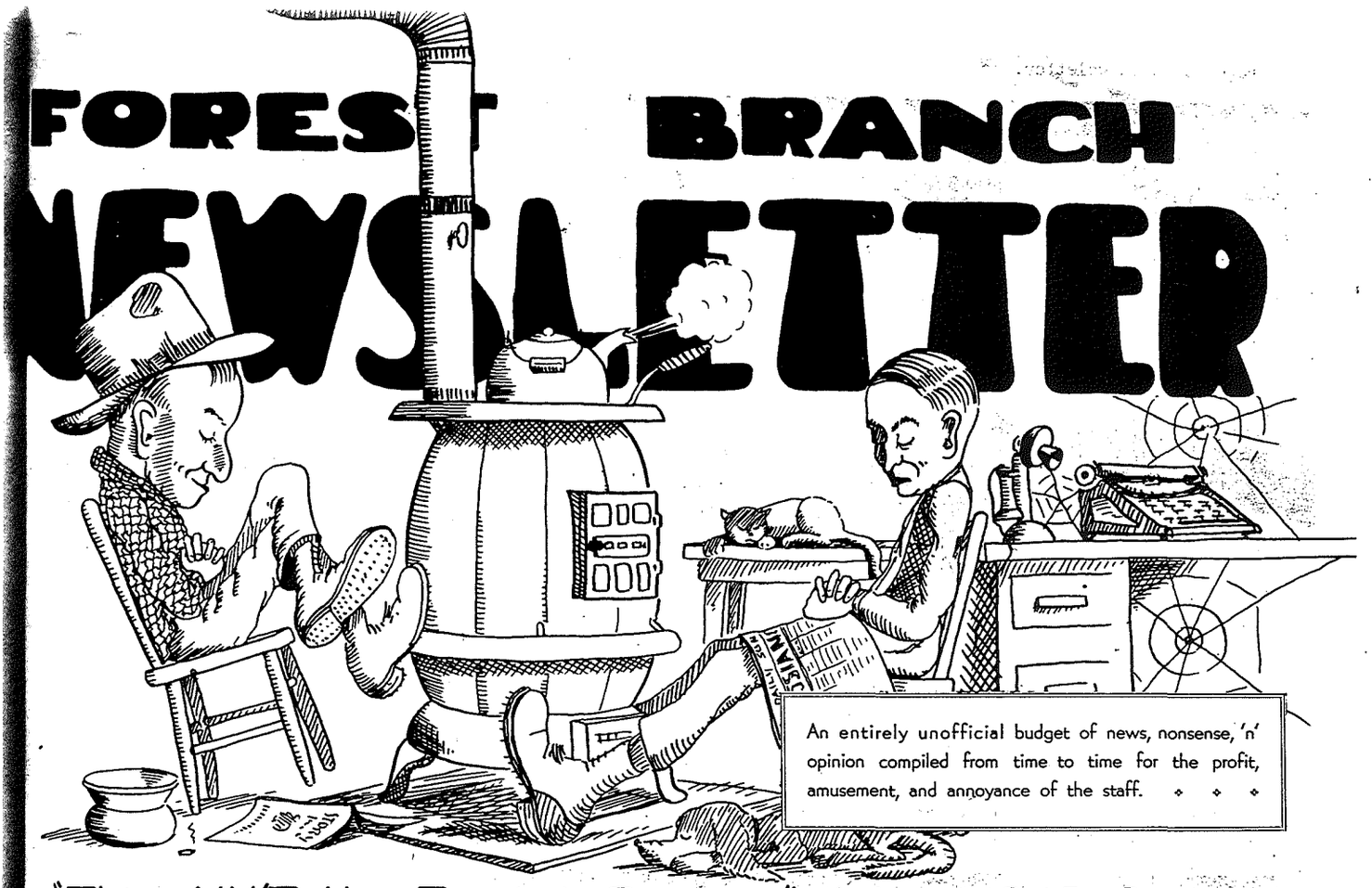
FOREST BRANCH NEWSLETTER



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

"This AIN'T the Forest Service"—Apologies to Sat.Eve.Post.

NO. 51. VICTORIA, B. C., December 15, 1943. 08581.

The cartoon heading on the last Newsletter showing the "Fire Season" foiled again, has worked out to a very satisfactory "foil." The figures are given elsewhere and indicate a nice saving to the Forest Protection Fund. Now "they" are all asking what we are going to do to put in the winter. The answer to that, of course, can never be given the way we would like, so we lean back in the old office chair to count a hundred and size up the situation.

