

FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER

VICTORIA B.C.
DECEMBER
1956. No 121
08581

FANCY
SEEING
YOU
AGAIN!



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

SEYMOUR
PARK /o 56

SEASON'S GREETINGS

It would be my wish, if possible or practical, to visit with each one of the Forest Service personnel during the Christmas Season. In an organization as large as ours the individual tends to become submerged and lose his or her identity. If the whole Christian world can pause to honour the birth of One who by teaching and example gave a new sense of appreciation and value of each person, then those charged with responsibility in the Forest Service cannot but do the same.

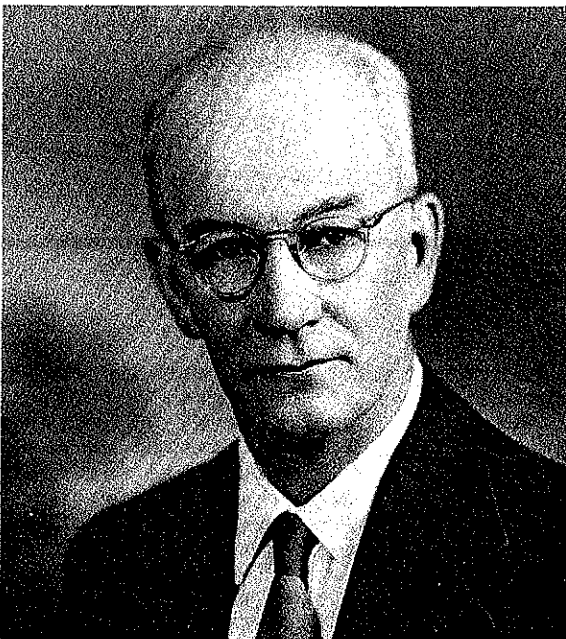


I humbly realize the fact that whatever I may accomplish is but the results of efforts of a dedicated group working at individual tasks towards a common goal.

May I sincerely extend Christmas Greetings to each one of you and your families. I trust you will be refreshed for the months which lie ahead. They may be the most significant the Forest Service has ever faced.

Ray Williston
Minister.

... ..



I have read that the United States Marines display in many of their offices and camps a sign to the effect that, "The difficult we do right away; the impossible may take a little longer."

This year has been a tremendously important one to us all. I am well aware that all members of the Service have been called upon to perform tasks of a complexity, delicacy and volume undreamed of only a few years ago, and I can only visualize that in the immediate future we will be required to continue the pace under the same, or even greater, pressure. I also have no doubt that a combination of industry, intelligence, integrity, and a consuming interest in the job will continue to sustain us and enable us to accomplish the difficult, and even the impossible, as these characteristics of the Service have done in the past.

Under the circumstances, a seasonal break is doubly welcome, and I want you to know how much I hope that you all thoroughly enjoy a restful and pleasant Christmas Season, and that you and yours will be entering a vital New Year that will bring you good luck, good health, and satisfying accomplishment.

C. D. Overhage

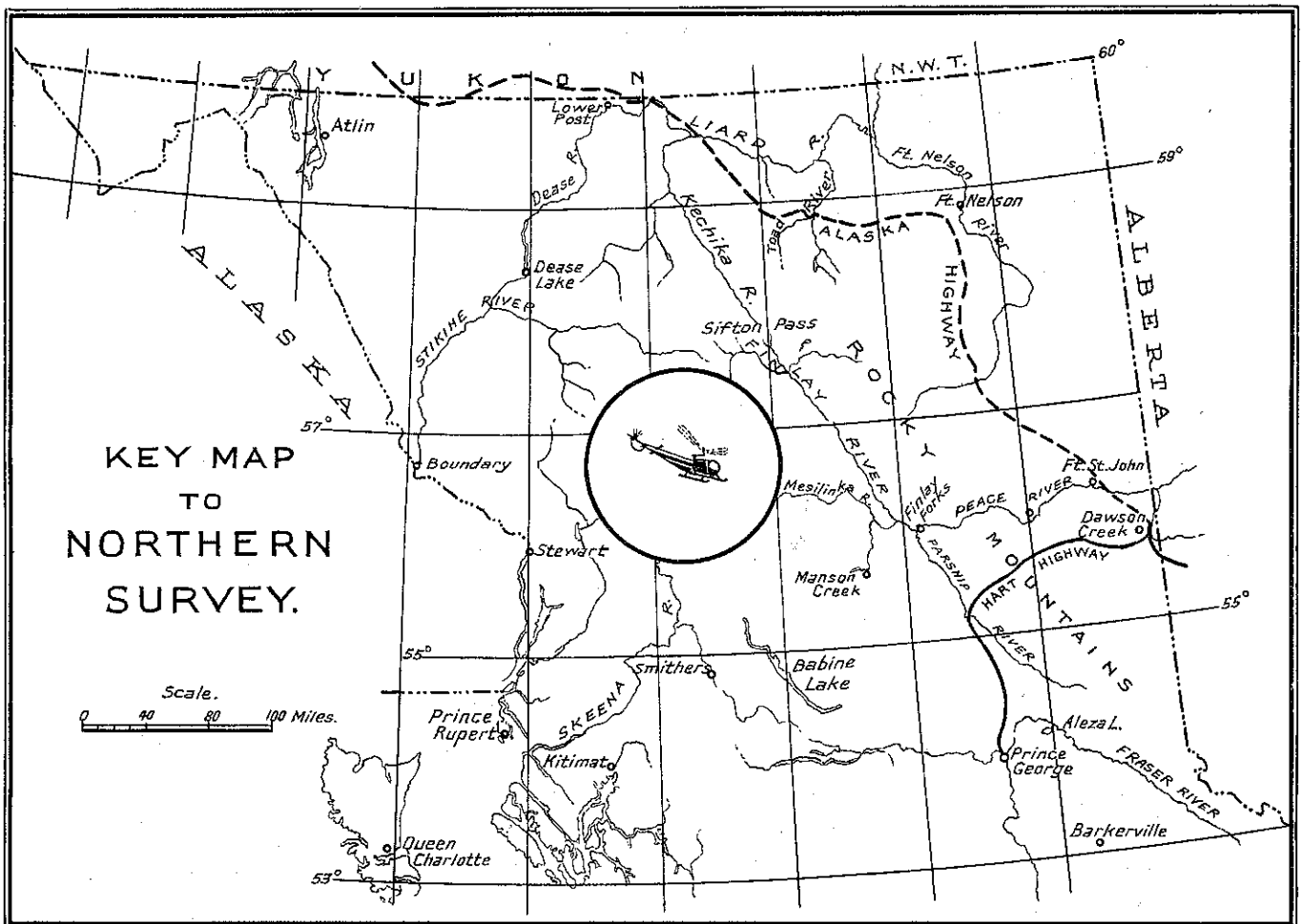
Chief Forester.

... ..

ASSAULT ON THE NORTH

A major responsibility of the Forest Surveys and Inventory Division is the inventory of the forest resources of British Columbia. Prior to 1956, most of the field effort was expended south of the 56th parallel. This year, in addition to other projects undertaken, a concerted assault was made on the task of compiling maps and other data summarizing the forest resources of that vast northern territory which lies between the Alberta border to the east, the N.W.T. - Yukon border to the north, the Alaska Panhandle to the west and a southern boundary skirting Meziadin Lake, Finlay Forks and the Rocky Mountain barrier to Alberta. Examination of this territory of approximately 150,000 square miles posed immense problems in transportation and general survey organization. Overall survey direction was in the hands of experienced Foresters - Bob Jones and Bob Wright.

Responsible for the various phases of the survey were Forbes Boyd and his winged foresters who carried out forest mapping from the air, and Al McMinn, Tony Robinson, Neil Paterson, and Pete West who looked after the far-flung sampling crews. Jerry Vyhnanek, camped like a gypsy along the Alaska Highway, directed volume table and decay studies in various forest types. The results of his work and other studies in northern forests will increase the reliability of net volume estimates derived from sampling.

