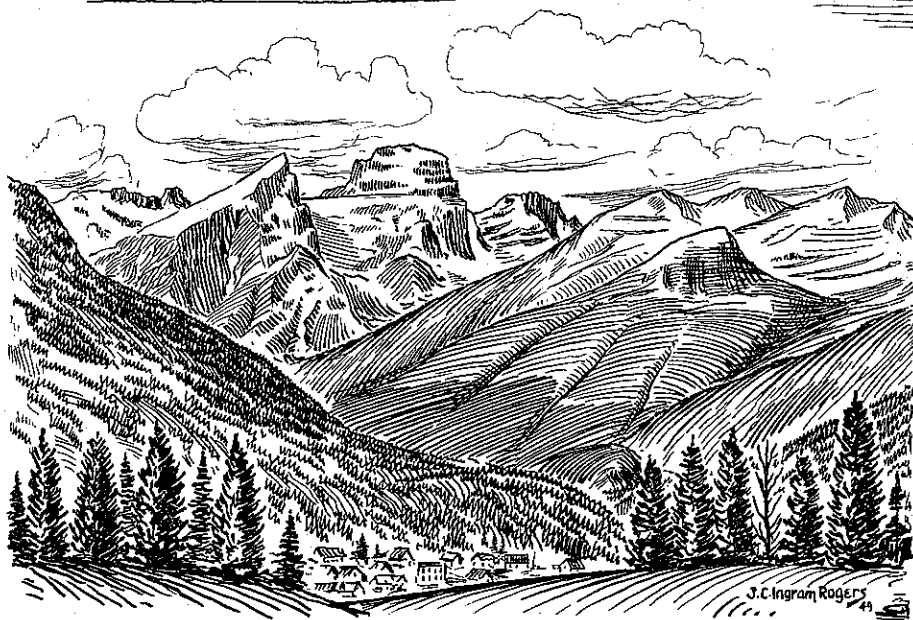


JAN 28 1950

FOREST SERVICE NEWSLETTER

— FERNIE, NELSON FOREST DISTRICT —



No. 78

VICTORIA, B.C.

JANUARY, 1950

CANADA FORESTRY ACT

Because our forest industries constitute such a large and vital part in our Provincial economy, the Act respecting forest conservation enacted by the Federal Legislature at their last session is of great interest to us in the Forest Service and of vital importance to our Province. As a result of this legislation the development of Forestry in British Columbia will certainly advance, the extent depending upon the type of Forestry programme promoted and the benefits we receive.

The Dominion Government recognized that monies were received by it from taxation either directly or indirectly from the Forest industries and that, accordingly, such benefits should enure to the Provinces. The intention of the Act is to enable the Minister of Mines and Resources to implement the passing on of such benefits under agreements with the Provinces. The relevant Section 6 of the Act provides as follows:-

- Amongst other things, the Minister may -
- (a) With the consent of the Governor in Council enter into agreements with any Province for the protection, development or utilization of forest resources, including protection from fire, insects and diseases, forest inventories, silvicultural research, watershed protection, reforestation, forestry publicity and education, construction of roads and improvement of streams in forest areas, improvement of growing conditions and management of forests for continuous production;
 - (b) Enter into arrangements with other departments or agencies of the Government of Canada for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act; and
 - (c) Enter into agreements with any persons providing for economic studies of forest resources or forest industries, forest research and demonstrations and the operation of forest products laboratories.

This Act crystallizes in legal form, the spirit of co-operation on certain Forestry problems which have developed between Provincial Forest Services and the Dominion Forest Service and paves the way for agreements on those phases of Forestry on which no basis of co-operation could heretofore be reached. The Section of the Act quoted above covers a fairly complete range of forestry problems that can be dealt with in co-operation with the provinces and even with companies and individuals. The success of the plans proposed in this Act will depend on the co-operation received from both parties, so that it will be interesting to study the proposal of the Dominion Government and the policy arising from the administration of the Act. In the final analysis the results which can be achieved will vary with the degree of tolerance, mutual understanding, and willingness to concede and compromise on knotty problems with which the "parties of both parts" approach their discussions.

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NELSON NEWS

CHARLIE NICHOLS RETIRES

An occasion which might have been tinged with gloom and sorrow became a very pleasant expression of the warmest good fellowship when some District Office Personnel, neighbouring Rangers, and members of the Rossland staff met to honor Charlie Nichols, who is "undergoing" retirement.

The meeting took place on "neutral ground," at Trail, and eventually occupied all the "Palm room."