With so many men in the Armed Forces, with the addition of slash and snag disposal reports on the Coast, with Timber Sales applied for in ever-increasing numbers, with A. S. W. Camps taking the time of administration officers and many other calls on everyone's time, we must pause every once in a while to plan and, mind wandering to times of less stress, recall those ancient days when fourteen sales constituted the total business in that branch for the year. That was in 1912 when the Forest Service was just getting under way and the Chief was wondering how to speed up procedure. In 1914, sales had jumped to seventy-one, including ten pulp sales. The Vernon District that year made two sales where, in the same area, in 1942 there were one hundred and fifty sales consummated.

To some of us old-timers these bring reminiscences of the puzzlement and stress over procedures still shaping up with no manuals to guide and bedevil us. As we look back, we see the early District Foresters frequently embodying the office boy, stenographer and Chief Clerk in their own person, to say nothing of cruiser, ranger and horse wrangler.

The other day we ran onto the photograph shown below of the Vernon District staff in the two-sale year as quoted previously. None of these men are now with us, although Arthur Holmes frequently visits the Vernon office and is still much in demand as fire foreman.

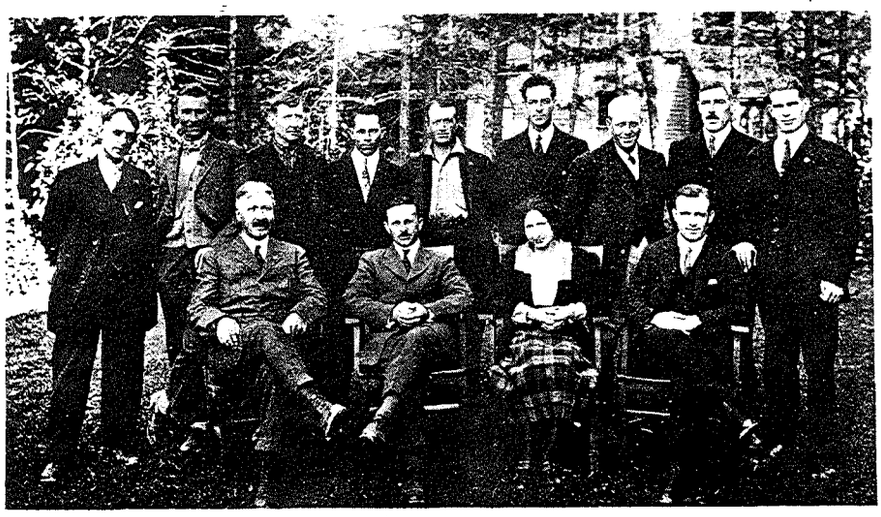
Vernon District Staff, 1914.

Top Row.	W. Haynes,	R. Hazelhurst,	G. Allison,	A. O. Holmes.
Middle Row.	F. Sutherland, F. B. Edwards,	M. V. Allen, W. L. Lowe.	L. R. Andrews,	H. H. Thomas,
Bottom Row.	F. Warner, E. Nash.	M. H. Bailey,	J. Keech,	R. J. Hogg,

Jack McCluskey joined the staff very shortly after this picture was taken and George Melrose was attached to the Vernon office in the fall of 1914. Shortly after the last war, Alan Parlow took over the Vernon District and the staff grew to the proportions shown in our second photo, with all the dignity and prestige lent by a stenographer. It will be noted that Jack Keech, now deceased, first clerk at Vernon, is back again in the second picture after service overseas; also M. V. Allen and A. O. Holmes.

The Vernon District disappeared as such in 1925 when amalgamated with Nelson and Cranbrook to form the Southern Interior with headquarters at Nelson. It was brought together in 1932 with the Railway Belt, Cariboo and old Kamloops, to form the present Kamloops District.

What was probably the first Ranger Meeting in the Province was held near Summerland in the spring of 1915 with the entire staff attending. They are shown herewith, and it looks like very early morning, judging by Ranger Bert Thomas' gesture.



Vernon District Staff, 1922.

Back Row, left to right:

1. Ranger Evan Thomas,
2. Ranger H. Oldham,
3. Ranger J. McCluskey,
4. Assistant Ranger J. Stewart,
5. Assistant Ranger A. E. Toombs,
6. Assistant Ranger C. Perrin,
7. Assistant Ranger C. Tyner,
8. Assistant Ranger A. O. Holmes,
9. Ranger Bob Little.

Front Row.

1. Assistant D. F. M. V. Allen,
2. District Forester A. E. Parlow,
3. Miss V. Abramson, Steno.,
4. Jack Keech, Clerk.

To show how things grow, we have a picture of a Ranger Meeting at Rosebud Lake, near Nelson, about 1928. See how many you can recognize.

Top row, left to right:

George MacAfee, Clerk; Lieut.-Col. Allen, Supervisor of Scalers; the late Ranger George MacParlon; the late Assistant, Frank McDonald; Ranger Jack Hayhurst; Mechanical Superintendent Jim Blake; Ranger Jack Price; Grazing Assistant Bill Browne; Ranger George Palethorpe; Ranger Jack Boydell; Assistant Ranger George Fee; Supervisor Bill Holmgren; Ranger Charlie Perrin; Supervisor Harry Oldham; Ranger Jack McCluskey; Assistant Ranger, the late Arthur Noakes; Assistant Ranger Albert Toombs; Assistant Ranger Noakes; Assistant Ranger Reynolds.

