FOREST SERVICE NEWS

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Rappelling has proven to be an effective way to fight forest fires when they break out in areas beyond road access. This "human spider" is a member of a rappelling and firefighting crew on contract to the forest service in the Nelson forest region. A crew consists of a spotter and two rappellers who descend by rope from a helicopter, equipped and trained to snuff out fires while they are still small. [Photo: Geoff Lee].

RAPPELLING FAST WAY FOR INITIAL ATTACK

Rappelling firefighters to a blaze is exciting, dramatic and filled with adventurous glamour, but its popularity in the forest service has a more practical basis — it gets people to a fire in a big hurry.

While descending by rope from a helicopter to fight fire has dramatic appeal, rappellers of Kusawa Contracting Ltd., serving the Nelson forest region, swear it ends when their feet touch ground.

"Rappelling," says company manager John Horning, "is just another way of gettting a suppression team to a fire that is inaccessible by road. Our main aim is to put out fire. Rappelling is a function of that role. Getting to the scene quickly while a fire is small is what makes the system attractive."

When needed, three-man crews of a spotter and two rappellers from their Revelstoke base scramble to a four-seat helicopter to be airlifted to a blaze.

They carry axes, chain saws, a two-way radio, shovels, survival gear and an expectation to snuff out the blaze.

They've met that goal on nearly 40 occasions this year — most of them centered in the Revelstoke area. Each mission is coordinated by the spotter who advises the pilot and crew when, where and what is about to happen.

His list of activities starts with ensuring each rappeller is fully equipped before lift-off and consulting with the pilot on the safest spot to make the rappell.

He'll also give the green light to each rappeller to begin his descent in turn, then lower the suppression gear.

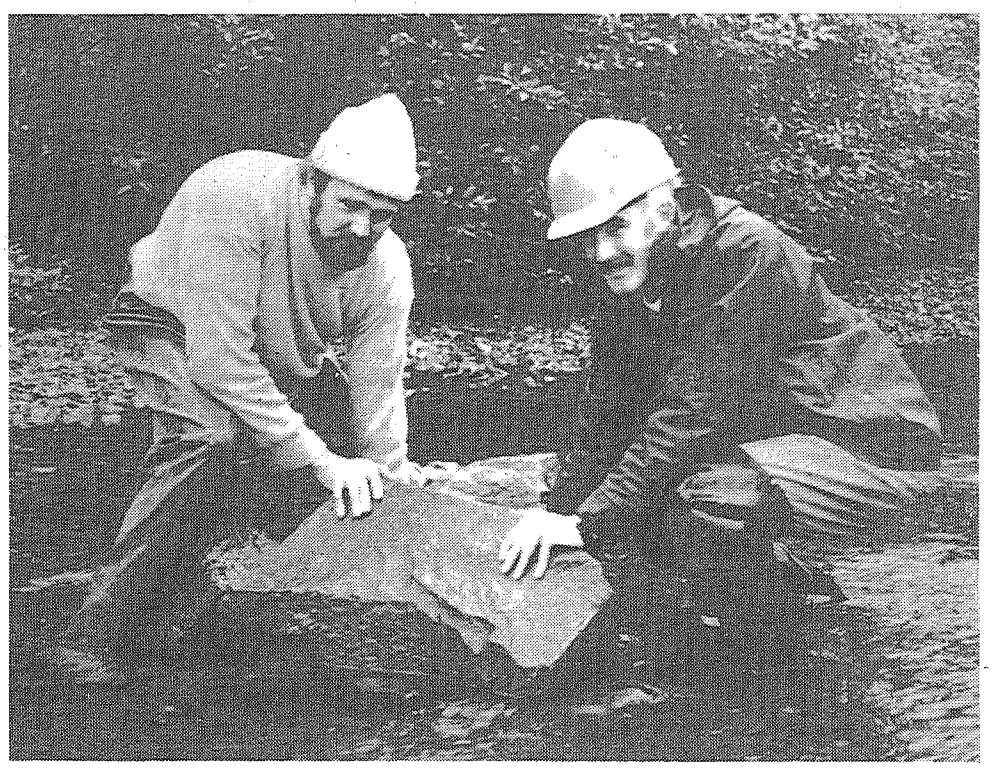
On the ground, the pair establish communication with the hovering chopper, pick out an ideal base to build a heliport and once that's done swing into action dousing the fire.

While each fire is unique, a common routine includes felling burning snags, building a fire guard and smothering the snags with available dirt or water.

When no water is on hand, the team may order 45 -gallon water drums to be ferried in, or hook up a gravity water system by tapping higher elevation streams.

"What actually happens depends on applying a combination of experience and common sense," says Horning.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT HELPS YOUNG SALMON



Working together in fish stream enhancement program are fisheries biologist Bob Griffith of fish and wildlife branch, left; and Ray Hanson, with ministry of forests' at Sayward.

Fish and wildlife and ministry of forests' personnel rolled rocks together late last month in the Sayward area. It was all part of a cooperative effort to enhance salmon facilities in a creek leading into the Salmon River some 45 miles north of Campbell River.

