JUL 26 1950

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. 84 VICTORIA, B. C. JULY, 1950

PRE-ORGANIZATION AND FIRE-CONTROL MAPS.

By J.A.P.*

When discussing pre-organization at the School, we usually emphasize the value of a good key map in the Ranger's office; one that would show the detail of control organization, transportation, man-pools, hazard areas, and so on. Usually, the class agrees that the idea is O.K., that there's nothing they would like better to have around on their walls. There are probably some mental reservations by students of calendar art, but, in general, the value of some form of concise and up-to-date information respecting the prevention and control possibilities of their district is well understood.

When we list the information that should be shown on a good pre-organization map, however, they usually advance two reasons why they can't build such a map. First, they can never find time to put in the work required. Second, any map covering their district must of necessity be of such small scale that it would be impossible to enter all the information needed on top of the matter already printed thereon.

One of these reasons is quite valid and cannot be disputed. Even with a base map of 20 chains to the inch, we would still find it difficult to enter the data required. Such maps are not always available and if they were, the average ranger district would take too many of them, or parts of them, and the whole would be too large and unwieldy.

The answer seems to lie in the use of overlays. So, early this Spring, we decided to try out the idea using a suppositious ranger district for a sample. After completing the job, we had to make a quick trip through the Interior, where we found the idea already at work. With the ice broken then, perhaps a few notes in respect to the map made up at the School may be of interest. We cut a piece of P.V. Hardboard, 22" x 26" and, to the smooth side of this, glued a pre-emption sheet covering our sample ranger district, 60 miles deep by 72 miles long. This sheet would be 20" x 24" , thus allowing an inch or so of Hardboard extra at each edge. We therefore have a stiff, solid background to the map.

We then obtained two sheets, 20" x 24" of heavy glaze celluloid compound for the overlays. Each sheet was placed over the base map separately and several topographical features traced out. Rivers, the larger lakes, and roads. This should be done in India ink.

No. 1 overlay, which will rest next to the base map, we used for fuel types and topographic information. The fuel type boundaries were outlined in standard colour crayons using cover-map standard colours for types. About a ¼-inch-hatching on the inside of each boundary line is sufficient to denote the particular type by colour. Descriptive circles within each fuel-type compartment contain a symbol denoting the particular fuel. For example, an old burn showing reproduction coming through would be shown by colour and symbol, but within the circle would be a symbol showing density of windfall or snags. There is plenty of room within each compartment for any fuel information that may be needed, but standard symbols make the thing easier. For example,"H.Wf" would denote heavy windfall;"L.Gd" could denote light ground debris.

Fire-breaks such as swamps, barrens, slides, etc., could be shown by standard symbols.

No. 2 overlay is used for accessibility information, man-pools, equipment supplies, etc. On this is traced the side-roads, trails, and logging roads, with the state of roads and trails shown by symbols, each portion to which the symbol applies being marked

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Pre-organization and Fire-Control Maps (Continued)

off by small arrows. Thus, where a half-mile of pack trail has been washed out, a note to that effect is written beside the part of trail concerned. Fords and bridges are shown by ordinary symbols, but additional information in respect to each can be noted. The suitability of lakes for aircraft-landing can be shown by a simple symbol thus: ⟨+⟩. For lakes known to be unsuitable, the symbol could be ⟨×⟩.

No 1 and 2 overlays are gummed together with scotch tape, the original, inked topographical features on each sheet being carefully overlaid. Then, the two overlays are gummed to fit over the base map. Scotch tape or draughting tape being used to make a firm, permanent join at the top.

Now, when a fire is reported, the area of origin is marked on the base map; No 1 overlay shows the spread-possibilities according to fuel-types and topography, and thus indicates the size of crew required for initial and follow-up action; No 2 overlay then shows the nearest man-power-pools, means and condition of accessability.

Having put together such a pre-organization map as an experiment, the following points are evident:-

First:- Heavy, glazed celluloid should be used for overlays. That now used in the districts is too light, seems to tear and curl too easily. The information we are going to place on these overlay sheets is important and should be amended and added to over a number of years. In time there would be too much valuable information to trust on a more or less flimsey sheet. It may be argued that the heavy glaze is not opaque enough to see through from No 2 sheet to the base map. This is not necessarily so. It is clear enough to see through to No 1. It may be found that the color and written matter on the fuel type sheet confuses the matter on the top sheet. This is easily overcome by placing under the top sheet a piece of white cardboard or, say, a Fire Law poster. In any event, each sheet is examined separately for its information. As to cost, the whole thing, two overlays and the Hardboard will cost only about $3.50, and it should last a number of years.