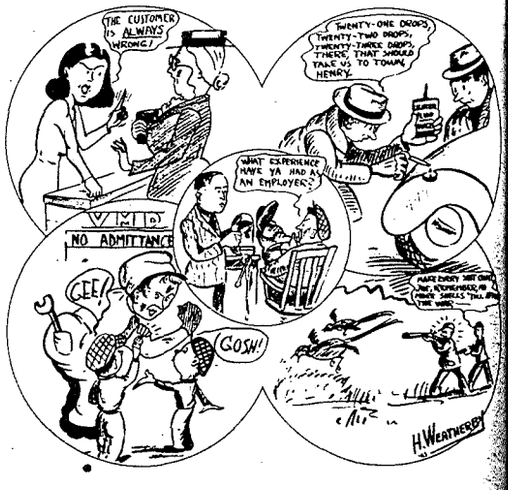
Bottom row.

Supervisor Frank Pym; Ranger George Schupe; Ranger Colin Cameron; Can anyone supply the name of the man just back of Ranger Bob Cameron who is right behind Colin? Ranger Albert Ruzicka; Ranger Harry Nichols; Ranger Jim MacDonald; Assistant Tommy Price; Ranger Percy Young; B. C. Telephone Engineer Roy Harrison; Cook, the late Jack Vivian; Fire Inspector Bert Conway; Ranger Dick Leslie; Clerk Frank Gould; Ranger Jack Frost; Assistant Forester Pat Stevens.

First? Ranger Meeting.
Acting D. F. G. P. Melrose, Vernon,
Ranger J. W. McCluskey, Vernon,
Ranger H. H. Thomas, Princeton.

Speaking of old-timers, we hasten to apologize to Alf Nunn of our Victoria office, the guardian of the Forest Protection Fund, for the omission of his name in our last issue in company with those other twenty-five-year-pin men, Colbert, Mahood, Scoble and St. Clair. You can see his photograph with the others. We still haven't a picture of Jim Mahood and would like to publish it. Maybe someone can help us out.

Enough of reminiscences for now. Let's have some more from you old--and not so old--timers, with photographs!



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Fire Season 1943

Well, another fire season has come and gone and the Lord was on our side "but definitely." At no time during the season was any protracted period of hazard experienced and, while all Districts had the odd week of real fire weather, generally speaking, Old Man Weather had Old Man Fire hanging on the ropes for most of the bout.

Highest occurrence for any one week for the whole Province was only 131 fires (week ending July 31st) with highest estimated cost around $5,000 for the week following. Compare this with 1940 when from one storm on July 12th, the Nakusp Ranger District alone had 139 fires!

And while we're quoting figures, a check on Tommy Simmons' records, which date back to 1921, shows that 1943 ranks with the lowest fire years in the 22-year period.

Year	No. of Fires	Total Cost
1935	1,070	$24,903
1937	1,160	$28,356
1943	1,163	$29,293 (estimated)

Total cost shown for 1943 does not include fires fought by A.S.W. in the Vancouver District, which, of course, accounts for some considerable saving in costs charged under that District.

We should also mention that the past season offered one of the best slash burning periods since inception of Section 113A in the "Act." During the latter half of September, conditions were ideal and practically all operators in the Vancouver District carried out completely satisfactory disposal with a minimum of damage. When final figures are available, we believe they will indicate one of our most successful slash burning years to date.

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Sam Marling says:

The year 1927 constituted a record year for value of Crown timber sold in terms of estimated revenue and has not been remotely approached before or since. This record year of timber sale business, amounting to $2,666,678.00, was due primarily to the heavy demand for sawlog stumpage combined with high stumpage values at that time.

FISHERMAN'S RULE
● This is a good rule to make your fish stories come true.
THE ANGLER'S PRAYER
Lord, give me grace to catch a fish
So big that even I
When boasting of it afterwards
May never need to lie.

All signs point to 1943 breaking this record of sixteen years' standing. The value of sales made at the end of the first six months of 1943 amount to $1,501,274.00 and approximate the total value of the year 1940 of $1,599,054.00.

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We have had many interesting letters and cards from those in the Forces. Here are a few excerpts:

Cpl. Jimmy Robinson (Acting Ranger, Prince Rupert District) from "overseas": "We get nine months' winter and three of bad weather. Have been taking in some fishing lately--the other night two other fellows and myself went out and caught ninety trout in about three hours.

(How about measuring them with the rule on the side here, Jimmy? Ed.)

"Some time ago I paid a visit to the Bowaters Pulp Mill. Mr. Martin and Mr. Bently treated me royally and seemed glad to see someone from B. C.