Poor weather and the fact it was a Saturday morning didn't stop a large group of area residents from pitching in to help trout and coho salmon. Included were representatives of the Sayward-Kelsey Bay Rotary Club, the Campbell River branch of the Steelhead Society, and a robust bunch of Boy Scouts from Willow Point.

By day's end some 35 tons of rocks, some two feet across, had been carefully placed in the stream to provide cover vitally needed by the fish. The work was done in a section of the creek which runs through ministry of forests property containing the Sayward field office.

In charge of the project was Bob Griffith, a fisheries biologist with the fish and wildlife branch. He had warm praise for the many agencies and organizations which provided help — an excavating firm which donated the rock, the ministry of highways which provided a grader complete with operator, a timber firm which offered a loader, and the many individuals who offered their time. Among those helping with the rock placement was Ray Hanson, with ministry's district office at Sayward, who is also a member of the local Rotary Club.

FROM DEPUTY RANGER TO REGIONAL MANAGER IN NINETEEN YEARS

Nineteen years ago John Cuthbert was a deputy ranger in Terrace, and his pay was a bit over $300 a month. Since then he has moved around — and up. This month he assumes another new job — regional manager for the Prince George forest region.

John Cuthbert

He's modest about the whole thing, commenting merely that in the course of his career with the ministry (including summertime work as a high school and university student) he has worked in every forest region of the province, and "now maybe I'm starting on the second time around."

Continued on page 2

Public Involvement Conference in Nov.

Four representatives from each of the ministry's six forest regions, together with personnel from Victoria headquarters, are slated to attend the Forest Service public involvement conference being held in Victoria November 14 and 15.

The two-day event will feature a series of presentations and workshops, and will be staged at the University of Victoria with an evening session at Harbor Towers (near the Parliament Buildings).

Detailed information is available from Marguerite McCallion, conference officer, university extension, University of Victoria, Box 1700, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y2. Telephone: 477-6911, local 4806.

Province of British Columbia **Ministry of Forests**

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Published for Ministry of Forests personnel and their families.

Seen from the LOOKOUT...

Art Hainstock reflecting on years of mind-boggling paperwork as timekeeper at Green Timbers nursery. He retired on Sept. 26 . . .

Hans Steiner showing off his German wirehaired pointer at Kelowna . . . Recreation coordinator **Bruce Thomson** discussing programs with New Zealand visitors . . . **Gail Speed** selling silver . . . **Andy Pakrastins** capturing pictorial award of excellence at Mackenzie fall fair . . . **Vanderhoof** challenging other districts to match a Terry Fox donation . . . **Laird Lynch** checking history of Summit Lake ranger station . . .

FROM DEPUTY RANGER . . .

Continued from page 1

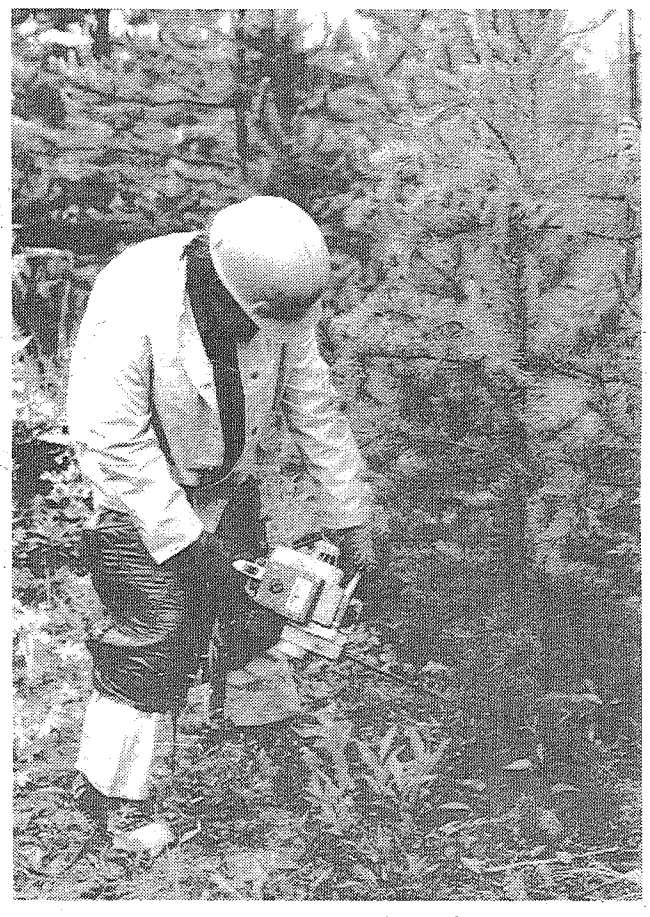
Born in Summerland, Cuthbert is a forestry graduate of UBC and commenced fulltime work with the ministry in 1961. After his initial year in Terrace he served with theinventory branch in Victoria for 18 months, spending most of that time working in the Prince Rupert region. Then he went to Prince Rupert headquarters with forest management and silviculture responsibilities.

Early in 1970 he was transferred to Prince George as a zone forester; and four years later moved again to the Nelson region where he was in charge of forest management. Last summer he was named forestry manager in that region.