Second:- The use of standard colored crayons for the coloring matter, and of a "B" pencil for black, allows for erasures. We found that they would not rub off with ordinary use, but will come off quite easily and cleanly with the aid of a wet cloth. India ink is different and should only be used where the information is permanent....then, it is best.

Third:- If the idea for an overlay fire control and pre-organization map is carried out, a suitable standard legend for fuel types and other material should be arrived at so that all districts would use the same legend. So much more can be added by suitable symbols, thus allowing more space where written notes are found necessary. Thus a trail shown on the top overlay with this symbol beside it (FT/P) would mean "pack trail in poor shape". Or this symbol, (FT/G) "foot trail in good condition". This symbol, (FT/Z→) with two lines cutting the trail, would mean that this portion of the trail is washed out and cannot be used. This symbol, ⟨×⟩ would mean unsuitable for aircraft landing.

The question of pre-organization maps has been tossed around for many years. Personally, the writer has always used them and found them worthwhile. The difficulty has always been the base map upon which we are to enter the information. It must be on a very large scale and mounted on a linen back to stand up. The overlay appears to cover the general purpose well. If, then, we all agree both to the value of such maps and to the overlay system, there remains only one more fence to jump....the question of time to make up these maps.

The experimental map we have been speaking about is, we think, a fair sample of what such a map should be in an average ranger district. We have both overlays filled with cover and other information. Most of the roads and trails, the lakes and streams are included as permanent features on both overlays. It took me two days to fill in both overlays, fix the base map and have the whole thing ready to hang on the wall if necessary. If it was an actual map it would now be ready for any new information picked up from time to time, which would take but a few minutes to add as the new material was collected.

It seems to me that the excuse, "we have no time", has little foundation where matters of protection organization are concerned. Most rangers have now considerably more protection staff than in former years. If the term,"we have no time", applies at all, it should apply, insofar as Asst. Rangers are concerned, to such affairs as logging inspections, until all protection organization is caught up.

We have been getting by too easily during the past few years where fires are concerned and we are thus apt to overlook simple precautions.

In all phases of pre-organization there should be no question of time in the daily allotment of work. I think it is the priority of the job that counts most. In this case of pre-organization maps, the ranger must ask and answer the question.... "Is the map worth the time and trouble expended?" If he sees no value to such a map, he may as well leave it alone. He must have an interest in the job and have it done properly. If he can see some value to such a map he will find time....even at the expense of a few logging inspections.

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PICNIC BIG SUCCESS

The bright sunny morning of June 5th saw members of Operations and Public Relations Divisions out at Bill Spouse's summer residence at Sooke for a Weiner Roast - Picnic. The folks began to arrive around 12:30 P.M. when they had lunch (accompanied by oodles of scrumptious ice cream) on the beach fronting onto the beautiful Sooke Basin.

Following lunch, a Treasure Hunt was staged on an island adjoining Bill's

Picnic Big Success (Continued)

property. The treasure, a large box of chocolates, was found by Miss Ruth Davies and Miss Elizabeth Spouse. After this, our prize "line-shooters", Bert Crowe and Harold Ferguson, tried their hands at rifle-shooting for a change. We are glad to report that due to good marksmanship, or more likely good luck, there were no fatalities.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent boating, playing ball and "nattering", until 6:30 when Gordie Cockrell lit the Campfire and the Weiner Roast was in progress. Everyone had their fill of cake and weiners and then let off steam by singing, or endeavouring to do so, according to their ability!

Congratulations are due Miss Carol Lynas of Operations and her committee for their excellent arrangements which provided a wonderful day out and get-together for all who attended.

Amongst the Sooke Harbour Sirens at Forest Service Picnic L-R:- Marjorie Forrest (Operations), Norah Hughes (P.R. & E.), Ruth Veitch, Leola Riddell, and Ruth Davies (all Operations).

The "Coureur de Bois" - from bow to stern:- Fred Donaghy, Gordon Cockrell, Ross Ferguson, Elizabeth Spouse, Ruth Davies (with hat), Harold Ferguson, and Tommy Spouse in stern. Sole occupant of craft in background - Maurice Foord.

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PARKS AND RECREATION CHATTER

by Seymour E. Park.

