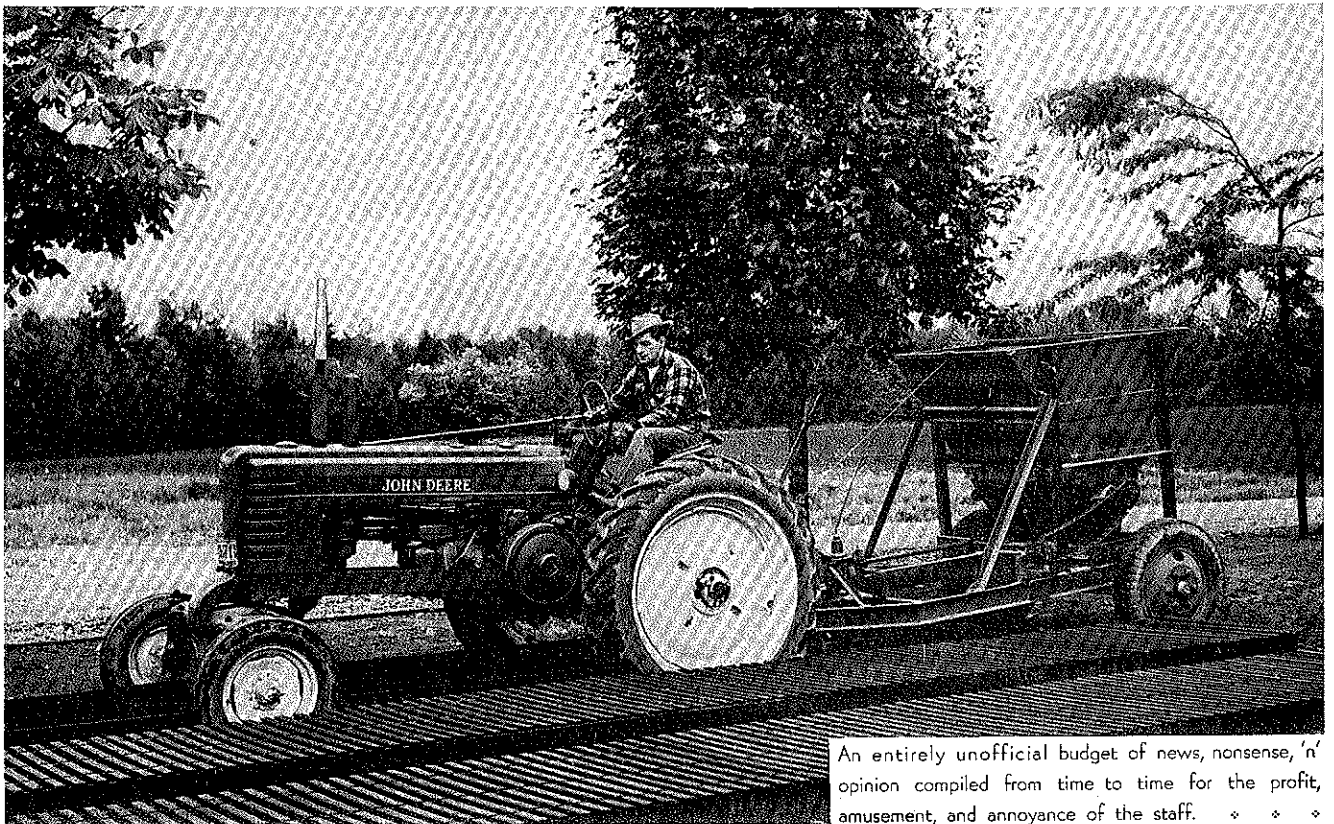


FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER



No. 115

VICTORIA, B.C.

FEBRUARY, 1953.

