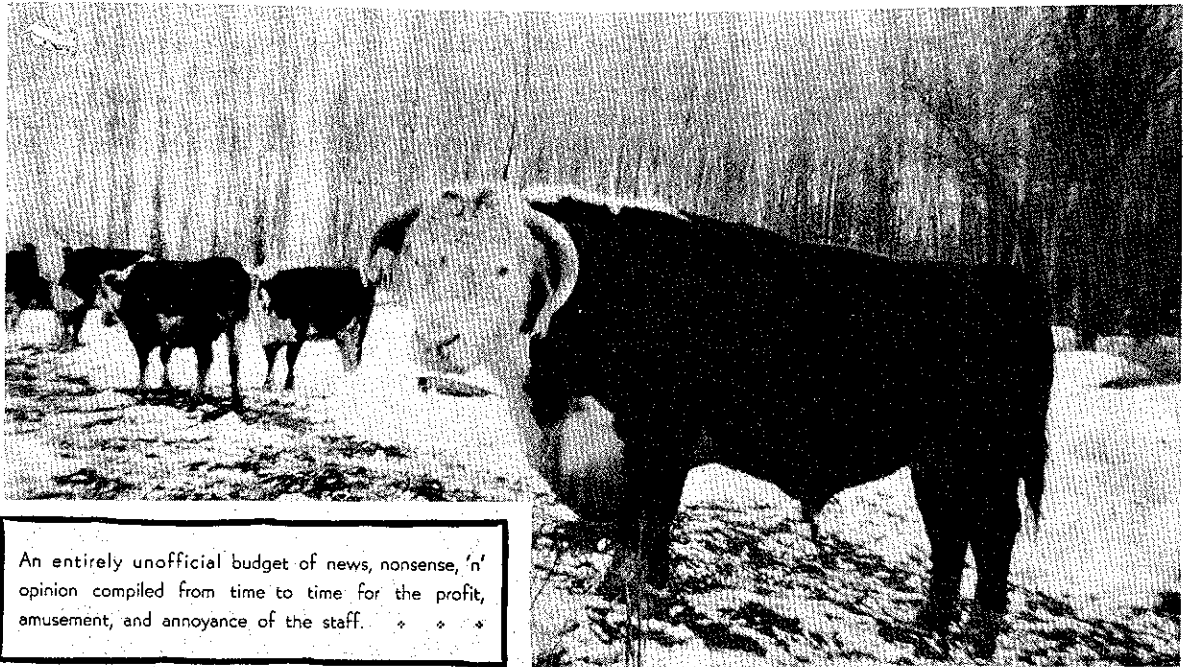


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



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

No. 79

VICTORIA, B.C.

FEBRUARY, 1950.

WHAT IS SNOW?

by D.W. Perrie

(We asked Donald Perrie to give us this article on snow because we refused to believe that it was all of the unprintable things we heard it called in recent weeks.)

Snow is a familiar substance. One's attitude toward it will have much to do with determining how it looks. If one's automobile is stuck in it, snow is a rather unpleasant white substance which opposes motion and at the same time provides extremely poor traction. On the other hand, if one is a skier, snow can be very beautiful.

Considered entirely apart from the inconvenience or pleasure it causes, snow is a most interesting substance in its own right. It is by no means always the same. It has many different forms when it falls and undergoes a variety of interesting changes as it lies on the ground.

There are nine recognized types of snow, classified according to wetness and dryness, age, and the degree to which it has settled. It is interesting to note that the Eskimos, independently of the snow scientists, have nine different words which they use for snow.

Snow consists of ice, and falling snow always has, somewhere in it, the hexagonal crystal structure of ice. The snow grains which sometimes fall do not show this structure, because the original hexagonal crystal has become thickly covered with tiny balls of rime ice. Slim needles of ice sometimes fall, usually at quite low temperatures. Six-sided "plates" and simple six-armed stars may also be seen. Sometimes the stars have many beautiful and complicated branches in addition to the six arms. Six-sided columns also occur, with and without "plates" at their ends. Thousands of different forms may be observed. Large snowflakes are formed by the interlocking of groups of smaller flakes.

