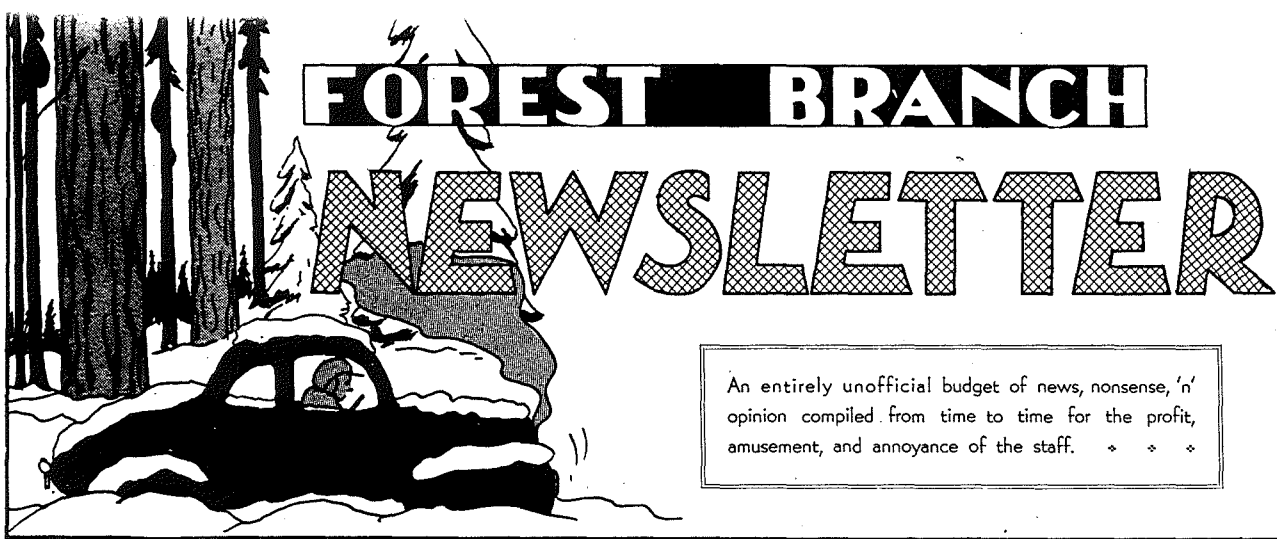




Long years of experience have reduced our newspaper reading to a clearly defined and inflexible system which may be summarized about like this,—

(a) Read front page headlines. If write-up occasionally seems to be worth pursuing, refuse positively to "continue column 7, page 11." There is no conceivable reason for these silly breaks except to annoy the reader. Refuse to be annoyed.

(b) Glance at Pop and Dagwood.

(c) Inspect editorials. If, as herein, one takes a long winded introduction to get to the point, pass up. Any that get down to brass tacks in the first two or three lines and promise to be of any interest at all, read through. (Editorials are never "continued on page 11.")

So we claim to be something of an authority on editorials; and to have discovered that it takes a very special brand of superiority complex to make an editorial writer. Did you ever read an editorial in which the writer didn't know all the answers? Did you ever read one that wasn't categorically positive no matter how false you may know the premise to be? Q. E. D.

And that, probably, is why we write a poor editorial,—take so long to get to the point. We are sure enough of our first step,—it is incumbent on every one of us in any civil capacity to match the efforts of the Armed Forces by doing considerably better than any previous best; but in our own case in the Forest Branch, with something more than 120 men in the forces, and a multitude of new duties devolving on the remaining staff, we don't quite know all the answers as to where our efforts should be concentrated, what we should overlook, where we should lower our standards.

It is clear enough that where two men couldn't maintain our standard of a monthly inspection on Timber Sales, one man will just have to do what he can, endeavour to spread his efforts evenly, and we will all have to be satisfied with what he is able to accomplish. In many cases such as this, circumstances will dictate the solution whether we like it or not. On the other hand, there is much we can control,—work plans, for instance. We must never permit ourselves the luxury of two trips where one will do. And maps! Now that is something we can do something about.

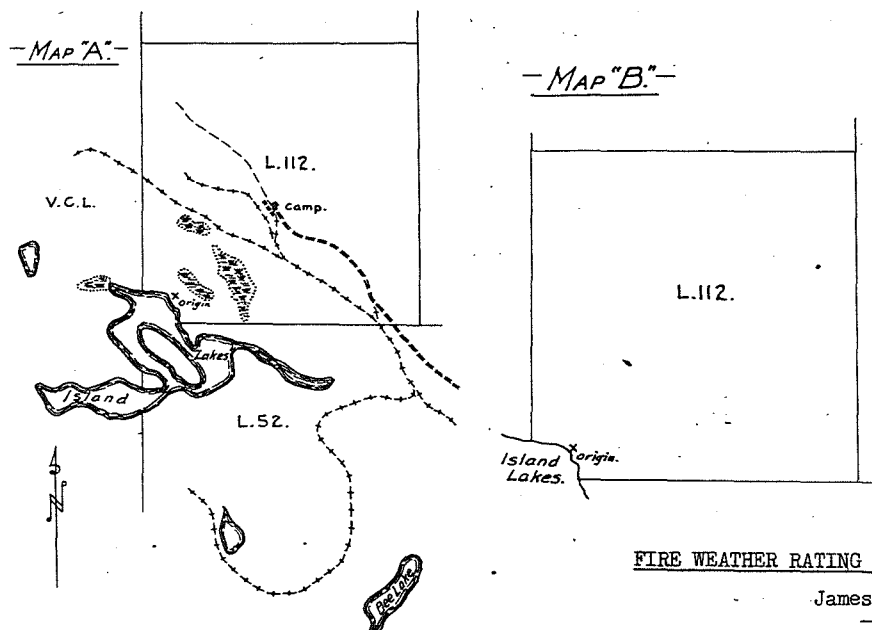
We practically live on maps and maps can't be dispensed with, but at least we can use some discretion in the matter.

The first lecture we recall in this regard was delivered by the late Chief Forester, P. Z. Caverhill, fifteen or twenty years ago. Mr. Caverhill at that time deplored the waste effort put on such inconsequential, though highly essential, maps as fire sketches. The subject has been diligently pursued since that time, with the only apparent results a steady notable improvement in these sketches. To-day, such works of art as example A, accompanying report on a "no cost" spot fire, are the rule. This map A is a random example and an exact copy, except that names and lot numbers have been changed and we are unable to print the artistic colouring of swamps, lakes and roads.

This map took not less than half an hour to make. Mr. Melrose, reviewing it, drew map B in 1 1/2 seconds flat, and we leave it with you—is there anything on map A you want to know about a "no cost" spot fire that map B doesn't convey?

Normally "good enough" is a haywire principle calculated to give haywire results. Nevertheless, we should be bright enough to use some intelligent discretion, and in the present emergency waste of time is particularly bad.

Whenever and wherever we find we haven't got quite what we think we need in time, money, or materials, we always have a partial solution in making better use of what we have. Time and men certainly are on the short order these days. Perhaps, if we start on maps and work up through the routine, we will find we're not nearly as badly off as we have been inclined to think.