Forest Mapping From the Air

Aerial forest mapping activities radiated from suitable bases, each of which was used long enough to complete work in a preselected number of drainages, before moving on to the next. Tudjah Lake, Fort Graham, Swan Lake (Dawson Creek), Charlie Lake (Fort St. John), Fort Nelson, and Muncho Lake (Mile 460 Alaska Highway) served as bases for the highly mobile crews flying in a float-equipped Beaver. The work was accomplished by a systematic examination of representative drainage systems broken down into "flight plan" areas. Each plan involved 2 to 3 hours low-level air examination of adjacent drainages. When a morning flight plan was completed by a 2-man mapping crew, the aircraft returned to base, or to a prearranged rendezvous, where a fresh mapping crew carried on for the afternoon flight. Three hours of air forest mapping was found to be the maximum period during which a crew could maintain an efficient and accurate work-level.

Each flight plan was carefully designed by laying out the appropriate air photographs (scale 1:31,680) for the drainages to be flown and then marking on them examination points in forest and non-forest types. These photographs were then used, in sequence, in the marked points and in establishing type boundaries not easily defined by the conventional methods of photo interpretation. The pilot circled each marked point at low level while the air observer, carrying the marked photographs, called out the various stand characteristics in forest types to his partner as he identified them. At each spot examined this information was recorded on specially designed forms, and referenced to an "air call" number marked on the photograph. Accurate forest classification and mapping from the air demanded consistent ground checking by the crews who, in this manner, built up a valuable back-log of experience in type-identification.

ult on the North (continued)

In all air work, the prime emphasis was on safety and constant radio contact was maintained between the aircraft, radio-equipped cars, and large transmitters at Prince George, Swan Lake and Lower Post. In the more remote spots the ubiquitous S.P.F. also served well.

The air mappers had a very successful summer despite a series of delays due to poor weather. Now, they have the formidable task of producing forest maps from the vast store of information collected and from some 45,000 air photographs.



Tony Robinson and Friend.

Forest Sampling

Forest sampling to provide essential information on volumes in forest stands is integrated with the job of mapping these stands. This sampling, or "cruising" phase of the overall inventory job was accomplished by numerous 2-man sampling crews proceeding in ten league strides by Land Rover, aircraft, helicopter, and river boat, across the face of our little-known "Far North". Wide dispersal of forest samples was emphasized and, accordingly, transportation problems were great.

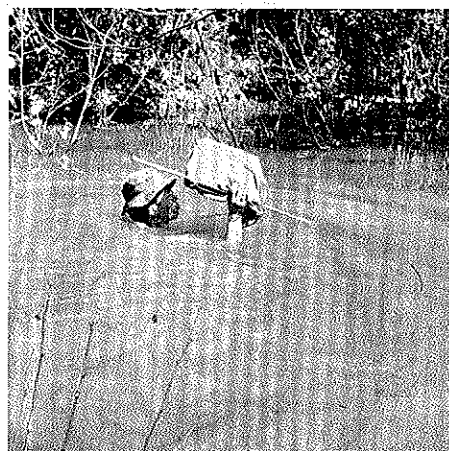
Early in the season, Al McMinn established a base camp at Swan Lake, near Dawson Creek. From here sampling crews travelled by car and on foot to work in stands extending up to Mile 630 on the Alaska Highway and flew into Rocky Mountain lakes to sample forest types in the headwaters of rivers. Two crews tagged along in the forest mapper's Beaver when it flew in the Sifton Pass area, and made good use of ground-check time to establish samples in this remote region. Heavy stands of timber were found and sampled during river travel up the Peace River, west of Gold Bar.

Despite the acute problem of mechanical maintenance, the work proceeded rapidly. A little later, Finlay Forks became a second focus point of survey activity. From this temporary base, Tony Robinson directed a fast-moving helicopter operation which probed deep into the otherwise inaccessible back country north of Finlay Forks. Using this highly efficient and popular means of air transportation, six sampling crews accomplished in a matter of days forest sampling which would have taken many weeks on foot. The saving in time and money was outstanding for this particular project which, because of the lack of landing spots, could not have been undertaken by conventional aircraft.

The 'Copter was particularly valuable in landing crews at the heads of valleys which ran parallel to the Rocky Mountain trench. It saved a 50-mile pack trip by lifting men over the Divide and into parallel drainages, dropping them off on suitable river sand bars and other safe landing spots. Close radio contact was maintained between the sampling crews and base, making it possible to move crews as soon as their assignments were completed. Frequently, crews were landed on a ridge-top from which they proceeded into the valley below, sampling the forest types as they went, finally being picked up again by helicopter at a prearranged spot in the valley bottom and moved to another work area. Another successful adaptation of the "whirlybird" was to land a crew, equipped with an inflatable rubber raft, in the upper reaches of a river, permitting them to proceed downstream and sample the existing forest types. In one case, a crew and two rafts were landed far up the Mesilinka River, about 60 miles from its confluence with the Finlay River at Finlay Forks. They drifted downstream, easily portaging when necessary, and proceeded through white water with little difficulty. There is absolutely no question that the helicopter is one of the most efficient tools yet used in forest survey. Its greatest value is in country of poor access and with no adequate lake or river landing spots.

Over a great deal of the North, lake and river landing spots did exist and full use was made of them to accomplish a very large portion of the total job. Near Lower Post, just a short step south of the Yukon Border, Neil Paterson controlled the activities of a group of sampling crews, sending them from one photo-selected lake to another by Beaver float-plane to establish a wide-spread network of samples throughout that region. Neil, being a canny Scot, made sure no money was expended in sampling the Yukon side of the border. For radio contact he had a 50-watt transmitter at Lower Post, by means of which he kept in close touch with his S.P.F.-equipped field crews. A similar transmitter was established at Swan Lake. Don Sigler, Surveys' radio man, who can still be heard cursing sun spots, did a fine job servicing the radio network.

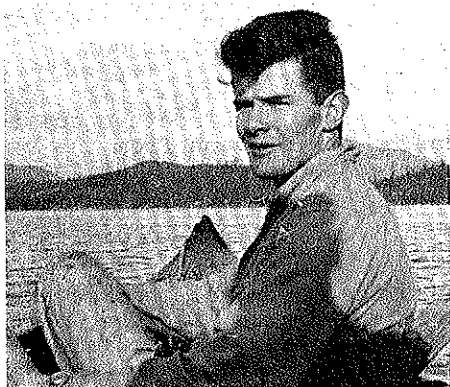
Between flights, and when flying was washed out, Neil's crews worked along the Cassiar road and as far as Mile 760 on the Alaska Highway in order to keep the sampling rolling.



".. rubber rafts proved of value .."

Fort Nelson served as a base for Pete West and his sampling crews working in a similar fashion to his "neighbour", Neil Paterson, and Pete was also equipped with a Beaver float-plane. Terrain east of Fort Nelson is a vast plain with little outstanding relief. Lakes were found to be shallow and marshy, and the Beaver was frequently stuck in the mud before reaching shore. Here, rubber rafts again proved of value to the wily cruisers who paddled ashore like Ancient Britons in their coracles (but carrying more gear and painted with fly dope rather than woad). The nickname adopted for this class

Assault on the North (continued)



Bob Jones - co-leader of Assault.

of lake is interesting but unmentionable.

Rivers in the vast system draining into the Mackenzie were fully utilized as means of access. One 400-mile trip by 6 men in a river boat was accomplished with a broken shear pin as the only mishap. The men set out from Fort Nelson, proceeded down the Fort Nelson River to its junction with the Liard, sampling some fine spruce stands on the way, and then continued down the Liard River to the border of the Northwest Territories. Much valuable sample information was collected over a wide area during this trip. Other crews examined the forest types south of Fort Nelson, by travelling up the Fort Nelson River and its tributaries.

The forest resources of the far north, though scattered, are vast in total and in some areas the productive capacity of forest land is considerable. For example, bottomland stands in the Fort Nelson River valley contain excellent white spruce stems. Felled sample plots in this area yielded stems up to 145 feet in height and 30 inches in d.b.h. at 210 years of age.

Forest Surveys Division is now following up this major field assault in the North by processing all data into a forest resources report to be published, along with the forest maps, at the earliest possible date.

... ..

PRINCE RUPERT DISTRICT

Welcome!