"I have a couple of stripes now. They are so new that I haven't got over cleaning the dust specks off them yet.

"Am looking forward to getting home to Canada--when I say Canada, I mean B. C. of course.

"Am sending you along a few lines I cut out of one of the Air Force Papers. I always pull it out when the arguments wax hot between the boys from East and West."

(Herewith is the poem Jim speaks of. Ed.)

LET'S GO BACK TO CANADA

Alberta has its oil fields
And fields of golden wheat,
But B. C. with its timbers
And its fishing; can't be beat.

Saskatchewan it has nothing
But a plot of dusty ground,
And from now on in the argument
They shouldn't make a sound.

Manitoba has Lake Winnipeg,
But B. C. has lakes the same,
So any boast that they may make
Will sure sound pretty lame.

Ontario has Niagara Falls,
And a thousand tiny isles,
But B. C. has its waterways
That stretch for endless miles.

So you can have your prairie,
You can keep your Eastern skies,
Just give me the balmy sunshine
Where the wide Pacific lies.

Where the breezes blow so softly,
Where the shores are golden sand,
Where the sunsets are the reddest,
B. C., the White Man's Land.

Where the timbers grow so stately
And the lakes are filled with trout,
And the people from the East come in,
It's hard to keep them out.

So you lads from the dust bowl way,
And to the East of there,
There's nothing you can fuss about,
Or with B. C. compare.

There are a few unhappy fellows
In Entry one-o-nine,
Who would like to hear the bugle
On Pacific standard time.

Yes, East is East and West is West,
And ne'er the twain shall meet;
Just keep the East out of the West,
And B. C. can't be beat.

P/O G. H. Fewtrell (Assistant Ranger, Penticton) writes and sends his photo herewith. Between two letters we received he was shifted across and this comes from England: "England is sure pretty from the air and they have a few hills over here. I have seen quite a few new trees--lots of yew.

"I am writing under difficulties. The fuse blew and I am finishing by flashlight. Hope you had a nice easy fire season."

(We sure did. Ed.)

G. H. Fewtrell.
Pilot Officer.

Here's one from Emery Scott (Assistant Ranger, Likely, Kamloops District) just now at Ucuelet, West Coast point: "How time moves along. The fire season had just started when I received the last one (Newsletter) and now it is licked for another season. I would have my equipment all stored and ready for another winter if it weren't for this blasted war.

"I have remustered from G. D. to Armourer.

"Things are very quiet although there is plenty of entertainment provided. And then I can cut wood!!!

"I'm still sore I couldn't be there (Likely) to build that new boathouse. That is the kind of work I enjoy.

Lieut. George W. Minns (Acting Ranger, Prince Rupert District) writes from Overseas: "Have spent the time (since April) down here in England. Quite a strenuous time, believe you me. Knocked just about as much weight off me as a tough summer with the old surveys on the Q.C.I.

"It would surprise you to know how closely it (the Forestry Corps Organization) parallels the organization of the B.C.F.S.--districts, sub-districts, etc., Management supervision from H.Q. and cruising parties from H.Q. (my job)"

We have also heard from Keary DeBeck (Grazing Assistant, Kamloops) now P/O, R.C.A.F. Overseas and ACl. C. J. Wagner (Patrolman, Haney, Vancouver District), both of whom send photos shown herewith.

C. J. Wagner, ACl.
In front of home at Haney.

We are also glad to hear from the following:

Sgt. J. A. Leighton, Lieut.-Col. A. E. Parlow, Spr. Charles R. Lee,
Capt. Alex. Gordon, Pte. M. A. Johnson, L/Cpl. R. A. Damstrom,
Sgt. D. J. MacKay, Capt. Lorne F. Swannell, Gnr. W. D. Grainger,
P/O R. R. Flynn, Sgt. H. G. Mayson, Lieut. D. E. Dyson.
(More later)

Keary DeBeck.

We extend our congratulations on the following promotions:

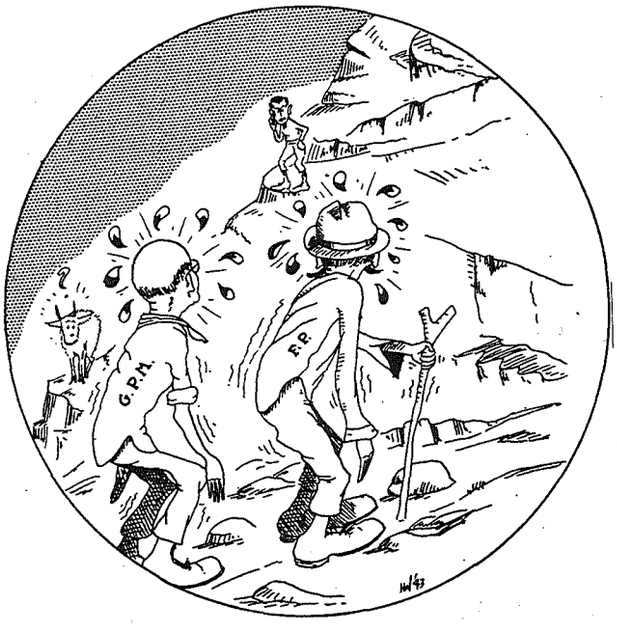
Jim Robinson, Cpl.,
G. H. Fewtrell, Pilot Officer,
D. E. Dyson, Lieut.,
E. G. Oldham, Major.
L. A. Willington, Lieut.,
Colin Castley, ACl.,
J. C. Payne, LAC.,
S. Lockard, 2nd/Lieut.
G. W. Minns, Lieut.,
N. H. Boss, Pilot Officer,
Eric Bennett, Flying Officer,
L. S. Hope, Capt.,
H. Casilio, S/Q.M.S.

We don't believe the names below have appeared in previous lists in the Newsletter, although they have mostly been mentioned elsewhere. For those who like to have them listed, we bring our "Honour Roll" up-to-date:

W. C. Pendray, Grazing Assistant, Kamloops (Navy),
H. K. DeBeck, Grazing Assistant, Kamloops (R.C.A.F.),
L. A. Bland, Draughtsman, Economics (R.C.A.F.),
C. H. Cameron, Dispatcher, Chilliwack (R.C.A.F.),
W. R. Garcin, Clerk, Victoria (R.C.A.F.),
H. W. Campbell, Assistant Ranger, Kamloops,
I. Hanson, Assistant Ranger, Vernon,
G. E. Shook, Patrolman, Hemp Creek,
W. C. Stevens, Assistant Ranger, Princeton,
J. D. Creighton, Assistant Ranger, Harrison Lake,
R. W. Colmer, Assistant Ranger, Cranbrook (R.C.A.F.).

Our information is that the following have arrived overseas:

H. K. DeBeck (Pilot Officer, R.C.A.F., J-23714),
Len Bland (Pilot Officer, Base Post-Office, R.C.A.F. Overseas, J-24016),
Ross Douglas arrived back in England in March last. (Lieut., No. 1, C.I.R.U.),
G. H. Fewtrell (Pilot Officer, R.C.A.F., J-26007),
W. E. Thacker (L/Cpl., K-74304, 20th Field Coy., R.C.E.).



Our congratulations go to F/O H. M. (Mickey) Pogue (Assistant Forester, Victoria) and Mrs. Pogue on the birth of a son, James Michael. The younger Mickey (or will it be Jimmy?) arrived at Edmonton, where Mickey (and, of course, Mrs. Mickey) is stationed, on June 23rd, 1943.

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We had a very interesting visitor recently in the person of "Gerry" Andrews, now Major and doing most important aerial survey work in England. Gerry is attached to Canadian H.Q. under General MacNaughton. From him we had word of Bill Hall, attached to British Intelligence in North Africa. Bill is apparently having plenty to do with the Italian campaign and, by the way, has been awarded the M. C. Congratulations, Bill.

Also, we hear from his very genial and hospitable father, that Howard Elsey has been flying bombers over most of Africa and now Italy. He was instrumental in saving some comrades who had been shot down in the Mediterranean.

Ian MacQueen was here again recently. He was on administration work with the R.C.A.F. for a couple of years and is now working for his wings. His description of the exhaustion tests reminded us of the time he led Frank Pym and ourselves to the top of a mountain he thought would make a good lookout. The test, we are certain, was a direct punishment for his sins.

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We hear, indirectly, from Miss Gwyn MacAfie, who is stationed at Arnprior, Ontario, with the R.C.A.F. From all accounts she is enjoying her work and, we hope, her play as well.

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Miss K. Robinson, Chief's Secretary, who joined the "Wrens" and is now in that well known "Eastern Canadian Port," sends us her photograph, stripes and all. We are glad to note the signs of commissioned rank and expect her to have gold to the elbows soon.

Miss Kay Robinson.

More Reminiscences and Predictions Dug up by Tom Simmons

In these days of rapid transportation, the eyes of the Forest Branch are naturally turned to the use of planes for Forest protection and other Service requirements; and some day, perhaps not so far distant, we shall be in the throes of heated discussion of the merits of various makes and types of planes, and particularly with regard to the possibilities of the Helicopter.

It is therefore interesting at this stage to look back over the past and review our first venture in using planes.

Towards the end of World War No. 1, and to be exact in 1918, the Department purchased a Curtis type flying boat. It had an 100 H.P. engine and flew at the incredible speed of 78 miles per hour. Its existence was very short for on its first flight it crashed upon a house in Vancouver and was washed out.

Plane at Alert Bay, 1920.