You remember the nonchalant individual who, after a last-second reprieve, turned politely to the Hangman and murmured: "No noose is good news." Well we, editorially speaking, are in the other category. In fact we have a little neon sign flashing on our desk and it says quite simply, "No news- no job." Mind, in the Parks and Recreation Division we are constantly busy as beavers making news - in fact, HISTORY!

Take the Wildlife Survey being conducted in Wells Gray Park by that indomitable duo Pat Martin and Ralph Ritcey. Now this is no sissy stuff like operating a Gallop poll or snooping on a Kinsey Report - it takes a really smooth operator to knock on a bear's den and question the lady of the house on the number of cubs she has this year, and whether or not her husband is working. Then there's Peter Ketchen, he is conducting a study of biting insects (i.e. the insects do the biting) in Manning and Seymour Parks. Poor Pete, he just scratches for a living. Our industrial empire is growing too. We have let the contract for the new motel and gas station in the Manning Park Concession area. "PINE WOODS LODGE" itself is booming. First thing you know we will call it a"SPA." In Manning too, are three Boys Camps being run in conjunction with FPF. These are under the fatherly foremanship of Dusty Rhodes (gad, what a punny name), Paul Gawthrop, and Scotty Higgins. The lads are doing fine work besides learning a lesson in self reliant citizenship. Lastly we note that Mt. Seymour is still under snow. This, of course, is a modest little extra service, from this Division to our beloved skiing public. After all, they are taxpayers. Next year we hope to go one better and coat the ski slopes with genuine vanilla ice cream with real chocolate on Sundays. Yes, it's grand working for this up and coming outfit.

OK, Boss, am I safe for another month?

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NEW FOREST SERVICE PUBLICATIONS

Continuing the practice started in the May issue of the Newsletter, we can now report the receipt of a new addition to our Technical series of publications, namely -

T.33 - Precision Measurement of Radial Growth and Daily Radial Fluctuations in Douglas Fir, by G. Warrack and Chr. Joergensen. (Reprinted from the Forestry Chronicle, Vol. 26, no. 1, March, 1950.)

The usual Service-wide distribution was completed during June and requests from selected categories of Forest Service Mailing List No. 1, are still being filled at a rapid rate.

New Forest Service Publications (Continued)

The final proofs of Bulletin B.42 - "Farm Woodlot Licences", were O.K.'d on June 30 and returned to the Printers. This Bulletin should become available within the next few weeks. Incidentally, we are pleased to report that, at deadline date, W.G. (Wally Hughes, O.I/C Farm Woodlots, is recovering satisfactorily from an appendectomy performed at the end of June.

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AN AUTHOR IN OUR MIDST !

Members of the Service will be interested to learn that C.P. (Ches.) Lyons of our Parks and Recreation Division has blossomed forth as a full-fledged author. The title -- "Milestones on the Mighty Fraser," by C. P. Lyons, (J.M. Dent & Co. Ltd., Vancouver).

By its interesting system of mile-by-mile chronicling of historical sites and events, both past and present, "Milestones on the Mighty Fraser", takes the reader on a fascinating automobile trip from Vancouver to Kamloops via the Fraser Canyon. By so doing, we feel that Chester has managed, at least partially, to fill the crying need for a proper record of early British Columbiana by transplanting the tales of that lusty period from the mouths of the Indians and old-timers to the more permanent and factual medium of a very readable book.

Our sincere congratulations, Chester Lyons, and we hope you'll hit the Best Seller Lists.