We take this opportunity to welcome to this District:

Al Pement - Ranger-in-charge of Atlin Ranger District. Al has an advantage over his southern confreres in that we understand the Arctic night is practically non-existent thus allowing a working day of 24 hours Doc Selkirk - Assistant Forester-in-Charge of Management. Doc starts his second "tour of operations" in this District. We note that Doc has a few dark hairs left but we'll soon change them Doug Morton - Assistant Forester-in-Charge of Cruising. Doug is living proof that not only do we draw the best from the south but also from the Far East (Toronto) Keith Waddell - Forester-in-Training (Management). Another Easterner who hails from even further east than Doug Morton and is our authority on forestry practices in Montreal. (Note - until we met Doug and Keith we did not realize that civilization extended further east than Burns Lake) Charley Chun - Our new Radio Op from the DEW Line Don Grant - From Surveys Division via Quesnel Ranger District John Keefe - Returned to us from Prince George District and now Ranger-in-Charge of Houston Ranger District Reg Hamblin - Ranger-in-Charge of Kitwanga Ranger District. Reg came to us from the Nelson District and proves what we have always claimed, "When a man makes good in Nelson he is considered suitable for the high standards demanded by the Rupert Forest District" Fred Hesketh - Ranger-in-Charge of Burns Lake (N) District. Fred isn't really a newcomer, but manages to get a mention here merely to back up our statements in the preceding remarks about Reg. Yes, Fred, "You can't keep a good man down" (south, that is!) Rolly Lewis - Radio Technician - came to us on discharge from Royal Canadian Corps of Signals Don Clay, Bill Petty and Bob Mackie - ex-Assistant Rangers who successfully completed the last session at Ranger School and are now in charge of their own districts: Smithers North, Hazelton, and Ocean Falls respectively.

... ..

Tally Ho!

We balance these gains by our losses which include:

Ted Knight - A "Rupert Booster" of the old school, now i/c Management in Prince George and Bob Corregan - who pastures in the Elysian fields of Victoria Office.

... ..

HATCHED

McPHERSON - To Al and Marg McPherson, a DAUGHTER, Cheri-Diane, at Prince Rupert General Hospital, October 24, 1956.

WADDELL - To Keith and Helen Waddell, a SON, Peter John, May 14, 1956.



"Sure I've got Christmas spirit, but we've got ten acres to mark yet and four miles to hike for paint."

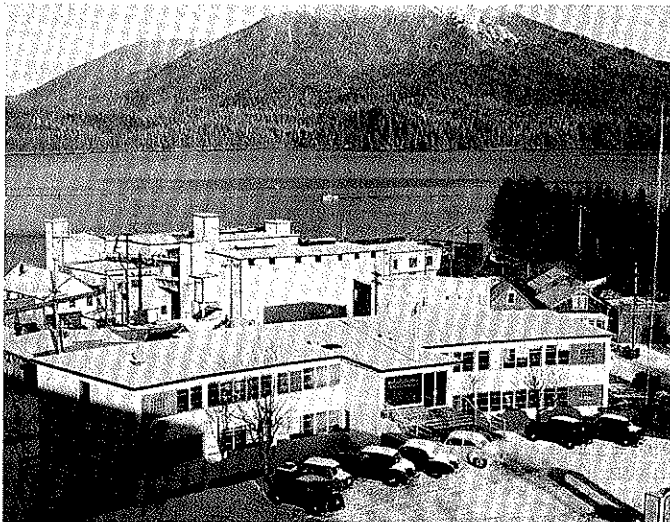
Prince Rupert District (continued)

Hatcher' (cont'd)

McDONALD - To Denny and Gerry McDonald, a SON, Richard John Dennis,
March 7, 1956.

MUNRO - To Jim and Olga Munro, a DAUGHTER, Janice Elaine Mary,
July 10, 1956.

::: ::: :::



For those as yet suffering cramped and/or ancient office quarters, we give you as a basis for wishful thinking a photograph of the recently completed Prince Rupert District Office.

Now that the staff has settled down and filled the various offices, the wonder is that the old Courthouse accommodation managed to hold us all. Mind you, as Prince George personnel can probably confirm, one of the present day miracles is how some 40 or 50 people can be squeezed into a space that would comfortably accommodate say, 10, and still not have a file cabinet packed with W.C.B. forms.

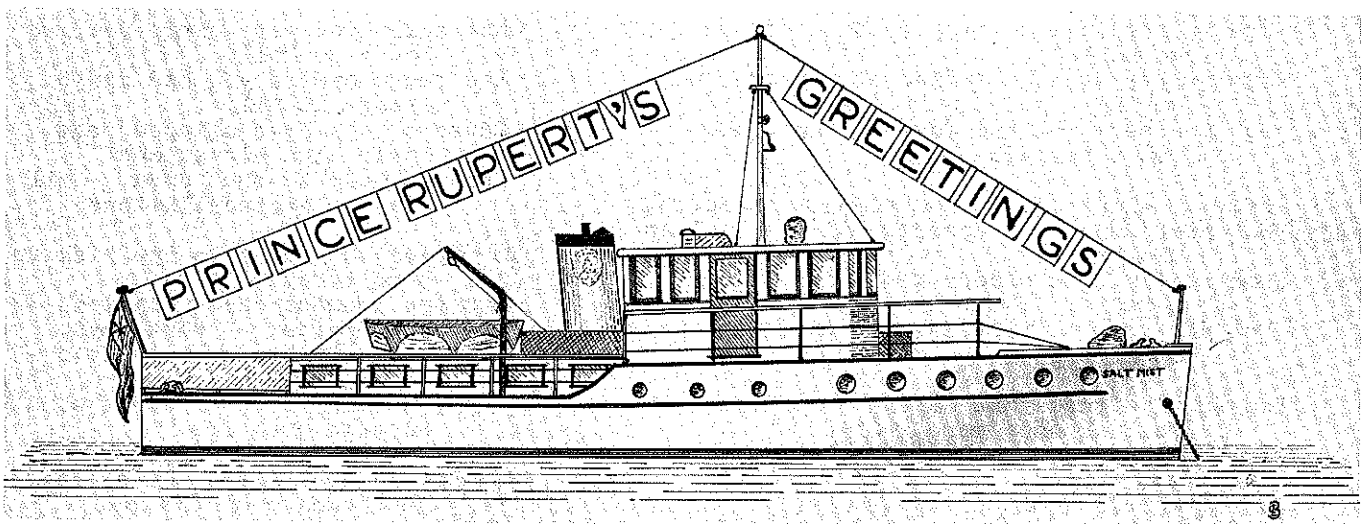
::: ::: :::

This District is well represented by the following at Ranger School this session - Len Ashton, Ralph Keefe, Joe Schmidt, Jim Antoneko, Fred Russell, and we wish them every success and look forward to their return.

::: ::: :::

Eric Bennett, our most recent Assistant District Forester, objected to being placed with the new arrivals since he has been here over a year. However, time is only relative and Munro still feels he has barely arrived! Eric answered the problem of how to concentrate on the job, though married. He sent his wife and children to England for the summer. She recently returned and stated that the weather experienced in England was worse than Prince Rupert. (Corregan please note).

::: ::: :::



The Staff of the Prince Rupert Forest District extends to all members of the Forest Service their Very Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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

KAMLOOPS DISTRICT

Comings and Goings

Kamloops staff, probably like others, has not escaped change. Our only problem is that there seems to be more "outgo" than "income". As the fieldmen are saying these days -- we seem to be keeping the generals but losing the troops. We waved goodbye to Eric and Barb Robinson, then later welcomed John and Ella Bruce. Bill and Marj Lehrle were our loss but Nelson's gain shortly after. Bruce Neighbor moved over to Bill's desk. Ray Downing has left Silviculture to take up dispatching at Kelowna. Miles Nicholls is "parking" with Bob Broadland. Phil and Barb Bodman are headed for Prince George, the latter if and when an "igloo" is found.

... ..

We are pleased to have new Assistant Ranger residences built at Alexis Creek, Barriere, Merritt, and being built at 100 Mile House. The Valemount district is being transferred to Prince George, due mainly to improved access from the north.

... ..