After this the Department apparently hired planes upon a taxi basis and we are indebted to Ranger Percy Sweatman of Duncan for the accompanying photograph. This is the old army type HS2L plane. Compare with the modern Catalina and other flying boats.

In looking back, Percy says he recalls one incident. He was with Percy Hart at the head of Drury Inlet, and Hart had just said that we were as far out of the way of Vancouver office as we could get, and would not be worried with their troubles, when over the tops of the trees, with a roar and a rush, came a plane. After making a perfect landing and the passengers alighting, who should appear but R. V. Stuart and C. S. Cowan, with the Vancouver morning papers and a bottle of Scotch, truly a miracle in those days. (Which? Ed.)

So, gazing into our crystal, we see the Ranger of the future buzzing around in his single seater Helicopter and in the hangar at his headquarters, a fully equipped transport plane, ready to fly a crew of fire-fighters to any point needed and to drop them via parachute right on to the job, with each man, hung around him like the present paratrooper, the tools of his trade and the necessary grub.

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The happy couple in the photo at the top of this page are Sgt. and Mrs. Harry Mayson, after their wedding in London. Harry, who was Assistant Ranger at Celista, is the skookum son of Skookum Ranger George Mayson of Barriere. His bride is Brenda, the daughter of Alderman Jim Moffatt of Kamloops, and is enlisted in the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. Overseas. Our congratulations and very best wishes are extended, and hopes for their safe return together.

Sgt. and Mrs. Harry Mayson.

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Telephone Troubles

Last issue we showed drawings of ingenious tree line insulators, which continue to remind us of 'phone line difficulties. Standard practice requires that split insulators be hung on large staples and every so often a solid tie is made to a bracket and poney insulator. The latter are fastened to the trees with long spikes.

And that's just where we may get into trouble sometimes, for along comes a logger, cuts the trees with the spikes or staples and, whammy, away goes his valuable circular or band saw. To what extent we are liable for damage is not apparent, but we should not be placed in such a position if it can be helped.

What we would like to know is how to hang our 'phone lines so as to avoid such damage in future. Can some inventor enlighten us? Or have any of you fellows elsewhere in the world seen something that will get us over this difficulty? We'd be most grateful for any suggestions.

Address any correspondence in this connection to the Chief Forester, Victoria, B. C., "Attention Operation."

Little and Barclay. Cruising, 1930.

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The Proof.....

Photographs can't lie, and so here we have the ultimate truth. It proves conclusively that Steve Barclay can cruise timber. There he is with Ranger Bob Little running compass for him.

Taken in 1930 near Merritt, the Editor can vouch for the authenticity of the photograph, but not for the results of the cruise. It is reported, we don't know how reliably, that the mill went bust trying to cut out Steve's cruise. In any event, he worked up a whale of an appetite (note the size of the lunch bag carried by Bob Little) and worked up a whale of a cruise, heh?

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Prince Rupert News

Births

To Acting Ranger and Mrs. L. C. Chamberlin, a son, Langford Clarke, on August 3rd in the Prince Rupert General Hospital, their first.

Personnel Changes

Acting Ranger Abernethy at Ocean Falls is being transferred to position of Assistant Forester at Victoria and is being replaced by Acting Ranger M. O. Kullander, formerly Assistant Ranger in the Vancouver District.

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Our main activities at present consist of the ever-present aeroplane spruce operations on the Queen Charlotte Islands, cordwood for the Prince Rupert stock pile, and ties.

There has been considerable activity, paralleling in a small way the largely publicized stock woodpile in Vancouver, in this city. The City Council are financing the stock pile and have formed a company whose members consist of all of the wood and fuel dealers in the city to handle the wood as it is brought in. The cutting will largely take place in the fire-killed and scrub Jack-pine areas in the district and will be shipped into Prince Rupert by rail.

A ceiling price here of $12.50 has been set, which is considerably below cost, and the difference is expected to be made up by Dominion subsidies.

There has been a great revival of activity in tie operations, owing to the fact that the C.N.R. is now paying up to 85¢ for No. 1 ties, as compared with less than 50¢ about three years ago. The large volume of freight passing over this railroad now to Alaska and points west, makes it necessary that the road bed be considerably improved. A study of the disposal of ties cut in this district up to 1941 showed that only about one tie in ten was being replaced for the past several years, and as untreated Lodgepole pine will not last ten years in the track, it is easy to see in what condition the road bed was prior to the recent activity.

We regret very much to advise that Allan J. Leighton, late of this office, who enlisted in the Air Force in January 1942, has been reported missing overseas on active operations. Allan was an air gunner in a bomber crew.

We had a welcome visit from Assistant District Forester, Capt. L. S. Hope, last month, while he was stationed at Terrace.

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To be invited to contribute some reminiscences of the early years of the Forest Branch is an honour, especially when having entered as recently (so it seems) as September 1913.