Snow begins to change as soon as it reaches the ground. It settles, and it is also blown about by the wind. The flakes tumble about, and their delicate points become broken. This permits them to settle more closely together. Newly-fallen snow of most types has much air trapped in it. This is particularly true of "wild snow", which is 90% air. The great amount of air trapped in snow accounts for the fact that persons have been found alive after being buried under avalanches for as long as two days. (Not recommended as a hobby).

As snow lies on the ground it settles and becomes more and more solid. If this process goes on long enough, as it may in a continuously cold place, ice is formed. This is the way glaciers are made.

In the Arctic, snow on the ground tends to be very fine and dry. Strong winds often blow it about rather violently. As a matter of fact, a sizeable drift may be blown into a house through a keyhole. Buildings for the Arctic must be designed with this in mind. The same strong winds result often in the formation of very hard drifts.

The density of snow on the ground varies widely. For this reason, surveys to determine the amount of water stored in the form of snow must be so made that the density of the snow is considered.

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VANCOUVER FOREST DISTRICTCelebrations

The Vancouver District Office Christmas party of 1949 again brought out that glow of friendly feeling for which the season is noted. The event was handled by a capable committee whose picture appears on this page and, with Arthur Waddington acting as Santa Claus, the members of the staff and their friends did justice to the occasion. Mr. Bassett read messages of good will from the Minister, Victoria Office, and District Offices.



Arthur (Santa Claus) Waddington is shown busy distributing presents to the anxiously-waiting Vancouver Office staff.

Photos by Stan Phillips



Amongst those at the party were those in the above group. Left to right - Della Drummond, Larry Cuthbertson, Sheila Mitchell, Doris Hutchinson, Margaret Johns, Florence Matz, Doreen Weller, and Don Gillies.

... ..

The Scaling Division at Vancouver put aside their scale sticks long enough to hold their annual year-end party at Stanley Park Pavilion. Wardie MacDonald was an efficient M.C. The banquet, floor show, magician, dance, and incidental refreshment added up to a number one entertainment.

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Good Luck

Engagement of Mary Kosick of the Vancouver Office and Donald E. Goodwin, Inspector, Department of Lands, Pouce Coupe, may be taken, of course, as further proof that when "Lands" really want the best they come to "Forests". Best wishes to Mary and Don.

... ..

We are informed that Acting Ranger F.T. Brooks improved the occasion of his 1949 leave held recently by getting married. To date we have not heard the lady's name, but "Good Luck" to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks in their new state anyway.

... ..

Hearing that ex-ranger Ernie Cowie was again under the weather and detained in Nanaimo hospital, his friends in Vancouver sent some flowers and cigarettes to him with best wishes for a Happy Christmas. Ernie was cheered immensely; sends his compliments, and will appreciate visits.

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Belize Inlet Tragedy

Tragedy struck with appalling suddenness when two of our younger men were making a dash by plane to spend the holidays with their families.

Despatcher J.F. Buckley of Alert Bay was drowned, and Engineer P.G. Squarebriggs was painfully but not seriously injured when their plane for some unaccountable reason capsized while making what appeared to be a routine landing at Belize Inlet.

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And the Weather --

Our evergreen halo got tipped slightly side-ways in the past thirty days, during which "we have had extraordinary weather for the Coast". Ten inch rubbers and oversox for pedestrians, chains and nobby treads for cars, the local fuel-dealer's tele-

Vancouver Forest District (Continued)

phone number, and, in the last resort, the plumber, assumed importance.

Pressed for an opinion as to whether the cold war or a return of the glacial period was indicated, the local weather prophet with singular clarity said, "I have no hesitancy in stigmatizing as an unmitigated fabrication the suggestion that chopping right-of-way on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, thereby allowing wintry blasts from Prince George to come whistling through the gap, has anything to do with it". It was nice to hear his reassuring words. Besides, we like those boys. Memo - Must speak to Walter Henning and Al Dixon quietly about this.