Our get-well wishes at time of writing go out to Jack Boyde and Art Hill. Jack is recovering from an operation in July. Art was injured in the course of fire duty but has kept on the long recovery road. Now he is able to take stints in the office.

... ..

Eddycashun

Our Ranger School candidates Herb Berard, Don Crosby, Don Gill, Joe Horne, Hubert Janning, Ted McArthur, Mel Monteith and Ernie Pement are, by now, well into the old grind, we hope. No doubt some of them have renewed acquaintances with "Professor" Kirk!

The thought of losing temporarily so many experienced men to the School as well as the large influx of new men, led us to hold a Management School of our own for 39 of our temporary field staff. "Dean" Fraser was in charge.

... ..

One of our operators had this message for us on how things are on the other side of the fence:

SAWMILLING

You own a sawmill, if you're lucky its clear,
Your taxes are paid, you're in the new year,
Your hopes are up high -- and the troubles
you've met
In the year that's gone past -- you hope to
forget.

The pond's full of logs, they're sound as a
dollar,
The spur's full of cars -- on that you've
no holler,
Your yard's full of lumber all sorted and
drying,
But you have to shut down -- the trade
isn't buying.

The year slips along, and soon it is Spring,
But your hunch was correct and the mailman
did bring
Some really fine orders with good prices
showin',
But you have to shut down -- this Spring
it is snowin'.

You survive thru this season -- you're
rolling once more,
It's surely your turn now, to even the
score,
So you double your shifts -- really crowding
old par,
But you have to shut down, for the lack of
a car.

Now comes the Summer -- though you
quietly burn,
You do get some empties -- hooray--
it's your turn.
Your hopes soar upward -- but then
comes the blow,
You have to shut down -- humidity
too low.

Once again you get going, you are
now into Fall,
And those orders you had ain't
orders at all,
'Cause prices have slipped from
their high elevations.
And you have to shut down -- all
you got's cancellations.

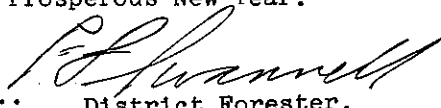
To replenish your file you pick up
some strays,
And you promise quick shipment --
but brother -- what days,
The weather turned cold -- it's
freezing -- not nice,
And you have to shut down -- pond's
covered with ice.

Now you're back where you started --
just twelve months ago,
And as you look at your yard, all
covered with snow,
Have courage my friend -- you took
quite a beatin',
To keep the place going for tax
money and eatin'.

... ..

CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM KAMLOOPS

I welcome the opportunity offered by the Christmas Edition of the Newsletter to wish all members of the Forest Service staff, and particularly those in the Kamloops Forest District, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.


District Forester.

... ..

PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICTBest Wishes To All

As the year draws to a close, one usually ponders over the numerous problems that have been presented. By way of recollection, most of these difficulties have been concluded satisfactorily, so that we can sincerely wish each member of our staff "Merry Christmas!"

Our past Fire Season was most costly, but looking out at the snow-covered ground, our recollections can not conjure up a good forest fire picture. The unsurmountable list of cruises to be done has nearly been reduced to a surmountable state. More of our Working Circles are beginning to work. Many of our other matters are in a much brighter state and we know we will have a Merry Christmas. We trust all the rest of you will have the same.

If all our New Year wishes came to be, we should have heaven on earth, so we shall only wish each a Happy New Year, with the added wish that your good fortunes continue for the future years.



District Forester.

... ..

Here and There

Our technical management staff has undergone numerous changes this fall. Ted Knight came from Rupert to fill in for the departure of John Bruce. Darrel Selkirk left our Working Circles to their fate with Ralph Robbins, so that he could take over Knight's Rupert position.

After a most varied career, covering an 18-year period, Mickey Trew decided to look elsewhere for employment. Phil Bodman arrived in November to take over his work of supervising Management Licences. Bob Sutton, who has been in our Protection Section, switched over to Management duties on November 1st, 1956.

Nick Mason left in the fall to report to Working Plans and was replaced by Bill Young from the same section to be Silviculturist.

For these new arrivals, housing is the serious problem. It has always been difficult to acquire housing in Prince George, but with the present booming conditions, we are faced with the added problem of housing lack for workers on the P.G.E. Extension, gas pipeline, and several other construction programs.

... ..

District Boundaries Change

On the first of January, the Prince George District will have expanded to take in from the Kamloops District the assistant ranger district centering around Valemount and extending down the Canoe River.

With this change the Prince George boundaries will touch all other Districts except Vancouver and at one point near Anahim, we are not too far removed from them.

Speaking of the Nelson District, one of our statistically-minded Foresters points out that four of our Foresters have all served at Nelson and 7 out of 17 Rangers have come to us by way of the Nelson District.

... ..

Oh! That New Building!

Most cities and communities of the Prince George area have doubled their populations since the last census. Prince George boasts of a population in excess of 10,000 and Dawson Creek has over 7,000 and is still growing steadily.

The headquarters staff are eagerly awaiting a move into the new Government Building. The Forest Service has been allocated 2½ floors of the new building. Most of the concrete foundation work has been completed prior to the cold weather, so that we anticipate continued activity throughout the winter.

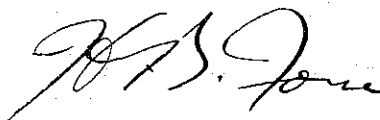
The crowded condition of our present quarters is most discouraging. By way of review, the present 3-storey building was erected as a hotel. It was constructed during the first boom period prior to the first Great War. It operated as a hotel and sort of boarding house until it was purchased by the Government. At this early stage, several employees were able to live in rooms or suites in unused portions. Since 1945, sufficient office space has become increasingly more difficult to find. For a time it was possible to remove or alter walls, but of recent years this has not been possible because of the state of the building. Unfortunately, bedrooms are awkward when accommodating office facilities. Hence, we are eagerly awaiting the new accommodations.

... ..

NELSON DISTRICTGreetings!

When the personnel of an organization becomes scattered over quite a few thousand square miles, the opportunity to extend personal greetings does not present itself too often.

At this time of year particularly we would all enjoy renewing the acquaintances and friendships and arguments we struck up at the last big fire, or round-table conference, or Ranger meeting. Failing this, let's do the next best thing - join with me in extending this message of cheer and goodwill to all our friends and fellow workers of the "Service": And to the staff of the Nelson Forest District, sincere wishes for a very enjoyable Festive Season from your District Forester.



District Forester.

... ..

Christmas Tree Philosophy

Apropos of the Christmas Season, the following incident took place within the Castlegar Ranger District, in the Rossland-Trail area where there is no "Christmas tree cutting" but where each of the 10,000 inhabitants goes out and gets his own tree wherever he can find it.

An elderly Italian, out Christmas-tree hunting near the Rossland Summit, when asked how he was faring, replied:

"Well, I gotta coupla, but not mocha good. You know when you looka for a Christmas tree, is justa like when a you a looka for a wife; they all looka pretty gooda whena you see 'em in a bonch; but whena you getta home and givea gooda inspecsh, you know damna well you coulda done a better."

... ..



Christmas trees are big business in the Kootenays. Here T.F.A. Harry Sandberg and Assistant Ranger Geoff Bate inspect the trees in the Emerald Christmas Tree Company yard, at Cranbrook.

... ..

PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISIONA Yuletide Message

We have been working together for only six months, but I feel as though I know all of you very well. I have been impressed by the enthusiasm and keen interest which each of you has shown in carrying out your various tasks, for developing and maintaining recreational facilities for the ever-increasing public demand. As we continue our work through 1957, may we also continue the spirit of goodwill which is so prevalent at this time of the year. Meanwhile, may you and yours, and all other members of the Forest Service, have a Very Happy Holiday Season.