PLANNED FOREST MANAGEMENT *

by F.S. McKinnon

Forestry is unquestionably the most altruistic business in the world. That may seem to be a rather wild statement to make before such a representative group of business men, however, when you stop to consider that the average rotation for a forest crop extends over a period of from seventy-five to one hundred years -- or over a span of three generations -- you will agree that the business man who spends his money on forestry today stands a very slim chance of being around to reap the rewards from that investment during his lifetime. Forestry is indeed a long-term proposition, and it is this very fact that makes it so difficult for the Forester to illustrate the conditions which constitute good forest management on the one hand, or poor forest management on the other hand.

Forestry is simply another form of land use involving a renewable resource, and as such it is closely akin to agriculture. In the case of agriculture, poor farming practises are readily discernible because there is a new crop each year and it is easy to compare yields from one year with that of another; or to compare the yield which one farmer gets as compared to another who is farming on a similar piece of land. Further, in the case of farming, misuse of land, as compared with conservation practises, is readily apparent. In a few years time one piece of land may become so run down that the farm is abandoned, yet right across the road the farmer who pays attention to such things as rotation of crops, green manuring, and fertilizing, will be harvesting increasingly larger and better crops from what was originally the same grade of land.

The forests too are a crop, but they are a long-term crop that takes up to a century to be ready for harvest. Improvement or deterioration of that crop is slow, but the same principles of land management apply to both agricultural and forestry crops. By intelligent use man can easily improve on nature, but this takes knowledge, care, and foresight. Without intelligent management the resource is always destroyed.

Whether it is farm land or forest land, good management or mismanagement, it produces the same end results in terms of profit or poverty. Applied forest management is the planned, orderly, and conservative use of the forest estate as opposed to liquidation of the mature crop alone. The principles are the same whether it is the forty-acre woodlot attached to a farm, or whether it is the seventy-five million acre forest estate of this Province.

There are four fundamental principles involved in sound forest management, all of which are quite simple and straightforward. These principles are;

- (1) Protection of the forests from fire, insects, and disease,
- (2) Keeping all of the land in a productive state at all times,
- (3) Balancing the amount of the harvest against the ability of the land to produce,
- (4) Improving the quality and quantity of the crop.

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(An Address Prepared by F.S. McKinnon, Ass't. Chief Forester, Technical Planning, For Delivery to Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Nov. 14, 1952. Ian Cameron, Ass't. D.F. Vancouver, actually gave the talk as Mr. McKinnon's plane to Vancouver was grounded by poor weather).

Planned Forest Management (continued)

The first requirement, namely that of protection, is based on the sound business principle that if you do not protect your capital stock from loss by fire, insects, and disease, then you have nothing to do business with, and your industry no longer has a place in the economy. The second requirement, which involves keeping all of the land productive, is only good common sense in that you cannot afford to keep a substantial part of your estate in idleness and still maintain a prosperous business. A farmer cannot afford to acquire land, prepare it for growing a crop, and then let it lie idle. No more can the forest manager afford to leave a portion of his forest land non-productive. The third principle of balancing the amount of the harvest against the ability of the land to produce can be compared to a business man who consistently withdraws from his bank account more than he deposits. Obviously, one of two things must be happening; either there was a backlog of capital to begin with, or some of the stock is being liquidated. This procedure, as you will appreciate, has very definite limitations, and if persisted in it will be only a matter of time before the Sheriff will be in hot pursuit. The fourth and final basic principle of management involves improving the quality and quantity of the forest crop. Man has improved on nature with respect to agricultural crops, and the same can be done in the case of forestry.



129-year-old Hemlock-Balsam stand on Zeballos River. (Av.diam. 26 inches; Max.diam. 34 inches; Total height, 178 feet).

A program of forest management based on these four principles will ensure a stable industry operating at a maximum of employment and yielding a maximum of benefit to the Community.