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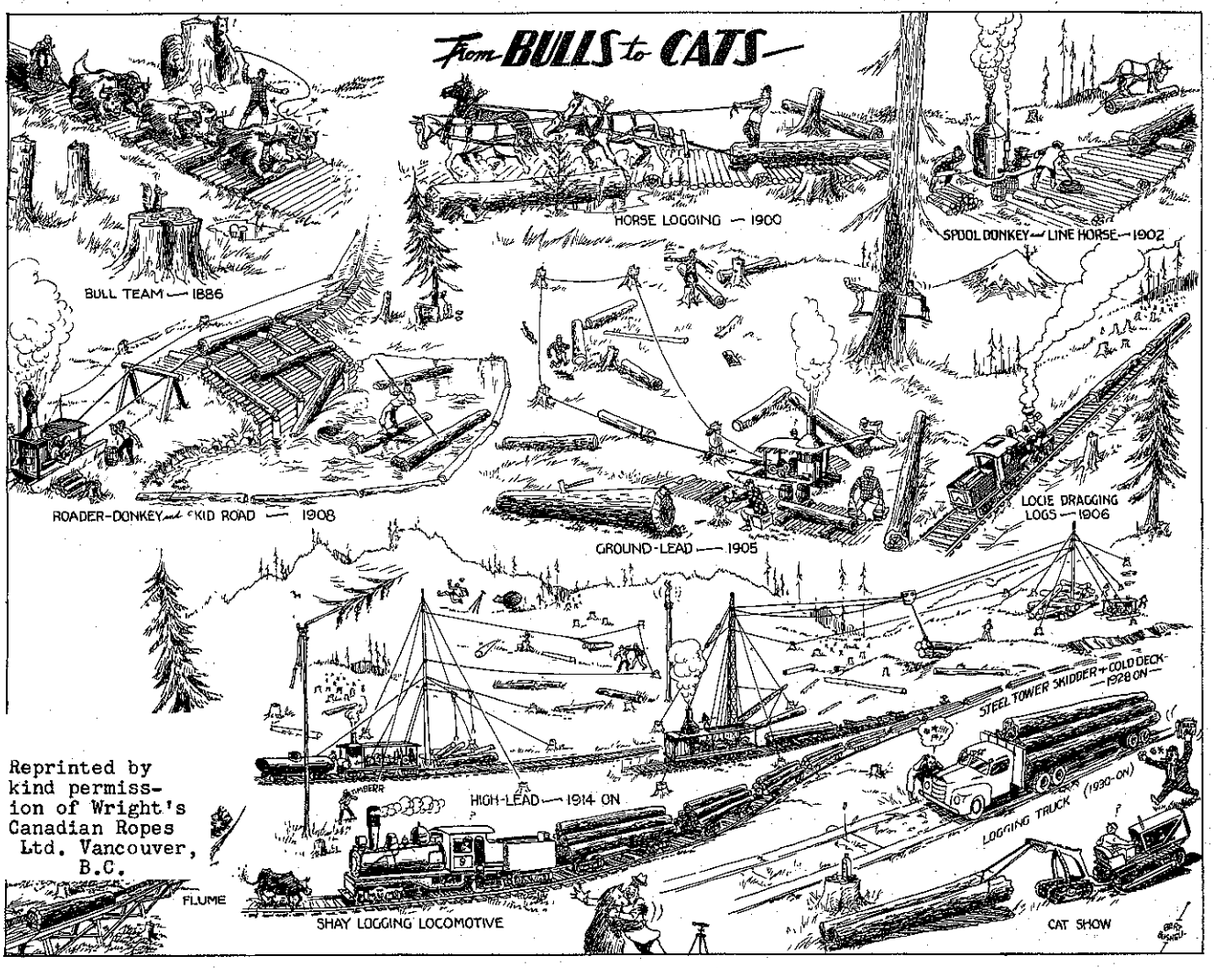

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SCOUTS HELP SERVICE DURING FIRE

The sincere thanks of the Forest Service go out to the Second Arrowsmith Troop, Boy Scouts, for the valuable assistance rendered by that group in fighting fire near Cherry Creek, Vancouver Forest District, on May 24.

In writing to thank the Second Arrowsmith Troop for their part in the fire fighting, Mr. E.W. Bassett, District Forester, Vancouver, said, in part, - "Will you kindly read this message of thanks to the Troop at their next parade, and assure them that the Forest Service of British Columbia not only values highly the goodwill and active cooperation of all good citizens in the matter of Forest Protection, but that over the years we have come to depend on the Boy Scouts everywhere to show a good example to their communities in this respect."

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FOREST SERVICE PIONEER

A well-known recent visitor to Vancouver and Victoria was Jack Price of Nelson - a man who has made history in the Ranger service.

A native of Orillia, Ontario, Jack joined the Service in October 1913. On retirement, in 1931, he went home to Orillia to visit his young nephews and nieces whom he had never seen. He returned to B.C. a badly shaken man after discovering the children of his fancy to be encumbered by bald and greying pates.

At 84, Jack keeps a keen eye on his old ranger district and the general progress of the Forest Service. His clarity of memory leaves one with the impression that, after twenty years, he could still rewrite in detail many of his old reports.

"How is it that everyone else has passed on and you are still going strong?" a friend once asked Jack Price. There was a twinkle in the old-timer's eye as he replied, "Dying ! That's the last thing I'm going to do !"