Forester-in-Charge.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas - Christmas. Now, there is a word to juggle with, this time of the year. A hearty word, a word of a thousand subtle shades of meaning; a word of a million memories, wafted like smoke across twenty centuries; a word coloured by our own dispositions and experiences and, quite often, by our ulcers. Yes, truly a word to toss around like a juggler's ball. To the many, a hallowed word, meaningful and beautiful, and filled with a world of love and joy, the birthday of a Prince. To our cynics, and they are not few, desperately trying to save us from ourselves and from Christmas, a

Parks and Recreation Division (continued)Christmas (cont'd)

horrid word, connoting commercialism and paganism. Their patron saint, of course, is the unrepentant Scrooge, snarling his blasphemy against Christmas. To the very young, it is a magic word - the key word, or equivalent, to winning the Irish Sweepstake every 25th of December. Conversely, to their harried parents, the word Christmas at times suggests places like the poorhouse or the skid row soup line. Then, of course, there is the typical male view of this word Christmas, seen a little fuzzily through the bottom of an upturned glass, as the last, warm, convivial drop rolls gullet-wards. But why start a family quarrel by belabouring this delicious theme at this particular time.

Christmas, you will perceive, means many things to many people, and Christmas is for people. The season when we warm to each other a trifle more like humans, and forget for a short while that we also are the "big-domes" the "Goon boys" and the "knuckle-heads" of our generation.

Christmas is also the time of year when we make the startling discovery that our large organizations, our companies and corporations, divisions and bureaus, are also human in that they are made up of any number of human beings, all of whom like Christmas. Now, we in the Parks and Recreation Division are not the least bit ashamed of loving Christmas, and we are truly proud of the people who go to make up our Division and, especially, of those hardy souls, the outside staffs and the field crews - for here are the people who meet the people. We would like to remind you that in 1955, over a million and a half people, and pardon us if we belabour that word, "people", passed through and enjoyed the facilities of our 109 Provincial parks and our satellite campsite system. This year, we know that the last figure will have shown a substantial increase. That these many hundred of thousands of people should cherish happy memories of holidays in our parks and campsites, depends in a vital measure upon the conduct and the good nature and, sometimes, the long suffering tolerance of our own parks people, the rangers and supervisors, the foremen and park attendants, the cooks and the mechanics, the engineers, and the bulldozer operators, and the fellows who move the garbage. We could not begin to name them all, but those of us down here in Headquarters would like to take this opportunity of saying thank you for a job well done to each and every one of them, and to wish them all a truly Merry Christmas. Ours is a completely satisfying employment when we succeed in giving happy recreation to others. Since our activities are Province-wide in their scope, we get a free lesson in the geography of this Province by mentioning a few of these people and the places where they work. Let's start with our District Recreation Officers: Bob Broadland at Kamloops and Bill Hepper at Nelson. A Very Merry Christmas to both of you. Let's continue with people like Ole Johansen and Art Moore and Andy Heatherington, battling with the new season up at Mt. Seymour. Andy has just returned from Silver Star near Vernon. Then, of course, we have Siggy Kristjanson at Peace Arch, Cliff Fenner at Garibaldi, Bob Boyd, Dave Davidson and the rest of the gang at Manning, Jim Moore, building our new Okanagan Lake Park, Tony Hammond and Don Carruthers, also building a new park, this one at Champion Lakes. John Willgress, down from his last tour at Mt. Robson. Les Cook and all his fine gang at Wells Gray, Shook, Gaglardi, Norman and Miller. Let's not forget Ritcey and Green, our explorers of Tweedsmuir. And, finally, that grand gang from the Island parks. There is Charlie Darkis, the Supervisor, and Frank Rainbow, Jim Hall and Roly Stephenson, Chris Neilson, Sam Guthrie, Bill Holm and Cec Lewis, each a great advertisement for his park.

Every tourist who enters our Province is literally goggle-eyed at our shiny, new picnic tables and our famous campsite signs. They are a great source of pleasure. For these we should thank Len Shaw and the Langford workshop gang, Corby and Milburn, Ruston and McIntosh. Then there are people like Shorty Simard, the two Rosens and Gunter Heinken, and what about our camp cooks, those doughty workers who have discovered that the short-cut to a man's heart is through his stomach. What about Frank Dalzell and Charlie Cowan? Do you remember Joe Mercier? He was an institution. And, of course, we have an especially cordial greeting for the many fine people who, working outside of our Division, yet contrive to contribute heavily to the success of our efforts. We would like to single out our good friends the Land Inspectors, and the Forest Rangers. We owe them a lot in goodwill.

And, glancing backwards over our shoulders, we see that we have lost as well as gained in this Division of people. We would like to mention only two at this time, from amongst the many who have helped build our organization. Firstly, Cy Oldham, who launched our infant organization in 1948. Cy left us for the more fascinating charms of Mexico. We miss Cy, we remember him keenly, and we wish him all success in his new enterprise. Knowing him as well as we do, however, we would also like to wish the Mexicans some little success. May we also take this opportunity of welcoming our new Forester, Harold McWilliams, who came to us from the Reforestation Division. A Merry Christmas to you. We hope you will park and recreation awhile.

The second person we wish to mention is Audrey Price. Audrey decided that the management of a home was a full-time career in itself and, so, we lost another of our fine old-timers. Audrey will probably resent being referred to as an old-timer, but we do remember when she was exactly half of the whole general office staff.

Looking forward to another New Year, we also feel constrained to take a backward look at the old years that have slipped through our fingers. We hope that we have learned a little of maturity since our first rash enthusiasm of 1948. We remember that year, how puffed up we were, to learn that our parks had welcomed 113,000 visitors. Last year, a little older and a great deal wiser, we were actually alarmed to find that our visitors had made a ten-to-one jump in some seven years, and that we had registered over a million and a half persons. Then, we remember how we launched our campsite system in 1951, an experimental project with seven small areas. It has snowballed on us, gathering momentum as it rolled, until now our new toy spans the Province, a colossus of close to eighty localities. We remember that in 1948 we had fifty-eight Provincial parks, and they were quite a headache. Imagine what we feel like now, with one hundred and nine parks. We look back at all these things, and the things we have developed in our parks, the roads and bridges, the trails and buildings, the ski tows and concessions.

Parks and Recreation Division (continued)

Christmas (cont'd)

Yes, and most of all, at our park people. The people who have grown up with us. And looking back at our conquests and our failures, we feel we can also look forward to our New Year with a full and quiet confidence. So Here's to Christmas and Here's to the New Year, to all our own parks people and to all others in the Forest Service, "A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

... ..

ENGINEERING

"AT THE SERVICE OF THE FOREST SERVICE"

What'll you have?

Want to send a message? Jeff Playfair's communication section will get it through, rain, snow or sunspots notwithstanding.



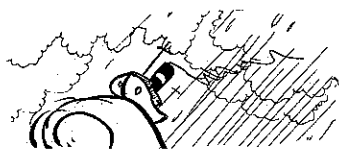
Got a flat tire? Want advice on drawbar horsepower, the newest thing in fluid drive? Want to catch heck for not filling out your log book? Call Bert Crowe and his mechanical boys. They've been around so long I think their first vehicle was a Stanley Steamer.



If you're short a chalet, a warehouse or barn, want to know what's new in plumbing or insulation, how to design a snazzy river boat, see Howie Taylor and his construction types. They spend their time reading catalogues, so they're up to date.



Harry Hill of the Marine Station will build you a boat, provide an outboard, store 'em, repair 'em, build prefabs, Portabuildings, or arrange a cruise up the sunny B.C. Coast.



Got a roadless Public Working Circle? Fred Slaney's Engineering Section will build roads through it, bridges and all. He'll do road appraisals and surveys, field engineering and cost studies of all kinds - any place, any time.

All this package in one Division at your service! What'll it be?

A blonde steno? Sorry, not our department - see Personnel!

... ..