It has been stated repeatedly that history repeats itself. Particularly is this true of forestry, and the history of forest development in various

Countries throughout the World has been repeated time after time over the centuries. There is not the time at my disposal to review the history of forestry for various Countries, but it should be drawn to your attention that the Countries which failed to recognize the importance of their forests, and to use them in a rational manner, are today penalized for that lack of foresight. By contrast, the Countries which adopted programs of sound forest management are in a sound and prosperous economic position, largely due to the forest industries which they maintain. The pattern of use of the forests has always been much the same regardless of global position. First, there was the pioneer stage when the forests seemed endless. Second came the development of a small forest industry. Third, was the stage of expansion of the industry and the liquidation of excess forest capital. Eventually there was a turning point, beyond which harvesting in excess of the ability of the forest land to produce could not continue any longer and rational management was initiated; or, if liquidation continued, then the forest estate depreciated progressively to the point where the forest industries gradually occupied a smaller and smaller place in the economy of the Nation. This turning point, beyond which it is almost impossible for a Country to retrace its steps, is a very important one and should be recognized in the interests of future generations. No Nation has ever had the intestinal fortitude to rebuild its forest resource once that resource had been depleted.

All of the best evidence points to the fact that we have reached that point in British Columbia, and as a people we must decide whether we are going to have sound forest management and treat our forest land in a rational manner, or whether we are going to continue to liquidate the mature forest resource as rapidly as possible and let future generations look after themselves. It is the policy of your Government that every acre of forest land in this Province shall be placed under sustained yield management as rapidly as possible. This then brings up the problem as to how the job shall be done. First, management could come about entirely through a series of Statutes which would provide for regulations setting forth in detail how everything should be done. This approach would probably not be very acceptable to us as a people inasmuch as we are resentful of regulation, and a complicated set of Government regulations would probably meet with considerable resistance from the people who are engaged in the forest industries, and it would be a serious matter if we did not have complete co-operation of all concerned in the task of placing the forests of this Province on a sustained yield basis. The second approach to attaining the desired objectives could be done through having the Government do everything. This would involve the creation of a very extensive Civil Service and there are various objections to this, so much so that this line of approach would not appear to be particularly acceptable. The third way of attaining the objectives would be to have part of the job done by private enterprise and part by the Government. It is this last approach that is being followed by your Government in its program of Public Working Circles, Forest Management Licences, and Farm Woodlots.

Planned Forest Management (continued)

It is the policy of the Government that there shall be an equitable balance between lands managed by the Government as Public Working Circles and those managed by private enterprise through the co-operative sustained-yield agreements known as Forest Management Licences. In the case of a Public Working Circle, suitable areas are delineated and a management plan is drawn up embracing the fundamental principles of protection, reforestation, and regulation of cut. The allowable cut from the Public Working Circle will be offered for sale in suitable quantities by public competition, as provided under the "Forest Act", and any operator is free to compete for these timber supplies.

In the case of a Forest Management Licence the objective is to provide an opportunity for private enterprise to practise forestry. It was pointed out by Chief Justice Sloan, in his excellent report to the Government in 1945, that no industry now located in this Province had sufficient forest land of its own to place its operations on a sustained-yield basis. He also pointed out that the privilege of purchasing Crown forest land had been withdrawn in 1896, consequently, their private holdings could not be enlarged --- and the only other owner of forest land was the Province of British Columbia. It was suggested in the report that if private enterprise was to be encouraged to practise forestry a new form of tenure must be devised to provide for joint management of Crown and private forest land.

The Forest Management Licence plan is the Government's attempt to provide this new form of tenure, and the co-operative sustained-yield agreements which are being entered into provide for the management of a given area of forest land including all of the private holdings of the licensee. The objective is to stabilize employment and to ensure the licensee of an assured supply for part of his raw material requirements. These co-operative sustained-yield units are managed under a working plan the same way as Public Working Circles; the only difference being that the yield from the area is earmarked for the use of a specific industry, such as a sawmill, or pulp mill, or other integrated industry. Thirdly are the Farm Woodlots, which enable a bona fide farmer to supplement his land suitable only for growing a forest crop with adjacent Crown land with a view to managing these lands as a unit. The philosophy involved here is that during certain seasons of the year the farmer has an opportunity to do other than farm work, and some of the machinery which he uses in connection with his agricultural crops can also be used to harvest a forest crop. Such employment of off-season labour will provide a cash income which will be of considerable importance in the farm economy. The size of these farm woodlots is limited to a total annual cut of ten thousand cubic feet per year, or between sixty thousand and seventy thousand board feet lumber tally.



