

NEWS LETTER



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

No. 58

VICTORIA, B. C., JUNE 1, 1946.

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Despite the fact that it is nearly a year since the last Newsletter appeared, we want to assure members of the Service that it is still our intention to publish a letter at reasonable intervals and, with luck and a little co-operation from unofficial correspondents, we will be able to keep our promise to the Chief and deliver. There is an old saying that "you never miss the water 'til the well runs dry". That seems to be true of the Newsletter too, for during the first few months after our last issue appeared in August, 1945, there wasn't enough material arrived to cover a postcard to our mother-in-law. Along about the New Year an occasional enquiry as to the whereabouts of the Newsletter started to drift in and in the last two months there has been a positive deluge. So, here it is, after it's long winter nap and don't forget, you and YOU and YOU are the 'boys and girls on the beats' so send along material for an early issue. Try to get it in by July 15.

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NEW FOREST SERVICE LAUNCH PUT IN COMMISSION

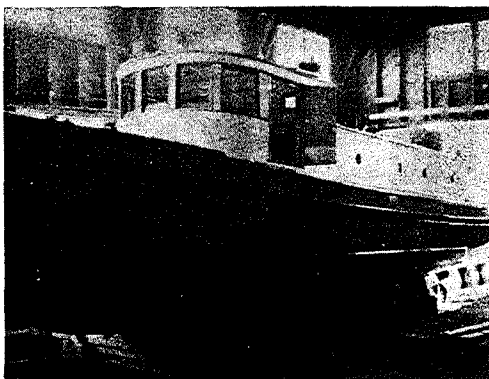
AT FRASER RIVER REPAIR STATION

The Honourable E. T. Kenney, Minister of Lands and Forests, launched the "Cherry II" on Thursday afternoon, February 14. Prior to the launching Mr. C. D. Orchard and Mr. C. J. Haddon spoke of the accomplishments of the Fraser River Repair Station as exemplified in its most recent achievement. The "Cherry II" is the second Assistant Ranger launch to be built at the Station, the first one being the "Red Cedar" which was put in commission in July, 1943. The "Cherry II" is the same size as the "Red Cedar", being 34 feet long with a 9 foot beam, but it has more power in its 85 H.P. General Motors diesel. There is an immediate need for several more Assistant Ranger launches and our own Forest Service men at the Station have shown ability to construct efficiently the exact type of boat required, so it is hoped that several more can be put in commission at as early a date as possible.

The Station staff, which comprises the shipbuilders and mechanical section, joined the many visitors in the launching ceremonies and refreshments which followed. Chief Archie Robb, of the Motor Launch "Syrene", served a "snack" with appropriate launching beverages.

A special guest at the ceremony was Mr. George L. Miller, Chief Forester of the New Brunswick Forest Service, who was visiting at the Coast and contacted a number of his old friends in British Columbia prior to returning to Fredericton.

Later in the afternoon the Honourable E. T. Kenney inspected the Motor Launch "Syrene" and had his first cruise on her when taken around to the Inner Harbour with the Chief Forester.





The Deputy Minister and Chief Forester, C. D. Orchard, speaking to a portion of the group at the Launching of the Cherry II. From right to left is C. J. Haddon, District Forester, Vancouver, Hon. E. T. Kenney, C. D. Orchard and G. L. Miller, Chief Forester of the New Brunswick Forest Service.

R. C. (Bob) Swan, Station Foreman at the Fraser River Repair Station, Vancouver, left the Forest Service on February 28 to go into private business. Bob had been with the Service from 1926 to 1932 and from 1938 to date of resignation, during which time he made many friends in the Service and we all wish him the best of luck in his new work.

SCALER'S DINNER.

A Scaler's Dinner was held at the Georgia Hotel on Wednesday February 27, 1946. Those present included the Chief Forester, the District Forester, several members of the Vancouver District Staff and 27 Scalers.

After an excellent meal, Bill Byers, who acted as Chairman, spoke on the purpose of the get-together, pointing out that a better understanding of all Forest Service problems would result from discussions which it was hoped would develop from such gatherings of Scalers and other Forest Service Officers.

The Chief emphasized the necessity of mutual understanding of each others problems within the Forest Service and suggested that, at later meetings, heads of the various divisions of the Forest Service would be present to discuss their problems as they relate to scaling. He hoped that the Scalers would feel free to bring up any questions which they had not personally had an opportunity of voicing.

Charlie Haddon pointed out the importance of scaling and further emphasized the value of open discussions to all members of the Forest Service.