One of Jack's prized possessions is a C.P.R. boat ticket from Victoria to Vancouver, dated Christmas Eve 1889. For reasons best known to himself he missed the boat and the company will no longer honour his ticket. The S.S. Islander, on which he was to have travelled, sank off the coast of Alaska in 1892, but, from all appearance, his ticket is good for many more years of smooth sailing in the colourful life of this Forest Service pioneer.

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New Librarian

Public Relations & Education offers congratulations to Miss Isabel Chisholm on her promotion from stenographer to the position of Forest Service Librarian, replacing Miss Norah Hughes.

Also, the welcome mat is out for Miss Jean Trowsdale who has joined the P.R. & E. staff as clerk-typist.

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VANCOUVER DISTRICT

THE TALLY BOARD

Hatched

It's a girl for Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cameron, nee Mary Westin former Comptometer Operator, and also for Mr. & Mrs. Harry MacMillan, nee Olive Shields of Vouchers.

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Matched

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Scaler W.R.W. Novis who embarked upon the sea of matrimony on June 17th.

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Off to Winnipeg for the summer while Al trains Air Force Cadets, is Bliss Pottage, nee Cassidy, formerly of the Scaling Ledgers.

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Wow!

Page Emily Post! Being the only airborne District Office, we notice "outside" visitors. In a recent 5:00 o'clock rush at the elevators a gentleman stepped backand observed, "Ladies First", then removed his hat and rode down hatless. A "he-man" from the wide open ranges showing up the city slickers.

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Rumor has it that the holiday weekend was a busy one for the stork but as we have not yet heard whether the new arrivals are boys or girls we will defer report until the next issue. New fathers please note!

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X-Ray Eyes Maybe?

The local press recently carried an item that Max Schell and wife saw the Ogopogo; as the scaler of this name was at Englewood, must have been some other fellow.

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Welcome

"Welcome to the staff" is extended to Miss Ruth Dobell who has joined the billing staff for the summer to type extra copies and to Mrs. Jane Timmons who has joined Operations as a typist.

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Vancouver District (Continued)

Congrats.

Congratulations are in order on the promotion of Mr. J.S. Stokes to the Management Office, in Victoria, as Assistant Forester. Best of luck in your new job, John. We are sorry to lose you.

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P.R. to Van.

Departures are always followed by arrivals and we welcome Mr. J.A.K. Reid, formerly of the Prince Rupert District, to replace Mr. Stokes as the sage of the Timber Sales and other Management problems.

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NELSON DISTRICT

SCHUPE SAILS SHIP THROUGH SURF TO SUPERANNUATION

A two-part ceremony on May 31 marked the retirement of yet another of our few remaining old-timers.

George Schupe, after over 30 years of service, became snagged on a date on the calendar and has laid aside his scale-stick.

George began his Forest Service career as Assistant Ranger at Elko in the summer of 1918, after serving Overseas with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. During the winter of 1918 and 1919, he attended a Forestry course under Professor Hanslik in the old University buildings at Point Gray and after serving another season at Elko, received his Ranger's appointment at Fernie in the Spring of 1920. He remained there until 1932 when he was transferred to Nelson where he has made his home ever since. He became Supervisor of Scalers in 1945, which title was later changed to Inspector of Licensed Scalers, and has served in that capacity until his retirement.

To ease the shock to George, his many friends in the Nelson District marked his retirement with a gathering that took two sessions to show him their regard.

At closing time on George's last day, he was herded into the Main Office where Harry Forse drew attention to George's excellent record as a gardener, a disposal officer, and a forest officer of varied experience. He handed George a fat wallet which had been filled by his many friends and associates -- a transfusion of green stuff to lessen the shock of amputation from the Service.

Art Stringer, from Victoria, but formerly of the Nelson office, was on hand to express good wishes for the future and congratulations on the past from the Victoria office and the entire Service.

Syd Simpson read many letters from absent friends of George, who wished to express their appreciation for his friendship and regrets at not being able to attend.

John Applewhaite, representing the large number of men who have benefitted from George's tuition, paid tribute to his ability to bring out the best in his many trainees and yet not dwell too heavily on their faults. A surprisingly large number of Forest Officers are still using the training they received from George Schupe.

Added interest was given by the presence of Jack Price, one of the oldest superannuants and still going strong in the "Condition of Active Retirement", which George has just entered.