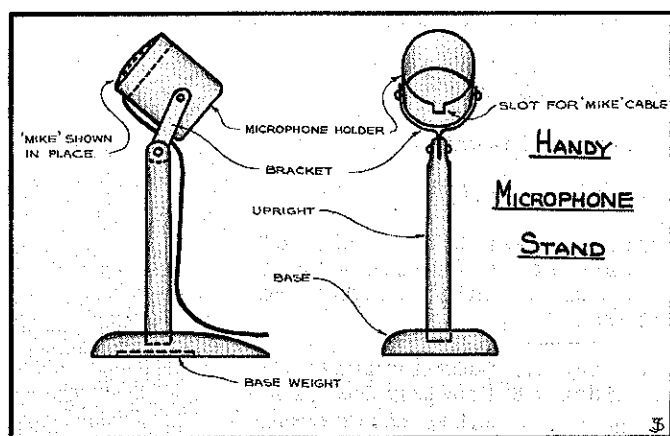
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HANDY MICROPHONE STAND

by J.B. Stretton

Ever wish you had an extra pair of hands when using the Radio? There you stand with the "Mike" in one hand and a pencil in the other, which means you either have to drop something or paw at the Trans-Receive switch with something cluttering up your fist. The Microphone Stand described here allows you to have one or both hands free.

The base was constructed from a piece of cedar 1" x 4" x 5", roughed out, sanded, and the bottom hollowed to take a large iron washer or similar weight. A hole is bored in the base to take the upright and the iron washer is drilled, countersunk, and screwed to the bottom. The upright may be made from a dowel or roughed out with a knife from a scrap of cedar 1" x 1" x 7", and sanded. The bracket is a



scrap of aluminum, brass or sheet metal. The "Mike" holder is an aluminum can, soup tin or other cylinder (plastic drinking glass or even a plastic ball. I have seen a very smart holder made from an old bicycle headlight. The holder must be of such size as to allow the Microphone from the radio to fit snugly inside. The front of this holder is notched to take the cable to the radio. This stand has been designed so as not to interfere with the microphone or cable in any way. Assemble the parts and give the stand a coat of varnish stain and you have a professional-looking "MikeStand" and a handy gadget.

ANOTHER R.D. 5 SPECIAL

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NELSON FOREST DISTRICTStork Club

On January 6 the stork paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. George Minns and delivered an 8 lb. 4 oz. baby boy. George arrived at the office the following morning beaming with joy and passed out the traditional cigars.

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Bowling Chatter

The Provincial Government Bowling League is now in the second half of the schedule and averages are rising and falling just like the temperature. Harold Holmberg seems to be having the most trouble with bowling this year. We think possibly he has his bowling and curling night mixed up.

Harry Forse seems to be improving his game. Since winning those socks in the Xmas Tournament he seems to have a better under-standing of the game.

Bob Baker, our Mechanical Inspector from Victoria, has been filling in as a spare occasionally and doing very well. Maybe he is doing some spying for the Victoria office.

Incidentally, for those in the Victoria office or any other branch offices who are interested in a bowling tournament with the Nelson crew by radio, pick the cream of your crop, drop us a line as to a suitable date, and we will be only too glad to give you some very tough opposition.

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Office Scandal

Deanie Burgess, Phyllis Turner, and Kay Stefanac are all singing the old familiar song "Love in Bloom". Be careful girls you may get nipped in the "Bud".

A number of men in the office have been spending tireless hours thawing out water pipes due to the recent cold spell. Unfortunately, the only pipes that haven't frozen up as yet are John Applewhaite's bagpipes.

Different people have asked what the whistling noise is on the radio. Is it that Lawrence is whistling at the girls in the office and Jack has the transmitter on, or is it a new tune he has heard?

... ..

Nelson Forest District (Continued)LONG RANGE WEATHER FORECASTING

By Ranger Jack Coles

Use of a power saw in cutting out R-of-W would apparently have little to do with Weather Forecasting, but an incident occurred last fall in which a power saw was involved that pointed to a well discussed theory that animals know more about weather forecasting than we humans with all the scientific dope at our disposal.

We were using a power saw on the Nicholson-Donald Truck Trail and when quitting time came one evening, rather than pack it back to camp, it was left on the R-of-W carefully covered with a groundsheet. The following morning, the saw was found to have been disturbed, in fact rolled over until it was lying up against a log, and the ground sheet had completely disappeared. Evidence on the ground showed us that the disturbance had been caused by an adult and baby bear. The plastic ignition switch had been chewed by the cub, evidently in the hope it would obtain some nourishment therefrom.

It can only be presumed that Mother Bear, having been foiled in her attempt to saw up her winter's wood supply by the action of the cub chewing up the ignition switch, and knowing in advance that the winter would be unusually severe, had taken the ground sheet to use as a winter cover for her cub. AIN'T NATURE WONDERFUL!