In those days, the Forest Branch, along with the Water Branch, was housed in a temporary wooden structure at the corner of Government and Superior, and one wonders just what kind of a permit covered the erection, since the edifice appears likely to be permitted to remain there indefinitely.

But "multum in parvo" was the spirit, and there was a trenendous enthusiasm, and everyone seemed to do things then as now "on the double." Even though the timber boom had seen its best days, timber licences were yielding handsome revenues, timber sales were in the embryo stage, the lumber industry had not attained anything like its present proportions, forest fire prevention was a matter of muscle and brawn, shovels, horse buggies and rowboats, with rare Evinrudes as a reluctant concession to the exigencies of time and distance, and the automobile a "rare avis"; while the education of the public to the growing hazard consequent upon the steady expansion of logging operations had not even reached the kindergarten stage.

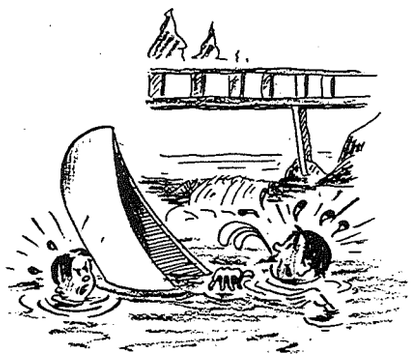
Even so, the Forest Service and its youthful exuberance, and its constant asking, like Oliver Twist, for more, both from the provincial exchequer and of the public attention, caused it to be regarded as somewhat of an exotic by other Departments, who hoped we would go to bed, lower our temperatures and get back to normal.

The then Chief Forester, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, together with the late Mr. M. A. Grainger, devised a rare means for breaking down these erroneous impressions, in the form of weekly lunch-meetings to which would be invited "key men" from the other branches of the Civil Service--and with good results.

It was my good fortune to have a liberal education upon joining the Service, working in the file room under Bill Moore each morning and on the expenditure desk under R. Nairne for the rest of the day; later changing the latter period for the Property Room, then in the care of Eric Fox, and always under the watchful eye of the tireless S. W. Barclay, whom time has touched so lightly. The late Norman Pite, another sterling character, was the latter's assistant, his passing on August 1st, 1938, a grievous loss to us all.

In the file room one's finger was on the pulse of the Forest Service, on the expenditure desk it was on the purse, and in the Property Room one was in close touch with the reconnaissance, field and forest protection activities, in addition to keeping the district offices happy by sending 'em at least 33 1/3% of what they asked for!

Faces and figures are resurrected as there unrolls the film of the years that are past. The stalwart John Lafon, R. E. Benedict, a poor day all round when his genial smile was absent, the purposeful H. R. Christie, and John Hay, that kindly Scotsman, not forgetting H. K. Robinson and his high ideals. And here Charlie Cowan comes into the story, who within a short period had led a survey party to the Kleena Kleene, there to have his canoe and outfit dumped into the river on a treacherous bar, returning to Victoria in time to join Benedict and Christie in a canoe-trip up the Gorge. Charlie, in seeking to show how to shoot the Gorge Bridge, shot the whole outfit into the drink, thereby occasioning this comment from one whom we will call Hans, then on the temporary staff: "Dodt feller Gowan! he look at der vater von minute under der next minute hees overboard. Nodings vill geep him oudt of der vater." Charlie was to be shipwrecked several times after that under more grim circumstances.



outfit into the drink, thereby occasioning this comment from one whom we will call Hans, then on the temporary staff: "Dodt feller Gowan! he look at der vater von minute under der next minute hees overboard. Nodings vill geep him oudt of der vater." Charlie was to be shipwrecked several times after that under more grim circumstances. Incidentally, Cowan was at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, circa 1909-10, when the writer was in London, and although we never spoke, and Cowan did not distinguish me in the crowds that thronged the Brompton Road at lunch time, yet I remembered his face when he turned up in the Forest Branch!

Came the Great War, the Forest Service depleted as men throughout the Province rushed to the colours, forsaking everything and counting themselves lucky to pass the rigorous tests; and the Roll of Honour grew and grew.

But the war brought about the opening of wider markets for B. C. timber products, and "Trade Extension" leaped into activity with the dispatch of H. R. MacMillan first to London and then to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, and other parts of the British Commonwealth.

At short notice the Forest Branch was enlisted as an auxiliary of the Imperial Munitions Board, and entrusted with the placing of orders on behalf of the British Government; and soon came cables demanding supplies of structural and trench timbers, railway ties, ammunition boxes and many other forest products. Captured German merchantmen arrived at the Coast to augment the sparse shipping facilities, urgent orders going across Canada by rail. They built a dummy battleship in Britain, out of B. C. Fir, and sent it to the Mediterranean to fool the Huns. Then the aeroplane began to come into its own, and Miss Spruce from the Queen Charlottes and elsewhere got her chance to join Cousin Douglas Fir overseas--and such a handsome pair!