Last fall, at a protection meeting in Vancouver, the question of weather records and ratings from a protection standpoint was discussed at some length with a view to general improvement of our present systems and standards. At that time, Jim Pedley (Supervisor, Nanaimo) had some suggestions to make with regard to a very simple fire weather index. Its value can only be determined by use and careful observation over a considerable period; but, at the best, it would fill a long felt need, and at worst, indicates some careful constructive thought which merits our attentive consideration. It is not impossible that in years to come the "Pedley Index" will be an everyday tool in the forest protection box of tricks. Jim outlines his proposals in the following article.

FIRE WEATHER RATING AND FIRE WEATHER INDEX

James Pedley

At a recent meeting the question was brought up for discussion regarding complaints by field officers that our system of fire weather rating was unsatisfactory. The question was: Is the fault in our fire risk ratings or a deficiency in weather stations?

It was generally agreed that we have insufficient stations from which we may obtain records to base our ratings. It was the writer's opinion also that those we do have are poorly located. To be as brief as possible, what may be termed an "Area Hazard" must take into consideration those fundamental factors such as density and type of fuel, degree and aspect of slope, and, to some extent, elevation.

Ratings for various areas can be worked out according to the above factors, the value of each combination of factors being obvious to all Forest Officers. It is not, however, the purpose of this article to discuss this aspect of fire hazard rating. It is necessary to mention it in order to prove that our present system of rating is wrong in that records we take are in too many cases far from being applicable to the factors mentioned above.

In order to take weather records, it is necessary to have personnel handy enough to read the various instruments several times a day. Instead of establishing the stations in the areas wherein we expect fires and moving the personnel to the stations to take the readings, we have put the cart before the horse and moved the stations to the personnel. In consequence, we find our fire weather recording instruments located on bare rock peaks high up on lookouts and in hot stuffy towns low down in the valleys or on the seashore. So, by taking readings on a peak at 4000 feet and in a town at 500 feet, we expect to obtain a working fire weather rating which we can apply to our area hazards. It may be argued that a mean of the two will do the job; the writer does not think so. He believes that to obtain a more satisfactory fire weather rating or index, it is necessary to take our records in areas and under conditions similar to those in which we get our fires. It is true that when taking these several sets of records, we will have to strike an average to get a general condition for the district, but that average will be much closer than that we now have. At the same time, should it be necessary for a Ranger to have information regarding certain types of fuel, certain slopes, or elevations, he has this in detail.

The above is all introductory, the writer's main purpose being to discuss fire weather rating and method.

It will be argued by many men that to bother with fire weather indexes or ratings is a waste of time. If a fire occurs, steps are taken as soon as possible to control it. Nobody wastes time looking up charts to see whether the fire had any right to start up, or if it is high hazard, low hazard, or just plain medium. Likewise, Rangers of long experience can tell fire weather without the aid of charts, indexes, or learned theories. Any person whose business or profession brings him up against weather must, by experience, get to know something about it where it concerns his particular job. A sea captain claims he can "smell" weather, which to him means stormy weather. So it may be said that a Ranger can recognize weather, which to him is fire weather. In both cases it is a sense born of bitter experience. Nevertheless, the experienced sea captain, with one eye cocked up to the clouds, keeps his other eye fairly well glued to his barometer. So with us, it is as well to back up our fire weather judgment by the records of weather instruments. It is the make-up of a chart showing weather action that this paper proposes to deal with.

What is weather? According to the "Brittanica," it is "the condition of the atmosphere in regard to its temperature, presence or absence of cloud, and degree of humidity." For our purpose where forest fire weather is being discussed, we can define it as "humidity in relation to temperature and wind." Temperature, humidity, and wind make fire weather. If the writer is correct in his premises, it is logical to suppose that any method of fire weather rating must be based upon all three. Each is measurable; each affects the other. What then is needed is some simple method of co-ordinating the three which will give us a figure to use, showing the degree of fire hazard existing. The chief factor is undoubtedly humidity; temperature has much to do with humidity, while wind is mainly responsible for the rate of spread, apart from its effect on the other two.

To any person who has kept a chart showing both temperature and humidity, the swing apart of the two lines must have been obvious during fire weather. It is true that the higher the temperature does not necessarily mean a corresponding decrease in humidity. We have all experienced the "sticky heat" as in contrast to a more bracing kind.

It is the difference between temperature and humidity that forms the basis of this proposed system of fire weather rating. Starting with a base of 70° temperature and humidity 30, we know off hand that we have a hazard. Humidity 30 is considered the danger point and when the humidity chart shows this, we look for trouble. Taking the swing between or apart of humidity and temperature in the example mentioned, and if we deduct 30 (humidity) from 70 (temperature), we get 40. This 40 mark corresponds with the 30 humidity and becomes our danger mark. This indicator, or index, 40 integrates the two factors humidity and temperature at the basic hazard developed at 30% humidity and 70° temperature; and it is submitted here that no matter what humidity and temperature may be, if their difference equals 40, then the fire risk will closely approximate the risk at these basic levels.

Supposing now that the temperature goes up 10° while the humidity remains at 30. One cannot say that the hazard mark has remained the same. With the same humidity, we now have 10° more of heat. Some allowances must be made for this. It is made in exactly the same manner: Deduct the 30 from the temperature, which is now 80, and we get a hazard mark of 50. If a raise in temperature always caused a corresponding decrease in humidity, all that would be necessary would be to read the humidity and let it go at that. It would be automatic, but this does not always follow. We can, and do, get bad fire days with humidity at 40 or 45. On such occasions it will be found that the other two factors had much to do with conditions. Generally, however, in these latitudes at least, in fire weather the two lines, temperature and humidity, swing apart and by deducting the humidity reading from the temperature reading, we arrive at a fairly satisfactory hazard rating.

Let us take a few examples. Supposing we have a hot day of 90° temperature and the humidity reads 45. Humidity 45 would not ordinarily be considered unduly hazardous, but with a temperature of 90, it means hazard. If we deduct the 45 from the 90 we get a mark of 45 hazard—5° over the danger mark. The writer believes that the temperature has hazard value enough to so raise the mark.