Seen From A Lookout

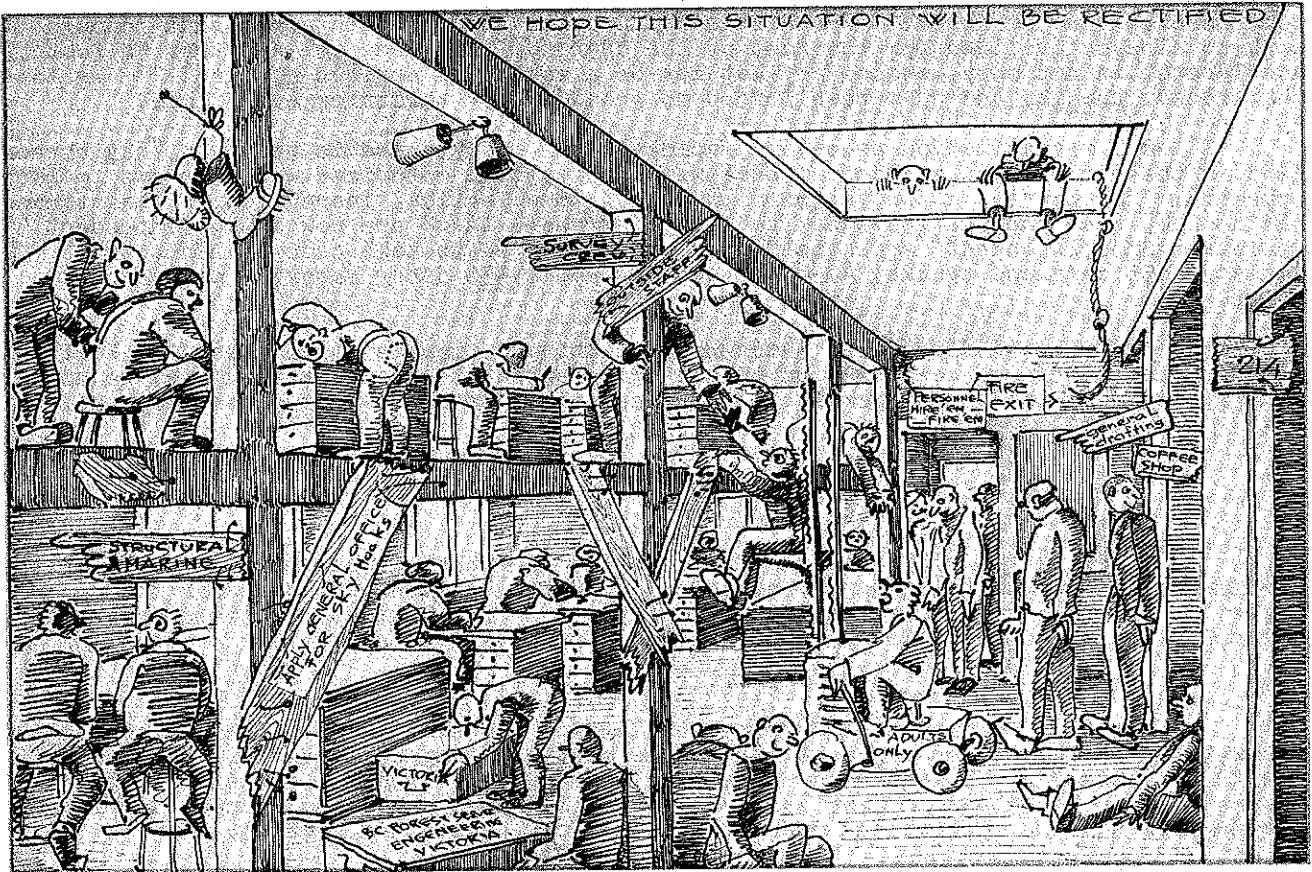
Doug Greggor - marking down his coffee time Bob Thomas - trying to buy the only tubeless tire in Burns Lake for a Government vehicle Logie Dunn - happy in his new warehouse Frank Johnson - figuring the cost of the Season's one salmon Ray White - screaming for an instrument man in October Don Adams - enjoying the bush again after sojourn in the steam heat John Paynter - slushing around under the Marine Station Mori Allison - (Father O'Malley) - jackknifed on the Cottonwood Hill P. Hemphill - thinking up excuses not to have a 'phone in his home Bob MacDonald - looking for Ski Prosser's horses C.P. Williams - running out of oil in his new car while conducting visiting "Brass" Mrs. Nadeau - making strong coffee.

One of the Willow River Boys on his first day in the Douglas Building Coffee Shop.



Our sincere congratulations to Craig Johnston, the latest of our bright young boys to commit matrimony.





4 3 2 5 4 3 4 3 2
 3 2 1 2 1 0 1 0 0

Radio communication, which has long been the medium for the acceleration and co-ordination of all phases of Forestry, is in the process of a complete change-over from the old to the new method of transmission and system planning. This conversion made measurable progress in 1955, and field work carried out by the Radio Section in 1956 has paved the way for significant improvements planned to start in 1957 and to continue for at least five years.

During the past year, Kamloops District network virtually went off the air for three weeks due to a newly-erected power line. Many Nelson Ranger Stations can no longer use radio due to the radiation of high-level transmission lines and, during the 1956 fire season, Prince George District was crowded off the air by a multiplicity of Forest Service radio stations working on channels to either side of the District frequency.

The answer to the problem is the use of Very High Frequencies which are immune to all ordinary sources of interference, and which are seldom troubled with interference from other stations because the range is limited to horizon-distance. By careful system-planning and by the use of repeater stations, these short-range signals can be sent over long distances and can be guided in any required direction.

• • • • • • • • •
• • • • • • • • •

While Engineering Services is comparatively young as a Division, some of the component sections, such as Mechanical, and Radio, date back quite a long way. According to material in an old file in the Mechanical Superintendent's office, labelled "Memories - Cars", the Forest Service first started to become "mechanized" in 1917 at which time thirteen Ford runabouts with "special boxes" were bought for Assistant Rangers on patrol in the various Districts.

It was not too long before the first Mechanical Inspector made his appearance

Engineering (continued)

Mechanical "Footnotes" (cont'd)

(1921) and, like every mechanical man before and since, he was immediately beset with the troubles to which motor vehicles are heir. And quite serious problems had to be wrestled with, too, for instance, a controversy raged as to the "safety" of installing foot accelerators on Fords. The Mechanical Section stoutly maintained that "enough work is already provided for the feet of the operator to attend to" and that "a foot accelerator is not only unnecessary but may be a source of serious accident." We lost that round, though, and have been forced to provide foot throttles ever since.

But mechanization proceeded rapidly until today there is hardly a "hay burner" left in the Service and mechanical equipment ranges from motorized wheelbarrows to rock crushers. Of course, attendant work in regard to selection, inspection and maintenance had to keep pace and has increased to the point where there are now a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and nine Supervisors required to take care of Lands and Forests' 855 cars and trucks, 40-odd tractors, and 1,436 other assorted mechanical units.

As from the first, the watch-word in this Section is still "Keep 'em Rolling" and with the continued co-operation of all drivers and other equipment-users, we hope to aid in providing the Forest Service with a mechanical establishment second to none.

... ..

PERSONNEL PATTTER

Greetings to all, from the Personnel Office in the subterranean levels of the Parliament Buildings (rear transverse corridor, first basement, second door on the right). From amongst our piles of stationery and filing cabinets, we raise hearty Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the Forest Service staff.

... ..

For those who have not visited the office for some time, we should advise that you will see some changes since we threw some of the filing cabinets out into the hall and traded them for the much more attractive appearance of a new clerk stenographer, Miss Yvonne Spencer. We should also warn you that some names have also changed as Vivian Davidson is now Mrs. Gilmer and Joan Morris recently became Mrs. Callan.

Now that we have Yvonne on the job the Personnel Records work has been taken on by Joan while Archie McKeever is handling the multiple problems of recruitment and interviewing and processing the multitude of personnel forms with which we plague you. Jim Williams seems to have been concentrating mostly on salary revisions and re-classifications, which couldn't please anyone more. This has kept him pretty close to the office all year and we certainly regret that our Personnel Office personal contacts with all you people who are making the Forest Service tick have been so few and far between these past twelve months.

... ..

We always say, "Next year it will be better", and as we enter into a New Year, we are looking forward to even greater developments in the Forest Service, a continuing march ahead in our personnel relationships and working conditions, more hard work with our booming activities but that real glowing personal satisfaction in knowing that we are working for the best and most worthwhile Department in the Government Service.

... ..