Interesting discussion followed which brought out the value of such meetings and it was the consensus of opinion that the dinners should be monthly affairs.

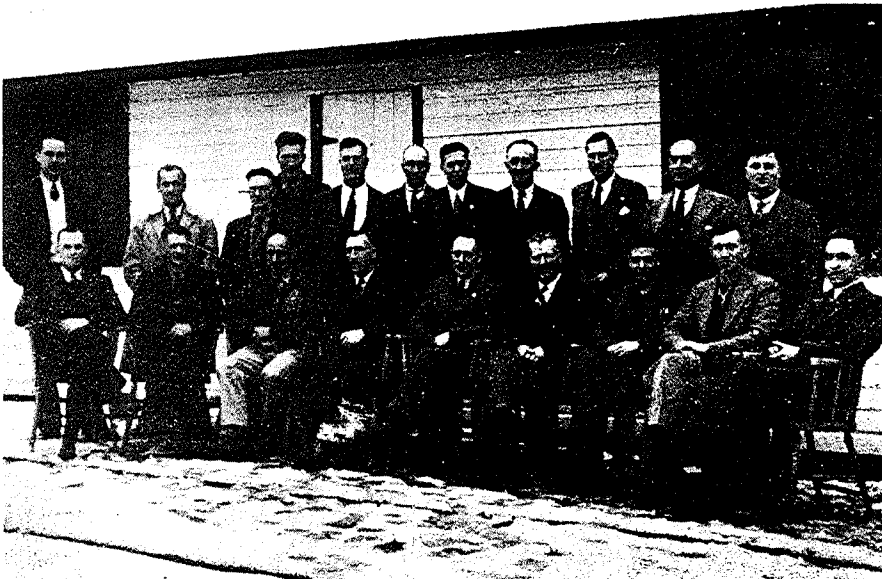
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THE RANGER SCHOOL HAS A BUSY SESSION

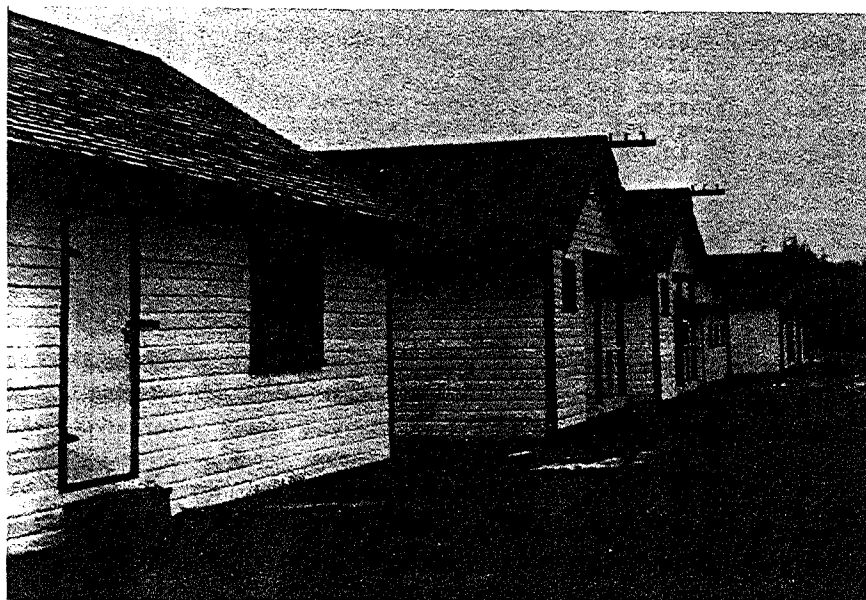
One of the problems of getting out a paper, even as informal a one as the Newsletter, is that news gets stale. The inauguration of the Service's new Ranger School at the Green Timbers Station is in that class for everyone, by now, knows that Doug. Greggor and Jim Pedley got under way on January 7 last as Dean and Assistant Dean respectively to twenty of our Rangers, Acting Rangers and Assistants who constituted the first class at the new School. Appropriate opening ceremonies were attended by the Minister, Honourable E. T. Kenney, three other members of the Legislative Assembly, and sundry 'brass' from Victoria. Everybody behaved very well and, despite the 'unusual' weather, the accompanying photographs of the School buildings and the first class were secured.

The School wound up its first semester by the end of March in time for the Rangers from the various districts to get back home for their Annual Ranger Meetings.

Flushed with their success, the Dean and his Assistant then took on the problem



The First Class



The classroom on the left and the four dormitories and washroom..