Wherever the humidity line goes above the temperature line, our hazard is nil. If you have any old charts around, you can work this out yourselves, but here are a few examples:

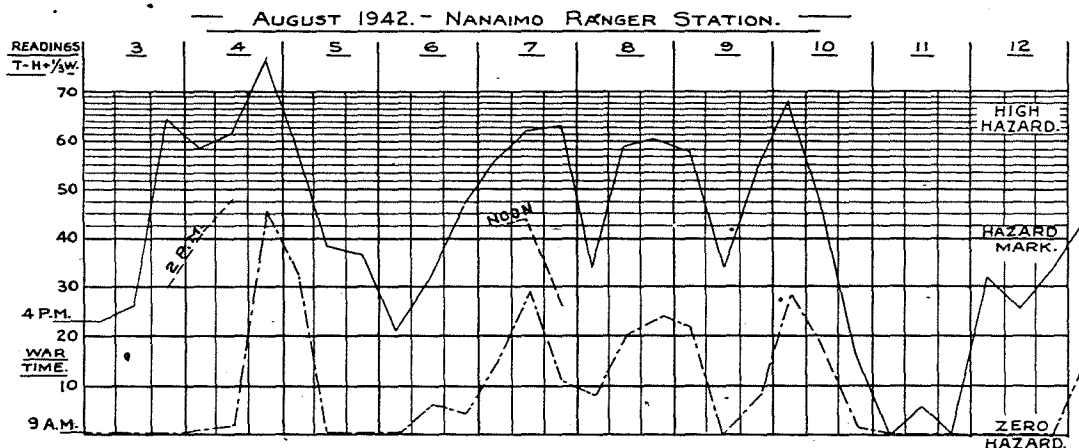
Temperature	70	60	80	90	50	65
Humidity	30	30	40	20	60	70
Rating	40	30	40	70	Nil	Nil

With 40 corresponding with the humidity danger point of 30, the hazard increases as the figures go up and, of course, decrease as the figures go down.

Any system of rating or indexing that does not include wind lacks an essential factor. Wind is therefore added to the hazard mark arrived at, by deducting humidity from temperature. It is true that wind itself affects both temperature and humidity, but again it has its own value apart from such effect. Let us say we have a temperature of 70 and humidity of 40. We have a rating of 30 below the danger mark.....nothing particular to worry about. But suppose we get a 20-mile wind during the afternoon—that is something different.

The writer is not entirely satisfied as to the best method of using the wind factor, but generally he considers that one-third the velocity may be added. Therefore, in the above example, if we take 1/3 of 20, or near figure, we get another 7 to add to the 30 mark already arrived at; and we now get a hazard mark of 37. In other words, the wind has brought us very close to the danger mark. Therefore, the system simply works out to:

Temperature, minus humidity, plus 1/3 wind velocity.



Now, what is claimed for this system? First, I believe it will work better than any system we have tried to date, both for hazard build-up and particularly for hazard-rating at the time records are taken. Secondly, it is simple. It can be worked out in your head. It is a simple sum in arithmetic and there is no need to dig back into references for involved matter. Thirdly, one line on the chart shows all that is necessary. Such a chart showing actual data for August, 1942, is included for example.

The other fellow's job is intriguing, if you take a little time to investigate it. Dick Spillsbury has one of the most interesting jobs we have run into recently. He is making a soil survey for the Branch to determine the soil types in various areas and to classify them for use. He can tell you, by means of a complicated processes of analysis, whether your farm will produce wheat, hay or peas, or, indeed, if it will produce anything.....but here are Dick's comments.....

In recent times land-use planning has occupied the thoughts of many. This is because many of our social and economic problems have arisen through the misuse of land. We realize now that soil erosion and dust storms are often a result of cropping range land that should never have been ploughed; and that floods and drought may be caused by the destruction of the forest cover of watersheds. Many of the poorer farms are on rough, stony and rolling land incapable of economic production even under good conditions. All these conditions could have been avoided if adequate planning had preceded settlement. To-day additional emphasis is placed on the need for land-use planning for post-war rehabilitation and possibly immigration will create a new demand for land. This demand will come with a rush and if adequate plans are not made now the economic problems of the past will return tenfold.

On Vancouver Island a soil survey has been in progress for over a year, and is now nearing completion. The survey has been sponsored by the B. C. Forest Branch in co-operation with the Dominion Experimental Farm Service and the Provincial Department of Agricultural

The objectives of the survey are to delineate soils unsuitable for cultivation so that their forest potentialities may be fully developed; and to evaluate the potentialities of land suitable for agricultural use. In other words, the survey aims to complete an inventory of the soils and their uses, of Vancouver Island, and therefore provides a fundamental basis for land use planning.

The survey covers the east coast of the Island from the Salmon River valley south to Victoria, and includes Alberni and Sooke on the west coast. The examination includes all land of the coastal benches back to the mountain foothills. To date about 85% or over half a million acres have been completed.

With minor exceptions all of the soils of the Island were deposited during different stages of the glacial occupation of the coastal region many thousand years ago. Five main soil groups have been recognized and mapped. These are (1) a partially sorted, fine textured glacial till, (2) an unsorted, fine textured glacial till, (3) an unsorted coarse textured till, (4) stratified, coarse textured, outwash sands and gravels and (5) fine textured material deposited in still waters. In mapping two degrees of drainage have been recognized, normal and restricted. Peats and marsh soils form an independent group and also recent delta soils about the main river outlets. By this means the soil map endeavours to show the distribution and extent of each significant soil variation.

The report will describe each soil type and discuss its value for agricultural use. Analytical data will be included to substantiate the opinion formed respecting uses.

In summarizing it should be possible to present a map showing areas graded as to estimated agricultural use in the form of land classes, as for instance, first class, second class, marginal and forest land. It must be remembered that the type of map is based on potential productivity of the soil only.

Land use planning must go a step further for economic considerations can materially modify the actual productive value of different land classes in different regions. The land class map must, therefore, be succeeded by a zoning map portraying the economic advantages of regions. The latter involves the study of many diverse problems both social and economic and calls for the sincere co-operation of many administrative bodies if it is to achieve the objectives of land use planning.

That the old saying "Necessity is the mother of invention" still applies is illustrated by the drawing herewith of an emergency wooden nozzle. Who the inventor is we do not know but he deserves a wooden medal at least for the invention of this gadget, which apparently was done after his nozzle men had finally eliminated the last of his spare nozzles.

The contraption was picked up at an old fire camp, we believe, by some member of the Nelson District staff and sent to Victoria as an example of inventiveness.

The wooden core is very apparently a jack-knife job, having also been bored out with a knife. It was made to fit snugly on the inside of a standard instantaneous coupling and was driven in tight. The end was bound with wire to prevent splitting.

We have not yet tried it on the job but it looks as if it would be a whole lot better than the open end of a hose.

Several Newsletters will go by without anyone submitting pet gadgets, then for no apparent reason, we find ourselves deluged with all sorts of hard ways to do easy things.....Seriously, though, some of the current crop are worth passing along....

To make one-half a pound of butter grow to the size of a whole pound;

Cream 1/2 pound of butter.

Melt a teaspoon of gelatine in a tablespoon of cold water.

Mix gelatine into a cup of cold milk.

Mix butter, milk and gelatine and whip with either a fork or beater...

Be patient, it takes time. The milk and butter will remain separated for quite a while, but finally they will mix and become firm, with about the same consistency as lard. Add vegetable colouring and salt to taste.

Ed. Note.....This worked for me, but you gotta have patience....