The forester is a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, the Association of B.C. Professional Foresters, and the Gyro Club. Mrs. Cuthbert is the former Marlene White, of New Westminster. They have three children: Laura, 14; David, 12; and Anne, 10.

In the Prince George regional manager's chair, Cuthbert succeeds Don Grant, recently named regional manager in Vancouver.

PRISON INMATES HELPING IN FOREST IMPROVEMENT



This member of an inmate crew is spacing young trees to cut down unwanted growth and provide healthier species a better chance for survival.

By Laura Stringer

Inmates from minimum security prisons are helping the ministry's intensive forest management program in an efficient, inexpensive and productive way by improving tree stands and increasing the yield of forest land.

This summer one such crew worked in the Prince George forest region, which extends over the north-east third of B.C.

The inmates work in groups of four or five and are responsible for juvenile spacing, one method used for intensive forest management. The object of intensive forest management is to cut down unwanted growth and to give the healthier, more valuable species a better chance for survival. Juvenile spacing will reduce tree stands from about 6,000 trees to 2,500 trees per hectare.

The inmate program allows the Forest Service to treat areas that because of location and rough terrain, would be too costly to treat on a contract basis, hiring private crews. The areas covered by the inmate workers would not be treated if it was not for this program.

The men also gain work experience in the forest sector which improves their chances of finding employment upon release. Another aspect of the program is the cost — $70 per hectare compared to a standard contract price of $270 per hectare.

Inmates are selected by a liaison officer who works between the Corrections Branch and the Forest Service. They are picked on the basis of their good conduct record and previous experience. In some cases the Forest Service trains desirable employees.

"The program has worked out very well," says Bill Williams, regional stand tending co-ordinator in the Prince George forest regin, "and there have been no discipline problems."

Foreman Robert Larson says it does not take long to train the inmates and that they learn very quickly. He is the only on-site foreman, and finds the workers to be a "good bunch of guys".

In 1979 approximately 100 hectares were treated through the inmate program in the Prince George forest region and this year the figure will double. A total of 2000 hectares will be treated in the region under the intensive forest management program in 1980.

SEES MORE WOMEN FILLING MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

Someday the deputy minister of forests' chair may be occupied by a woman.

"Why not?" asks Harry Powell, our ministry's newly appointed manager of human resource planning, training and development in the personnel branch.

"It's quite possible," he explained, noting the current trend toward two-salary families, the importance of the forest resource to B.C., together with the fact that "more and more women are seeking meaningful careers."

He points out that "clearly delineated career paths" will be among many major results of the reorganization program. He has no doubt that as time goes on more women will be holding senior management positions.

"The important criteria," he said, "are that people have the technical and managerial competence to handle the job . . . and provide effective leadership and direction."

Powell came to our organization last month, following about nine years with the Canada Post Office in Ottawa.

"For the first few weeks," he admitted, "I had quite a time with a mental 'shrinking' adjustment." His last job with the post office was acting manager of human resource planning and staffing. His territory was the whole country, and some 60,000 employees.

Powell

With the ministry's new mandates, together with its reorganization and greatly increased management responsibilities, he sees "an extremely promising future" for anyone who desires a challenging and rewarding career.

His primary areas of responsibility cover human resource planning (how many people will be needed and with what skills and qualifications), career development, staff (middle management) development, and training.

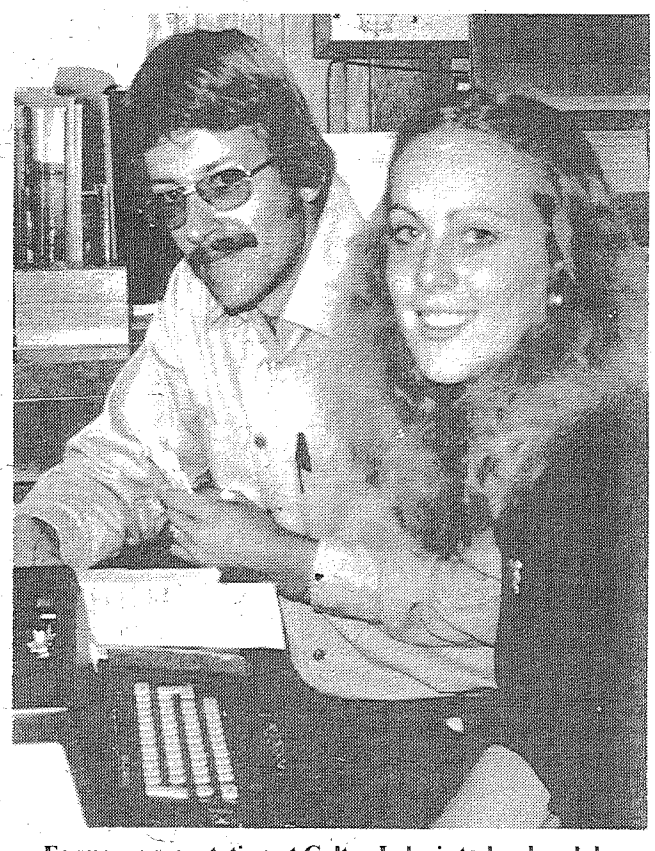
He has become familiar with the ministry's five-year program and sees the need for professional and technical personnel with high degrees of both theoretical training and practical experience.