Charlie Nichols Retires (Continued)

District Forester Harry Forse was Master of Ceremonies and called on Syd Simpson, as "Senior" member present, to present Charlie with his 25 year pin, a "delayed" award which was earned over a year ago. As Syd was wearing his own quarter-century badge at the time, Charlie was assisted to his place among the Immortals with an old acquaintance for an advocate.

Harry then delivered a presentation scroll bearing the names of many of Charlie's friends in the Service and a convenient pocket wallet, which, on investigation, contained considerably more than an empty promise.

Charlie replied very adequately and his remarks on trying to "Play the Game" could be taken as a code by which any one would be proud to live.

How well Charlie has lived up to this was shown by the many expressions of respect and good fellowship made during the open session that followed. A suggestion that Charlie's oval badge be engraved and "property lossed" to him to keep, met with unanimous approval.

With usual Forest Service versatility it was found that the Chief Clerk and the Management Forester could get music out of the piano and a set of bagpipes which were procured at Charlie's very special request, and tamed by the Appraisal officer. All members present discovered that they could sing.

If Charlie had imagined that he could steal away like the Arab after such long service, we trust that his friends have now shown him that his retirement is "official only".

Browsing through some early files we find that Charlie first entered the Forest Service as an Assistant Ranger in 1922 and it is interesting to note that provision for horse hire accompanied his appointment notice.

The Old Gray Mare may not be what she used to be but Charlie is still going strong.

Among other previous activities, Charlie spent some four years with the Cameron Highlanders which explains why a sassenach, born in England, hears music in the bagpipes.

We do not know Charlie's long-term plans but we hear that the competition among the Rossland gardeners may be tough this year.

All good wishes for the future, Charlie.

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Tonsillectomies

It seems that there are fashions in surgery as well as socks. Right now the swing is away from Tonsils in the Forest Service.

Mrs. (Deanie) Burgess, of the Draughty office, started the new style well before Christmas. We have not seen her scars but she will, on request, "talk about her operation".

Vern Hopkins, of the Kettle country, was recently removed from his, and Gunnar Lepsoe, of the Cruise Crew, is still on a bland diet with a husky voice.

Vern and Gunnar both discussed nurses, but Deanie never noticed them. We hope they all recover faster and better than expected.

... ..

Changes

Charlie Nichol's retirement has started a new "General Post" movement in the ranger staff.

Joe Killough, at present ranger at Kettle Valley, will be moving to Rossland. This will be like "going home" for Joe who started in the Service in the Rossland District.

Les Stilwell will be leaving Lardo to take Joe's place at Kettle Valley. At the same time, Marvin Quance is taking over at Nelson while Fred Hesketh will leave Arrowhead to carry on at Quance's Elko office. This is a "return" for Hesketh who used to live in Fernie. This leaves Lardo and Arrowhead unattended at the moment but, as both these districts are probably "snowed in" right now, it will save wear on the snow shovels.

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Bowling

Big things and big scores have happened in the alleys. "Culls and Clears", a team consisting of George Gill, Al Larsen, I.B. Johnson, Harold Holmberg, and Arvid Moen are now the Champions of the City Tournament in the Men's League. Their total score was 3518 pins which really is something.

If any other team in any other town thinks that this is easy, "Culls and Clears" are anxious to show them that even this can be bettered. How about it?

We must admit that the selection of prizes was very complimentary, particularly to I.B. Those who know him are waiting to see him wear that 30-inch belt he won.

Harry (Brute) Forse took his in peanuts. He maintains he won them for the "most strikes and luckiest bowling". Those who were there say it was for the most blows and toughest luck. The local press states he won the award as a "hard lick" bowler. Fred Cunningham was high man at that episode.

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Nelson District (Continued)CIRCULATION MANAGER PLEASE NOTE

At the "Do" for Charlie Nichols, a letter from Harry Dronsfield was mentioned. You will remember Harry as the Operations Clerk who, for years, doctored our expense accounts so they wouldn't hang up and showed us the easy way to get things put in right.

He mentioned that he had missed one or two copies of the Newsletter and it seemed he really "missed" them.

A wish was expressed that an infallible system of mailing the Newsletter to all Superannuants could be evolved. Possibly a liaison between the mailing department of the Pension Board and our Publicity Division could arrange this.

We must not forget our "alumni" because we wouldn't have got where we are if it hadn't been for them. (Ed:- We hereby do solemnly note!)

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Quiet Observance!

Christmas was ushered in with a quiet observance in the Management office (the hardest to find usually), on Saturday the 24th. We might remind those who spent some time in the dead file room that if you get high enough (up the stairs at the back) you finish up in the prisoner's dock.