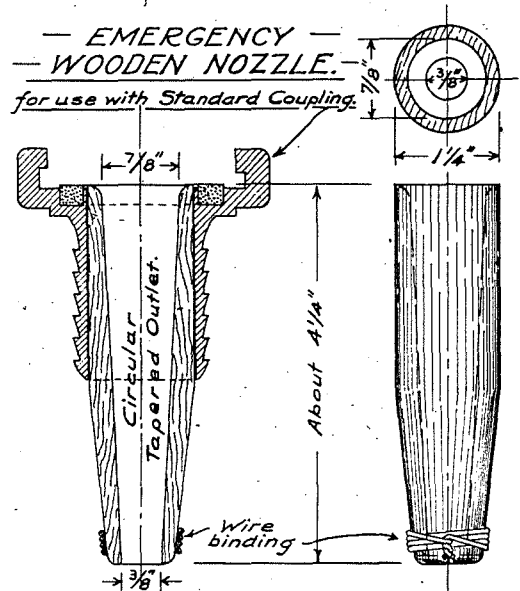
Here's another.....You can now have a cross cut saw welded. I do not know how general the practice is, but I do know that several saws were welded for the A. S. W. camp at Hill 60 and according to the best information we can get, every one of them is standing up in good shape. Coming right now, when it is so difficult to secure tools of any sort and particularly saws, this bit of knowledge should be welcome.

VANCOUVER NEWS

(We apologize to Vancouver office for publishing their November news budget in February. The fault is ours and the items even though a little old are of too much interest to pass up.)

We welcome to our staff Miss Barbara Butler as Stenographer, filling the vacancy caused through the resignation of Miss Margaret Tuning who left on the 14th of October to fill a more remunerative position.

Miss C. E. (Kay) McPherson (formerly of Nelson office) is leaving us on the 30th of November to join the staff of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, whose offices, incidentally adjoin ours.



We are looking forward to the return of J. L. (Jim) Atkins to this district, after being ten years on the staff of the Kamloops office. Jim is expected to reach Vancouver about the 16th of November, but we are wondering where he is going to find a place to lay his head at the end of a hard day's work.

An item of special interest comes in the announcement of the marriage on November 14th of Miss Jessie Monro, Mr. Haddon's valued steno, to Mr. Norman Gatenby. Mr. Haddon, however, is fortunate in that Mrs. Gatenby--Miss Monro to you--is going to remain with the Forest Branch "for the duration." The staff presented her with a walnut coffee table and with it went the very best wishes of each and every one of us for a bright and happy future.

That slightly dazed looking couple seen wandering happily around Victoria on the week-end of November 14th was Jessie and Norman.

We have recently lost another valued member of our staff in the person of A. H. (Allan) Dixon who for the past eighteen months has been functioning as Ranger at Port Handy.

Allan left here on the 13th of November as a "temporary gentleman" to be attached to the Gordon Head Officers Training School, with a view to obtaining a commission in the Royal Canadian Engineers, to which branch of the Service he has been endeavouring to attach himself for some time. He leaves with our best wishes for his success.

Dick Nixon has also just left us for Gordon Head where he will attend Officers Training School, attached to the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Dick has been rendering valiant assistance to us recently both on his own project of stumpage appraisal, and on loan to us as a very badly needed cruiser. Prior to leaving, Dick just returned from the cruise of the Little Toba River valley, where he, Ranger Yingling and Assistant Ranger Little weathered the weather in the course of the job.

We are advised that there is no truth to the rumour that Dick was practicing for the Engineers by building numerous bridges across the little Toba River--and then watching the rising waters promptly wash them out. However, the experience is undoubtedly not without value.

Vancouver District has again gone over the top on the Third Victory Loan. Our quota this time was \$7,500.00 and the amount contributed was \$15,100.00 or 200.3%. Of our total staff of 140, covering Office, Scalpers, Rangers, Engineers and Boatbuilders, 108 contributed with an average contribution of \$139.80. While the percentage contributing is not quite as high as in the case of the Second Victory Loan, this can be accounted for by the fact that undoubtedly a number of the Field Staff contributed to their home units.

One outstanding feature with respect to this drive, was the fact that there was a 100% contribution from the staff of the Fraser River Repair Station, every one of the 18 employees contributing with a total contribution of \$2,150.00.

PRINCE GEORGE NEWS

Miss Alma Grundall resigned her position as clerk to return to the employ of the Canadian National Railways in a clerical capacity.

Irvine Moss, billing clerk, resigned to work for the Unemployment (Selective Service) Department as junior clerk. The senior clerical position having been taken over by A. J. Abery our former Lookoutman on Churchill and later on Tabor Mountain. W. N. (Rusty) Campbell is helping out in the District Office while William Adamson of Parksville, V. I., has taken over the Quesnel Ranger District. We hope that the "staff" will now stay put for awhile, at least until we get the annual report typed and plans complete for the 1943 season.

(Mrs.) D. L. Phillips has taken over the billing in the Fort George office. Mr. Phillips is attached to the local Ordinance Corps here.

Harry Forse O/C Cruising Party--"Well Boys, we are out of coal oil for the lantern, how about using some of that Rum instead!"

Ranger George Forbes, "Over my dead body, Harry!"

(We are informed that the lights went out for the duration after that.)

Pre-emption Inspection Report--quote:

Pre-emptor is not in residence. General Remarks; P. R. diseased.

P. R. Inspection Report--quote:

This pre-emptor lives half on and half off his place.--unquote.

Another:--This man claims residence on his pre-emption. If so he must live under a tree.

Another case: This pre-emption lies on the edge of the Fraser River. The slope is so steep that pre-emptor fell off his pre-emption into the River and was nearly drowned. Pumpkins, etc. have to be staked to keep them on the farm.

From the files:--

Pre-emption Inspector's Note:

"Improvements consist of four log walls for home 16 x 20 feet, no roof but has big door with strong padlock."

"Pre-emptor not at home at time of Inspection. Lives in a dugout when home but at time of inspection this was occupied by a large black bear."

District Office to Ranger:

Please advise damage to pasture land in recent fire.

Ranger: G'wan pasture growing luxuriously after recent fire.

The Fort George District has much to tell about the fire season of 1942 but the language would burn up a Newsletter.

One of our military fire-fighters was heard to remark "Who the h'll invented these double bitted axes, I almost cut my fool head off.

On another fire: Private ? to Private ? "Fire fighting in B. C. is a cinch, you just pump water on 'em but how do they get all that wet hose back in the bag?"

Extract from diary of J. S. Macalister, Acting Ranger, Pouce Coupe, B. C.

October 11, 1942. Distance by Car 50 miles; on foot, 16 miles. Ran lines on X 30384 and cruised timber sale application of John Chemlyk. Did not finish job and returned to Roggenbuck's to drain car.

October 12, 1942. Distance on foot 26 miles. (Thanksgiving Day) Finished job.

Note (District Office) Mac should be thankful for two good feet. In the Peace River District hikes are many and long.

During the course of the summer a gravity water system with all the bathroom trimmings was put into commission at the Penny Ranger Station and we are glad to report that Ranger Thomas is no longer asking for taps and dies and short pieces of pipe.

The adjacent honourable rangers were often listening in with obvious envy to the radio requests and at last Ranger Sansom in McBride could restrain himself no longer--

"The Penny Ranger is kind of high hat since he got those pipes hooked up."