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

That ancient order, which to become a member of, all men dream and strive for,

THE ORDER OF FATHERS OF SONS

welcome to their midst a new applicant -

MR. G.W. MINNS - NELSON, B.C.

To you, Mr. Minns, we proudly present our badge of merit. There will be no banquet or fanfare - that being left to that other order of which Cantor and Holmberg are charter members.

We trust that they will oblige at your farewell party as you leave their midst of frustration and borrowing neighbours' sons for fishing partners.

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NOTES FROM THE MECHANICAL SECTION

From photographs and reports received, we believe Mr. R.A. Baker is now promoted to Snow Remover, First Class, and entitled to wear a badge showing two crossed snow shovels and grader blade with operator rampant (and red in the face) against a white background with purple haze over-hanging.

Some of the most repeated remarks heard this last three weeks in Victoria..

"Hey! . . . Do you know where I can get some old chains . . . ?"

"Bill, can I borrow your trailer. I've just GOT to get some wood . . ."

"Know anywhere I can get a few sacks of coal?"

"Sorry I'm late, but my car just wouldn't start . . . etc., etc. . . ."

"How soon will a battery freeze anyway?"

"What do you need chains for - I can go anywhere without them . . . !"

(EDITORS NOTE - So he can, if he has enough passengers to get out and push every now and then).

Famous Last Words

Lets go to the coast and get away from all this snow and cold weather. . .

New Cook Car

The new self-propelled cook car is about ready for delivery. The interior is the same as the trailer unit which preceeded it and appears to be a very smart job.

Frank Gilbert has been observed looking it over very carefully, probably with a view to using it as alternative accommodation in the event that his present lodgings become unsuitable.

The general idea seems to favour some sort of a picnic to try out the unit . . . A skating party no doubt . . . !

Notes from the Mechanical Section (Continued)

Jack Smythe will be headed back for the coast shortly. We hope he does not anticipate leaving the interior winter behind . . . don't chop the arms and legs off the "long uns" Jack. You'll need them here . . .

A Matter of Interest

As a matter of interest to all automobile users and in answer to some requests, we proffer the following information:-

BATTERY	SPEC. GRAV.	TEMP.	CAPACITY EFFICIENCY	FREEZES AT
Fully Charged	1.280	80°F 32° 0°	100% 65% 40%	85° below zero
Half Charged	1.225	80° 32° 0°	46% 32% 16%	17° below zero
Discharged	1.150	80° 32° 0°	25% 16% 9%	5° above zero

The perusal of the foregoing will help to explain why the starter seems so sluggish these cold mornings and why frequent checks are needed to KEEP THE BATTERY FULLY CHARGED.

... ..

Mickanikul Male

nelson b. c.
jany 29 1949 50

deer Mr spous

i am riting to see if You can hav the lettirs and numbirs uv thos landing craffs changed as i hav had a (hell) hole lot uv trubble at home becuz thay are called l.c. won,2 etc.,.

LastSummir wen i wuz over at addams Lake (that is close to chase were Harry masum is ranger) i wirked on a landing craff ther and we used to call it l.c.won. Ennyhow it seems my wife hoo is usally pritty good about thens things got ahold uv the idee that i wuz chasin sum dame called Elsie who staid at addams lake and im telling You Mr. SpOUs that i wus ascart to go hom. iT wuz only after i rote to her (my wife i mean) and told her she was gettingprety old (i mean elsie) and we had her on the beech on a cradel wirking on her, painting her botton wich wuz dirty and also she wuz gray with a squar stern and wuz a landing craff wich is a kind of boat with a big trap door in frunt that goes down wen you want to load atruck or horses or anything then she let me cum home.

Nowmr. Spous i am over at nelson and so far i have seen 2 elsies- imeanlcs and mr jonson says there going too get annuther wun so that is going to put me in a (helawa) bad spot becuz the only plaice i LL be abel to go safly will be too the east kootinee as i got a nochin my wife isnt too shore about that addams LAKE deel.

so if you cood see yore way klear to change the lettirs uv thos boats to sumthing else i wood be very happy as i love my wife and do nt want anny trubble on acct. uv elsie. mAYbee you cood chang them too A.B. wun 2 andso on and then i wood be safe.

i AM

Yr ~~spous~~ truly

R.H. baker

mickanikul insp.