Vertical view of tree crowns in a 50-year-old Douglas fir stand after commercial thinning experiment carried out at Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island.

In the time at my disposal an attempt has been made to outline to you; first, the necessity for rational forest management; secondly, the principles underlying sound forest management; and thirdly, the broad policy which your Government is following in these matters. We are at the turning point mentioned previously when we must decide as a people whether we are going to have planned, orderly forest management, or whether we are going to go merrily on our way and liquidate the mature forests now in sight and then proceed to cut any immature forests that happen to be available when the mature crop is gone. We will not run out of timber next year, or even in our lifetime, but we must do something for posterity and do it now! It will not be sufficient merely to pay lip service to the principles of sustained-yield management, and in the process of initiating rational management there must be a realization that we cannot continue in the future to cut timber when and where we wish. Harvesting of the crop must be according to the rules of sound management even though in the process of doing so some of the freedom of action we exercise today is sacrificed. We cannot accomplish this objective painlessly or without cost.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICTGEORGE BIRKENHEAD RETIRES

As reported in last month's issue of our Newsletter, the year 1953 will witness the retirement of some of the real veterans of the Forest Service. The retirement of Mr. George H. Birkenhead, Supervising Draughtsman, is the second of such retirements about which we are privileged to report.

Vancouver District (continued)

George Birkenhead Retires (cont'd)

On the occasion of George Birkenhead's retirement, a luncheon was held in his honour on Saturday, January 17, in the Hotel Devonshire. After a very enjoyable luncheon, attention was drawn to the head table occupied by the Master of Ceremonies, our D.F., Mr. Taylor; honoured guests, Mr. and Mrs. Birkenhead; special guests, Dr. & Mrs. Orchard, Mr. Ian Cameron, Ass't. District Forester, Vancouver; Mr. E.P. Fox, Chief Clerk, Vancouver; ex-members of the Forest Service, Mr. Haddon and Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair; and Mr. Williams, Personnel Officer, Victoria.

Mr. Taylor reviewed George Birkenhead's career in the Forest Service, outlining the qualifications and workmanship George brought to the Service which enabled him, 33 years ago, to compete successfully with many other applicants for the position of Draughtsman, Vancouver Office. Continuing, Mr. Taylor emphasized George's skill and ability and the great fund of knowledge which he gained during his 33 years in the Service; knowledge which was drawn on by so many, including the seven District Foresters under whom he worked, from the time of the late P.Z. Caverhill to Mr. Taylor himself. Another very important aspect of George's work which Mr. Taylor emphasized was the high esteem with which he was held by the personnel of the forest industry. Mr. Taylor stressed the point that when he talked to members of the Truck Loggers Association during the several days of their convention in Vancouver and mentioned that Mr. Birkenhead was retiring, they all expressed regret at his retirement and deep appreciation of the wonderful public service he had given.

In his remarks Dr. Orchard expressed the feeling that Mr. Birkenhead, in devoting himself to his work, must have been happy and satisfied in that work for, although you would include salary and the financial security as reasons why an employee remains with an employer, to remain a willing worker for a period of 33 years something more is necessary.

Mr. Taylor then presented to George and Mrs. Birkenhead an electric mantel clock, suitably inscribed, and a walnut coffee table and, to George, a Book of Remembrance containing autographs of his friends. Mr. Birkenhead expressed his sincere thanks for the good wishes and the gifts, and for the co-operation he had received at work.

Finally, may those of us, unable previously to express our feelings formally, state them now:

Mr. Birkenhead: We all concur with reports and reviews of your efficient execution of duties and responsibilities. However those of us who worked with you day by day and consequently were in a position to value method as much as result, thank you for your co-operation, friendship and helpfulness, given always so willingly and bountifully. God bless you, sir, for your humane attitude towards your fellows. May you and yours be able to enjoy many, many years of happiness and satisfaction. May it, indeed, be true that your reward be consistent with the earning thereof.