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This Weather Business

The importance of "weather" to the field staff will be seen in these excerpts of a letter from Harry Sandberg from Elko. It certainly is a well ventilated spot, Elko. However, don't get the idea that Harry is as "windy" as his letter.

"When you were here last summer the weather was nice and comfortable outdoors, but just at present the only place that's comfortable is indoors, that's where I'm forced to stay to-day because our local gas-station attendant won't come out to serve gas, and the type of gas he serves indoors won't get you anywhere.

"He took a look at the wind-gauge this morning and saw it was a 2-ft. wind and decided it was an inch or two too strong and refused to come out.

"We had to put up a new wind-gauge this fall on account of the old one got too badly bent. Now we have an 8 ft. piece of railroad iron cemented in and a 6 ft. length of boom-chain tied to the top. If we ever get anything stronger than a 6 ft. wind we'll just have to guess at it's M.P.M. (miles per min.)

"Our Xmas tree season is over, at least the cutting of them is and we're thankful for that. Now we'll have to look around for one for ourselves if there's any left. The weather stayed nice while cutting was in progress; maybe it was the 'hot' trees that had some influence on that. We'll probably find some stumps on forbidden areas next spring and may the Lord forgive them their trespasses because we won't if we can identify the culprit.

"Oh, well, we didn't get much done this year but we'll give her "snooze" next year."

... ..

Rossland Round-up

Rossland is usually snow-bound about now but Ranger Nichols has dug out the following:-

"W.T.U.", formerly first year assistant ranger here is recuperating (as much as Joe will let him) at the more or less salubrious Kettle Valley Ranger Station after a somewhat strenuous season at Rossland where, having a date previously arranged to marry during the middle of the Fire season, he achieved the superhuman feat of successfully combining, more or less, forest fire-fighting with honeymooning -- Phew! -- and then some.

The chief strain of course was on the poor ranger, a man more or less concealing a tender heart behind a truly forbidding exterior. The poor fellow's heart turned over on each and every occasion -- and there were not a few -- when he had to call Bill out in the middle of the day or night to wrestle with fires. You can estimate the calibre of the man when I tell you Bill took it all in stride; however, inevitably, he did lose -- no kidding -- a lot of weight on the job. The ranger, sympathetic bloke, suffered most, it is believed, of the two. Why, he even went out on one or two of the (smaller) fires himself. It is true these were very close to a good highway, while Bill's were invariably on the top of a mountain, or higher still. Fortunately, the fire season came to an end, saving these people when they were both at their last gasp.

Well, here's hoping Bill will be back next year, and we'll try not to give him too much of this uphill work in future. But, please, Bill, don't make a habit of getting wed any more in the heat of the fire season.

Albert Hesketh, assistant ranger, with headquarters at Fruitvale, is home at Fernie on sick list. We hope to see him back before the New Year and fully recovered.

G.W. Graham, assistant ranger, Rossland, now "acting", after a season in the Rossland Metropolis is presently holidaying out in the sticks at a place known as "Grand Forks, B.C.". There is a rumour going around that George, inspired no doubt by his fellow assistant's example, plans to take unto himself an assistant assistant ranger before very long. We neither believe nor disbelieve the rumour but we understand that when the event does take place, it will NOT be in the Fire Season.

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FORT GEORGE DISTRICT

Lately the Fort George District has been slipping somewhat in the submission of news and so, in order to bring matters up to date, much of the following is old stuff and will be touched upon lightly for that reason.

... ..

Matched - District Forester, Lorne F. Swannell and Grace Wisenden, both of Prince George, on September 10, 1949.

... ..

- Assistant Ranger George Meents and Doreen Tobiason, both of Prince George, on September 16, 1949.

... ..

Hatched

- Dixon - To Assistant District Forester Allan and Mrs. Dixon on September 20, 1949, a SON, Terrence (Terry) Allan, 7 lbs. 6 oz. Belated, but sincere congratulations are extended to both Dot and Al from all their friends.

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Welcome - We would like at this time to extend our best wishes for a happy association with the following additions to our staff. Rangers and all personnel of the District join in welcoming:-

- Miss Phyllis Fisk - who has taken over the duties of Miss Doreen Tobiason (recently married to Mr. George Meents) as Management Steno. Phyl is doing a good job under increased pressure of added work.

- Miss Gerry Oliver - who has taken over the duties of Miss Elsie Geisler (recently left for the Coast and reported on later in this issue) as Operation Steno under the guiding and faithful hand of Claude Heggie. Gerry is proving her worth at her new job.