P.s. plees excus the tiperiting as i don t kno much about mishinery like this.

iam

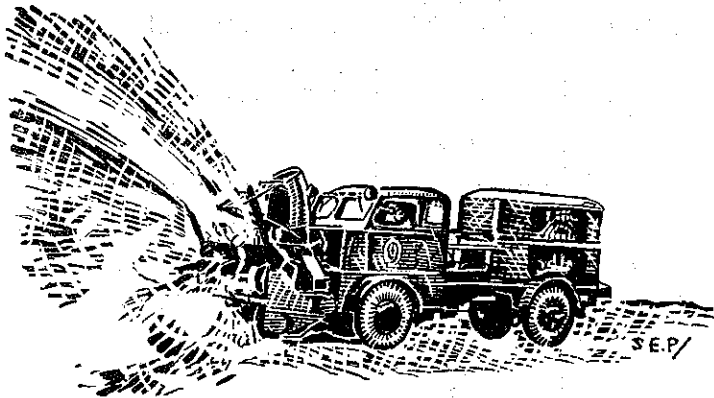
yRS truly

r.H.b.

... ..

Parks' New Plough Bonanza!

Still shivering as we peer glumly into our empty fuel bin, we note that during January the emphasis was very definitely on the weather--if you can dignify the foul stuff with a printable name. Not that we actually mind a little seasonable snow in Victoria--it blends well with the hot rum punch around mellow old Christmas. However, enough is enough and we personally suffered a relapse the day the three small penguins knocked on our door and asked us for a handout. Joking apart, all this miserable weather provided the severest possible testing for the team of men and equipment dedicated to keeping open the Mt. Seymour Park Road. We are happy to record that not once was the six-and-one-half miles of snow-bound mountain highway closed.



The most spectacular element in this battle with the weather was the use by the Parks Division of its new Sicard Snow Plough. This ponderous machine is the pride and joy of the Division and proved its great worth with heart-warming efficiency as it lumbered through the drifts, a two-hundred-foot-long plume of snow streaming from its blower. Working in close co-operation with the Sicard was a Huber Maintainer carrying a specially-made plough. This has been designed for the Huber by the Mechanical Staff of Forest Service in conjunction with the Vancouver Equipment Company. It proved most valuable.

Consolidating the work of the ploughs and following up to complete the job, the new Hydraulic Sander made safe the dangerous slopes and the slippery corners. The whole operation worked smoothly and the traffic kept rolling.

We have a small anecdote from Mr. Seymour Park itself and it concerns a conversation overheard by our Ranger "Ollie" Johansen. It seems that one of our rugged Park employees was talking to a visitor, definitely a sea level type who appeared to be mystified as to how our men got around in the eight feet of snow blanketing the mountain. Our fine fellow explained the matter quite simply. He said, "Nothing to it, we always travel in pair so that one can stand on the other's shoulders to see where we are going."

... ..

Parks and Recreation also have the olde Welcome Mat extended full length to greet Miss Joyce Goodrow, who has recently joined our merry throng. We hope you will be happy in the Service, Joyce, and that you will be with us for a long time.

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Matched

Through some terrible oversight on the part of this mighty Journal, the announcement of the marriage of Mr. J.H. Blake, formerly Marine and Structural Engineer, to Mrs. Georgina Rose Taylor, on December 23, 1949, at Victoria, was omitted from the January issue. We ask your forgiveness, Jim, and do now offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes for many years of happiness for you both.

... ..

OUR MASTHEAD STORY

The masthead on this issue, showing a Hereford bull on winter feeding grounds near Creston, arrived from Nelson with a strong and detailed plea that it be used "at the top of the front page--". This loyal promotion on the part of the Nelson grazing staff is most laudible although, as it happens in this case, completely unnecessary.

No sooner had we looked searchingly into the eyes of this expendable quadruped, noted the apparent disdain of his companions, and the cold, cold snow on the ground, than our hearts went out to him as to a brother. We feel he feels exactly like we're afraid we look when faced, first thing in the morning, with a fresh 3-foot drift of snow blocking our driveway and sidewalks just newly cleared the previous evening.

... ..