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Left:
Left to Right: George Birkenhead, retiring Chief Draughtsman, Vancouver District; Doug Taylor, District Forester, Vancouver, and Mrs. Birkenhead.

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Departure

Thursday, February 5, marks the departure from the staff of Miss Barbara Petty, popular stenographer in the Vancouver Office. We are sorry to lose Barbara's services and wish her continued success and happiness. Fortunately, Barbara will endeavour to continue bowling in our Vancouver Office bowling league which is good news to her team-mates, especially captain Frank Williams.

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Welcome Mat

We wish to welcome to our Vancouver Office staff Miss Ernestine Eliuk and Mr. Dave Brown. Ernestine at the moment is filling in temporarily as a stenographer and will, we hope, be with us permanently. Dave joined our filing staff, January 6. Just out from Portsmouth one year, Dave was asked how he enjoyed our liquid sunshine. His reply was that they had experienced 3 weeks of it in England just before leaving and, consequently, it would seem to be that way all over.

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Holidays

Ranger Bob Aylett called in at the Vancouver Office on his way back from holidaying in Los Angeles and vicinity where he reportedly lazed around in temperatures up to 85° and enjoyed 14 days of sunlight. He appeared well tanned and said that while south he enjoyed the television and took in a show featuring Dinah Shore. He mentioned

Vancouver District (continued)Holidays (cont'd)

also that no one asked for his autograph. Best part of the trip to Bob was from San Francisco to "L.A." On the way down he entered sunshine at the California border and was in sunshine until his return.

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NEWS FROM OUR FIELD OFFICES

R.D. #17 had approximately 30 men employed during 1952 to carry our Forest Service duties. The constant change of personnel had three men occupying the swivel chair during the course of the year.

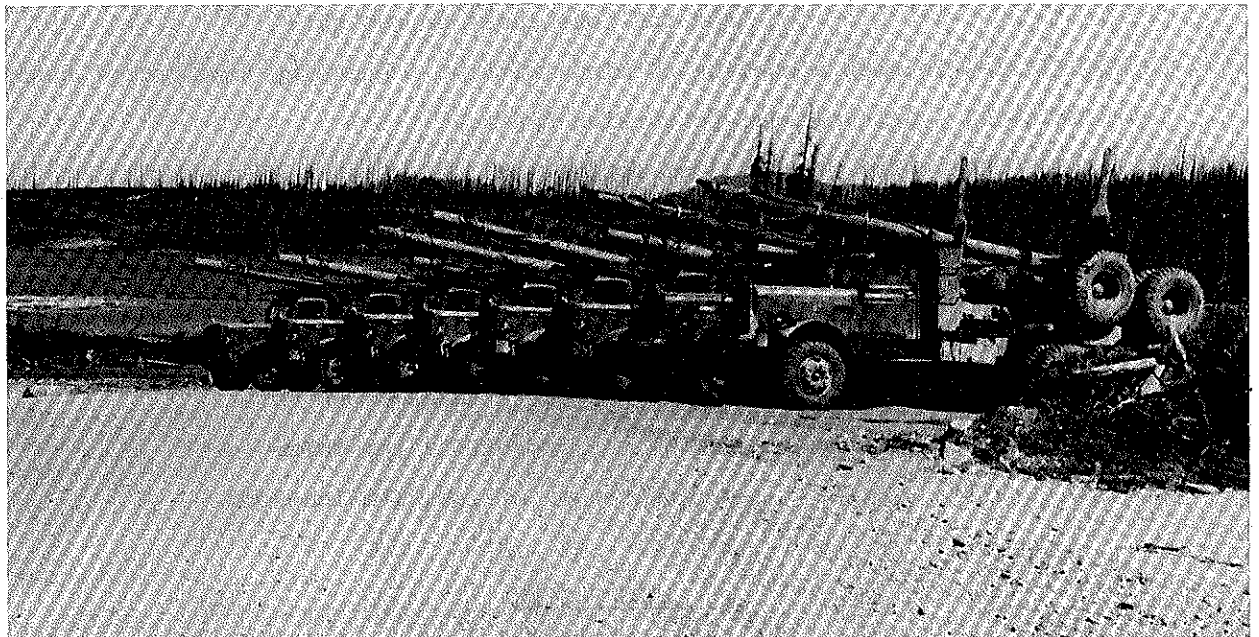
Chuck Haddon's promotion to Supervisor left the Ranger's tasks in the hands of Doug. Brewis. Gordon Charnell took over those duties when Doug left to go south for the winter (back to the books at Ranger School).