- Miss Doreen Ward - who has taken over the duties of Miss Helen Penner (now actively billing sawmill operators with Clara Wieland and Merri Damjanac) as file clerk. "Billy" is having the usual trouble of keeping active files active, which is keeping her active.

- Mr. R.E. Sewell - who has taken over the duties of Mr. Len Peckham (Now with the Airforce and training in wireless) as draughtsman. Bob is a busy man these days, who enjoys his work and the company he keeps. He is doing an excellent job in his present position - sitting. That's a joke Bob.

- Mr. Ivor Burrows - Who hasn't taken over anybody's duties, but who is willing to tackle anybody's. Ivor is a Forester-in-Training and a much needed addition to the Management Office. His thirst for knowledge has no bounds - he even goes out evenings with school teachers.

- Mr. Ed Clough - who hasn't taken over any one specific duty, but who is doing a very capable job as Assistant to Mr. Robert Carter, Chief Clerk. Ed has taken over many clerical duties and as such has relieved the pressure of work in the main office.

... ..

Back to Work

The office staff is glad to see that Jim Fieldhouse is back at work again, looking better and happier after a visit to Shaughnessy Hospital, where he received further medical attention.

Claude Heggie has returned from his holiday over Xmas and New Year at Victoria and is doing his best to forget golf, and the tropical coast conditions. The snow and sub-zero temperatures are slowly dimming his memories.

... ..

Bruce McAskie, H.Q. Assistant Ranger, has been having housing difficulties ever since his arrival here in the Spring of 1949. It is believed he has finally become settled. We feel though, he should be congratulated on his perseverance and for putting up with so much continual moving which does at times bring out the worst in one's character. We hope he and his family will now be able to settle down and enjoy the Prince George climate in one place.

... ..

The district personnel extend their sympathy to George Shires who recently lost his arm in a hunting accident. George was employed as Patrolman at Fort St. James this summer and attends Prince George High School. All his friends wish him a speedy recovery and lots of luck for the future.

... ..

Br-r-r-r!

The coldest temperature recorded in Prince George for the past thirty-two years was witnessed on January 1, 1950. It went down to 57.6° below zero. We were the coldest civilized (?) place in the world on this day according to the "Prince George Citizen."

... ..

Fort George District (Continued)Quite the Party

The Christmas Party held at noon on December 24 was a glorious success. It was centered around one crate of crabs which Assistant District Forester Marvin Kullander and Assistant Forester Jim McDonald kindly forwarded on behalf of the Prince Rupert District. We would extend on behalf of all those present our further sincerest thanks for this very timely present. It was quite the party, not breaking up for many until midnight. Enough said.

... ..

Silviculture? Yes!

We would bring to the attention of all concerned that Silvicultural work was also carried out in this district during 1949. Two crews were on the job, one in the Peace River and one in the Prince George area. A large body of valuable timber was further protected from fire and considerable slash disposal work was done. Approximately 5 months work was involved. The Fort George District was not mentioned in this regard in the report on Silviculture in the last issue of the Newsletter.

... ..

We regret to report that Mr. George Forbes is in the local hospital with pneumonia. George recently retired from the Forest Service after long and devoted service. We all wish George a speedy recovery.

... ..

1950, from all appearances, is going to be a big year and the lumber industry here are of the opinion it will be one of the most prosperous years for them. This would appear to spell work and so in this regard we are looking forward to the return of the district personnel at Ranger School, in the Spring.

... ..

The District Forester and staff take this opportunity of wishing all a Very Prosperous and Happy New Year.

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NOTES FROM THE MECHANICAL SECTION

All hail to a brand new, shiny, 1950. Actually it is snowing rather than hailing and most of the shine is reflected from icy surfaces!

However it is a new year and promises new things in the Mechanical Department, with inspectors permanently attached to certain districts as of April 1st. This should result in less headaches to most people and maybe a few more headaches to some others!

Fred Donaghy has been seen only occasionally this last week and then usually flitting between stacks of pink slips (paper) license, registration, automobile, year 1950. The stacks of paper were later substituted by stacks of number plates.

The writer tried to slip one out for his own car, but the Donaghy System evidently covers such eventualities as the scheme was brought to naught. Curses

Frank Gilbert has taken to quoting how cold it is in Prince George now that he is in Victoria However he may stage a return engagement even yet.

Bob Baker and Jack Smythe returned to the coast for the Christmas season, presented their reports, discussed their problems, carved their turkeys, kissed their wives (or somebody's) presumably, girded their loins about them, metaphorically or biblically speaking, and took off again for "unfinished business" in their respective spheres.

Frank Hollinger is still running up and down Seymour Mountain in between various "sashays" around Vancouver District.