Penny Ranger, "O. K. Ray, come up and try a real bath some time. You can use the other gadgets too."

The Economics Division is operating with about half of its normal staff, with twenty members of the staff either in the armed services or associated directly with some branch of the services. The result is that your reporter has little to pass on by way of describing new work and the best description of the activities is that we are very busy holding things together in preparation for expanding programs after the cessation of hostilities. From time to time various of the boys drop in and say hello while on leave or while on duty in the vicinity. Since the last "Newsletter" we have had a chat with the following:

Andy Anderson, now Lieutenant instructing out at the Gordon Head Training School. Andy looked in the pink of condition and seems to be enjoying his army career. Incidentally, those of you who knew him well will be interested to know that he has become a heavy cigarette smoker, consuming all of ten per day.

Fred Crouch, press photographer extraordinary to the R.C.A.F., was in and reports that he has quite an interesting job. It seems to be his duty to supply the pictures for many of these newspaper articles which we see in the press about the R.C.A.F.

Flying Officers Stokes and Walker both reported in while on leave during early fall. The duties of instructor certainly seem to agree with friend John as he has definitely entered the stoutish class. You boys who remember John with a sylph-like figure will scarcely recognize him with his nice little double chin. Both Walker and Stokes are very busy putting the boys through their paces as potential navigators, and are located at Edmonton. However, we learned recently that Cedric was no longer at the I.T.S. in that City and may have been transferred to some other point.

Petty Officer Jack Rhodes, who now drafts and designs for the Navy, has been transferred from Victoria to Prince Rupert.

Gwyn MacAfee, our representative in the W. D.'s, at last reports was still busy with her training at Toronto.

Mick Pogue has had his call to report as instructor in navigation with the R.C.A.F.

Dave Johnston has also joined the R.C.A.F. in a civilian capacity as senior assistant engineer.

Alf Bamford, when last heard of, is a Lieutenant at the Engineering Training School near Chilliwack.

We also had a visit recently from Don Dyson, ex-Protection assistant and graduate of the University of Washington. Don is with the reconnaissance unit stationed near Victoria and looked very fit.

That seems to round up the boys in the services so we will pass on to the remainder of the gang.

Clarke McBride is still busy with the Christmas tree farmers up in the East Kootenays, but will shortly be leaving for Kamloops.

Larry McMullan, according to last reports, is getting shaken down in his new job at Prince George.

On the technical side of the ledger there is not a great deal to report. The research boys have carried out the routine re-measurements on the permanent plots and MacBean was able to do a small amount of new work on the pruning of some of our first plantations. Assistance was at a premium during the past season and such as was available was, by and large, very second rate. J. L. Alexander was with us again and had a full season remeasuring yield plots. His work was mainly confined to the numerous plots on Lower Thurlow Island and at Elk Bay. Dick Spilsbury has completed the field work for a soil survey of the E. and N. Belt and the Salmon River Valley. He is now busy on the office compilations and in due course we hope to have a complete land utilization map for that area. John Collins has recently returned to the office after a busy summer spent supervising the forest atlas work at Fort George, Kamloops and Nelson headquarters. Doug MacDougall was out again on his lookout photography in the Kamloops District and is now back wrestling with the punch cards. George Silburn and Dave Carey have accomplished a big job of mapping planting sites in connection with the reforestation program. Ted Whiting, ex-Assistant Ranger at Sooke, is now on the reforestation staff. Fall planting consisted of about 350,000 trees planted partly at Campbell River and the remainder at the Timberlands area.

The administration of the Provincial Parks, which now comes under the supervision of Forest Economics, is inclined to be overlooked in the rush of these busy days. At the same time there have been changes taking place in that work which are worthy of note. First, and most important, was the appointment, last spring, of two men to work full time as Park Rangers. In the past there have been the park attendants at the Island parks for the summer season and at headquarters the technical staff, but for the first time in the history of parks administration in this Province a man has been assigned to administer one park on a full-time basis. W. P. Cowan was appointed to the Wells-Gray Park with headquarters at Hemp Creek and J. S. Mottishaw looks after Mount Seymour with headquarters temporarily at the A. S. W. Camp, Dollarton. As these men become fully acquainted with the public service problems of their park and its capacity to meet those demands, they will assist in drawing up long-term development plans. In the meantime they will carry out the routine administrative tasks involved in maintenance of improvements, supervision of new development, issuance of park-use permits, assistance to the public, and fire protection.

The five "Class A" parks on Vancouver Island, namely Elk Falls, Stamp Falls, Little Qualicum, Englishman's River, and John Dean, are given the most intensive use of any of our parks with the exception of Peace Arch, which is in a class by itself. These parks are strategically located at the outstanding beauty spots on the Island and each is easily accessible to the public, providing the necessary facilities for sightseers and picnickers. Attendants were on duty at each area from June through to September and it is reported that these men did a very good job of looking after the park and assisting visitors.

Suitable registration booths have now been erected at each of these Island parks and a summary of the books at the end of this season shows that the total number of visitors is estimated to have declined from 31,350 in 1941 to 29,600 in 1942. This is only a drop of 5.6% despite travel restrictions. Elk Falls and Stamp Falls suffered the greatest loss because of the poor roads leading to them and their distance from the main highway and centres of population. It is also interesting to note that the number of U. S. and foreign visitors dropped by half whereas British Columbians forced to take short trips and remain close to home increased their visits by about 6%. Little Qualicum Falls Park again proved to be the most popular.

The remarks columns in the registration books are always of interest as they are good barometers to tell us how we're doing and a hint as to our shortcomings. Last season's notes ranged from Bible quotations extolling the beauties of the scenery to complaints about the roads, lack of fishing, and inadequacy of some of our facilities. The latter suggestions are most helpful as they either confirm our ideas with regard to future improvements or else they bring to our attention features which have been overlooked. Many of the remarks are a pat on the back to the Forest Branch and serve to show that at least one part of the public is appreciative of our efforts to make these beauty spots accessible. In the main the remarks indicate we are doing fairly well in our efforts in this field of forestry.

Some of the comments at Elk Falls ran like this:

Beauty not well enough advertised; wonderful scenic park, imposing, superb, grand; awe-inspiring and it's free; miniature Scotland (Author's note: must have been some Scotsmen around!); a trip we will always remember; I'll take a B. C. Forest Park any time; very bad roads, oil them; lovely falls but terrible cycling road. At Little Qualicum: "Q" for quality; delightful park, educational; pouring but still worth it; swimming pool needs improving; roads could be better; a fine project to assist natural beauty.

At Englishman's River Falls: Scenery charming; swell place for suicide; credit to any country; nice going, Forestry Department; a map of the place would help; a water tap at picnic tables?; grand for movies.

During the winter months a small mobile crew of A. S. W. boys is going from park to park on the Island, erecting suitable accommodation for the attendants, and in general doing improvement jobs too large for a single man to undertake. Also at Mount Seymour the camp at Dollarton is opening up trails, improving the ski-run, erecting an administrative headquarters building, falling snags, doing some more slashing on the new road location, and maintaining the old logging truck road which now serves as access to the park. An attractive new system of signs has been made up by Joe St. Pierre and erected by the crew.