Our trouble of changing bosses was paralleled in the dispatcher's position. Fred Donaghy left to take the job of Assistant Ranger at Hope and, filling his boots, Bill Wallace carried on the dispatcher duties. Bill left at the end of the summer to study law at U.B.C. and Chuck Leberge took to the radio room like a duck takes to water.

The staff that started the 1952 season were Chuck Haddon, Rene Bourdin, and Fred Donaghy, and we finished the season with Gordon Charnell, Marsh Antonelli, and Chuck Leberge.

By the way, have you seen Miracle Beach Park? Congratulations to the Parks Division are in order.

Also from our Campbell River Office, the following photo showing, for the benefit of those who do not have the opportunity to see at first hand an impressive fleet of logging trucks; Elk River Timber Company's trucks at Gooseneck Lake. In the background is the blackened ruin left by the Campbell River fire of 1951.



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Power of the Press

Ad. in Vancouver papers - "Wanted Asst. Forest Rangers, Salary \$225,000 per month plus expenses."

No mention was made of any cost-of-living bonus which probably accounts for there being only approximately 500 applicants.

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ANCIENT HISTORY - FOREST SERVICE VARIETY

One of the early technical foresters in the B.C. Forest Service, and the first District Forester in the Nelson District, Dr. Gilbert H. Prince, died in Fredericton, N.B., on November 2 last.

Dr. Prince graduated in the first forestry class out of the University of New Brunswick, in 1912, and moved immediately to B.C. to enter the newly-organized Forest Branch under Mr. H.R. MacMillan. He was D.F. in Nelson from 1914 - 1916, when he returned to his home Province to become Chief Forester and, in 1924, Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines. He held that office until 6 months prior to his death when he became Executive Assistant to the Minister. He received his Doctorate of Science from his Alma Mater in 1944.

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BUSINESS MAN'S DICTIONARY

LET'S GET TOGETHER ON THIS - I'm assuming you're as confused as I am.

GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PRESENT THINKING - We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we've already decided to do.

WILL ADVISE IN DUE COURSE - If we figure it out, we'll let you know.

GIVE SOMEONE THE PICTURE - A long, confused and inaccurate statement to a newcomer.

SPEARHEAD THE ISSUE - You be the goat.

POINT UP THE ISSUE - To expand one page to fifteen pages.

THE ISSUE IS CLOSED - I'm tired of the whole affair.

A PROGRAM - Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.

TO EXPEDITE - To confound confusion with commotion.

CHANNELS - The trail left by inter-office memos.

COORDINATOR - The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.

CONSULTANT (OR EXPERT) - Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles from home.

TO ACTIVATE - To make carbons and add more names to the memo.

TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM - Hire more people and expand the office.

UNDER CONSIDERATION - Never heard of it.

UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION - We're looking in the files for it.

A MEETING - A mass mulling by master-minds.

A CONFERENCE - A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

TO NEGOTIATE - To seek a meeting of minds without a knocking together of heads.

RE-ORIENTATION - Getting used to working again.

RELIABLE SOURCE - The guy you just met.

INFORMED SOURCE - The guy who told the guy you just met.

UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE - The guy who started the rumor originally.