"We will constantly be stressing the fact," he said, "that many worthwile opportunities exist for the person with interest and initiative in furthering their own careers."

He elaborated: "There are many pre-requisites necessary to move ahead. It will be our job to identify these, communicate them to employees and assist them in obtaining the skills and experience necessary to open that next door along the path."

Powell said the program will be province-wide, with personnel officers of all regions tuned in to the common objectives. Workshops and seminars are being planned for that purpose. He is a firm believer that "people are our most important resource."

A native of Halifax, Harry Powell is a graduate of Carleton University in Ottawa where he received his degree in both psychology and sociology before joining the federal postal service in 1971.



Former ranger station at Cultus Lake is to be closed down in near future, but busy days continue for office assistant Patricia Warner and resource assistant Ross Paterson. Missing from photo are other staffers Don Embury and Rick White. The station is close to large and popular Cultus Lake provincial park and it's expected the building will be turned over to parks authorities.

Happy 100th John Jardine

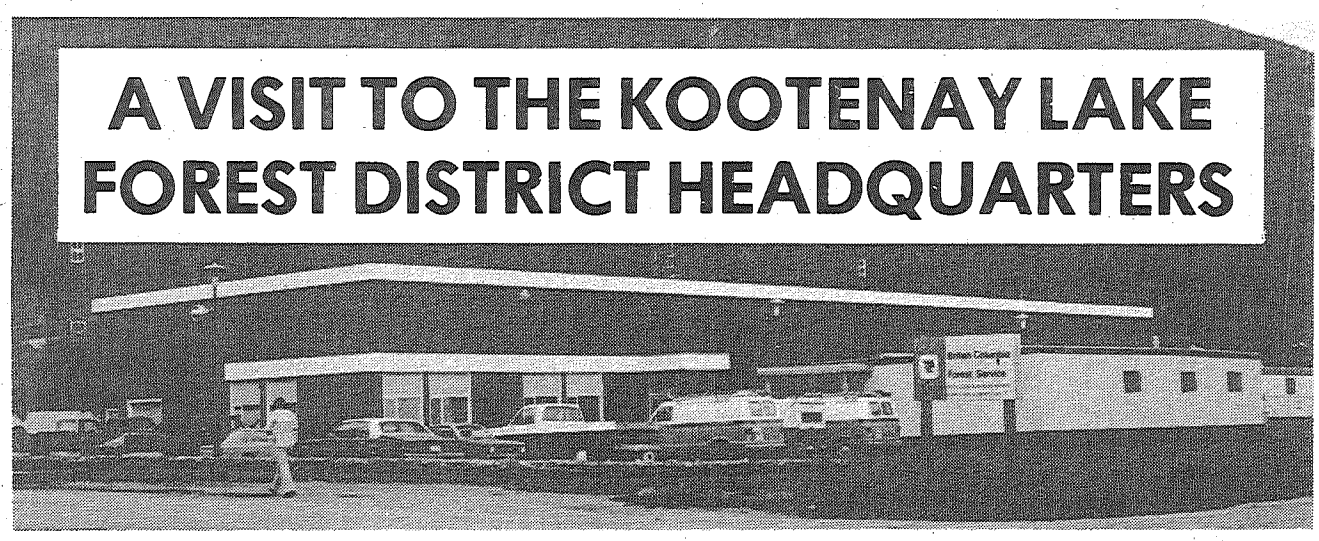
Many people in our ministry will undoubtedly remember John Jardine. For many years he served with the (then) district headquarters of Prince George and latterly as chief clerk. He retired in 1945 and soon after returned to Scotland.

On November 11 he will mark his 100 birthday at his home in Inverness.

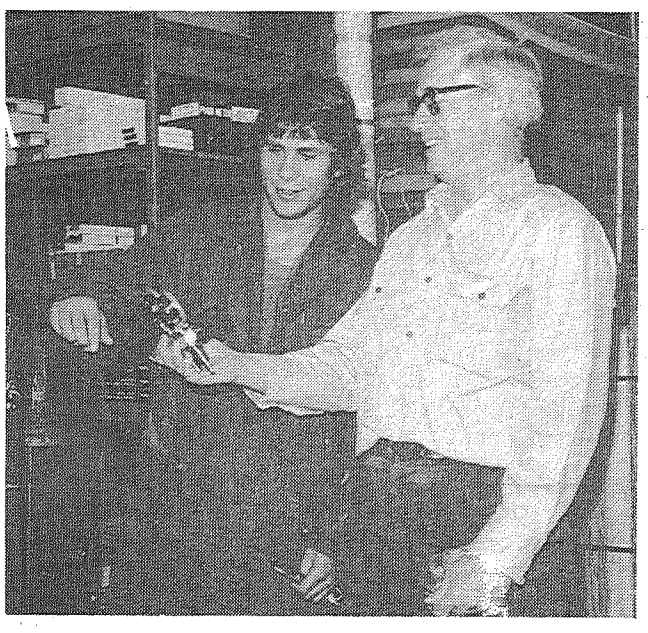
Among those who remember John Jardine well is Mary Demjanac, who started with the Forest Service in Prince George in 1944 and today is with the ministry's accounts office in Victoria.