RESEARCH DIVISION NOTES

There was a bumper spruce cone crop in the northern part of the Province this year and Tim Decie, of Research, generously allowed Rangers of the Prince George District to help in cone collecting. The response was terrific. We should have seed available for producing nursery stock and for direct seeding studies for some years. Incidentally, tree planting was tried for the first time this year in three areas in the Prince George District. Twenty thousand Douglas fir and spruce were planted out near Fort St. James, Crooked River and Eagle Lake.

Lumbermen from the U.S.S.R. visited Cowichan Lake Experiment Station recently. With the aid of interpreters, Alan Orr-Ewing explained our tree breeding programme while George Warrack, during a tour of various thinning plots, extracted a promise of an exchange of technical publications. Brush up on your Russian, boys!

During the early fall, Alan Fraser conducted a course in timber-sale cruising. The purpose was to streamline timber sale procedures in line with modern statistical methods, to produce cruises to specific standards of accuracy. In his class were Doug Morton, Prince Rupert; Don Flin, Prince George; Gerry Boulton, Kamloops; Hamish Gavin, of Nelson and Doug Brewis of Vancouver. Earlier, Alan invaded the scaling section of the Vancouver District Office with a new and simplified procedure resulting in a saving of 30 percent in time for computing log-scale.

Mike Stewart was recently transferred to Nelson as a regional research officer. Thus, with Decie at Prince George and Bruce Clark at Kamloops, we now have three regional representatives.

... ..

George Tunstall Visits Victoria

Many Forest Service officers, particularly on the Coast, will recall with pleasure their many contacts, official and otherwise, with George Tunstall, who acted for a period of about two years as liaison officer from the Dominion Government in the matter of our use of Alternative Service Workers during the war. A recent visit to Victoria by "Mr. and Mrs. George" prompts the present note.

George returned to Ottawa to assume, in the course of time, the duties of Assistant Director of the Forestry Branch. In more recent years, he was also a member of the Dominion commission of three men who, in co-operation with the Province of Alberta, built the East Slope access and forest protection road -- between two hundred and fifty and three hundred miles of road north and south along the east slope of the Rockies, of inestimable value to forest administration in that region.

Our dates may be a little confused but we think we are approximately right in saying that George retired from the Dominion Service in May 1955, but spent a further year in Calgary in connection with the administration of the completed road project, and now is about to start to enjoy a long-since well-earned relief from the necessity of daily attendance on the job.

The Forest Service -- and, we have no doubt, George and Mrs. Tunstall, are only sorry that they could not have extended their British Columbia visit to include at least all of their old friends in the Service.

... ..

SCHOOL LECTURES IN SIXTH YEAR

By the time you receive this issue of the Newsletter, the Forest Service school lecture team of Tegid Jones and Dick Hall, both of P.R. & E., will be into its third month of the sixth year of operation. So far this school term, Tegid has been concentrating on Vancouver Island and Dick has been working the Kamloops, Salmon Arm, and Vernon Schools.



Jones

Each school lecture programme runs between 45 and 60 minutes and consists of a talk on general forestry subjects plus the showing of films from the Forest Service film library and other sources.

Since this programme was first initiated in the Fall of 1950, with W.N. (Rusty) Campbell and Rex C. Mills as our lecturers, some 2,400 individual lectures have been given in 1,950 elementary and high schools to a total audience of 332,813 pupils.

It is felt that this continuing programme of public education through the schools has been of considerable general benefit in creating an "awareness" of some of the basic problems of forestry in this Province. These benefits cannot be measured with a slide rule, nor can a business machine digest the programme and come up with a mathematical answer. However, it just makes sense that if one tells one's story 2,400 times some of one's audience are bound to be influenced.

The programme also clears the way for "follow-ups" in order to cement and personalize Service relations on a strictly local level. Most such efforts are crowned with success in creating a sympathetic climate of opinion in which the field officer may work with greater efficiency brought about by public understanding. Possibly more could be done along these lines.

The Public Relations and Education Division would be delighted to receive any comments or suggestions from the field staff aimed at improving the school lecture programme.

... ..



Hall

VANCOUVER DISTRICT

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere wish that you and yours enjoy this Holiday Season and trust that the coming year will bring you happiness and success.

District Forester.

... ..

Vancouver District (continued)

Fire Bombing From 'Copter

This past Fire Season, a new approach was made to the old problem of fighting lightning fires in the Vancouver District. A Bell Helicopter, piloted by Leo Lannon, of Okanagan Airways Ltd., was used on an experimental basis to determine what results could be obtained on this type of fire.

The testing ground was the "Bug" fire, a lightning strike in a 1942 burn at the 2700-ft. level, on a precipitous sidehill approximately 5 miles from the head of Jervis Inlet.

As the payload of this plane is limited to 500 pounds, it was necessary to make two trips to transport the 4 members of the party - District Forester D.B. Taylor; Don Owen; Bryan Briggs; and Bill Brown - from the head of Jervis Inlet, where the launches were moored, to a small gravel bar in the Skawka River, immediately below the fire. This trip took a matter of minutes by 'copter whereas it would have taken a full day's travel to cover the same distance through the impenetrable jungle of devil's club, willow, hard hack, and swampy ground along the meandering river.



The Landing Strip.

At the base on the gravel bar, glazed brown paper bags of the 10# size were filled with 1 to 1½ gallons of double-strength "wet" water. It was soon discovered that this double-strength solution made pulp of the bags and 3 thicknesses of bags were required to contain the liquid. Between 12 and 15 bags were loaded on the floor of the compartment and on the cargo racks for each bombing run. Each bombing run consisted of taking off from the "bar", climbing to 2700 ft., making 3 or 4 passes over the burning snag during which time 4 water bombs were dropped, and returning to the bar. The elapsed time for this operation averaged 15 minutes. In all, 4 bombing runs were made in the time we had at our disposal. The total volume of water dropped would be approximately 75 gallons.

Contrary to popular belief the 'copter does not hover motionless at 2700-foot elevation permitting the bomb-aimer to drop water bags down the centre of the snag. At zero indicated airspeed the 'copter started to "mush" and the pilot was forced to bank

away from the mountainside to avoid being skewered by the snags below. Another difficulty encountered was the method of delivering the bags. It was imperative to throw the bags clear of the rubber floats while at the same time attempting to keep one's eye on the "target" and making allowance for the forward motion. You will further appreciate the difficulties when you realize that the 'copter was subject to the violent up-drafts which occur on the mountain sides during a hot summer afternoon. While we do not suggest that a sufficient concentration of water was dropped on the burning snag and the small area at the base to extinguish the fire, we did definitely see several direct hits at the base of the snag which certainly slowed it down.

From our experience with the helicopter we have arrived at the following conclusions:

- (1) It is not possible to completely extinguish a small fire by dropping water from aircraft, but under certain conditions it would be possible to delay the spread of a small fire until a crew could arrive on the ground.
- (2) Helicopters are still too scarce and costly (\$100 per hour) to be considered for any extensive use in our work except under extreme emergency.
- (3) This type of 'plane has unlimited possibilities for transporting fire crews and equipment to inaccessible areas.
- (4) The use of 'copters for headquarters cruising parties, both for servicing and actual cruising, has widespread possibilities.

Subsequent to the helicopter test, we tried dropping plastic bags, filled with approximately 4 gallons of water, through the hatch of the Beaver. This affords greater accuracy and a greater volume of water but the speed of the aircraft poses a major obstacle. However, we have in mind continuing this experiment next season at which time we may be in a position to pass along some definite information.

... ..

Double Take

The old adage that "clothes make the man" seems to have been somewhat overdone by our genial friend Doug Brewis, who teams up with Ray Gill on Public Working Circles.

Come quitting time the other night Ray spent some ten minutes walking in circles of his own, trying to locate his uniform cruiser jacket, finally having to go home in shirtsleeves. It was a cold night too!

Meantime, friend Doug arrived home, smelled the fragrant aroma of a hot meal awaiting him, took off his topcoat and jacket and was heading for the dinner table when

Vancouver District (continued)Doubl' Lake (cont'd)

he suddenly realized that he still had a jacket on!

We can't seem to draw any moral from this story, but Ray is mighty glad that he wasn't taking a shower when Doug went home.

... ..