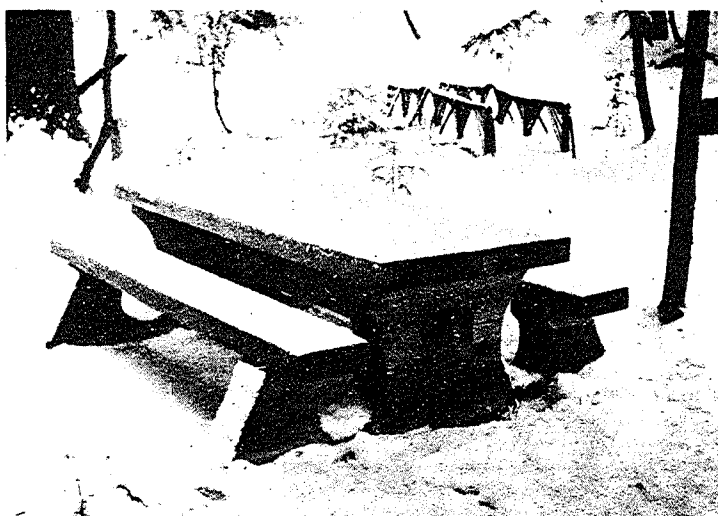
Hugh Hodgins and Hugh Weatherby recently made a lecture and movie tour of the A. S. W. camps at Cowichan, Hill 60, Bowser, Timberlands, Upper Campbell Lake, Loveland Lake and Seymour.

Hugh Hodgins, who took care of the lecturing, stressed the usefulness of the work the A. S. W.'s are doing, and pointed out, in conjunction with the "Great Fire" film, the hazard created by standing snags. As most of the camps are engaged in snag falling, the boys got the idea fast, and after the lectures several of them came forward and expressed appreciation for the movies and for clarifying the reasons for snag falling. All in all, the talks and pictures dispelled any possible idea that snag falling was just a chore to keep the boys occupied, and not something that really needed doing.

Jim Pedley replaced Hugh Hodgins as lecturer at Quinsam, Horn Lake, Koksilah, Haney and Green Timbers. Jim stressed the fire fighting angle in his talks and the value of the A. S. W.'s as fire fighters.

At John Dean Park, the last Camp visited, Chester Lyons delivered himself of the lecture, and he emphasized the recreational angle, which helped the boys to understand why we are developing parks.

It is hoped that another tour can be undertaken just before the fire season hits us, with Jim Pedley, backed by his wide, practical fire fighting experience, doing the talking. We will have several fire fighting films from the States available by that time, which should make for both entertainment and instruction.



The above photos illustrate the work which Joe is doing in the various parks. The faces which he carved at Little Qualicum are quite an attraction and many, many photos are snapped of them. His tables are now quite something and very pleasing in appearance at the same time being very useful.

John Augustus 'Cruit Denny

The death occurred at Comox on September 19th of "Jack" Denny, Acting Ranger at Alert Bay, after a comparatively short illness which dated only from early summer, but actually Jack was active on the job until the end of July.

His passing, whilst not unexpected during the last few weeks, nevertheless came as a distinct shock to his many friends and co-workers in the Vancouver District who had seen him so recently carrying on his duties in his usual cheerful and faithful way, even though we now know that he must have done so under the handi- tap of physical suffering.

To Mrs. Denny who, with Jack, has so often extended to many of us cheerful and congenial hospitality to break the monotony of long trips up-coast, the sincerest sympathy is extended in her severe loss.

"Jack" Denny, whilst a native of England, came to B. C. as a child and lived in the Province ever since. Before his first employment with the Forest Service in 1935 as a trail foreman, Jack had many years' experience on survey parties in various parts of the Province.

In 1936 he received his first Assistant Ranger appointment at Salmon River, since which time he held similar appointments at various other coast points. In April, 1941, he was appointed as Acting Ranger at Alert Bay and in filling this position he showed an admirable spirit and devotion to duty which won him the respect and confidence of members of the Service, the public, and the logging industry. From all of these we have heard many expressions of sincere regret. His passing leaves a gap in our ranks that is difficult to fill.

It's a long time since we paid our respects to our friend, Hazel Hoe of Oregon State's "Forest Log." In the January issue, Hazel opines,—

"It's not a chicken if it has crow's feet."

"When every bone in your body aches, you should be very thankful that you're not a herring."

"Any time you discover that neither your friends nor your enemies are saying unkind things about you, you have good reason to be alarmed. Maybe you're dead and don't know it."



Gnr. I. C. Robinson

a very good sidelight on what British Columbia does to people. He says Ottawa "has the most gosh-awful uncertain climate. But then, it's a wonder to me that B. C.-ites do not get their throats cut. We're so darn positive that B. C. has the only climate, the only gorgeous mountains. So all-fired sure it's the only spot in Canada worth living in. People from other parts might have a few doubts but no native citizens of British Columbia would ever admit, unconsciously or otherwise, that there is a better spot anywhere." We can vouch for the fact that Pat is a good "B. C.-ite." He even seems to have forgotten that he was born and brought up to something considerably better than a tender age in New Brunswick.....Art Kirk reports promotion to a full Corporal and, now that he can forget his Lance-corporal days, he sends us a classic with which he was presented by his associates on the occasion of acquiring his first stripe.



L.A.C. G. H. Fewtrell

ONE-STRIPE WILLIE

I'm the cock of the walk, I'm a lord of creation,
The air of an emperor shows in my stride;
My countenance glows with noble elation
My head is held high with a thoroughbred's pride.

For I'm a lance-corporal, newly begotten,
I'm wearing my stripe for the very first time;
Days of hard labour are gone and forgotten,
MAN has emerged from the primeval slime.

But somehow or other the rest of the army,
Regards me in rather a different light;
They insist that I'm either a crook or I'm balmy,
And nothing I do for them seems to be right.

For I do the work while the sarge gets the credit,
I take the rap when a bloomer's been made;
If blood's to be shed, the men see I shed it--
A general whipping-boy, acting, unpaid.

I'm a so-and-so fathead, a blanked execration,
A target for everyone's buffets and shoves;
A double-dyed hound with no hope of salvation
A poor little lance-jack whom nobody loves.

RECENT ENLISTMENTS

K. A. McKenzie, formerly Asst. Rgr. at Alberni (Army).
C. P. Harrison, 1942 Act. Asst. Rgr. at Bowser (Army).
Just been advised G. M. Riste, Rgr. Asst. at Agassiz
1939 and 1940, joined R.C.A.F. as wireless operator
in 1941. Now overseas.
N. H. Boss, worked for Economics on Slocan Survey and
at Nelson as draughtsman (R.C.A.F.).
A. H. Dixon, formerly Ranger at Port Hardy, joined R.C.E.
and is now training at Gordon Head.
G. R. W. ("Dick") Nixon, Economics, also training at
Gordon Head.
Colin Castley, formerly Dispatcher at Duncan (R.C.A.F.).
D. E. Stephens, formerly Dispatcher at Alberni (R.C.A.F.).
Alan Slater, formerly employed at Fraser River Plant
(R.C.A.F.).