A CLARIFICATION - To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

WE ARE MAKING A SURVEY - We need more time to think of an answer.

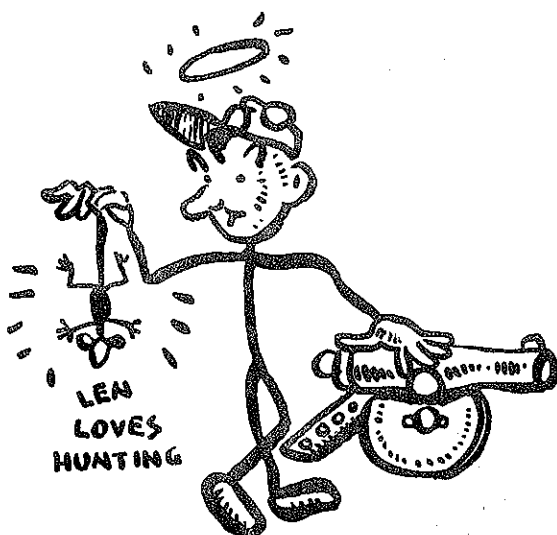
NOTE AND INITIAL - Let's spread the responsibility for this.

SEE ME, OR LET'S DISCUSS - Come down to my office. I'm lonesome.

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PARKS PATTERN

We of the Parks Division are inordinately proud of our Langford Workshop. Wherever we go, we notice some tangible evidence of the activity of this little sub-unit of ours. Every motorist who has glanced at one of our shiny, carved signs and every atavistic imp about to carve his initials on one of our nice new picnic tables is paying tribute to the industrious work of our boys. We remember the Artillery motto "UBIQUE". These fellows, too, are "everywhere". They tackle all jobs with a sort of ferocious cheerfulness.



The firm hand at the helm of all this atomic activity is our imperturbable Len Shaw. May we say we are quite fascinated by the guy. He is slight, and quiet to the point of being self-effacing, but he contrives to keep things rolling with astonishing efficiency, and absolutely no yelling. Len is married and has two children. During the last small fracas with the Fuhrer, he toured N. West Europe with the 4th Division in a unit fondly described as the "Lake Soups", (Lake Superior Reg't. to the uninitiated). His hobbies are hunting and - of all things - house building.

We really have no need to describe Joe St. Pierre. Joe is firmly established as a Forest Service legend - somewhat like Paul Bunyan. We even suspect that Joe rather

Parks Patter (continued)

relishes being a "Grade A Character". His wood carvings are, of course, deservedly famous. We are assured that he is not one hundred years old, as he tries to make out. We were intrigued to learn that he had once been a professional skater and had done two hitches in the Army of the U.S. and A. He is a leading light in the local skating club, where he is especially adored by the small fry.

We once took a hearty dislike to a large young man playing hockey for the Army team in the Commercial League. We tried to maim him with a pop bottle. We were a little chagrined to discover later on that he was Len Shaw's sub-foreman at Langford, name of Les Corby. That's when public relations took a dive. However we found Les to be one of the most obliging people we'd ever met. He is our carpentry expert. Les is married and has one child. Served in the Navy during the war.

The English have been described as a nation of shop-keepers. Dick Ruston, our Langford Warehouse-man, is one Englishman

The field staff are sure that he must run the place at a profit. Dick came to Canada after service with the R.A.F. He is widely travelled, married, and has one child.

"Shorty" Simard, like Joe St. Pierre, hails from the Eastern Townships of Quebec. In fact they were born on the same day in the same town. "Shorty" runs our campsite maintenance programme in summer. In winter he works with Joe. We regard Shorty with some reverence as the philosopher of the group.

Bill Forsythe and Frank Slater are the travelling men of the group. Bill is our plumber and Frank is the stone-mason. Bill is noteworthy for his attempt to press the accelerator

of his Austin through the floorboards. He is usually going back for his tools. Frank is a dour and canny Scot who runs perfectly to type. He was one of the "Gay Gordons".