Happy birthday wishes will also go to him from Clara Wieland, who joined the Forest Service in 1938 in Prince George and remembers Jardine as "a very fine, hard working man." Clara retired in 1971 and now resides in Victoria.

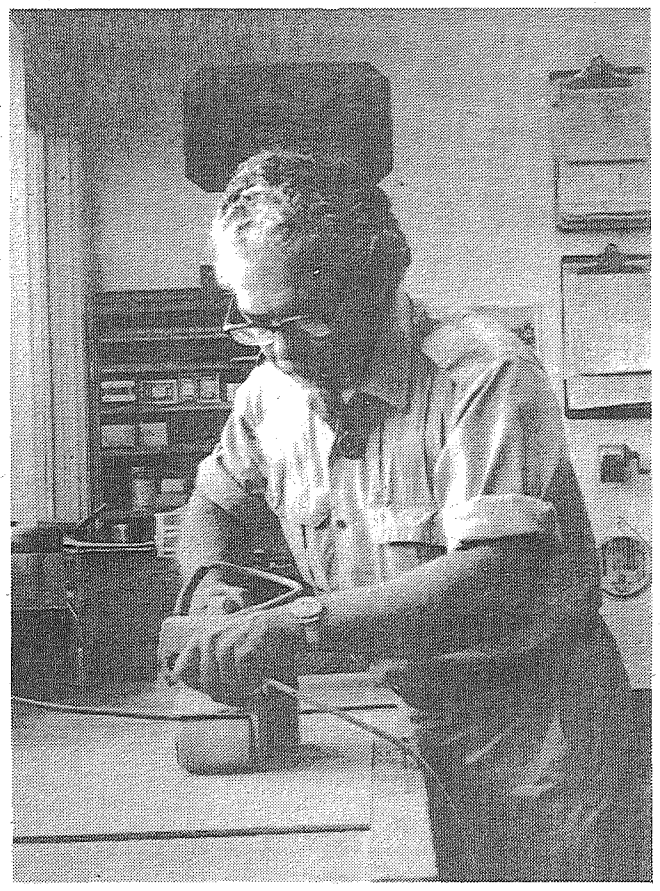
A VISIT TO THE KOOTENAY LAKE FOREST DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS



Effective sign on curve in road leading to back of headquarters area warns drivers to be careful.

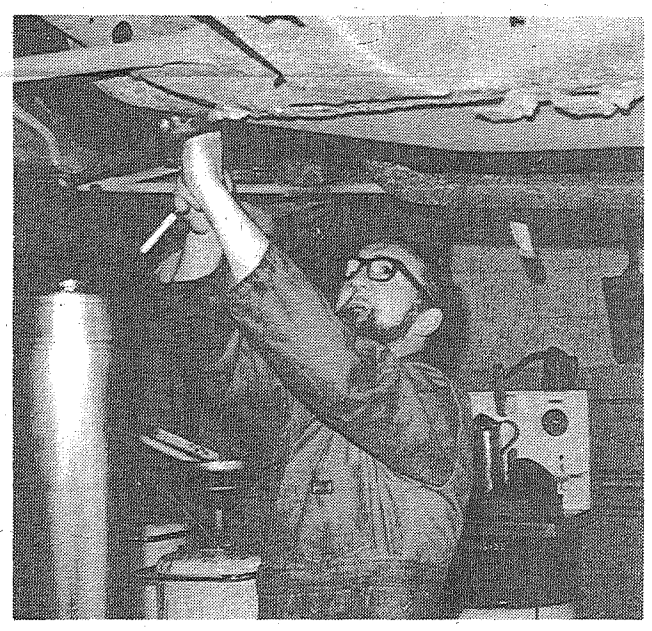


Emergency oxygen therapy equipment in warehouse is checked by Doug Allin, left, and Ed Botterill.