MATCHED

On September 29th, Don Trickett, H.Q. cruising party chief, was married to Miss Carol Turner, and so the H.Q. cruising staff have lost another good man to "the ties that bind". To lighten the load of married life, the happy couple were presented with a Mixmaster by the Management Staff with their best wishes.

On October 29th, Muriel Lee of our filing staff was married to Mr. Albert Bath. The newlyweds were presented with a lamp and coffee table from the District Office Staff. Congratulations, Muriel and Albert.

... ..

Good Luck!

On Monday, October 22, one of the most popular personalities in the Scaling and Tabulation Office, "Cappy" Castle, retired. Cappy's cheerful, smiling face will be missed by us all Best wishes to Bill Montgomery on his retirement from the Scaling Office and his move to greener pastures in Australia Another popular old-timer, Senior Scaler Frank Patterson, retired recently. Frank was feted by the members of the Scaling Association with a "going away" party at the Hotel Georgia Harry Munn, Assistant Superintendent of Scaling, retired in August. Harry was presented with a travelling bag by members of the staff and a stag party was held at the Delmar in his honour.

... ..

About People

Many of the District Office Staff are a wee bit envious of our Operations Clerk, Jim Atkins, who, with Mrs. Atkins, left recently on the Orient Line "Orcades" for a holiday in Honolulu. We hope Jim doesn't get too attached to the land of palm trees and grass skirts.

We are pleased to see that Frank Hollinger, our former Mechanical Supervisor, who left to go into private business has returned to the Forest Service as 2nd i/c to Bob Swan at the Marine Station. Welcome back, Frank.

Bryan Briggs, Ranger at Pender Harbour, seems to be determined to get ahead of the work load in his District. Bryan recently "soloed" and hopes to acquire his own flying machine soon.

... ..

Bowling

The Courthouse Bowling League is going strong again this year. Six additional teams have been added to the line-up and the Forest Service is well represented. We bowl on Monday, after work, at the Commodore Recreations. This year has produced the most enthusiasm we have had for years and almost every Government Department is represented by one or two members, and some of the Civil Servants have brought their spouses to bowl which has made the competition even keener.

... ..

Annual Staff Christmas Party

At deadline time, plans are well in hand for members of the Vancouver District Office to cast aside their troubles, worries and uniforms and, on December 8, descend in large numbers (we hope) on the Flame Country Club for their second annual Christmas Party. There is a great deal of enthusiasm over this affair and at this early date we have over 80 people "signed up".

Last Christmas we had our party at the Panorama Roof and while everyone had a wonderful time, the space for dancing was a bit limited so this year we decided we needed a larger space. Who knows, next year we may need the Forum.

... ..

"FOREST CRUISER"

For those who may have wondered about the happy smiles on the faces of Norm McRae and Walt Tuttle recently, the commissioning of their new Headquarters Cruising vessel, "Forest Cruiser", on October 31, has certainly contributed.

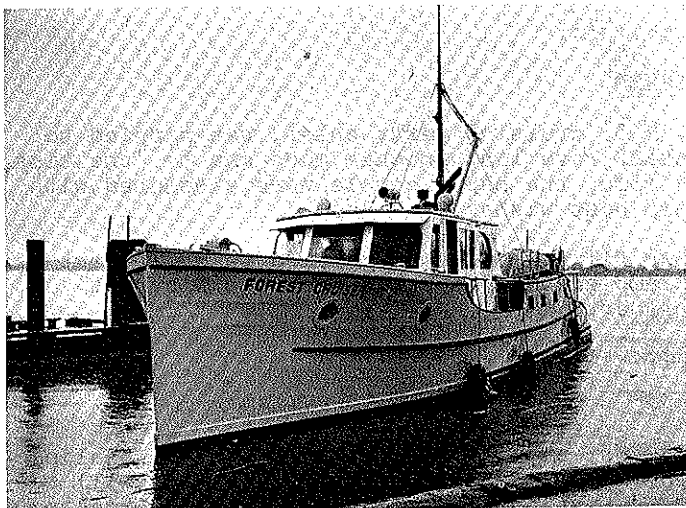
It is hoped that with the acquisition of this fine vessel the Headquarters Cruising Party will now have a mobile headquarters on a year 'round basis for their work on the Mainland Coast from Vancouver to Seymour Inlet and the west coast of Vancouver Island. Since approximately two-thirds of the timber-sale applications in the Vancouver Forest District require boat transportation, the "Forest Cruiser" should assist in providing much better service to the logging operators in the handling of their applications and at the same time alleviate the necessity of ranger launch transportation.

The new craft is skippered by Captain Neil McMillan, who has had considerable experience on Forest Service launches in the Prince Rupert and Vancouver Districts.

Vancouver District (continued)

"Forest Cruiser" (cont'd)

For those "salty" types in the Service we include the vital statistics of the "Cruiser".



Length: 60 feet
Beam: 13.6 feet
Power: 165 H.P. Gray diesel
Speed: 8½ knots

Accommodation: 10 men
1 skipper engineer
1 cook-deckhand
4 cruisers
4 compassmen

Refrigerator capacity for over one month's supply of perishable goods.

The "Forest Cruiser" was formerly named the "Marine Explorer", of Nanaimo. Captain Higgs, the former owner, used it as a private yacht and also in his work inspecting damaged ships and installations. There have also been sordid allusions to this vessel being used as a "rum runner" in by-gone days. We do not, however, expect any further trouble along

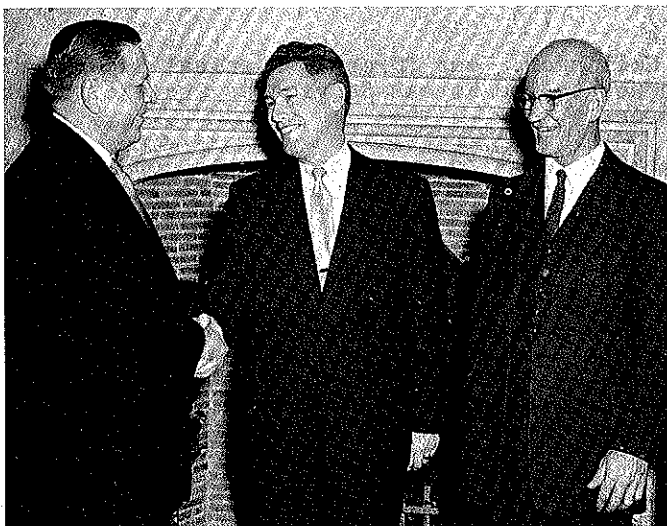
Photo by Stan Phillips
The "Forest Cruiser"

these lines with the stalwarts on our Cruising Party.

... ..

A UNIQUE EVENT

During October, a 7-man forestry delegation from the Soviet Union visited B.C. as guests of the Industry. The Forest Service came into the picture on October 19 when we held a reception and dinner for the delegation and Industry at the Empress Hotel in Victoria.



The next morning, bright and early, the Russians paid a visit to the Cowichan Lake Experiment Station where, through the services of a variety of overworked interpreters, our Research boys and the visitors had an interesting, albeit exhausting, couple of hours together.

An intriguing sidelight of the visit was P.R. & E.'s chief photographer, Bob Golding, talking his head off to the Russian visitors without the use of an interpreter. A most impressive display!

... ..

Mr. Orlov, Minister of Forest Industries, U.S.S.R. greets Hon. Ray Williston, Minister of Lands and Forests, and "The Chief".

... ..

Prince Rupert Flash -

MATCHED -Noel Martel, H.Q. Cruiser, to Joyce MacDonald, of Burns Lake, on Thursday, October 25, 1956.
Congratulations, Noel, and the best of everything to you both!

... ..

GREETINGS FROM P.R. & E.

One of the happier moments for the Public Relations and Education Division comes when we can forget all about the Public and our Relations with them and sit back to enjoy our pleasant Domestic Relations with the hundreds of friends and fellow-workers in the Forest Service. When, coupled with that, we have the pleasure of bringing "you-all" news and greetings from "all-you" through the medium of the Forest Service Newsletter it is indeed "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Noel
Dorothy
Winnie
Les
Anna
Sarah
Legid
Eric
Dick
Marjorie
Dawn
Bob
Barbara