Clayton Letcher, 1942 Patrolman for the North Arm
(R.C.A.F.).
R. Bradshaw, Lookoutman, Swansea Mts. (R.C.A.F.).
Geo. Burkitt, Asst. Rgr., New Denver (R.C.A.F.)
now in Middle East.
L.E.Croft, Dispatcher, New Denver.
R.R. Flynn, 1940 Lookoutman, Idaho Mtn., (R.C.A.F.)
now in Middle East.
E. J. Hamling, Asst. Rgr., Trout Lake (Army).
A. E. Hesketh, Patrolman, Flathead (Signal Corps).
J. C. Payne, Student Asst., Creston (R.C.A.F.).
I. C. Robinson, Asst. Rgr., Bush River (Army).
D. W. Speers, Lookoutman, Moyie Mtn. (Army).
G. Crommett, Asst. Rgr., Canal Flats (Army).
H. L. Couling, Asst. Rgr., Creston.

PROMOTIONS

Axel Kinnear now Lieutenant. L. A. Willington, A/Sgt. G. W. Minns, S/Sgt. C. L. Botham, Flying Officer.
Lorne Swannell, Acting Major. A. J. Kirk, Bdr. (now overseas). C. W. Mizon, Cpl.
Rudy Damstrom, L/Cpl. W. E. Jansen, Sgt. D. E. Dyson, Sgt.

Pilot Officer W. E. Walker, formerly Patrolman at Duncan, is now interned in Tangiers.

SHIPMENTS TO THE FORCES TO DATE:

Cigarettes	Chocolate	Tobacco
Overseas - 133,800	37 lbs.	37 lbs.
Canada - 64,700		
198,500		

FOREST BRANCH ROLL OF ENLISTMENT

Anderson, A. B. (R.C.E.)
Andrews, G. S. (R.C.E.)
Armstrong, C. L. (C.F.C.)
Baldwin, Geo. (Army)
Ballard, G. J. (R.C.A.F.)
Bamford, A. H. (R.C.E.)
Barbour, H. (C.F.C.)
Bennett, C.E. (R.C.A.F.)
Benton, J.H. (R.C.A.F.)
Benwell, S.A. (Navy)
Boss, N. H. (R.C.A.F.)
Boydell, J. (R.M.R.)
Botham, C. L. (R.C.A.F.)
Bradshaw, R. (R.C.A.F.)
Burkitt, Geo. (R.C.A.F.)
Cahilly, G. A. (Army)
Casilio, H. (R.C.O.C.)
Castley, C.W.J. (R.C.A.F.)
Chase, L.A. (Army)
Colbeck, H.G.M. (Army)
Collett, E. L. (R.C.A.F.)
Conder, W. A. (R.C.A.)
Corbett, Alex. (Army)
Couling, H.L.
Crellin, A.E. (Army)
Croft, L.E.
Crommett, G. (Army)
Crouch, F. W. (R.C.A.F.)
Damstrom, R.A. (C.F.C.)
Douglas, R. R. (Army)
Dixon, A. H. (R.C.E.)
Dyson, D. E. (Army)
Edwards, Miss L. E. (C.W.A.C.)
Elsey, H. E. (R.C.A.F.)
Eselmont, J. (C.F.C.)
Fewtrell, G. H. (R.C.A.F.)
Flynn, R. R. (R.C.A.F.)
Gillies, D. (R.C.A.F.)
Gordon, Alex. (C.F.C.)
Hall, Wm. (R.E.)
Hamling, E. J. (R.C.O.C.)
Harrison, C.P. (R.C.A.)
Hay, W. D. (Army)
Hepher, W. S. (R.C.A.F.)
Hesketh, A. E. (R.C.C.S.)
Hicks, W. V. (Army)
Hope, L. S. (C.S.R.)
Ivarson, H. A. (R.C.A.)
Jansen, W. E. (C.F.C.)
Johnson, F. J. G. (R.C.N.V.R.)
Johnson, M. A. (C.F.C.)
Johnston, D. (R.C.A.F.)
Johnston, J. R. (R.C.A.F.)
Kinnear, A. C. (R.C.A.)
Kirk, A. J. (R.C.A.)
Kittson, D. A. (C.A.S.C.)



Capt. Geo. Baldwin



Taken while on leave at my home in the Cariboo.
I was constructing a porch, as you can see.
AC2 Emery Scott.



L.A.C. J. H. Robinson



Pte. A. E. Crellin

Lee, C. R. (Army)
Leighton, A. J. (R.C.A.F.)
LeMare, J. D. (R.C.A.F.)
Letcher, A. C. (R.C.A.F.)
Levy, G. L. (R.C.A.F.)
Lockard, S. M. (R.C.C.S.)
Lyttle, A. L. (R.C.A.F.)
MacAfee, Miss G. M. (R.C.A.F., W.D.)

MacLeod, A. R. (R.C.N.V.R.)
McKay, D. J. (Army)
McKenzie, K. A. (R.C.A.)
MacMurchie, D. (R.C.E.)
McNeil, A. G. (Army)
MacQueen, I. C. (R.C.A.F.)
Maude-Roxby, O. V. (C.F.C.)
Mayson, H. G. (C.F.C.)
Minns, G. W. (C.F.C.)
Mizon, C. W. (R.M.R.)
Monckton, P. M. (R.C.A.F.)
Monk, D. R. (R.C.C.S.)
Murray, W. H. (Navy)
Nash, A. J. (R.C.A.F.)
Nixon, G. R. W. (R.C.E.)
Oldham, E. G. (R.C.A.)
Owen, W. J. (R.C.A.)
Ozard, W. H. (R.C.A.F.)
Parlow, A. E. (C.F.C.)
Patterson, W. M. (Army)
Payne, J. C. (R.C.A.F.)
Playfair, G. A. (R.C.A.F.)
Pogue, H. M. (R.C.A.F.)
Rhodes, A. E. (R.C.A.)
Rhodes, C.J.T. (R.C.N.V.R.)
Riste, G. M. (R.C.A.F.)
Ritchie, A. B. (C.F.C.)
Robinson, I. C. (Army)
Robinson, Jas. (R.C.A.F.)
Robinson, Miss K. M. (W.R.C.N.S.)
Sandey, C. R. (Navy)
Scott, E. L. (R.C.A.F.)
Sims, D. A. (R.C.A.F.)
Sirvio, Arne.
Slater, A. W. (R.C.A.F.)
Smith, Alfred (R.C.A.)
Smith, C. V. (Navy)
Smith, P.N.A. (Army)
Smith, V. C. (R.C.N.)
Speers, D. W. (Army)
Stephens, D. E. (R.C.A.F.)
Stevens, W. W. (R.C.A.F.)
Stevenson, H. (R.C.A.)
Stokes, John (R.C.A.F.)
Swannell, L. F. (R.C.A.)
Templeman, J. H.
Thacker, W. E. (R.C.E.)
Walker, C. W. (R.C.A.F.)
Walker, W. E. (R.C.A.F.)
Wharf, N. G. (R.C.A.F.)
Webber, F. V. (V.G.C.)
Wilcox, J. H. (C.F.C.)
Willington, L. A. (C.F.C.)
Woods, L. N. W. (C.P.C.)
Wright, J. C. (C.F.C.)
Wright, W. J. (R.C.A.F.)