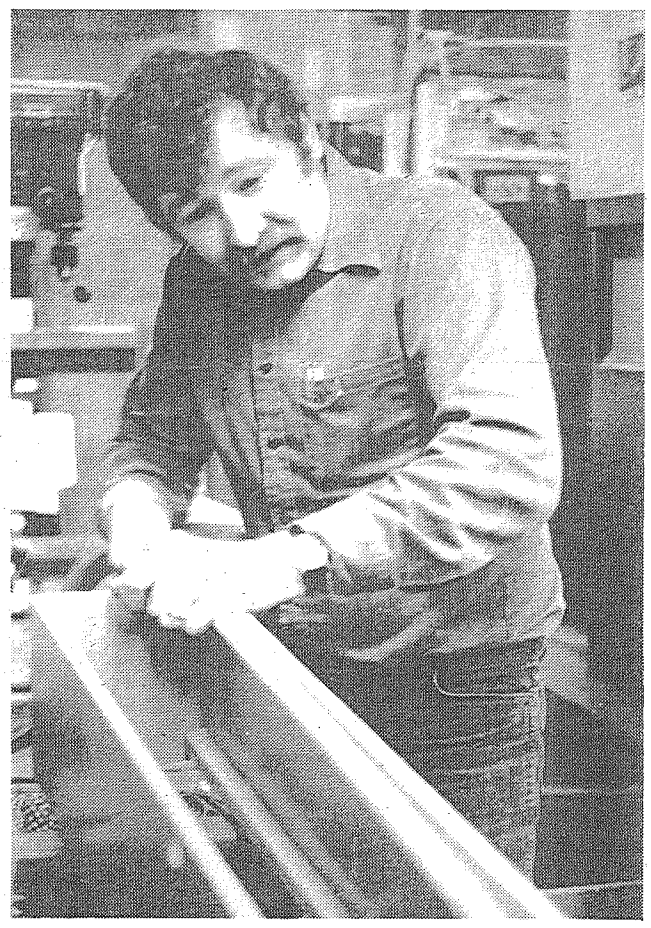


With unlit pipe in mouth and sander in hand carpenter Heinz Buhlinger completes a smooth operation.

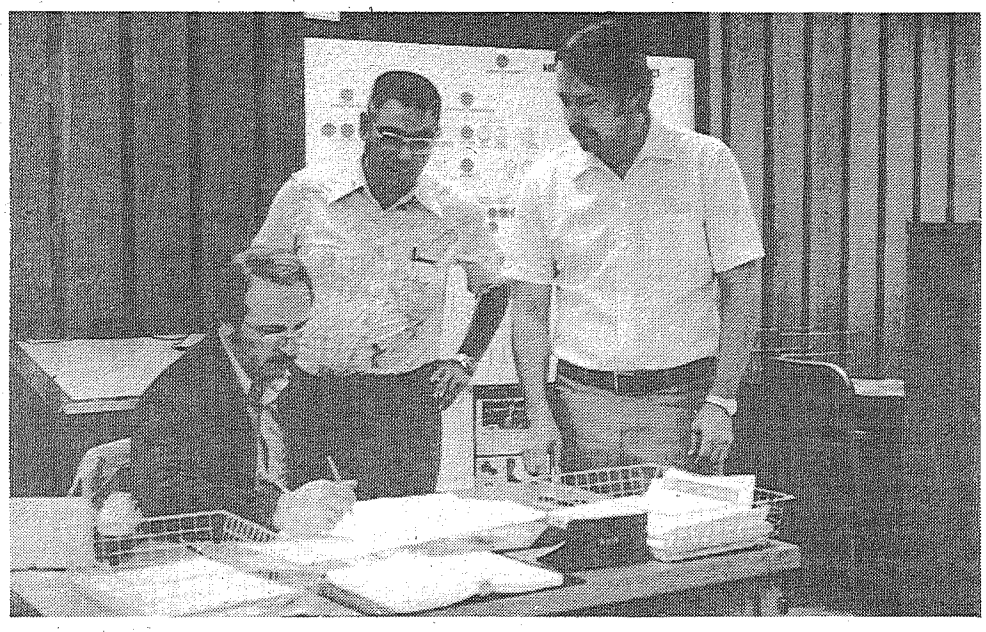
Typing, filing, corresponding, map work . . . all part of a day's work for district office secretary Donna Franson.



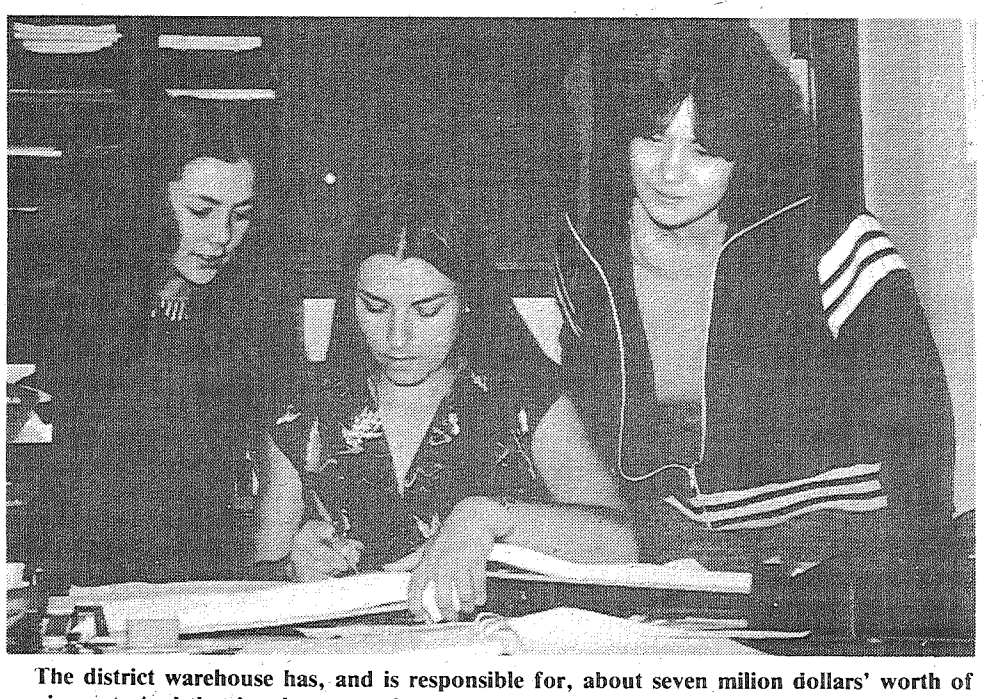
The oil pan of a ministry truck gets some expert attention from mechanic Eric MacFarlane.