The Administrative Building which also houses lounge, dining hall and kitchen.



of preparing a special short course, at the request of the Industry, for protection crew foremen and other employees concerned with fire control. Thirteen men attended from the Victoria Lumber Co., Comox Logging Co., Northwest Bay Logging, Alberni-Pacific, Alaska Pine, Jones Lake Logging and other Companies. The course covered eight days, but owing to the intervention of the Easter holidays occupied two calendar weeks. Four days were devoted to fire weather and fire occurrence and behaviour. The remainder of the time to prevention and suppression measures, and the care and use of equipment. The course was enthusiastically received by the men present and the Companies they represented.

Just to make sure that we get full use of the classrooms, the Economics Division are at present (May 15) using the school for instruction of the cruising party compassmen for the coming summer. Ced Walker and Ced Telford have donned their gowns and are wielding the pointers at this session. After a series of lectures the boys are hitting for the bush in the newly acquired U.B.C. Forest School forest adjoining Garibaldi Park for a week's practice work under field conditions.

Any account of the first year's operations of the Ranger School would be incomplete without reference to the comment adorning the walls of the Washroom, as follows:

"Seldom have so many with so little tried to learn so much in so short a time.--
J. Snodgrass Whiffletree, (Deceased)."

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BRITISH COLUMBIA TO THE RESCUE

Forester-in-charge of "Operations" Ed. Bassett left by plane on May 16 for six weeks to see how the "other half" lives and fights fires and to give the benefit of his experience to the Ontario Royal Commission on Forestry. At the request of the Commission Ed. has been loaned to it for that period, in an advisory capacity on forest protection, and will accompany the Commission during its tour of hearings throughout Ontario. If fire conditions in British Columbia permit the loan period may later be extended.

The request for assistance is a compliment to our Service and selecting Ed. to "carry the ball" is a well-deserved tribute to his experience and capabilities.

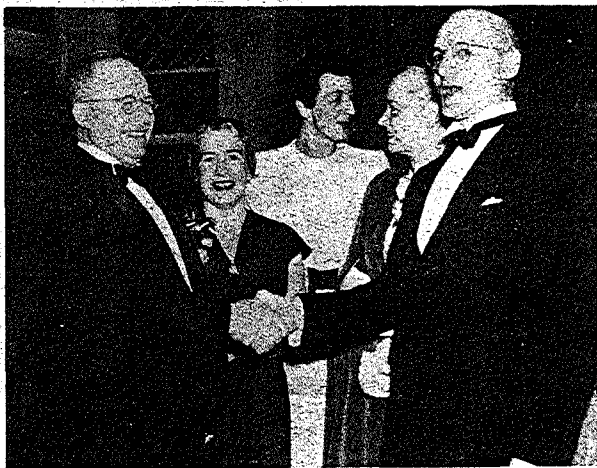
Incidentally, Ed. is faring pretty well in the matter of travel to "furrin parts" these days. Toward the end of April, he and Ian MacQueen--of sling psychrometer and temperature inversion fame--spent two weeks from here to California and back to attend tests of helicopters being made by the U. S. authorities. As a result they, to the best of our knowledge, hold "firsts" in this Service for flights in "flying egg-beaters."

THE VICTORIA OFFICE DANCES ---

In 1941 the Forest Service Victoria Staff held their Annual Dance and thereafter suspended social events until the termination of hostilities. This year it was decided that this enjoyable function should be reinstated and, under the able guidance of a Committee headed by Harold McWilliams and comprising Phyllis Christian, Florence Jenner, George Silburn, and Cedric Walker, the brawl -- er-r-r, we mean Ball -- was held at the Victoria Yacht Club on February 16. We will leave you to judge by the expressions in the incidental illustrations herewith, whether or not -- A Good Time Was Had By All.



"The Festive Board."



The Alexanders, Mrs. Brown and the Melroses.



F.S. McKinnon and Axel and Judy Kinnear.



Mrs. Silburn, A. Jacklin, Ruth Veitch, George Silburn and Sam and Mrs. Smith.