Coupled with the Trade extension, and this with eyes on post-war markets besides meeting wartime demands, was an energetic effort by means of publicity to make the public market-conscious, fire-prevention conscious and Forest-Branch-conscious. For:

"The man who has the goods to sell,
And goes and whispers down a well,
Is not so likely to collar the dollars,
As he who climbs a tree and hollers!"

The writer remembers reading in the "Pulp and Paper" magazine that the B. C. Forest Service was adept at getting free advertising. But it was quite simple! We had news to tell, and circulated it widely, the press far and wide glad to get it, and so products and activities became known, with a resultant increase in mail enquiries from throughout Canada, and from Britain and elsewhere, which was what we were after. A direct advertising campaign was to follow.

Along with overseas markets, it was desired to get a share of the market in Eastern Canada for structural and other timber, and to sell more of our common lumber to Prairie consumers, which brings into the picture the "live-wire" L. B. Beale, at first temporary draughtsman preparing plans of houses, barns, smoke-houses, and what have you for the Prairie grain growers, the price for whose crops was rising substantially; then Lumber Commissioner on the Prairie; and next at Toronto, everywhere with excellent results. That he had the goods to sell, and sold 'em, is evidenced by his present reference in "Who's Who" as:

"Sir Louis Beale, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., H.M. Trade Commissioner in Canada 1919-25; in New Zealand 1926-28; Special Mission to British Malaya 1928-1929; Trade Commissioner overseas, Trade Dev. Council; Commercial Counsellor, British Embassy, Shanghai 1932-37; Com'r-General for H. M. Gov't., New York World's Fair 1939-40," and so on.

And on that high note, these scattered reminiscences by no means exhaustive, one may well conclude, certainly for the time being. And so "thirty" for now!

H. H. Smith.

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We regret to announce the death of Colonel M. V. Allen at his home in Vancouver on November 23rd.

Colonel Allen was one of the original staff of the Forest Branch, entering the Service in 1912. He retired on January 1st, 1941.

Few officers of the Service have had as wide a circle of friends and acquaintances, all of whom will mourn his passing.

Vancouver News

We were glad of the recent opportunity to welcome as visitors to the Vancouver office:

Major G. S. "Gerry" Andrews, R.C.E., probably at this time back in England.

Fl./Lieut. I.C. "Ian" MacQueen.

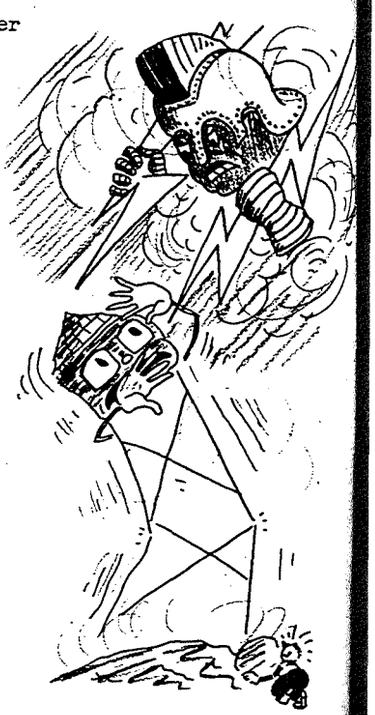
P/O A.L. "Larry" Lyttle, recently on the Scaling staff, who called on embarkation leave.

Lieut. S. "Syd" Benwell, R.C.N.V.R., formerly assistant to Steve Barclay in the Victoria office.

Word has been received that Lieut. A. H. Dixon, R.C.E., formerly Ranger at Port Hardy, has reached England safe and sound.

Norman MacRae, son of J. A. "Jack" MacRae, formerly Recorder of Scaling in the Vancouver office, has been appointed to the temporary Scaling staff.

We also have as a new member on the Vancouver staff Miss Jacqueline Smith, recently appointed as Junior Draughtsman replacing Mr. Reg. Court, who resigned to resume his studies.



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This Comes from Nelson

In the October 20th, 1941 issue, we reported the destruction of Saddle Mountain Lookout in the Nakusp District by a lightning strike during one of the violent electrical storms for which that district is noted.

Due chiefly to the current labour difficulties, the building has not been reconstructed since that time, and during the past two summers tent accommodation has been in use.

From a report just received from the Nelson office, it would seem that the fact that new construction has not been possible has turned out to be a blessing in disguise, for, on August 26th this summer, the lookout was again struck. This time the tent frame was demolished and the tent partially burnt. The radio antenna and mast likewise were destroyed. Sam Jackson, who mans the lookout, fortunately was in the tent living quarters slightly below the peak at the time and was not injured. He was able to maintain contact with Nakusp by means of his UHF radio.