With serious dedication to the job, radio technician Ben Toews completes work on a cabinet shelving project.



Busy putting final touches on organization of Kootenay Lake forest district in Nelson region are, from left: district manager John Sedlack, and operations superintendents Len Hamann and Bob Miller. Their area of jurisdiction covers well over one million hectares and formerly contained four ranger districts.



The district warehouse has, and is responsible for, about seven milion dollars' worth of equipment. And that involves a ot of record-keeping and other paper work. On the job are, from left, Cindy Fox, Barbara Maximick and Marian Postnikoff.

SEEKING NEW POSITION? DO HOMEWORK FIRST

A number of people of our ministry seeking advancement and promotion are losing before they even start, according to personnel branch officials.

Their advice to anyone seeking a new job:

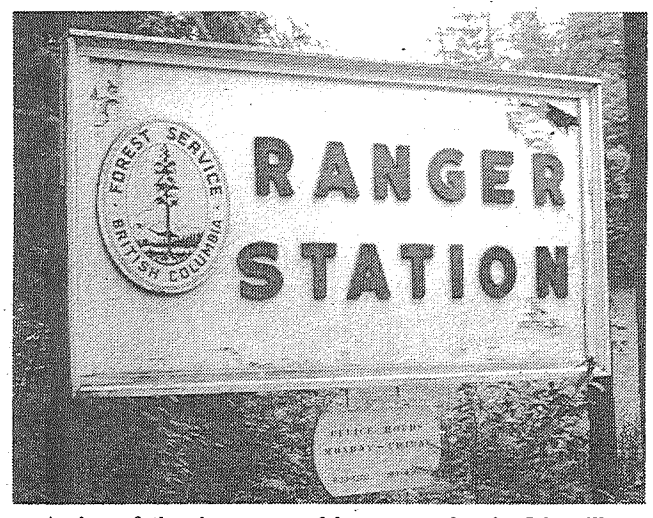
•Research the job being sought by contacting the supervisor of the position to get clarification of the (new) job duties. If possible, discuss the job with the person currently holding it.

•Direct your resume, and your response to the interviewing panel, to the position for which you are applying. Emphasize specific qualifications which relate directly to the new job.

•Study the ministry's "Reorganization Handbook" which provides valuable guidance and direction. Copies are available at all personnel offices.

•Seek advice from personnel officers.

In short: Do your homework before applying for a new job. It will pay worthwhile dividends.



A sign of the times . . . of long ago, that is. It's still on display near a ministry building "somewhere in southern B.C." That oval logo was out long before reorg was in, and it makes the sign almost a collector's item.

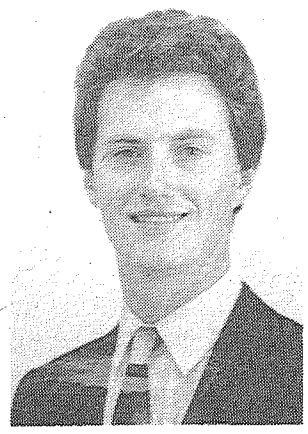
With more than 3,000 permanent staff and numerous auxiliaries it was bound to happen sooner or later. From Prince George comes a report that John Johnston is working in the regional office as an audit accountant. No relation to former assistant deputy minister John C. Johnston, John R. Johnston has been with our ministry in Prince George since last June.

With aid of "horn", range agrologist of Nelson region Fred Thiessen addresses members of Southern Interior Silviculture Committee [SISCO] during recent visit to Rock Creek near Grand Forks. Such outings are annual events for SISCO — an organization of government and industry representatives promoting intensive forest management. The Rock Creek visit featured tours through lodgepole pine stands once riddled with mountain pine beetle damage. Touring foresters were shown samples of clear cutting, selective logging, juvenile spacing, planting and natural regeneration. [Photo: Geoff Lee].

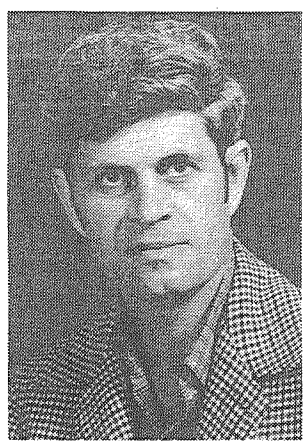
RESEARCH BRANCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Dr. H.B. Stauffer

Dr. Wayne Johnstone



Dale Draper



Dr. K.J. Mitchell

The research branch in Victoria has announced the appointment of two research sivilculturalists. Dale Draper will serve at Red Rock and Dr. Wayne Johnstone will serve in Vernon.