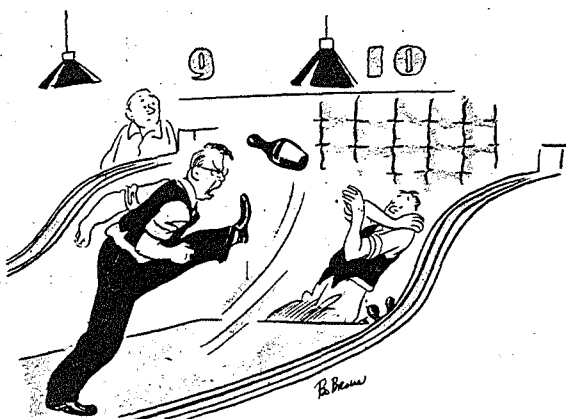
--- AND BOWLS ---

The "Health through Exercise" cult also got busy around H.O. this year and organized a five-pin league, operating at the Gibson Bowladrome. Many of the girls were already bowling in the Civil Service League and didn't want to "roll 'em" two nights a week, every week, so the Departmental League operated on alternate weeks only. Teams comprised four players with the ladies acting as Team Captains. Starting in October with fourteen teams, interest increased to the point where first two, and later, a further four teams were included. We had to stop there as there were only 20 alleys! Owing to the late start and bowling only twice a month we could not complete a full schedule of games but it was a lot of fun and, at the end, Miss Dolores James' team of Betty Hales, Ced. Telford, Micky Pogue, and herself was declared League Champions with 20 wins and 7 losses. Individual statistics were: Ladies -- High Average, Miss Jennie

Robbins, 161; High Cross, Miss Iris Vallance, 538; High Single, Miss Ruth Veitch, 245; Men -- High Average, Normie Allen, 189; High Cross, Sam Smith, 704; High Single, Dick Higgins, 317.

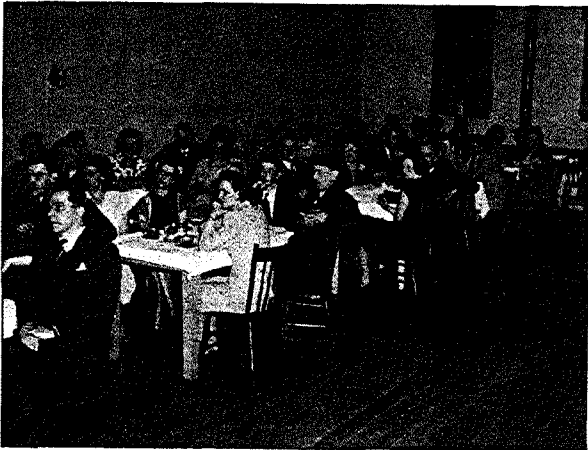
-- AND DANCES AGAIN --

The league wound up operations for the year with a Banquet (?) and Dance at the Goblin Restaurant on April 12. The Dance was swell. The Chief Forester, who couldn't be inveigled into participating in the bowling, turned out and presented



"Thought I couldn't knock you down, eh?"

the prizes and, in addition, manufactured a most attractive base for the trophy presented by Kay Robinson for the lady player with the High Average for the season. Incidentally, Kay resigned her commission in the Navy last Fall, returned for a brief interlude of work with the Forest Service, and then departed across the Pacific Ocean to embark on the Sea of Matrimony in New Zealand. Some dames are born Sailors!!



- U. Left Suffering in silence -- while someone makes a speech!
- U. Right The Chief Forester presents Team Trophy to the Winning Team.
1. to r. E. Druce, Chief Forester Orchard, Dolores James,
Betty Hales, Mickey Pogue, Ced. Telford.
- L. Left Mr. Orchard congratulates Miss Iris Vallance -- Ladies High
Cross.

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Bill Spouse, as Treasurer of the Lands and Forests Bowling League, gave the shortest and sweetest financial report we have heard in a long time at the wind-up banquet and dance on Friday, April 12. Bill got to his feet, announced the Committee had taken all his money for prizes and he had \$1.42 left, and sat down again. Apparently Mr. Spouse hasn't much use for "Receipts and Expenditures", and the banquetters weren't in the mood for them anyway. His report just tickled us, that's all.

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VISITORS FROM "DOWN UNDER"

Lieut. A. N. Sexton, M.B.E., and G. B. Rawlings, of the State Forest Service, Wellington, New Zealand, spent several days with Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops and Nelson district officers, looking into the whys and wherefores of the B. C. Forest Service and generally studying lumber industry practices. These two New Zealand Foresters have a creditable record with one of the Forestry Companies of the New Zealand Services. They spent several years in North Africa and Italy and upon demobilization were assigned the rather pleasant duty of spending six or seven months in the United States and Canada studying forestry conditions, prior to returning home via the Pacific.

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It is hoped that the special key, "due to lack of funds" used on Victoria typewriters, which has proved such a time-saver during the past many years, will be discarded at an early date.

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WE HEAR FROM PRINCE GEORGE

For the second time within a year we have had a change in District Foresters. After a short stay Ed. Bassett, who succeeded Doug Greggor, returned to Victoria to become O.C. of Operations. Gerry McKee arrived about the beginning of July to take over as D.F. and is now well settled down to his new job in the Fort George District where he was Assistant District Forester in 1937 and 1938.