FROM OVERSEAS

I wrote acknowledging the two parcels of films, but the letter must have gone wrong. We showed the films in all the camps in this District, usually adding one or two B. C. reels to the regular program put on by our (Canadian Legion) Welfare Officer. I also took them to an establishment where there were 1,000 A.T.S., to a big Naval Hospital, and they were seen by a number of civilian audiences. The Duchess of Sutherland borrowed them and had them shown in the hospital at Dunrobin Castle, and the Memorial Hospital in the town. They were very popular everywhere.

When we had pretty well covered this area, I loaned them to Corps H. Q. and they are being circulated in the other Districts. When they have seen them I want them back here for a few shows, then, if they are not worn out, I intend to send them to the Canadians in the South.

Men from Eastern Canada enthused over our mountains, scenery, hunting and fishing. Many said they intend to go west, after the war, to at least have a look at the country, and numbers of Scots have said they are planning to go to B. C. I think that the men who enjoyed them most, however, were B. C. boys, seeing familiar places again. If you can spare more we can use them.

The Newsletter is like a newsy, personal letter from home, that keeps us in touch with what's going on in the Service, and who is where abroad. It is always welcome and each copy is read by several. Most of our men from B. C. are interested in the Forest Service and have friends or relatives in it. The parcels from the Tobacco Fund are also much appreciated though they may not always be acknowledged. Sometimes paper and envelopes are lacking, sometimes he intends to write later but forgets. Local stocks are scarce and hard to get and Canadian smokes taste better.

It will be well on into '43 when this reaches you but not too late to wish the Service, and all my friends in it, a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and the hope that this war may be ended before this time next year.

Alan Parlow, Lt.-Col.

THE WEATHER MYSTERY....

It was one of those warm days with a fresh westerly wind, the kind of day beloved by summer holiday makers, and which poisons the blood of Forest Rangers; one of those days which follow each other with infuriating regularity once they set in. It was too hazardous to go out into the woods, so the Ranger was muttering to himself over a draughting table while the Assistant Ranger pecked weakly at the typewriter and dreamed of rivers of ice cold beer.

George, the youthful but diligent dispatcher, sat flanked by the telephone and radio, and riffling through a file of weather reports. There was a kind of tortured expression on his face which indicated deep thought. Finally he spoke: "I don't get it."

It's a favorite expression of his. Upon his starting out in life, someone in an unguarded moment had lectured him on success.....or probably he had read books. Anyway, he had been given to understand that the secret of success lay in asking questions until he had the answer. "If you don't at first understand," somebody had said, "ask again; and keep asking until it is explained so that you do understand it." This George made a habit, and so his "I don't get it" only meant "What's it all about?"

"I don't get it," said George.

"You don't get what?" growled the Assistant Ranger.

"It's this message that keeps coming in. Look, it says 'no precipitation for two days.'"

"That's easy," said the Assistant Ranger, "there's no precipitation for two days."

"Yeah," says George, "but it's been saying that for two weeks."

"Two weeks, Hell!" replies the Assistant Ranger, "it's been saying that for six weeks." He withdrew from the realms of his cooling and foam-studded dreams; "Six weeks! It's been getting hotter and drier for six whole weeks. I'm so dry I can't spit any more."

"Yeah, that's it," said George. "What's he mean by keep saying 'no precipitation expected for two days' for six weeks?"

The perspiring Ranger cautiously unravelled this. "Look, Son," he said, "He means just that. Exactly what he says through that crackle box. 'No precipitation for two days.'"

There was nearly a full minute of lovely silence....then, "Yeah, but I don't get it. He keeps coming back with this 'no precipitation' stuff for two days and there ain't been none for six weeks. You would think to hear him, that in two days it was going to give us a jolt; But no Sir! In two days he comes back with the same stuff. 'No precipitation for two days'.....I don't get it."

The Ranger sighed thirstily....."Look Son, it means we can't expect any precipitation for the next two days. Look, today's Monday. There will be no precipitation today. And there will be none tomorrow, Tuesday. Get the idea?"

George's face cleared; but only for the moment. "It should precipitate Wednesday then," he said. "If so, why didn't it do so last Wednesday?"

The Ranger wiped a clammy neck and warned himself to be a gentleman. "Look," he whispered, "This is a kind of weather forecast.....a kind of a negative forecast. Those words mean it will not precipitate for at least two days after the message is received. Any two days.....including Wednesdays. We can't expect anything to happen for two days no matter how often he says it."

The Punk's face was agonized. It was awful to watch. For two full minutes he struggled in silence... then he said, "I don't get it."

The Ranger's face was now a deep purple. "Son," he said, "I told you it was a negative forecast. He is forecasting something that ain't going to happen. Now do you get it?"

George was made of stern stuff. "No," he said, "If he means it ain't going to precipitate for two days, why does he keep saying it for six weeks?"

"Because that's all he knows," howled the Ranger. "Two days is all he knows at a time. Look, once more slowly. The report says first 'there's a low mean disturbance over the Queen Charlottes.....'"

"Yes," breaks in the Assistant Ranger, "and I know that outfit too. I worked up there one winter, and they're always raising Hell."

"Who is?" screamed the Ranger. "Keep out of this, you! I'm reaching my limit. I have to get this dumb cluck satisfied or he will drive us all nuts. Here we are already to break out in a hundred fires. Thousands of men and women striking matches all over the woods. 90° in no shade and we've had no precipitation for two days.....I mean six weeks. Leave me alone for a few minutes, will you?"

"Now look you, son, let's go into this quietly and without undue excitement. That fellow in the crackle box says no precipitation for two whole days. After that we can start building an Ark; but for two days we are safe. Do you get that? Now get to that D-d box and catch the next forecast.....it's due."

George sat himself down and twiddled dials with a corrugated brow. He pulled over his pad and started to take down the quillet words while the Ranger gripped an axe handle. The well-known voice came over..... "There's a disturbance off the north coast with light fogs in the morning....."

A hot quivering tenseness in the office while the Ranger whispered, "If he says it again, I'll wreck her!" The quiet happy voice continued.....".....with a cold current off Iceland. There will be no precipitation for THREE days."

"So," said the Assistant Ranger, "He is lengthening his range. Now we're getting some place. He is likely to hit the mark if he raises his sights."

"Yes," said the Ranger, "If he aims straight."

George's face was a sight to see, and the other two watched it with fascinated horror. The struggle was terrible, but gradually things cleared. One could see light dawning.....and then perfect understanding.

"George," whispered the Ranger hoarsely, "George, old boy, have you got it?"

"Yes," said George proudly, "I get it. It ain't agoin' to rain no more."

JAP.