Reg Meeres is our mechanical wizard. Like Les Corby, he is a top-flight hockey player in the Commercial. Reg was in the Navy. As we go to press we hear that he has added another little hockey player to his family; Congrats, Reg.

Our picnic-table expert is a quiet fellow called Walt Mertton. Walt is married, has one child. He also was in the Army throughout the last war and we notice he got in on the 1st of September, 1939.

And there you have them, the Langford boys.

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HATCHED

FRASER - To Alan of Research and Elaine Fraser a SON on January 18, 1953, at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria.

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HELLENIOUS - To Rolf of Aleza Lake Exp. Stn., and Mrs. Hellenious a fifth SON, on January 13, 1953, at Prince George.

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DISTRICT FORESTERS MEET

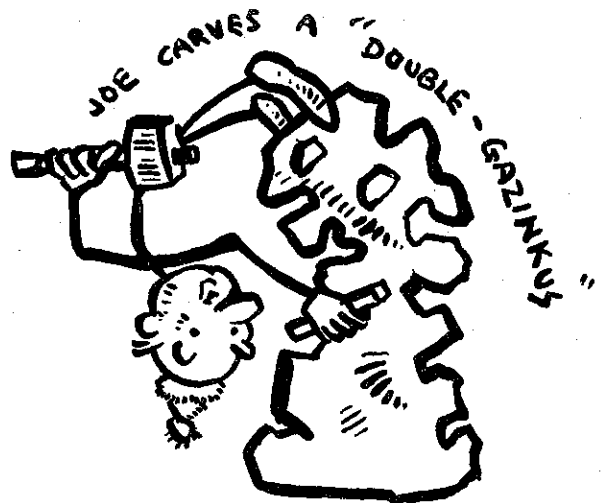
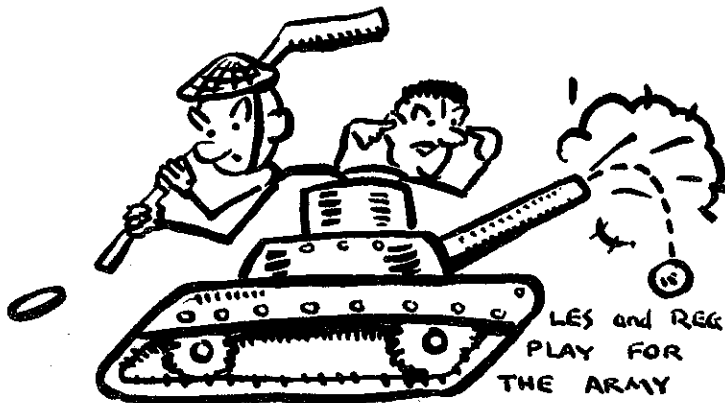
Another Annual District Foresters' Meeting has come and gone. This one was held in Victoria, in Room 442 of the new Douglas Block, and was officially opened at 9:00 A.M. on January 26 by the Hon. R.E. Sommers, Minister of Lands and Forests.

The sessions and interviews lasted for five days, culminating with a Dinner on Friday night at the Monterey Restaurant, with 63 in attendance.

The unhappiest note of all was the fact that the Chief, for the first time in as long as most of us can remember, was unable to attend the business sessions or the dinner. All during that week Dr. Orchard was confined to his home with an infection in his leg. Everyone who knows him will appreciate just how distressed he was at not being able to take part in proceedings.

We are very pleased to report, however, that at time of writing the Chief is once more "on the job" in his office.

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NEWSLETTER

8.

NEW PUBLICATION

Research Note #22 - "A Commercial Thinning Experiment in Douglas fir", by
Chr. Joergensen.

Copies of this publication are available from Public Relations and Education Division,
Victoria.

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THE MASTHEAD STORY

The Masthead on this issue shows the "soil-spreader" at work at the Green
Timbers Nursery. It was felt a Reforestation subject would be in tune with the times
for this issue as we understand that, if the weather holds, planting will have begun on
Vancouver Island by the end of February.

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