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We are very glad to welcome Lorne Swannell back to the Fort George District after an absence of six years in the army, five years of which were spent overseas. Lorne finished up as a Major in the Artillery.

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Former Assistant Ranger Art Kirk is also returning to work after some five years in the army--most of which were spent overseas. Also, he won a Captain's Commission in the field.

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Then there was the lady who called at the office to enquire if car chains should be put on the front or rear wheels. She must be a stranger to these parts.

Extracts from an Assistant Ranger's Car Inspection Report.

"Items 5, 9, 19, 27, 34, 37, 38, 47, 49, 50, 54, & 55:- damage sustained under these captions was caused by collision with a cow moose at 24:30 of August 6th at Beaver Dam, 14 miles north of Vanderhoof, on return trip for equipment for "Top" fire. Accident was unavoidable as the moose was endeavouring (and successfully) to interpose herself between the truck and her calf. Operator had come to a complete standstill and calf was off the road. When truck started and reached speed of 22½ m.p.h. cow moose approached from rear right and ran into off front of truck."

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A Poetic Invitation from a Lookoutman to Visit his Mountain Top Home.

Mount Pope.

"Dear Mr. McKee:

When the rush of high-pressure civilization gets on your nerves, and the endless stream of reports become a menace to sanity, leave Bob to look after it all and come visit me.

You know you haven't got time! In fact your time has become so valuable that it drives you with a whip. Yet the world will go on when you drop out, and never know you are gone. Life, that must be lived at high tension, demands also that the soul shall sometimes get complete release and float for a moment where Mahomets coffin rest in the void between earth and heaven.

You can, of course, follow the correct custom and take a trip on the launch up Takla Lake. Modern mass education makes a man like that. He does not think it possible to do something different. Worse than that, the period of prosperity and ease has made you soft so that you have to find some excuse for the sub-conscious knowledge that you don't want to climb mountains. So you go in a plane.

Some time after a rain, when you know it will freeze during the night, bring a sleeping bag up from the boathouse and use the cot in the cabin. In the morning I will wake you before sunrise for a cup of tea, and will show you your district from Crooked River to Mt. Swannell.

I was the cause, twenty years ago, of getting the first Lookout established in Central, B. C. This was the second. Today, I believe it has the widest range and best view of any. This little town was the first "Metropolis" of British America on the Pacific, ruling all the wilderness from Russian Alaska to California.

Come up here and spend the night. The grouse will talk to you; the flowers will talk to you; and "sometimes in the twilight gloom apart, the tall trees whisper, whisper heart to heart; then from my eager lips the answers fall; thinking I hear you, thinking I hear you call". Just like that!! It will be an experience to linger long in a memory blurred with the monotony of reports and regulations."

A. J. Musgrove Norman.

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During his long sojourn in the North Country Ranger Alf O'Meara has shot many moose. But he still has a healthy respect for the big fellows. Recently, for the second time in his career, he had a wounded moose charge him. Fortunately he escaped by ducking into a patch of timber--otherwise he might have become mince meat instead of the moose.

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The Fort George Forest District is large--much larger than most people realize--it covers some 83,000,000 acres. And some of the ranger districts are correspondingly large--particularly the Ft. St. John district where Acting Ranger French is O.C. This past summer Cy had an application for a timber sale at Lower Post on the Liard 580 miles by highway from his headquarters. Lumber cut at Ft. Nelson is barged to Aklavik at the mouth of the Mackenzie River. The most distant part of his district, on the Yukon boundary at Teslin Lake, is a mere 760 miles by Alaska Highway from Ft. St. John. It looks like Cy needs a plane or helicopter.

Incidentally, prior to this year, ranger headquarters were at Pouce Coupe, an additional 60 miles from Fort St. John.

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KAMLOOPS NEWS

RANGER GEORGE MAYSON RETIRES

Silvery Beach on the Little Shuswap Lake was the venue of a Forest Branch Picnic on Sunday, September 30, when some sixty-five of the staff of the Kamloops District, with their wives and families assembled for a Basket Picnic as a farewell to Ranger George Mayson. George has recently acquired a new home at North Kamloops and for the last few weeks of his service has intimated to one and all that he will be busier than ever superintending his one acre Ranch. It was a case of "Give me the tools and I'll finish the job" so his friends in the service collaborated in a presentation of numerous carpenter tools. The presentation was made by District Forester Alan Parlow who, in a few words, conveyed to George the best wishes of all his associates in his retirement. The event coincided with George's sixty-sixth birthday and, through the kindness of Mrs. J. P. McDonald, an appropriate cake made its appearance. It must be very gratifying to George to retire from the job with the overwhelming evidence of goodwill as expressed by residents in his District. It was given a practical demonstration in a farewell party held at the Louis Creek Hall on September 29. George had to hire a truck to take home the many handsome and useful gifts.