Harry Hill is still hoping to be able to take in a show in Victoria, without having to cancel his reservations and scamper off "Up Island".

"Da Boss" is completely covered by layers and layers of sheets marked "District Organization Transport." He comes out now and again muttering such things as -

"They can't have it!"

"They don't need one!"

"He looks after his cars very well, I think he should have a new one!!"

"That trucks good for another season!"

Me? all I do is write this stuff.

... ..

HI HO SILVER !

.or

RANGER BOYD WILL RIDE AGAIN

If it were only admitted, we are all incurably romantic. We high-minded Idealists of the Parks Division are, of course, not exceptions to the rule. We lap up the

Hi Ho Silver! (Continued)

Hearts and Flowers stuff like you, bub, would lap up ten-dollar Scotch if you could get it for free. Yes, we're suckers for Santa, and on Mother's Day we get all choked up and red-eyed....you would, too, if you drank the stuff she concocts in the basement. But, our favourite romantic theme has always been the love of a virile, rugged out-doorsman for his horse. Shades of Roy Rogers. You, therefore, can imagine how happy we are to discover that right here in the Parks Division, we have the story being re-enacted in real life. Yessir, up thar in Manning Park, our boy, Ranger Boyd, and his Horse are rapidly becoming legendary figures. They'll have a radio script about them soon. Mind you, Bob's horse isn't a very BIG horse. In fact, one green-eyed cowpoke described it rudely to us as, "an ugly little bullet-headed she-critter." But Bob loves it just the same. If he doesn't coddle it to death--it should grow into a very fine animule--just like its parents. In fact, it all started when Bob acquired these parents to do a horse-size job in Manning. They then, in turn, presented us with a little equine bundle from heaven and Bob in his turn took it unto his heart. He hasn't stopped clucking yet. Mind you--at first we weren't worried. We took it calmly enough when he requisitioned little pink horse-blankets and a large teething ring--but when he asked us to nip down to the Vet to get him a special formula, two parts pabulum and one part hay--brother, that was the last straw.

... ..

HAIL AND FAREWELL

December 23 in the Chief Forester's office marked the two ceremonies of awarding 25-year pins to three members of the Service family and a presentation to J.K.K. (Jack) Frost on his retirement from the Service. Recipients of the pins were A.E. (John) Collins, A. (Sandy) Chisholm, and A.M. (Allan) Davies, and the Chief drew attention to the fact that this brought the total of 25-year-pin holders to 83 and represented 2075 man-years Service. Placed end-to-end that's a long enough span to put even Sequoia gigantea on guard for its cherished record of longevity. Just the thought of that much work exhausted this reporter.

Following presentation of the pins, the Chief passed on to the presentation to Jack Frost -- a book of remembrance signed by Jack's friends in the Service, and a radio-phonograph. Mr. Orchard made reference to an occasion on which a complaint had been received regarding Ranger Frost and expressed the opinion that a conscientious employee must expect to encounter opposition if he was meticulous in carrying out his duties. "It was not improbable", he said, "that lack of criticism in the course of a long term of Service implied a failure to completely fulfil the responsibilities of a position rather than the satisfactory carrying out of one's duties".

Mrs. Frost was presented with a corsage and "was entitled", said Mr. Orchard "to 50 per cent of the credit" for the esteem and affection in which Jack was held by his fellow-workers in the Service.

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WHAT HAPPENED?

We are all used to the bravely-coloured travel posters which proclaim in well turned phrases and carefully chosen adjectives that Vancouver Island is indeed the Evergreen Playground. There is often a picture of someone driving a golf ball or wearing sun-glasses on their way to Christmas dinner.

Some years even we natives have cause to believe these proclamations and therefore we feel we have a right to cite the following Radio as justification for the dazed looks on our faces during January, 1950.

"Radiogram"

From Courtenay

January 10, 1950.

To: Chief Forester,
Atten: H.G. McWilliams

CONTACTED GILMOUR AT GREAT CENTRAL EVERYTHING O.K. STOP GREAT CENTRAL 3 1/2 FEET SNOW LAWSON & MORTON LAKE 6 FEET NURSERY 5 FEET COURTENAY 4 FEET AND STILL SNOWING STOP UNABLE TO GET TO CAMPBELL RIVER STOP RETURNING TOMORROW.

"Ted Whiting"

... ..

OUR MASTHEAD STORY

The fine pen and ink sketch of the town of Fernie which we were very pleased to use as this issue's masthead, is the work of J.C. (John) Ingram Rogers, chief draughtsman of the Nelson District Office. Many thanks to you John and don't hesitate to give us some more. How about a whole series, for example?

... ..