The two will provide advanced knowledge and skills to tackle high priority problems at the regional level and coordinate activities where problems go beyond regional boundaries. They will also provide additional liaison between the research branch in Victoria and regional research forsters.

The research branch also recently welcomed two other newcomers — two technical advisers in biometrics (the application of mathematics and statistics to the biological sciences).

They are Dr. Kenneth J. Mitchell, formerly of the College of Forestry, wildlife and range sciences, in Moscow, Idaho; and Dr. Howard B. Stauffer, former associate professor of mathematics at California State University, a visiting professor of mathematics at U.B.C., and consultant for the Federal Institute of Ocean Sciences.

Confidence has been described as that quiet, absolute assured feeling you have just before you fall flat on your face.

If you had a row of rabbits and you had them all back up, it might be said you'd have a receding hare line.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ATTRACTS 143

The weatherman didn't extend the usual cooperation, but that didn't dampen the spirits of 143 entrants in the ministry's 8th annual golf tournament held at Williams Lake September 6-7.

By the time it was all over, a total of 40 prizes had been awarded. Winners of various trophies were:

Eric Robinson, retired men's low gross, Cariboo Spur trophy.

Brian McNaughton, men's "topper" winner, Cariboo Air Charter trophy.

Maureen Pamplin, ladies' "topper" winner, Sharp Wings trophy.

Dot Robinson, ladies' low gross, Monsato trophy.

Betty Wicken, ladies' low net, Chemonics trophy.

Tom Henderson, men's low net, Conair trophy.

Brian Leckie, men's low gross, Hamblin-Wood memorial trophy.

Scorekeeper Hugh Lyons reports the Williams Lake course is rated at 140 strokes for 36 holes, and that Brian Leckie's total was 156. This was closely followed by newcomer Alastiar Bruce (inventory) and former winner Dave Daig of Vancouver.

RESEARCH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN NAMED

Dr. Paul Trussel, formerly technical director of the B.C. Research Council in Vancouver, has been named chairman of the new forest research council — being formed under the authority of the ministry of forests act.

Forests Minister Tom Waterland has noted the large number of agencies currently involved in forest and forest-related research activities, and said a main objective of the new organization would be to "avoid duplication and coordinate such research programs for the benefit of all." The council will be based in Vancouver.

"DAS SCHWINDLESHEETE" IS IT INTERNATIONAL?

With the ministry hosting an increasing number of visitors from overseas, and notably Germany, an anonymous reader suggests it would be helpful to list some of the forest service's terms with translations. To getthuball-rolen he suggests the following:

Head office - Eivri-towarisch huffen-puffen grupe.

Field office - Klientscher-serven werkebagge bunche.

Inventory - Unpilen-und-counten schruballische jobbe.

Strategic studies branch - Einsteinischer grupe.

Junior accountant - Schirtsleevenprufer.

Senior accountant - Bigschoten shirtsleevenprufer.

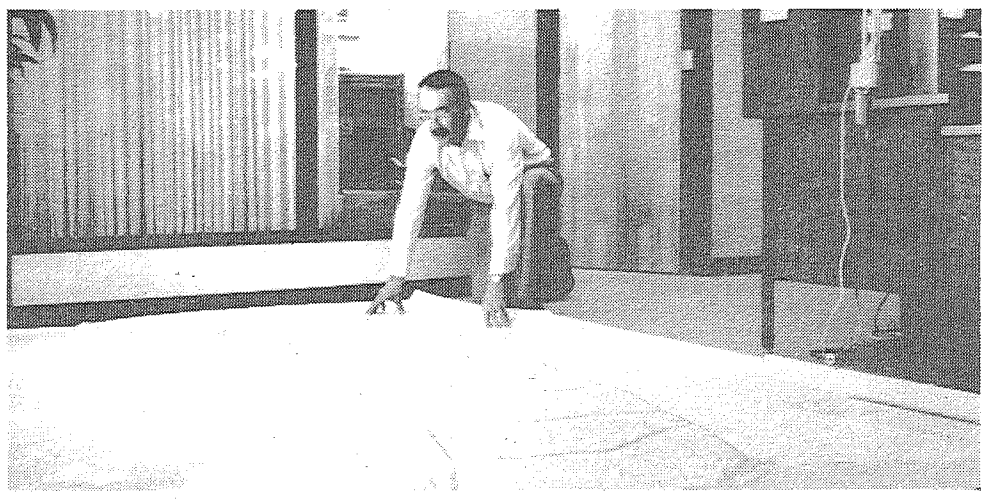
Work error: Small - Littlish schlipper; Medium - Biggischer mixenuppen; Large - Krazygotterdammerung lousigebusten.

Expense report - Das brainstormen schwindlesheete.

Scaling - Tickermarken adden-uppen dirtiwerke.

Auditor - Bookisher loopholen-discoveren bunche.

White paper writer - Footnoten sneakeninnenputter.



"Big map attack" appears to be problem facing Prince George regional protection officer Orval Gorley. Air tankers from Prince George aided firefighters in Alberta and Northwest Territories during summer and proection personnel acquired huge map to pin-point various locations of their out-of-province aircraft. (Photo: Laura Stringer).