We are glad to welcome back to B. C. Lieut. Col. O. V. Maude-Roxby, M.B.E., M.C. from Overseas. Unfortunately "Rox" is at present a patient at the Vancouver Military Hospital having suffered a heart attack early this year while in England.

He left the Kamloops Forest District in June, 1940, to enlist in the Forestry Corps and was with that unit up until his return to Canada.

"Rox" was awarded the M.B.E. for the part he played in delaying the enemy at Hochenfeld during the break through.

We sincerely regret his illness and trust he will have a speedy recovery.

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MISS DOROTHY ROBERTSON

The Kamloops office basks in reflected glory through the achievements of Miss D. E. Robertson, who was one of their Cover Mapping Staff last summer. The following quotation from the Montreal "Family Herald" announces the award of a scholarship at McGill University, and the letter from Dorothy to the Service brings her history up to date.

Outstanding Record

"Miss Robertson has had an outstanding record as a student at Kamloops High School, British Columbia, despite the fact her course was broken through necessary employment. She completed matriculation requirements during the past session, winning a B.C. University Entrance Scholarship for her district with an average mark of 94.5 per cent. She plans to make a special study of psychology at McGill. She is also interested in student publications and dramatics."

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Royal Victoria College,
McGill University,
Montreal, Que.

"I thought you might wonder what had become of me, so I decided to drop you a line from Montreal.

I decided at the very last moment not to go to U.B.C. I was lucky enough to win a scholarship at McGill University which is far more valuable than the one at U.B.C. In fact, its approximate value is three thousand dollars. It covers all costs of tuition, board and room for a four year period. You can imagine how thrilled I was when I received the telegram informing me of the award.

I like Montreal and the University very much indeed. I registered for English, Maths, German, French, Zoology and Botany. That is just a very general first year course. Next year I'll begin to specialize in psychology and shall probably take philosophy, sociology and economics in addition."

Yours sincerely,

"Dorothy Robertson".

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BIRTHS--DEBECK--To Mr. and Mrs. H. K. DeBeck (nee Betty Lindsay), May 1, at Kamloops, a son, Michael Keary. (From the Victoria Daily Times, May 3, 1946.

N-E-L-S-O-N BROADCASTING

Ranger George Schupe has been promoted to Supervisor of Scaling for the Nelson Forest District. Seems to us this is a well earned promotion as George has been Ranger for about 26 years. That's quite a long time to be chasing around the hills in all kinds of weather and when I say "weather", I mean just that. You see, George was Ranger in the Fernie district for about twelve years. To those who know the East Kootenay climate with its very dry, hot summers, with the usual 25 to 35 M.P.H. winds in the afternoons almost every day, and the severe winters, with deep snow and temperatures, often for weeks on end, around the zero mark and the usual dip to around 30 to 35 below zero for a week or two, well! nuff said!!

However, George has still a few years ahead of him, and we all wish him every success and the best of luck in his new job.

His Ranger district has been taken over by Rudy Damstrom who joined the service as Dispatcher under Ranger Schupe in Fernie in 1931, and since has been Patrolman, Assistant Ranger and Acting Ranger. Rudy joined the Army (Forestry Corps) in 1942 and was recently released. We congratulate Rudy and feel sure he will give a good account of himself.

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Next on the list is Miss Davina Richardson who recently resigned to be married. A presentation of a most useful article for the home was made to Miss Richardson on behalf of the Nelson staff by District Forester Bob St. Clair. It took the form of a beautiful hassock. You know, one of these things you CAN put your feet on when the lady of the house is not looking. This one had lots of space under the lid; an ideal place for cacheing things, other than knitting or fancy work.

Miss Richardson's place was taken by Miss Nancy Olson, who has had some previous experience with the lumber business and consequently knows when you mention FIR you are not referring to a fur coat and when Ties are mentioned one is not referring to male neckwear. Miss Olson will, no doubt, soon get to know the gang around the Nelson office and also some, if not

all, of their peculiarities. We welcome Miss Olson as a member of THE Service.

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Next on the list was the recent resignation of Mrs. Wells who was assistant to John Rogers, our draughtsman. Mrs. Wells left the service to shortly proceed to England to join her husband, who is a member of the R.A.F.