In the evening, Harry and Mrs. Forse took the risk of opening their home to Mr. and Mrs. Schupe and all their friends and a second "Combined Operation" took place. Friendships were renewed, the good old days were dusted off, and George and Mrs. Schupe well and truly toasted.

The intentions were not only good but successful, as both George and Mrs. Schupe expressed their deep appreciation and thanks for the friendship and regard extended them by their many friends.

It is believed that John Applewhaite must have drunk the first toast in "Corn Likker" as he came out with the following poem for the second:-

Now here's to George and Mrs. Schupe,
About to leave the Forest Troop,
Remembered by this little group,
For years of Sylvan toiling.

When first he sailed his battered sloop,
He soon excelled, and trod the poop,
And knocked old Davy for a loop,
By Neptune's temper foiling.

When influenza starts to swoop,
Or George feels signs of cough or croup,
He's handy with rum glass and scoop,
And deft at tonsil oiling.

His Missus now will hold the hoop,
And keep him busy 'round the coop,
And when he gets into the soup,
She'll keep it boiling!

So here's to George and Mrs. Schupe,
And may their spirits never droop,
Or worries make their shoulders stoop,
Just Happiness, Unspoiling.

Nelson District (Continued)

MOVE, CHECK, DOUBLE-CHECK!

This Spring has seen another general shuffle of the Nelson staff. However, space will permit covering the moves of the so-called "permanent" staff members only. The term "permanent" certainly does not refer to location.

Ranger Hesketh started things off by going back to his old stamping grounds at Elko, to replace Ranger Quance who had been transferred to Nelson. This was followed shortly by Ranger Killough's move to Rossland, from Kettle Valley, and Ranger Stilwell leaving the Lardeau to take over at Kettle Valley.

This ended the first phase, but no sooner did we have all their addresses straight again than the epidemic broke out in the District office.

Ralph Johnston and Jack Payne uncrossed their fingers a bit prematurely and immediately Ralph received a summons to report to the Kamloops office as Chief of Operations, and Jack to the Prince Rupert Management Office. We are quite sure Ralph is going to enjoy the Thompson Valley sunshine and are positive that Jack will do likewise at Prince Rupert, should he be fortunate enough to see any.

Before allowing our boys to go out in the world, an enjoyable stag party was held at Mr. Forse's home, where we tried to teach them the folly of attempting to fill an inside straight and also of investing the contents of piggy banks in anything other than Government bonds.

Ted Knight's graduation from the U.B.C. coincided nicely with Jack's transfer and he was able to take over without leaving a vacancy behind him. However, Ralph's move set off a veritable chain reaction, Harold Holmberg has taken over his desk and Ollie Christie has come in from Cranbrook as Fire Inspector in Harold's place. Ranger Hill has been moved from Kaslo to fill the Cranbrook vacancy and in order to keep things from continuing, "ad infinitum", J.L. Humphrey is coming in from the Kamloops District to take over as Ranger at Kaslo. No doubt the reaction continues in the Kamloops District, but it no longer affects us here.

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Those Learned Ones Return

Our Ranger school boys have returned and are putting their new-gained knowledge into practice. Bob Robinson is in charge at Lardeau and Hughie Wood at Arrowhead, while Johnny Gierl and J. Connolly are assisting with management work at Cranbrook and Kettle Valley.

Now that everyone is accounted for, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing them every success in their new positions.

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Miss Ina Johnson, who has been in charge of our Billing Department for several years, has left on a well-earned, three-month combined holiday and leave of absence, during which she will be visiting friends and relatives in England and Sweden. Before returning, she will also visit Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway. Here's wishing you smooth sailing, Ina.

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We welcome Miss Joan Coates, who has recently joined our office staff. Miss Coates will be helping to keep the accounts rolling during Ina Johnson's absence. She will no doubt continue to do so after Ina's return, as Phyl Turner will soon be sailing also -- on the Sea of Matrimony.

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HATCHED

ORR-EWING - to Alan, of Research, and Helen Orr-Ewing, their second SON, William Pellew, 8 1/4 pounds, on June 22, 1950 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria.

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OUR MASTHEAD STORY

As July is the middle month of the Fire Season, it seemed appropriate to us to feature as the masthead on this issue of the Newsletter, a montage made up of forest protection newspaper advertisements which we have used over the past few years. We had originally hoped to feature the seven new forest protection poster designs but, unfortunately, these were not received from the Printers in time.

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