This was another occasion for a presentation which took the form of two very fine views of Nelson, suitably framed. The presentation was made by Asst. District Forester Marc Gormely, in the absence of the District Forester in the field. Mrs. Wells' place has been taken over by Mrs. Burgess.

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We have just received the resignation of Miss M. J. Mann, stenographer, who, having seen the bright lights of the Coast Cities, has decided to leave the service to take up a new job in Vancouver. We wish Miss Mann every success in her new surroundings.

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This about sizes up the situation re the Personnel here, except that R. R. Flynn has been awarded the D.F.C. F/L. Flynn was employed with the Forest Service as lookoutman in 1940 and joined the Air Force in January, 1941. We believe he is coming back with the Service.

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NEWS ITEM

A banquet at the Canadian Legion Hall (April 3) brought to a close a memorable three day Ranger Meeting of the B. C. Forest Service, Nelson District staff.

The Toastmaster was District Forester R. C. St. Clair and the principal speaker of the evening, Assistant Chief Forester C. C. Ternan.

Supervisor Frank Pym of Cranbrook, retiring from the Service, was presented with a smoking stand by Bob St. Clair on behalf of his fellow forest officers.

Assistant Forester W.G.A. Holmgren, of the Nelson office staff, was presented with the 25-year service pin by the Assistant Chief Forester, ably assisted by former District Forester Bob Allen.

Other speakers at the banquet included Jack Price, retired forest ranger, E. W. Bassett, Chief of the Operation Division of the Service, Victoria; F. S. McKinnon, Chief of the Forest Economics Division, Victoria; Jack Shields, Fire Control Officer, U.S. Forest Service, Sandpoint, Idaho; Ranger Bob Cameron, Fernie; S. S. Simpson, Chief Clerk, Nelson; Fire Inspector Percy Young, Nelson, Supervisor Tom Brewer, Nelson, and S. B. Hamilton, Govt. Agent, Nelson.

Song and cheer leader Ranger Jack Coles, Golden, did an outstanding job in getting the gathering to make the "Welkin" ring, ably assisted at the piano by Vic Owen of Nelson.

Assistant Chief Forester Ternan addressed the gathering on various Departmental matters to conclude a most enjoyable evening.

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OUT OF THE SERVICES, INTO THE SERVICE

(Vancouver)

We welcome to our staff, two new members--Jack Agnew, and Dick Barriscale, who joined us first in December, 1945, as part-time help for the computing of the ever increasing number of scale bills.

Jack Agnew enlisted in September, 1939, in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, leaving for Overseas in July, 1940. After a period of service in the British Isles, he was posted to Spitzbergen, and later served in Sicily and Italy. While crossing the Lamonie River in Northern Italy on the 3rd of December, 1944, Jack was wounded by machine gun fire and the explosion of a mine, causing injuries to his left arm and both legs. After hospitalization in Italy and England, he returned to Canada in March, 1945, where he received further treatment at the Shaughnessy Military Hospital here in Vancouver.

Dick Barriscale enlisted in July, 1942, in the Irish Fusiliers and went overseas in December of the same year with reinforcement troops and joined the Calgary Highlanders. After service in England he went to France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded in Wyler, Germany, on February 8, 1945, while breaking out of the Nijmegen salient. His wounds were caused by shrapnel from a mortar bomb which injured his spinal cord. After treatment in an English hospital he returned to Canada in April, 1945, and went to Shaughnessy.

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We also welcome a new member to our staff in the person of Miss Lillian Lenz, a comptometer operator, who was discharged last November after serving in the Canadian Womens Army Corps. Lillian was stationed at Camp Borden in the M. T. section where she whizzed around in everything from jeeps and staff cars to ambulances and trucks. We hope she enjoys her work with the Forest Service as much as she did with the C.W.A.C.

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Back on the job again after 3½ years in the Army, Archie McNeil, who was a Coder with the Signals, is always threatening to show up the girls as typists, but so far hasn't done so.

We wish to take this opportunity of welcoming Doug Sims back to his old job as Export Clerk after four years' service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, administrative section. Doug states that while in the Air Force he was stationed at Edmonton and Trenton, Ontario, but is glad to get back to the West Coast and sunny (?) Vancouver.

Don Gillies is back from service with the Air Force where he had some exciting times, especially with the V bombs in Southern England. He is now awaiting the arrival of an English bride.

Susan Dobson, who left us to try out the life of a Sailor, is back again after service in Halifax, where she saw the VE day riots--says she didn't help them out--and then in Ottawa, where life was one grand round of fun. The air mail from Brooklyn is pretty regular now.

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With the return to work of many of our old friends from the Services one hears some weird and wonderful tales of happenings at home and abroad, greatly exaggerated no doubt, but intended to impress the listeners with what one misses when they stay at home. We haven't decided yet whether McNeill took Brussels by storm, or it took him, but from all accounts it is "Some Town".

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Verna Lewis of the Voucher Staff left at the end of February to be married and will make her future home in Toronto. Prior to her departure the girls entertained at a shower in her honour at the home of Miss Jackie Smith where the topic of conversation was the tall, dark and handsons that now populate the office. Due to shortages, fragility of available articles for gifts, and shipping costs, the gift of the staff to Miss Lewis was a cheque, presented to her by Mr. Haddon with the best wishes of all.

Vacations started early this year, Nina King taking a week in February, not to enjoy the sea breezes but to welcome her fiance from service overseas with the R.C.A.M.C.

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F. O. Mulholland

F. D. Mulholland, formerly in charge of the Forest Surveys and Inventory Section of this service, and subsequently Director of Land Utilization in the Provincial Service, is now Chief Forester for the Comox Logging and Railway Company. Fred's old friends in the service will wish him every success in his new venture and will look forward to seeing the C.L. & R. Co. in the forefront of forestry practice by the industry.

Lt. F. V. Webber

A letter was recently received from Lieut. F. V. Webber, who was formerly Assistant Ranger at Kaslo. Lieut. Webber is now attached to No. 29 Coy. of the Veterans Guard of Canada, and is in service at the Internment Camp at Lethbridge, Alberta. He reports that he has been conscripted to give talks on Forestry in connection with the army's programme of education for young soldiers.

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OPERATION'S OFFICERS VIEW HELICOPTERS

The United States Forest Service has been closely following helicopter development since their inception. Last winter the Chief of the U.S. Army Air Corps, General Arnold, offered co-operation from his department in the testing of such equipment for Forest Service use and the project was assigned to Region 5 of the U.S. Forest Service and placed under the supervision of I. C. Funk, Chief of the Fire Control Equipment Development Center at Arcadia, California. The Sikorsky model R. 5A was selected as the most suitable type for experimentation and several machines, together with two pilots and the customary ground crew, were transferred to March Field near San Bernardino, California, and placed at the disposal of Mr. Funk. A very comprehensive series of tests was projected, designed to analyse thoroughly the potentialities of helicopters for Forest Protection use. These tests concerned weight lifting, rate of climb, hovering, and performance tests under all possible conditions of wind, temperature, and altitude. Tests commenced in late April, 1946, and will be continued throughout the summer after which a comprehensive report is expected to be available.

E. W. Bassett and I. C. MacQueen attended some of these tests on the San Bernardino Forest and March Field during the first week in May. It was observed that up to an altitude of about 4000 feet a very satisfactory performance was obtained, but above that level performance is close to the critical range of the aircraft, and is not at present satisfactory. Present production models will carry a pilot and three passengers as a maximum load, or a pilot and about five to six hundred pounds of cargo. Range is limited and it appears that a hundred mile working radius is all that can be expected with any degree of efficiency.

Erroneous impressions have developed regarding helicopters, largely due to enthusiastic publicity, particularly concerning hovering ability and climb. Hovering consists of the machine actually resting upon a cushion of air formed through the resistance of the ground to the air flow generated by the blades. Hovering height is in the neighbourhood of 25 feet above ground at sea level and becomes less progressively with altitude. The helicopter must achieve a forward speed of approximately 60 miles per hour before maximum rate of climb can be developed, and consequently traverses a level flight distance varying in length with altitude of the field concerned. At sea level, maximum rate of climb is developed in about a run of 200 to 300 feet, with a correspondingly longer distance at higher altitudes. The landing space required therefore, is little different from that of a standard aircraft of the "Cub" variety and helicopters are not able to land or take off from very small clearings in timbered areas.

The cost of manufacturing is still high due to numerous bearings requiring machining to an exceedingly close tolerance, now manufactured by hand. Should production be extended it is possible that manufacturing costs will progressively lower to a point where this equipment will be economically practical. At the present figure of approximately \$50,000 it is seen that helicopter operations would be an expensive venture.

The helicopter principle is sound and, following modification to comply with requirements for Forest Service use, particularly better performance at higher altitudes, a useful aid to Forest protection will be available. The limitations of the machine, however, must be clearly recognized and given due consideration during planning in order that costly and inefficient operation may be avoided.